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"A Statue of Lady Justice Holding a Scale" (Photo)

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Editorial

Conspectus 37 marks a year since the journal's formal accreditation by the South African Department of Higher Education and Training. The past year has been characterized by tremendous growth for the journal and its team. This volume launches with two articles on translation and orality, followed by one on historical theology, and ends with three that continue SATS's 2023 academic focus on ethics.

***Conspectus 37* Articles**

In his article, "The Use of Translational English in Theological Compositions for More Effective Communication: Some Basic Considerations," Ernst R. Wendland highlights the communicative difficulties that arise when theological literature is presented to non-first-language readers. The author offers translational English, an original or re-composed text more readily rendered in a non-Western language, as a strategic tool to address some of these difficulties.

The topic of orality is explored further by the article, "Oral Theology in the African Church: An Examination of the Divine Attributes in the Song *Yehowa* by Suzzy and Matt" by Isaac Boaheng. The author stresses the value of oral material in the theological shaping of churches in Africa by analyzing a significant song by the Ghanaian duo Suzzy and Matt. While acknowledging the beauty and utility of oral theologies, Boaheng argues that these should always be weighed against the Scriptures in order to faithfully serve their various contexts.

In his article, "The Rationale for Augustine's Development of the Doctrine of Predestination," Dumisani Member Ngobeni surveys the translated works of Saint Augustine to assess his influence on the theological development

of the doctrine of predestination. Ngobeni especially considers Augustine's exegetical approach to Romans and the influence of the Pelagian controversy, arguing that these two factors significantly shaped his theological thought.

Next is the article, "Reconciliation in South Africa: Recent Contributions and the Part African Pentecostalism Can Play," written by Bambo Miti. The author stresses the need for the religious sector to play a leading role in the socio-political rebuilding of South Africa. Miti suggests that African Pentecostalism has much potential as a transformative agent in post-Apartheid South Africa.

In his article, "Maintaining an Evangelical Faith in the Face of a Decadent Culture of Democracy," Kelebogile Thomas Resane identifies the pressures of constitutionalism and the influence of secularism as significant driving forces in the creation of a decadent culture in which God has been unsettled from public spaces. In light of the challenges faced by evangelicals in this context, primarily in the areas of church governance and family, Resane proffers a re-emphasis on three key doctrines, namely, the doctrine of the Trinity, human depravity, and a high view of the Bible.

In the last article, "Which Way to *Shalom*? A Theological Exploration of the Yoruba and Western Foundations for Ethics and Development," Wole Adebile employs a comparative technique to compare Yoruba and Western views on ethics and well-being. By using the biblical idea of *shalom* as a measure, Adebile argues that the Yoruba idea of *àlàáfíà* (peace) aligns more closely with this concept than Western views of wellbeing.

Finally, the volume concludes with three book reviews. Lewis R. Polzin reviews Robert Falconer's book, *Embodied Afterlife: The Hope of an Immediate Resurrection*, Ali Mati reviews *The Holy Spirit in African Christianity*, edited by

David K. Ngaruiya and Rodney L. Reed, and Desmond Henry reviews Matthew Burden's *Who We Were Meant to Be: Rediscovering Our Identity as God's Royal Priesthood*.

New Editorial Board Member

On behalf of the Editorial Board chairperson, Dr. Desmond Henry, I am honored to welcome a new member to the board: Dr. Irene Banda is joining the *Conspectus* Editorial Board from April 2024. Dr. Banda holds a Ph.D. from the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies and Middlesex University, UK. She straddles the theological and financial worlds, working towards poverty reduction by serving in and alongside various institutions. She is also well-versed in the area of marketplace ministry. Welcome, Dr. Banda. We look forward to serving with you.

Celebrating Dan Lioy

Since 2020, Prof. Dan Lioy fulfilled both the role of Content Editor and Book Review Editor (alongside Dr. George Coon). Following his recent retirement from the South African Theological Seminary, Prof. Lioy's time on the Editorial Team has come to an end. To our esteemed colleague, thank you for years of faithful service; your theological and strategic sharpness has been a gift to us, and your high work ethic has left an indelible mark on the team and board. We are grateful for you and honored that you have committed to serve on the Editorial Board going forward.

New Content Editor

In light of the retirement of our colleague, Prof. Dan Lioy, *Conspectus* has appointed a new Content Editor in the person of Mr. Izaak J. L. Connaway. Mr. Connaway has been exceptional as the journal's Copy Editor over the last year and his dedication to excellence and theological purity has made him

the stand-out candidate for the Content Editor position. Colleague, welcome to the role. We pray for you as you take on new responsibilities amid a busy Ph.D. journey.

In Memoriam: Batanayi Manyika

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. Batanayi Manyika on Friday, 22 March. Dr. Manyika served as the *Conspectus* Editor from 2019 to 2021 and remained a dedicated Editorial Board member until his passing. Much of the journal's restructuring occurred under his leadership and he played a pivotal role in its accreditation. He steered the journal with vision, passion, and integrity and was a friend to many of our authors and board members. We grieve his untimely passing and thank God for his passion for the Bible, the gospel, and the church. Our deepest condolences to Bat's loved ones, especially his wife Vanesha and mother Rhoda.

I wish to conclude by thanking our contributors, the Editorial Board, the Review Board, the Editorial Team, and the Seminary for the successful publication of this issue. As we bid good friends farewell and welcome new ones to the table, may the work produced herein inspire, comfort, strengthen, and deepen us in the knowledge of our Lord and his gift of a living hope and eternal inheritance (1 Peter 1:3–4).

In Christ,

Dr. Cornelia van Deventer

Editor