

## EDITOR'S NOTE

This volume of GBT publishes articles that range from biblical theology to medieval philosophy; from contemporary theology and general religious studies to Islamic studies. The first two articles focus on the book of Psalms. Mark Aidoo interprets Psalm 86:17 employing rhetorical criticism. He points out that the goal of the petitioner in the Psalms was to transform the life of his enemies and bring them to the knowledge of God through the strategy of shaming. Josiah B. Andor, on the other hand, reads Psalm 122:6-9 as a plea for national peace. Within this frame of interpretation, the prayer for peace and the promotion of peace captures God's purpose for the world.

In his article, entitled "Chosen Instrument of God: Acts 9:15 in Light of Paul's Pastoral Ministry," Honore Sewakpo attempts establishing the nexus between Paul's Damascus road experience, his call and pastoral ministry. Using Ralph Martin's grammatico-historical approach to biblical exegesis, the paper asserts that Paul's Damascus road experience was a revelatory and transforming event in his life. The divine grace that characterised Paul's call to the ministry and the support that he had received from the church and its leadership enabled Paul to have an effective pastoral ministry.

The possible influences Paul's instructions in 1 Cor 11:17–34 might have had on the members of the Corinthian *ekklesia* is the focus of Samuel V. Mpereh's paper. He points out that the ritual structure of the Corinthian *deipnon* offers an inimitable opportunity for Paul to try to end the schismata in the assembly. Thus, the ritual helped shape the community through action.

Lawrence Boakye discusses punishment within the framework of Aquinas' theory of common good. He explains punishment and its features, relevance and effectiveness, and how it can optimize its operational features towards social change and the common good. He also discusses the process of the implementation of punishment, including capital punishment, and some contemporary perceptions on Aquinas' theory on punishment.

The article of Yaw Attah Edu-Bekoe examines the shift of the world Christian gravitational centre from the North to the South as a central

theme in the trilogy of Paul Jenkins. He argues that the practice of Christianity in Africa, Asia, and Latin-America is more in resonance with biblical theologizing than in Euro-America. He further argues that for Jenkins, the Southern churches are quite at home with biblical notions of the supernatural, with ideas such as dreams, visions, prophecy, healing, and deliverance.

Godson Ahoritor studies the notion of health and disability in the experience of indigenous societies in Africa. He notes that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has formulated three fundamental concepts in disability policy namely impairment, disability and handicap. Scholars in disabilities studies, on the other hand, have formulated different models for disabilities. He points out that in Ghana, institutions have been established and laws and policies formulated to protect and ensure the progress of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) but their enforcement has often been undermined by traditional beliefs and attitudes towards disability as revealed in a research conducted among the Tongu Mafi Ewes of Ghana.

Rabiatu Ammah and Kauthar Khamis investigate the impact of social change on Muslim marriages. Specifically, the paper discusses the practices of the Aluwanka (traditional pre-marital counsellor) and assesses the formalized type by Hajia Memuna Maliki. They underscore the importance of the project, especially for Muslim women, and argue that with the support of all stakeholders the service could be improved and challenges it currently faces may also be minimised.

George Ossom-Batsa