

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the seventh edition of your preferred African Religious Studies journal. As always, the articles in this edition have been carefully selected to reflect our mission of presenting thought provoking discussions on aspects of the humanities.

In the first article, Dovlo discusses the issue of distinguishing between which race qualifies to be called God's people. He shows how the Bible is sometimes deployed by some interpreters to perpetuate or construct negative identities about the African race. Through a comprehensive analysis, the writer reveals how African Christians in the Diaspora and Ghana reconstruct their identities as 'people of God.'

Kissi, in his article describes the similarities in some of the strategies the author of the letter to the Hebrews and the Akans of Ghana adopt in redirecting the pain they feel in their suffering situation, to reflect positively energized perspectives. This provides a refreshing new way of viewing the Epistle to the Hebrews.

The next article by Quayesi-Amakye decodes the ethical issues embedded in the book of Esther. Often, the story is read uncritically so the social, political and ethical implications have not been applied for holistic benefit of the people of God. Attention is drawn to several ignored spots in the narrative that are necessary for sociopolitical considerations.

Amevenku and Boaheng in their article explore the superficial contradiction between the teachings of Paul and James on justification in Romans 3:28 and James 2:24. Whereas Paul believes that people are justified by faith apart from works of the law (Rom. 3:28), James is of the view that people are justified by their deeds and not by faith alone (Jas 2:24). This article analyses the Greek terminologies employed by James and Paul in communicating their views, and contends that the concept of justification expressed by the two authors are complementary rather than contradictory.

The fifth article discusses a different indicator for development as enshrined in the *Populorum Progressio* written by Pope Paul VI. Although much emphasis is placed on economic growth as an indicator for

development worldwide, Antwi argues that favourable economic indicators do not necessarily reflect the Christian vision of development which corresponds to the well-being of all aspects of every citizen's life.

Adubofour and Nso-Yine's article focuses on the establishment of mono-ethnic churches in southern Ghana for migrants from the north. The study portrays the principal role the Frafra Christian Fellowship played in the planting of Frafra churches by assisting the mainline churches. It also shed light on the cardinal importance of mother-tongue in indigenous mission work.

White investigates pastoral transfer in Classical Pentecostal Churches in Ghana and its implication on church life and the pastoral family. The author recommends that pastoral transfers should be carried out in an impartial manner, without compromising on the missional agenda of God and the holistic development of the pastoral family.

In the last article, Majeed examines Gyekye's critique of selected authors; whilst revealing the flaws in Gyekye's arguments. Based on recent scientific studies of genetic influences, Majeed argues that Gyekye's interpretations of the related concepts of *ntoro* and *sunsum* are unclear. From Majeed's analysis, it has become significant for philosophers to engage with the necessary resources in an effort to better understand and inform the masses on how, from the indigenous perspective, Akan thinkers construe human personality.

Evidently, the writers have challenged themselves with in-depth analysis of their selected topics and I dare say they have outdone themselves! May I take this opportunity to congratulate them and urge them on in their academic pursuit. It is equally appropriate to thank all our avid readers for joining us on this journey of producing quality research into contemporary religious issues which is practicalized in day-to-day life.

Thank you and enjoy this edition!

George Ossom-Batsa