

From the Editor's Desk

The Great Commission: How are we doing with that?

Jeffery Nelson, Editor

Introduction

In this issue of the International Journal of Pentecostal Missions we are in a sense taking the vital signs of the Great Commission. How are we doing with things like reaching the world with the Good News? How are we doing with indigenous church principles (ICPs)? How are we doing with engaging and planting churches among people of diverse religions? And how is the Pentecostal missions movement progressing in its second millennium?

Trust and Vulnerability

Jim Harries, Ph.D., looks at elements of ICP's, trust and vulnerability. He, like Hudson Taylor, Roland Allen, and other practitioners turned theologians, who have gone before, wrestles with true indigenization and contextualization. If a Western missionary (or short-term missionary) does not understand language and culture, trust is blind, and conflict is inevitable.

Pentecostal Missions

In the article, Pentecostal Missions: Past 100 Years and Beyond, I identify the phenomenal growth of the Pentecostal movement since its inception on January 1, 1901 to the present. Particular focus is given to the Assemblies of God missions from its humble but audacious beginnings in 1914 to its growth as the largest Pentecostal and Protestant denomination in the world. Four reasons are presented for this growth: doctrinal, missiological, spiritual, and sociological. These factors have played significant roles in Pentecostal missions. The elements of each of these reasons are explored.

Global Missionaries

Bryan Waltrip, Ph. D., explores the changing world of missions focusing particularly on the global missionary. He states that "a global missionary is truly global. They satisfy a particular niche in ministry, but they work among several countries, not just one context." These specialized mobile missionaries are gifts to the Church through what they can bring to leaders around the world.

Iconography

Simon Kouessan Degbe's article, African Pentecostal/ Charismatic Iconography: A Study of their Significance and Relevance, grapples with the emergence of symbols in the

Pentecostal/Charismatic churches of Ghana. Degbe traces the history of Christian iconography from the Early Church through the Roman Empire to Ghana. He acknowledges the pitfalls of the veneration but suggests the theological foundation of the Pentecostal/Charismatic churches of Ghana will be successful in warding off the pitfalls and the advantages of icons will be a blessing to the churches.

A Little Child Shall Lead Them

Jennifer Schaeffer's article addresses missionary work from the perspective of a vulnerable learner within culture. She recognizes the mistakes often made by Westerners and encourage a humble attitude of co-learner in seeking to advance the Kingdom of God in a new culture.

Neophytes and Pioneer Movements

Robert Shipley addresses a criticism leveled against the Church Planting Movements, that of appointing new converts as leaders of churches. Through a meticulous exegesis of Acts 14, Titus 1, and 1 Timothy 3 and 5, he concludes that context must be applied to the prohibition of 1 Timothy 3:6, "He must not be a recent convert" and that the application of this verse must be taken to understand the background of the mature, but troubled church in Ephesus.

Contextualization in Context

Robert L. Gallagher, Ph.D., authored a concise article on the definition and history of contextualization. He provides Old and New Testament examples of cross-cultural workers adjusting their message to local languages and cultures. He highlights missionary theologians throughout the Christian era who understand and develop the value of contextualization for those advancing the Gospel to cultures not like their own.

Book Reviews

In the two book reviews Hilsinger reviews how pneumatology developed within various faith communities in "Spirit of God" and Nunez reviews "African Christian Leadership" through the study conducted by the African Leadership University. Both books are recommended by the reviews as valuable additions to libraries of relevant students.

Contributing Authors

The authors of this edition of the IJPM come from and/or are serving around the globe.



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The *International Journal of Pentecostal Missiology* (IJPM) is a peer-reviewed, electronic journal with periodic publication.


The IJPM seeks to facilitate the engagement, research, and investigation of missiology from within a Pentecostal perspective; to encourage thinking and interaction among Pentecostal missionaries and/or Pentecostal missions scholars; and to provide a forum for dialogue and reflection about issues current within Pentecostal Missions. These parameters allow for biblical, theological, historical, and/or missiological articulations, as well as book reviews based on relevant contemporary works.

Views expressed in the Journal reflect those of the authors and reviewers and are not the perspectives or opinions of the editors, the editorial board, the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, or the participating institutions.

