

Editorial

Conspectus 31 presents six essays and a book review covering the broad spectrum of theological reflection. Complementing this interdisciplinary core is a contextual emphasis presented by scholars with strong affinities to the church in Africa and the broader mission of God. As you read through this issue, our hope is that you would encounter reasoned reflections about God, the church, and our world. May these reflections root our convictions in the eternal and may they fuel our pursuit of the imperishable.

Conspectus 31 Articles

In “A Procedure for Analysis of Contemporary Reception of Biblical Texts in Ghana: A Methodological Consideration,” Dr. Clement Adjei-Brown reflects on reception theory, charismatic preachers, and Ghanaian traditional religions. His methodological article bridges the disciplines of Bible interpretation and contextual theology, charting a course for hermeneutical strategies that speak directly to African realities.

Next is an essay entitled “The Concept of Cult Centralization in Deuteronomy and its Possible Implications for Today” by Dr. Miracle Ajah. Motivated by a vision of an inclusive society, Ajah reads Deuteronomy exegetically and historically, tracing the debate on cult centralization and its social implications in antiquity. From this discussion, he submits an appropriation of Deuteronomy that could address fiscal federalism and resource control in several African countries.

Prof. Charles Owiredu enters the world of metaphor, analyzing the conceptualization of the “nose” in the Hebrew Bible. His paper “Metaphoric and Metonymic Conceptualization of the Nose in Hebrew and Twi” leverages Conceptual Metaphor Theory to explicate the use of the nose metaphor in

human experiences and its codification in the Akuapem Twi Bible of 1964. Dr. Harvey Kwiyani and Joseph Ola’s paper entitled, “God in Oral African Theology: Exploring the Spoken theologies of Afua Kuma and Tope Alabi” brings orality and theology into crystal focus. Their approach documents the rich theological heritage of a couple of West African women, providing a credible counterpoint to Occidental theological refrains. The conceptualization of God and the formulation of African identity are featured in continuity with luminaries such as Mbiti and Bediako.

In a rejoinder to the simplistic view that considers the Reformed tradition underdeveloped in its pneumatology, Dr. Alistair I. Wilson presents the doctrine of the Holy Spirit as an established tenet in Reformed theology. His paper, “The Holy Spirit in Relation to Mission and World Christianity: A Reformed Perspective” etches lines of continuity between pneumatology in the Reformed tradition and Christianity’s global reach. Wilson deconstructs preconceived pneumatological binaries and edifices, inviting us to a charitable interdenominational dialogue informed by nuance and commonality.

Dr. Abraham Modisa Mkhondo Mzondi engages the sphere of leadership through an analysis of John L.M. Dube’s values. Mzondi’s approach is refreshingly novel in that it traces Dube’s leadership principles through ecclesial and political successors. At the heart of his articulation is a holistic view of reality captured in the phrase “a non-dichotomous perspective of *Ubuntu*.” Mzondi’s article, “John L.M. Dube’s leadership: Evaluating Frank Chikane, Kenneth Meshoe, and Mmusi Maimane as Leaders” is a theologically-informed interrogation of leadership for a South African context.

Last, but not least, Dr. Paul Cookey of the Theological College of Northern Nigeria reviews Dr. Carmen Joy Imes’s 2019 monograph *Bearing God’s Name: Why Sinai Still Matters*, published by InterVarsity Press.

I would like to thank the authors for their meaningful contributions and for choosing to publish with *Conspectus*. May these writings serve us with fresh theological insights and a deeper appreciation for God who is at work in Africa and beyond.

New Editorial Team Personnel

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Caswell Ntseno (PhD) to the position of co-Associate Editor of *Conspectus*. Mr. Ntseno is SATS's Quality Assurance Manager and a doctoral candidate at the University of South Africa (UNISA). His doctoral research—conducted under the supervision of Prof. Gordon E. Dames—is titled “Higher Educational Policies and Institutional Theological Needs: A Practical Theological Exploration with Specific Reference to Private Theological Institutions in South Africa.” Welcome!

New Editorial Board Members

On behalf of the *Conspectus* Editorial Board chairperson, Dr. Johannes Malherbe, I am honoured to welcome the following scholars to the board:

- Dr. Femi Adeleye – Dr. Adeleye is the Africa director for Langham Preaching. He is also the director for the Institute for Christian Impact (ICI), a growing organization that seeks to bridge the gap between professions of faith and the expression of faith in the African public sphere. Dr. Adeleye is an alumnus of Wheaton Graduate School, University of Edinburgh, and the renowned Akrofi-Christaller Institute of Theology, Mission and Culture. He is the author of *Preachers of a Different Gospel: A Pilgrim's Reflections on Contemporary Trends in Christianity*, published by HippoBooks in 2011. He also co-edited *Partnering with the Global Church*, published by Urbana Onward in 2012.
- Dr. Daniel K. Darko – Dr. Darko is a Professor of New Testament and the Director of Church Relations at Gordon College, Wenham, MA. Dr. Darko is a Visiting Professor at Regent University College (Ghana) and teaches in

Egypt, Uganda, and Nigeria. His academic interests are in Pauline Studies, Cultural Intelligence, Christianity in Africa, and Biblical Paradigms for Ethno-Race relations. His most recent book is *Against Principalities and Powers: Spiritual Beings in Relation to Communal Identity and the Moral Discourse of Ephesians*, published by HippoBooks and Langham in 2020. He is also the author of *No Longer Living as the Gentiles: Differentiation and Shared Values in Ephesians 4:17–6:9*. Dr. Darko serves on the editorial board of the Bulletin for Biblical Research and was recently elected to the prestigious Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas (SNTS).

- Dr. Daniel Strange – Dr. Strange is the College Director and a Lecturer in Culture, Religion and Public Theology at Oak Hill College, Southgate, London. Dr. Strange holds a PhD from Bristol University, published in 2000 by Paternoster as *The Possibility of Salvation Among the Unevangelised*. He is the author of the celebrated *For Their God is Not as Our Rock: An Evangelical Theology of Religions*, published by Zondervan in 2015. His most recent book *Plugged in: Connecting your faith to what you watch, read and play* was published by the Good Book Company in 2019.
- Dr. Harvey Kwiyanani – Dr. Kwiyanani is a Lecturer in African Christianity and Theology at Liverpool Hope University, Liverpool. He is also the founder and general editor of *Missio Africanus: The Journal of African Missiology*. Dr. Kwiyanani received a PhD from Luther Seminary, St Paul, Minnesota in 2012. He has taught missional leadership courses, theology, missiology, and missional leadership on three continents. Dr. Kwiyanani is the author of *Sent Forth: African Missionary Work in the West*, published by Orbis in the American Society of Missiology Series in 2014. His most recent book *Multicultural Kingdom: Ethnic Diversity, Mission, and the Church* was published by SCM Press in 2020. Welcome, colleagues.

Conspectus Layout

Conspectus 31 introduces the reader to the journal's new look. We have revamped the colour scheme, changed the font, rearranged the distribution of white space, and introduced a landscape orientation which should allow for a better reading experience across devices.

On behalf of the Editorial Team, I would like to express my thanks to Marno Kirstein, SATS's Head of Marketing and Media Manager, and Christophe Godin, *Conspectus's* typesetter and template designer, for providing an optimal solution. I am also indebted to the Editorial Team whose efforts are enshrined in the disquisitions you are about to read.

In Christ,

Dr. Batanayi I. Manyika

Editor