

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

In several ways, this issue of the journal signals a new experiment for the editors and publisher. First, this issue features an individual, David Yonggi Cho, the pastor of Yoido Full Gospel Church, the largest single congregation in the world. In the past, the journal featured various topics. Past journals featured various topics including national Pentecostalism in Asian countries, such as the case of Indian Pentecostalism. We will continue to provide the academic world with collections of this sort, however featuring individuals may not happen as often. Cho, in this case, does stand out in the Asian and the global Pentecostal movement and thus commands exceptional scholarly reflection. Second, this issue will become the basis for the very first title in the AJPS Series. Three additional contributions to the present ones, but excluding the book review will form the team for the volume. It is the editors' prayer that the new series will serve the Pentecostal scholarly community by providing valuable resources on Asian Pentecostalism.

For this first effort to become reality, as in many works of this nature, the process began much earlier than even the editors realized. Three conferences supply the bulk of the current collection: the Youngsan International Theological Symposium (2002 and 2003) and the Youngsan International Church Growth and Leadership Conference (2003). The former events were organized by Dr. Hyeon-seong Bae, the dean of the Graduate School of Theology and also the director of Youngsan Theological Institute, Hansei University, Goonpo, Korea, and the latter by Dr. Young-gi Hong, the director of the Institute for Church Growth, Seoul, Korea. Footnotes indicate the conference where the original version of a chapter was presented. The editors acknowledge the gracious permission of the organizers. Most of the presentations have gone through an extensive process of revision.

The editors also welcome our guest editor Dr. Young-hoon Lee to the editorial and publication process of the current issue of the *Journal*. His long experience with Cho and Yoido Full Gospel Church, and his extensive research on Korean Pentecostalism makes him rarely qualified for this job. He also brings a gracious financial assistance to make copies

of the current issue available to many universities, colleges and seminaries throughout the world. The editorial team expresses a deep appreciation to the contributors for their hard and tedious work to bring this important volume to light. We also would like to acknowledge an important financial contribution of the Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade (BGMC) through the Asia-Pacific Regional Office (director: Rev. Russ Turney), Assemblies of God World Mission, Springfield, MO, USA. This special assistance makes it possible to publish this extensive collection (much larger than the usual 160 pages).

Several comments on this volume are necessary. Throughout the chapters, Asian names follow the western order, that is, the first name, middle name (if there is any) followed by the family name. The editors' extend an apology to those who have customarily written their names otherwise. The contributors have been instructed to minimize references to Korean works by or about Cho, although an extensive use was unavoidable in two particular contributions. For non-English titles, their Roman transliterations are given along with their English equivalences. Books authored by Cho are referred to without the author's name specified.

It is the desire of the editors and publishers that the volume serve as an encouragement to Asian Pentecostal churches and emerging scholars to be diligent in preserving the Spirit's work in our continent, and in reflecting them theologically. This effort will certainly enrich our understanding of the spiritual tradition of the Asian church, contribute to the future development of the movement, and ultimately provide the global Pentecostal circle with a valuable resource. The Spirit enabled us for this work; thus, to God be the glory.

Editors