

### **Theological Issues in Asia**

In this issue we are pursuing a more general theme called Theological Issues in Asia. While a multitude of issues could be chosen, our intent here is to allow the various authors to define the issues for the contexts in which they serve.

Jacqueline Grey, an Old Testament scholar who served as a missionary in a Muslim majority nation for three years, opens this edition by discussing the concept of the *Missio Dei* (Mission of God), limiting her treatment to Isaiah 6:1-9:6. Using this text she asks the probing question, “What is the *Missio Dei* and its relation to the Old Testament?” In answering this question, she goes beyond describing the *Missio Dei* as what God did through Israel in the Old Testament and through the church in the New Testament. For Grey, the *Missio Dei* is inextricably linked to the *Imitatio Dei* (Imitation of God).

Then, Prudencio Coz opens his article by posing the question, “What is the difference between Monday morning and Sunday?” He then deals with the issue of vocation and its reciprocal economic and spiritual implications. He contends that vocation can be exclusive or integrative and gives some biblical examples to illustrate the integration of the economic and spiritual in his attempt to formulate a theology of vocation based on the theological disciplines of eschatology, ecclesiology, and pneumatology.

Next, Korean scholar Sang Yun Lee, drawing from his book, *A Theology of Hope: Contextual Perspectives in Korean Pentecostalism*, (Baguio City, Philippines: APTS Press, 2018), [www.aptspress.org](http://www.aptspress.org), takes a serious look at Yonggi Cho’s well-known ThreeFold Blessing theology. Originally formulated and taught in the context of the devastation of post-war Korea, Lee contends that Cho’s message needs to be re-contextualized to address the ecclesiastical and sociological challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Finally, Myanmar pastor Stephen Shwe concludes this edition with a two-part article dealing with the tension between zeal and knowledge, especially when it comes to theological education or ministerial training. According to Shwe, this issue has been a problem in the Myanmar church for many years as it was in the American Pentecostal Movement in generations past. Shwe defines the issues well, takes a good look at both

sides, and shares some ideas for working through these tensions in the future.

I am pleased to announce that our February, 2020, edition will deal with the controversial issue of Pentecostals and Ecumenism. Our August, 2020, edition will most likely follow the theme of a Pentecostal Response to Buddhism. If you would like to submit an article on these subjects, please email me directly at [dave.johnson@agmd.org](mailto:dave.johnson@agmd.org).

As usual, if you have any comments on this edition or the Journal in general, feel free to communicate directly with me.

In Christ,

Dave Johnson, DMiss  
Managing Editor