

Editorial

Conspectus 34 presents five articles, each responding responsibly to various contextual questions from the African continent. These papers situated within various theological sub-disciplines, including Missiology, Systematic Theology, Biblical Studies, and Practical Theology, with a golden thread of contextualization running through them.

Contextualisation entails presenting the gospel from a context-sensitive perspective, continually seeking the Scriptures as a way to engage and challenge our different realities. The contributors in this issue have done well to respond to the contextual questions in ways that are consistent with our objective to publish research that is God-honoring (Bible-based, Christ-centered, and Spirit-led) and that serves our contexts well. May their labor of love contribute to faithful participation in the mission of God, responsible handling of Scripture, careful engagement with various communities, and the proclamation of Christ, the only hope of the world.

***Conspectus 34* Articles**

In the first article, “The Pneumatological Phenomenon in Acts 2:1–6: Implications for Christian Mission in Africa,” Dr. Isaac Boaheng explores the value and use of the mother tongue, or vernacular, in both missions and Christian life. Boaheng opines that for the Church to fulfill its mandate, it must be called back to its Pentecostal and missionary roots, and to the absolute necessity of the Spirit’s empowerment for effective participation in the mission of God.

This is followed by the article, “The Contemporary *Missio Dei* Paradigm and its Expression in the Global South” by Rev. Richard Otiso, who contends that the *Missio Dei* paradigm has undergone a significant shift in the Global South,

transforming the region from being receivers to being active participants in the mission of God. Otiso ends by exploring the opportunities for participation in God’s mission in post-pandemic Africa.

Next, is the article entitled, “African Theology for the African Church: The Need for an Evangelical Approach,” by Dr. Greg Kame who puts forth a case for an evangelical approach to doing theology in Africa by exploring the origin of African evangelical theology. He proposes a good starting point for African scholars to consider developing a robust African evangelical theology for the African Church. Kame proposes soteriology as a key to an African theology that avoids the pitfalls of syncretism or liberalism.

Subsequently, Mr. Yimenu Belay, in his article, “Scripture and Context in Conversation: The Ethiopian *Andämta* Interpretative Tradition” contends that the Ethiopian *Andämta* interpretive tradition is a homegrown, contextualized hermeneutic practice that demonstrates a productive dialogue between text and context. Belay engages the rich history of the Ethiopian interpretive tradition and further points to the transformative dimension of the biblical text.

Finally, the article, “In Search of *Cura Vitae*: A Theology of Healing and Hope for Ethiopia” by Ms. Youdit Tariku Feyessa concludes the papers. The context of this article is the current conflict-riddled nation of Ethiopia. The author challenges the Ethiopian church to respond amid turmoil involving the convergence of history, conflict, Scripture, and theology of action. She argues that a lamenting and *metanoic* church should be able to find healing, hope, and transformation amid hopelessness and despair.

The issue concludes with three book reviews: first, Mr. Michael Blythe reviews *African Public Theology* (2020, edited by Agang), published by

Langham. Second, Dr. Desmond Henry reviews Gitau's *Megachurch Christianity Reconsidered: Millennials and Social Change in African Perspective* (2017), published by InterVarsity Press. Finally, Dr. Anna-Marie Lockard reviews Lee's *The Ministry of Women in the New Testament: Reclaiming the Biblical Vision for Church Leadership* (2021), published by Baker.

I wish to thank the authors and book reviewers for their meaningful contributions and for choosing to partner with *Conspectus*. My appreciation goes to the Editor, Dr. Cornelia van Deventer, the Editorial Team, the Review Board, the Editorial Board, and the Seminary for the successful publication of this volume.

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands. (Ps 90:17 NIV)

New Editorial Board Chairperson

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Desmond Henry has been elected by the Editorial Board as the new chairperson. He was appointed to succeed Dr. Johannes Malherbe, who has done a phenomenal job over the past two years. Dr. Henry serves as International Director of the Global Network of Evangelists for the Luis Palau Association and has been a valuable member of the *Conspectus* Editorial Board since 2020. This volume also contains a book review written by our new chairperson. Dr. Henry, thank you for your willingness to serve in this capacity. We are honored to welcome you as the new chair.

Special Gratitude

Special gratitude is reserved for the Editor of *Conspectus*, Dr. Cornelia van Deventer, for affording me this privilege to oversee the publication of

Conspectus 34. On behalf of the Editorial Team, we welcome you back from maternity leave. *Conspectus* is continuing to develop and remain faithful to its core mandate to publish God-honoring research under your leadership.

In conclusion, to the readers of *Conspectus*, as you engage this volume, our prayer is that the theological dialogues and proposals advanced herein will inspire you to make a shift from a “cognizance of context” to a “commitment to context.” The proposed shifts require an acknowledgement that part of our role is not just to observe or examine our societies but to transform them.

Nkosi Sikelela iAfrika.

In Christ

Dr. Caswell J. Ntseno

Associate Editor