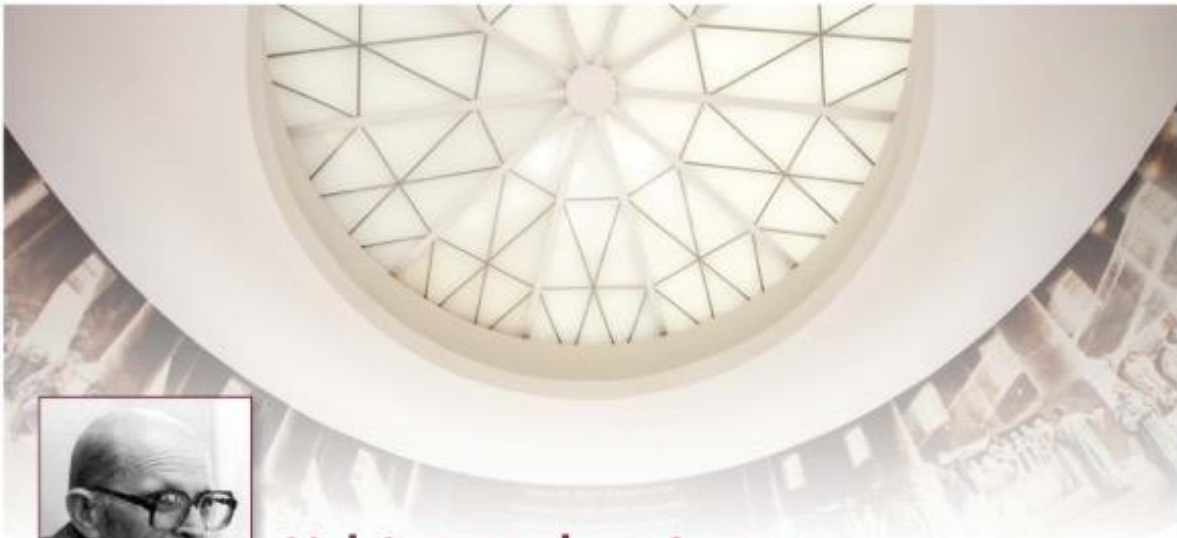
You Are Cordially Invited

To the dedication
of the
Melvin L. Hodges Center
for
**Pentecostal
Missiological
Research**

Thursday, December 5 | 2-3:15 p.m.
William J. Seymour Chapel
Reception following dedication ceremony.

 **AGTS** EVANGELICAL UNIVERSITY
YOUR CALLING. OUR PASSION.

THEY SAW WHAT SEEMED TO BE
TONGUES OF FIRE THAT SEPARATED
THEY CAME TO REST ON EACH OF
THEY ALL OF THEM WERE FILLED
THEY WERE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND
THEY WERE ABLE TO SPEAK TO ONE
ANOTHER



Melvin L. Hodges Center for Pentecostal Missiological Research

In consultation with the World Missions Commissions of the Pentecostal World Fellowship and the World Assemblies of God Fellowship and with support by missionaries from Assemblies of God World Missions (AGWM USA), the Melvin L. Hodges Center for Pentecostal Missiological Research at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary seeks to promote missions and missiology, and foster missiological research by showcasing:

- ▼ The missiological degree programs at AGTS including the Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies, the Doctor of Applied Intercultural Studies and the Doctor of Philosophy of Intercultural Studies.
- ▼ The International Journal of Pentecostal Missiology (IJPM)
- ▼ The missiological library holdings at AGTS and Evangel University including the Gary B. McGee and the Hyllberg Women in Ministry collections.
- ▼ AGTS' Center for Islamic Studies and the Summer Institute of Islamic Studies in partnership with Global Initiative: Reaching Muslim Peoples
- ▼ Seminars and Institutes related to religious studies and contemporary missiological issues.

- ▼ The J. Philip Hogan missiological lectures and publications.
- ▼ AGTS and the Intercultural Doctoral Studies faculty and students' research and publications.

In addition to the research resources identified above, missiological researchers will also have access to the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center, the largest Pentecostal Archive with a rich collection of primary source missionary documents and artefacts.

The Center honors the global missiological influence of Melvin L. Hodges whose seminal work "The Indigenous Church" (1953) and other publications shaped the missiology and missionary practice of missions endeavors across denominational lines but particularly in Assemblies of God and Pentecostal missions. The growth of the Pentecostal movement worldwide is a testament to the work of the Holy Spirit catalyzed by missionaries who practiced the sound biblical missiology proposed and disseminated in Dr. Hodges' work. Along with the significant contributions of other Pentecostal missiologists, the Center underscores the importance of Dr. Hodges' missiology for current and future generations of missionaries.

