

PENTECOSTALISM AMONG THE CHINESE

The theme of this issue is 'Pentecostalism among the Chinese.' The initial idea for this issue was derived from the Asia Pacific Theological Association's Theological Symposium theme, "Pentecostalism in China" held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, August 17-18, 2010. There were several papers presented on topics related to Pentecostalism within the Chinese context by both Chinese and non-Chinese scholars. The first two of these essays were presented at that symposium. The remainder of the essays are from various scholars who are interested in this theme. It is our hope that this issue will help further the study of Chinese Pentecostalism.

The first essay by Tobias Brandner examines the cultural and historical factors that led to the openness within the Chinese context to Pentecostalism. In particular, the author examines the Pre-millennial and counter-cultural dynamics within the Chinese context that was the seedbed for Pentecostalism. The following essay by Connie Au focuses on the Pentecostal Holiness Church's work in China in the early part of the 20th century, especially during the 1920's. The author looks through the lens of the leadership of William Turner within the backdrop of the Anti-Christian Movement prevalent in China at the time.

The following two essays, originally written in Chinese by Chinese scholars, were translated by Connie Au. The first was by Timothy Yeung on the topic a 'Pentecostal Ethos'. The author looks specifically at the work of William Seymour by which to suggest and describe the 'ethos.' He is concerned that the current Chinese church situation does not mirror what is found in Seymour. The second of these two essays is by David Liu on the topic of the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church through the lens of the book of Ephesians. Concerns and suggestions are made in light of this Pauline writing.

David Reed delineates the role of 'boundary keeping' within the prominent expression of Oneness Pentecostalism within the Chinese context, the True Jesus Church. The author highlights the role of 'Speaking in Tongues' within this church context in terms of how it relates and functions in the True Jesus Church. R.G. Tiedemann's

essay describes the initial missionary enterprise of the Modern Pentecostal Movement in the beginning of the 20th century in China. The essay clearly describes the various missions' activities from the early Pentecostal movement for the first two decades of the century.

An additional essay on a more general Pentecostal theme is by Kofi Johnson which delineates the 'Aladura' churches, which is a 'tongue-speaking' and faith healing movement. These churches are found in southern Nigeria, and are seen as belonging to an indigenous Christian movement.

Editors