

Editorial

Streams of Pentecostal Thought: Theology, Theological Education, Spirituality, Ecumenism, Hermeneutics, History and Mission

We begin this edition by dedicating it to our late colleague and dear friend, Dr. Teresa Chai, who went to be with the Lord in March, 2020. Her love for the Lord, missions and theological education touched all who knew her well and we feel the pain of her untimely passing at the age of only 57. We miss her dearly. She served as a member of the faculty for seven years and also as the academic dean for two years. She also served as the book review editor for the journal and was part of the manuscript review team for APTS Press. This is one way that we can acknowledge her excellent service.

I am also pleased to announce that Dr. Adrian Rosen, one of our faculty members here at APTS, has replaced Dr. Chai as the book review editor. He has recently completed his PhD in New Testament at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in Springfield, MO, and has been teaching here since 2014. He brings a great deal of passion for academic excellence to the job.

I am also pleased to announce that we have installed a new Board of Reference (formerly known as the Editorial Board) that will begin its work in the next couple of months. They are Dr. Wonsuk Ma, Korea, Dr. Simon Chan, Singapore, Dr. Roji T. George and Dr. Josfin Raj, India, Dr. Robert P. Menzies a long-term worker in Northern Asia, Dr. Sang Yun Lee, Korea, Dr. Jacqueline N. Grey, Australia, Dr. Edwardneil Benavidez, the Philippines and Dr. Olga Zaprometova, Russia. They bring a wealth of experience and a great variety of perspective to the task and I am really looking forward to working with them. Our thanks to those who have served previously.

This edition reflects the ever-widening stream of Pentecostal thought and practice. A couple of these streams may be a surprise to some. To begin with, we continue our reflections from the last edition, *Pentecostals and Ecumenism* (see www.aptspress.org) with the final report the Third Round of the International Dialogue Between Representatives of the World Communion of Reformed Churches And

Some Classical Pentecostal Churches and Leaders, 2014-2020, who concluded their discussions on our Baguio campus on October 23-30, 2019. This round, entitled *Called to God's Mission*, reflects the manner in which these traditions have approached the *Missio Dei*. In reading this, you will find a number of points of agreement and a number of points in which they diverge. The goal here is not to determine who is right and who might be wrong. The goal is to listen and learn from those who might have a different perspective.

The second article is by Giang-Son (pseudonym), a global worker in Vietnam, on the history of the Assemblies of God in Vietnam represents on of the great hallmarks in Pentecostal theology and missiology, the role of the Holy Spirit. Beginning with the early Catholic and Protestant missionaries to the current Assemblies of God movement, Morris traces the thread of how the Holy Spirit moved in each generation, including the era of the Vietnam War.

The third article, by Jason Morris, is a natural consequence of the first. When missionaries first came to Vietnam, the message they brought was cloaked in Western form. As the church grew and took root, the need arose to take another look at the message preached and how the understanding and the communication of the greatest story ever told needed to be recast in a way that would be understood, valued and accepted by the Vietnamese. This process of contextualization, while now a well traveled road, is just beginning to be looked at in Vietnam, according to Morris, who proceeds to lay out a framework through which it can be done.

Next, Amos Yong reviews the current situation of Pentecostal Theological Education, noting its Eurocentric orientation even in Majority World schools and asks if it will retain this orientation as the Pentecostal Movement moves forward into its second century. Then he proposes a new model of theological education that will not only address the needs of the Pentecostal Movement but also engage the broader Body of Christ as well. He begins by describing the “reigning western paradigm, then he sketches the general contours of our Pentecostal paradigm and will conclude by explicating some of the implications of this vision for Pentecostal theological Education in the Majority World.

Julie Ma's article follows. Here, she probes the impact of Pentecostal spirituality on churches outside of the Pentecostal tradition, specifically as it relates to the manifestation of divine healing, ministries of social concern and other things. As the discussion progresses, she probes as to whether there is an increasing openness between the various Pentecostals and other traditions.

Craig Keener's article, “Spirit Hermeneutics,” is a reprint of an original article published in the *Spiritus Journal* of ORU and is reprinted

here with the permission of *Spiritus* and the author. The original article was entitled “The Spirit and Biblical Interpretation,” from *Spiritus: ORU Journal of Theology*: Vol. 4: No. 1. Here, Keener argues that we should seek to understand the biblical text according to how the original audience would have understood it, adding in the dangers of ignoring the original meaning of the text. Between these discussions, however, he emphasizes at fuller length an aspect of interpretation that typically receives much less emphasis in academic settings by considering hearing what the Spirit may be saying to churches today.

Finally, Robert Danielson, concludes this edition with an article focused mainly on the work of the Pentecost Bands in India. This group was initially a part of the Free Methodist Church, but had become independent by the time they arrived in India. However, their leader, Rev. Frank C. Hotle joined forces with Free Methodist missionaries Ernest and Phebe Ward to promote holiness through the Harvest Home Camp Meetings in India. They also functioned through their social work in caring for and educating orphans. This paper will conclude with some considerations about the relationship between the Pentecost Bands in India, the Wards, and the Pandita Ramabai’s Mukti Mission.

I would likely to close this editorial with a few thoughts on Covid-19. The reasons for why God may have allowed this to happen are probably as numerous as the people who have expressed them. For me, I found great comfort in studying the book of Habakkuk, where the prophet railed against God as the Babylonian army tore Judah and Jerusalem apart, destroying the temple and taking most of the Israelites captive. God is neither bothered by Habakkuk’s anger nor does he answer all of his questions. But in the end, the prophet responds with worship, trust and faith.

The impact of Covid-19 will be felt for months and perhaps even years to come. It may be that life as we have known it may be radically different from the past. We have a choice to respond with faith or fear. Most will likely experience some of both. Whatever the future looks like, God never changes and we can trust him.

With the current and future challenges that Covid-19 has and will bring upon us, it seems that many of us will be forced to rethink the way we do ministry. Many have already discovered new, creative ways of doing ministry, much of it online, and this trend will likely continue. May God bless us all as we continue to minister in ways that God has called us. Remember, the Covid-19, as bad as it is, is not the greatest crisis of our time. The greatest calamity of our day is that a substantial part of the world’s 7.7 billion people have never had access to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Let’s stay focused on that.

As always, please feel free to contact me through the website, www.aptspress.org. I would enjoy hearing your thoughts on this edition.

Warmly,

Dave Johnson, DMiss
Managing Editor