

Editorial:

## Multiple Perspectives

In recent years, there has been an awareness of the breadth of the Pentecostal movement as well as the significance and importance of global voices. This diversity is important for the growth and expansion of the Pentecostal movement, as well as a safeguard against stagnation. Multiple voices and perspectives can also help us challenge our individual or cultural long-held assumed beliefs. This does not necessarily mean that we change our minds, but it does provide an opportunity to reevaluate our views. As much as this is true within Pentecostal theology, it is also true within Pentecostal missiology. Many voices from a diversity of backgrounds (e.g. geographical, ethnic, cultural, economic, social status) can help us reevaluate our missions practices; we ask ourselves “Is the way we are doing missions the best way?” This constant attitude of learning and growth guided by the Spirit can open up new opportunities of ministry and new ways to do things, as the world is constantly changing and is in continuous need of the eternal message of the Gospel.

We have several essays that will provide various perspectives in this issue of the *International Journal of Pentecostal Missiology*. The first essay is a special essay by Heather Curtis entitled, ““Baptism in the Holy Ghost Should Make us World-Wide”: Pentecostal Missions and the Changing Character of Global Christianity.” In this essay, the author compares and contrasts the 1910 World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh with the 1910 Pentecostal Conference at Stone Church in Chicago especially through a missiological lens. the hopes and dreams of the conferences, and the differences were telling and clearly demonstrated their respective goals and values in a missiological context which informed the century in missions.

Wonsuk Ma presents a summary statement of “The Theological Motivations for Pentecostal Mission.” The author highlights the characteristics and values that push the missiological endeavor. Julie Ma addresses the issue of missionary work in a context of other religious faiths in her “Challenges, Contributions and Commitment of Pentecostals in Missionary Work among Other Faiths.” Various concerns, issues and opportunities are discussed in the missionary work among people of other faiths. Valerie Rance also focuses on “The Importance of Narrative in Contextualization.” Narrative in psychology, theology and witness is briefly

summarized while an extensive discussion of the role of narrative in contextualization in a missiological context is showcased.

There are two essays included in this issue that were presentations at the 2013 Society for Pentecostal Studies Meeting (joint session with Wesleyan Theological Society), March 21-23 set in Seattle Pacific University, in Seattle, Washington. Susan Maros provides a theological discussion and a measured response from respondents on the concept of the “call.” In her essay, “Framing Vocational Holiness: Exploring Implications of a Pentecostal Model of Call to Pastoral Ministry,” the understanding of calling into ministry is unpacked by research and interviews of Pentecostal respondents with resulting suggestions (which likewise has direct bearing on the missiological concept of call). The second essay by Sarita Gallagher is entitled, “In the Times of Elijah and Elisha: The Universal Mission of God in the Narratives of the Sidonian Widow and Naaman the Aramean.” The author suggests that the blessing from God can come both via Elijah/Elisha and via the Widow/Naaman. The missional implications are great, both in terms of the church and in terms of expectations in missions.

For the issue we have included two additions that we hope will be a reoccurring element of future issues. First, we have a missiological reflection by DeLonn Rance. The purpose of this reflection is to provide a different type of engagement (typically from a sermon or speech) with Pentecostal missions that can provide “food for thought” in Pentecostal missiology. Second, we are including our first book review on the book, *Missional Spirituality*, reviewed by John Koeshall. It is our desire that there will be various books that will be reviewed here in the future for the betterment of Pentecostal missions practitioners and scholars.

As mentioned above, we have a desire to provide multiple perspectives from within a Pentecostal missiological perspective. Whereas it is not assumed that Pentecostal missionaries or missiologists will agree with everything presented (like the editors and journal may not), but this forum is here to discuss the issues, and if a reader feels a response needs to take place, please feel free to write an essay in response (with a good attitude and tone assumed). In so doing we believe that the work can be strengthened and ultimately the kingdom of God further.

Paul W. Lewis, Editor