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"Hands"

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# Editorial

*Conspectus* publishes content marked by three distinctives: first, like the seminary, the journal is broadly evangelical with the aim to ultimately serve the Church; second, the journal brings together various theological sub-disciplines; finally, it is a journal that foregrounds the Global South and Africa in particular. These three distinctives are well on display in *Conspectus* 33. The volume boasts seven well-written articles, spanning Biblical Studies, Systematic Theology, Practical Theology, and even Psychology. The authors have done well to foreground the Church and, where appropriate, to situate theological concerns within African realities.

## ***Conspectus* 33 articles**

In the first article, “The Rhetoric of Rejuvenation: Restoring the ‘Weak’ and ‘Wanderers’ according to James 5:13–20,” Prof. Ernst R. Wendland analyzes the aforementioned pericope, paying special attention to the nature of the “weakness” (ἀσθενέω) that James’s readers are encouraged to pray about. Wendland argues that the portion serves a climactic role in an epistle that communicates persistent purity of faith and life. He offers useful suggestions for a translation that faithfully conveys its tone and meaning.

In another New Testament article, “Metonymic Conceptualization of Body Parts in the Greek New Testament,” Prof. Charles Owiredu examines the metonymic structure of body parts in the Greek New Testament within the framework of Conceptual Metonymy Theory. Owiredu aptly demonstrates that, in the New Testament, body parts are metonymically conceptualized as “body part stands for the person,” “body part stands for activity,” and “body part stands for its content.”

Next, in an article titled, “Coherence in Ecclesiastes 3:16–22,” Dr. Kimmo Huovila and Prof. Dan Lioy argue that the pericope ought to be understood as a coherent whole. They affirm the passage’s two-fold response to injustice, namely, guaranteed justice through an afterlife judgement and God’s action of revealing human limitations as he allows injustice.

Moving on to Systematic Theology, Mr. Aku Stephen Antombikums presents John Calvin and John Sanders as examples of the ongoing debate on the nature of divine control and human freedom in his article titled, “Is Divine Providence Risky? A Dialogue Between John Calvin and John Sanders.” Using dialogical hermeneutics, Antombikums argues that divine providence is risky to us but not to God.

In his article, “Toward *Shalom* as a Radical and Transformative Conceptual Framework for Post-Apartheid Social Justice in Namibia,” Dr. Basilius Kasera proposes the concept of *shalom* for a thicker theological and conceptual framework for Christian praxis in the Namibian post-apartheid context. Kasera employs critical analysis and suggests critical participation as a way of embodying Christian values and the gospel in the public sphere.

Next, in his article, “Is the Prosperity Gospel, Gospel? An Examination of the Prosperity and Productivity Gospels in African Christianity,” Mr. Joshua R. Barron undertakes a hybrid of an integrative literature review and narrative literature review to evaluate the Prosperity Gospel, pointing to the Productivity Gospel as a viable, contextually-relevant alternative to the former.

Finally, in her article, “The Influence of Forgiveness on Radicalization into Violent Extremism among the Youth in Eastleigh Area, Nairobi County, Kenya,” Dr. Florence Wamahiga investigates whether forgiveness can be used

as an intervention to curb radicalization of youth into violent extremism. Employing Relative Deprivation and Rational Choice Theory, Wamahiga underscores the importance of forgiveness and the teaching thereof in both church and society.

The issue concludes with two book reviews: Dr. Dustin Burlet reviews *A Book-by-Book Guide to Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary*, by William R. Osborne and Russell L. Meek (2020) and, in an extended review, Mr. Christopher J. Lovelace evaluates the second edition of *A Guide to Bible Translation: People, Languages, and Topics*, edited by Philip A. Noss and Charles S. Houser (2020).

My gratitude to the contributors, Editorial Board, Review Board, Editorial Team, and seminary for the successful publication of this issue. As you read through it, our prayer is that you will be inspired by theological engagement that takes both text and context seriously and that you will be well-served in your respective ministries.

In Christ,

Dr. Cornelia van Deventer

*Editor*