

EDITOR'S NOTE

This edition of the Ghana Bulletin of Theology contains what we refer to as, "The Basel Lecture Series" – lectures delivered by professors from the Faculty of Theology, University of Basel, during their collaborative and study visit to our Department from 26th -30th January, 2016.

Knowledge of the history of religions yields a deeper and richer understanding of the origins of diverse religious beliefs. Subsequently, acquisition of such knowledge leads to respecting and tolerating other faiths without losing one's own. Religious views of people had played and still play a major part in their lives as the following contributions show.

The first article analyses the discourse on primitive religion within European scholarship and shows how writing about religion in Africa reveals Europe's self-representation and the late 19th century study of religion.

In the second article, the author examined the use of symbols such as the sun, light and the cross during Constantine's reign. He is able to prove that Emperor Constantine's religious policy made deliberate use of the pre-existing traditions and integrated them to diverse world beliefs.

The multiple approaches in undertaking theology during the medieval ages are also highlighted and linked to the adoption of a pluralistic approach of a modern cross-cultural theological exchange.

Prof. Bernhardt reiterates the fact that inter-religious dialogue is possible. However, there is the need to theologize in a way that is impactful for people of all religions.

The Basel Mission has a beautiful history which is interwoven with the history of Ghana. On the occasion of the Mission's two hundredth anniversary in the country, Andreas Heuser presents

this history in a refreshing manner and reminds Christians of their duty to equally work for the social, economic and cultural development of the nation and not only strive for their spiritual transformation.

In the final article, the historical origin of how the Ga- Adangmes of Ghana could be of Jewish descent is traced. Judging from this presentation and its authenticity, it might not be a myth after all.

The papers in this volume promise a good read and it is my hope that our efforts as academics contribute to the relevance of religion in shaping society.

George Ossom-Batsa