

“Let’s Talk about Pentecostal Mission.”

The current issue of the journal publishes selected studies originally presented in the International Symposium on Pentecostal Mission held in 2003. The following summary, drafted by Dr. Mathew Clark in March, 2003, well introduces the conference:

On February 3-4, 2003 an International Symposium on Pentecostal Mission was hosted by, and held at, Asia Pacific Theological Seminary, Baguio City, Philippines. This conference was jointly sponsored by International Forum of Pentecostal Missiologists, the Assemblies of God World Mission, USA (through its Northern Asia, and Asia-Pacific Regional Offices) and Center for Asian Missions.

The theme and title of the conference was “Reflecting on One Century of Pentecostal Mission.” It was organized by a committee which represents the five major regions of the world. They were: Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen (Europe), Miguel Alvarez (Latin America), Gary McGee (North America), Mathew Clark (Africa), and Wonsuk Ma (Asia & chair). Each committee member coordinated presentations from their region, ensuring that as wide as possible a picture of world Pentecostal missions emerged. The total number of students and scholars that participated in the sessions was in excess of 100 persons.

Twelve papers were presented over the two days of the conference, and a number of other significant non-presented contributions were included in the conference collection of papers. Many of the papers were presented from the perspective of traditional “target” countries and communities, thus showing how those who once passively received the gospel are now also prime movers in sharing it, both among their own folk, and abroad.

Presenters (in addition to the committee members) were: Allan Anderson; Ayuk Ausaji Ayuk; William Filson; Conrado L. Garcia; Roger E. Hedlund; Young-hoon Lee; Paul W. Lewis; Julie C. Ma; Warren B. Newberry; and Bal Krishna Sharma. Non-presenting participants of the symposium are: William K. Kay; Agrippa Khathide; L. Grant McClung, Jr. and Jean-Daniel Pluss.

Workshops were held concerning the future of theologizing on Pentecostal missions. The possibility of global or regional consultations on Pentecostal missions was debated, and the future publication of an

international journal of Pentecostal missiology is still under consideration.

The next global conference to be held in this format will be in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2004, immediately prior to the Pentecostal World Conference. The tentative topic is Pentecostal Contextualization. Auckland Park Theological Seminary will be the host (with Mathew Clark as the contact person).

The financial assist was provided by the Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade (BGMC) of the Assemblies of God World Mission (USA) through two regional offices: Asia Pacific Region (director: Rev. Russell Turney) and the Northern Asia Region (director: Rev. Ron Maddux). Also the venue and logistical support was provided by Asia Pacific Theological Seminary (President: Dr. John F. Carter) in Baguio, Philippines. The organizers, presenters and participants express their deep gratitude to these generous friends to make the conference a success.

After the conference, several papers were published in different journals. Apparently, these studies were not considered for inclusion in this journal because, due to the limitation of space, the editors had to make a judgment decision to have a balanced geographical representation. It is our regret that this volume does not include Latin American and European papers, which were published earlier in other journals. It is also our regret that no female contributor is included, again due to publication elsewhere.

As mentioned in the Press Release, the International Conference of Pentecostal Studies took place in South Africa in September, 2004, just days before the beginning of the Pentecostal World Conference. Currently a plan is in place to publish selected studies from the South African conference in the January, 2006 issue of the journal. Whether selected papers from the two conferences will be published in a single volume is being contemplated by various people. If this becomes a reality, the volume will be a valuable addition to the growing titles in Pentecostal mission.

Now, some words on the AJPS Series. *David Yonggi Cho: A Close Look at His Theology and Ministry* (2004), the first title in this new series, is a success. Joint publication of the title with the Hansei University Press of Korea is also significant, as the project brought institutions of Pentecostal higher learning in Asia together. The second title is also now available: *The Church in China: Persecuted, Pentecostal, and Powerful* (2004). This book is perhaps the very first book that argues academically that many of the house church networks in

China are Pentecostal in their theological orientations and practices. The third volume is to appear as a joint publication with Regnum (Asia): *Asian and Pentecostal: The Charismatic Face of Christianity in Asia* (2005 forthcoming). Considering that the volume may be the very first title on Asian Pentecostalism, it is fitting that the journal joins with Regnum Books International in this significant project. These ambitious publications reflect the commitment of the publisher and the editors of the journal to the advancement of Asian Pentecostal studies. Our prayer is for the Asian Pentecostal churches to be faithful to the spiritual and theological traditions of the Pentecostal-charismatic movement and to be reflective in applying tradition to the Asian socio-cultural context.

Editors