

Editorial

by Dr. Dave Johnson

For the first time in several years, we do not have an overarching theme for this edition. However, the first four articles could loosely come under the title of Sojourners, those who live long term in a country not their own or those, namely the biblical Esther, who are part of a minority community in the lands in which they live. The last two articles fall within the discipline of biblical studies.

This issue opens with an article on Spirit Empowered Leadership (SEL) in the Pentecostal/Charismatic movement (PC), written by Lora Timenia, an emerging Asian Pentecostal scholar. In this still developing field, she notes that studies on PC leaders have yet to be developed. Given the explosion of the PC movement all over the globe and the increasing interest in it by social scientists in several disciplines, Timenia's article is a welcome contribution.

Using Gary Jay's model of "(1) development, (2) influence and (3) emergence,"¹ Timenia then presents a Pentecostal case study in the person of Leonora Catipon, a veteran missionary of the Philippines General Council of the Assemblies of God, who has served in Cambodia since 1994. Timenia traces Catipon's development as a person and as a missionary through this paradigm, demonstrating how she grew from an average Filipino child to the fine missionary leader that she has become.

The late Tim Bulkeley's article follows, exploring how a male should understand the book of Esther. This article was originally done for a festschrift in honor of one of his students, Kay Fountain, who did her PhD dissertation under his guidance on the book of Esther. This gave him the opportunity to see Esther through the eyes of a conservative, Pentecostal woman rather than through the radical feminist theologians, who tended to villainize her. In juxtaposition to these writers, he then proceeds to discuss how a male might understand the story and empathize with the young queen in her struggles, wisdom and courage in working within the cultural structures of confines of her day to help deliver her people.

Jacqueline Grey, a highly respected Old Testament scholar from Australia, follows with another article on Esther. Here, Esther is

¹Gary Jay, "Spirit-Empowered Leadership: Exploring Three Dimensions," *Spiritus: ORU Journal of Theology* 5, no. 2 (2020): 236.

presented a model of a citizen of a marginalized community. Set within the context of the displaced Jewish community in Susa, the capital of the Persian empire, Grey explores how the character of Esther became a role model for her community, although, unlike Daniel and his friends in Babylon, she demonstrates a willingness to morally compromise and adapt in order to be accepted. In doing so, she ascended from being an unknown member of a marginalized community to being the queen of an empire and a defender of her people.

Next, Allan Varghese Meloottu, a native of India who lives in the United States, takes us on a journey with Keralan Pentecostals who have immigrated to the United States, sharing their successes and struggles. With a world on the move today, their experience is more the norm than the exception. As is typical with immigrants from time immemorial, they brought their culture, language and religion with them. In this article, Meloottu examines the liminal nature of Keralan Pentecostalism by looking at the spiritual formation, rooted in the Kerala Pentecostal revivals of the 19th century, well before the better known Azusa Street revival of 1906-09, of the second generation of Keralan immigrants. He then attempts to describe and demonstrate the role of a Kerala Pentecostal para church organization known as International Collegiate Prayer Fellowship in shaping the identity of these second generation Keralans.

In the last article under the loose banner of Sojourners, Michael Berley, not his real name, focuses on part 2 of his work on the Assemblies of God missionaries in China from 1914-1952. Part one was published in the August, 2022, (*AJPS* 25.2) and is available for free under the Journal at www.aptspress.org. Here, he focuses on the stories of two missionary couples and one single lady, whose ministries made a significant impact on the Chinese around them in the time periods in which they served. One of the couples, Leonard and Ada Bolton (his second wife) served the Lisu people in southwestern China and ultimately migrated with them to Burma (now Myanmar).

Following Berley, Roji Thomas George takes us in the field of Pentecostal hermeneutics. Specifically, he contends for using interpretative communities in a multi-cultural context so relevant to his native India. He notes that while Pentecostal praxis allows the individual preacher the right to interpret the text himself, Pentecostal scholars, practically speaking, tend to set parameters on individual interpretation. For this to happen, he contends that the interpretive community has a large role to play, based on their experiences in determining the meaning of the text. He then asks an important question, "So, we ask, should Pentecostal hermeneutics be informed by the multicultural context of its

members in different parts of the world? His answer should be thought provoking by any serious student of the Scriptures.

Last, but certainly not least, Lian Mung's article deals with the roles of the Spirit, a hallmark Pentecostal theme, focused on Isaiah 11:1-5. Positing his discussion here on the charismatic and non-charismatic roles of the Holy Spirit in the context of prophetic oracles of Isaiah 1-12, he contends that the prophet envisions the coming of a new ideal ruler a new David. While Isaiah is speaking of the future, he also draws attention to the current sociological context in which the prophecy was giving by juxtaposing the ideal rule with the current tyrant of Assyria, Sennacherib, who was anything but just and righteous. By contrast, Isaiah envisions a new Davidic king, the shoot of Jesse, who will rule in righteousness and justice forever.

As always, I hope you enjoy this edition. If you would be interested in publishing an article in this journal, please see our requirements under "About Us" at www.aptspress.org, where you will find all of our articles and the books published by APTS Press.

Your fellow sojourner and student of the Bible,
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