

EDITOR'S NOTE

Our cherished readers of *Ghana Journal of Religion and Theology*, this year has been a challenging one for both developed and developing countries because of our 'common enemy': COVID-19 virus. Many people have lost their lives; some are still battling between life and death. Human life, social, economic, religious, and political, are under stress with extreme human suffering. We feel united with all of you in your trials and difficult moments. We hope that papers in this volume will provide you with some comfort and assurance that with God on our side and with the cooperation of all humanity, we shall win the battle against COVID-19!

In the first article, **Elisha Kwabena Marfo**, through a linguistic analysis of Isaiah 66, demonstrated how God's mission from the beginning of creation has been to redeem humanity, both Israel and the gentiles, through the revelation of his glory to them. Welcoming the glory of God establishes God's sovereignty in the world, which eventually brings *shalom*.

Alexander Salakpi analyses Deut 4:1-8 and demonstrates how the observance of the law in Israel was an essential requirement to live in the Promised Land and establish themselves and identity. God punished disobedience with exile from the land and the loss of socio-religious identity. Obedience, on the other hand, usually brought peace, prosperity, progress, and development. Contextualising the reading in contemporary Ghanaian society, the author argues that the lack of peace and fulfilment experienced by Ghanaians citizens stems from ignoring the country's laws.

In his paper, **Augustine Mensah** argues that the parable of the Good Samaritan is not about a distinction between a Jew and a Gentile or a Samaritan or a redefinition of neighbour. Instead, it is about showing mercy and love to any needy person because s/he is a human being. In other words, it is about loving one's neighbour because that is where love for oneself resides.

Joshua Alfred Amuah and **John Kofi Brewu** analyse selected pieces of Kras Arthur, a 'fourth-generation' Ghanaian music composer, and suggest that the compositions' major themes are God's kingship and

supremacy. They further discuss the perlocutionary effect of the lyrics on the audience of musical performances and how it contributes to the spread of the Gospel in Ghana.

In his paper, **Philip Okyere** examines the 'black roots' of contemporary Pentecostalism as the most influential Christian religious culture. He further discusses the contribution of sacred site visitation to the spiritual growth of pilgrims. Finally, employing historical and phenomenological approaches, the author explores some Pentecostal initiatives in the development of Abasua Prayer Mountain and Nkawkaw Mountain Olive Prayer Camp as sacred sites for prayer rituals in Ghanaian Christianity.

Jones Ugochukwu Odili noted an overwhelming concern of the academic community in tertiary institutions in Nigeria on the effects of students' engagement in religious activities on their academic performance and well-being. His paper considers scholarly views on the impacts of religious activities on the students' school lives. Further, it explores the correlation between students' involvement in religious activities on campuses and their academic performance and well-being, using the Christian Fellowship International, the University of Port Harcourt as a case study. The study reveals that most of the Fellowships' activities improve students' academic well-being, performance and leadership skills, and equip them for higher responsibilities when they graduate. The study argues for the inclusion of religious activities on university campuses as it compliments academic work and creates a balanced environment for students' healthy growth.

It is exciting to notice that with the migration of *GJRT* onto the University of Ghana *OJS* platform, many people have been able to access our publications, both past and present. More than five hundred readers so far visited our *OJS* page. We are grateful to all our viewers and readers, and we promise you interesting and quality papers.

I wish everybody a pleasurable reading!

George Ossom-Batsa