

EDITOR'S NOTE

I warmly welcome all our readers to volume 11 of The Ghana Journal of Religion and Theology. This volume publishes two issues and for this reason, the collection of papers focuses on diverse issues: Akan metaphysics, Bible translation, food ethics, Christology, discipleship, pastoral ethics, sustainable development, and church life in crisis times. This notwithstanding, the articles could be considered explorations of African hermeneutics.

In the first article, **Owusu Gyamfi** examined the characterisation of the Akan concept *sunsum* in the writing of Robert Sutherland Rattray, a Scottish anthropologist, and has demonstrated how this has influenced subsequent scholarship on Akan religion and culture, especially the critical constructive investigation of Akan realities in interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary studies. He noted that the complex dialectical relationship between *ɔkra*, *sunsum* and *ntorɔ* was not only a conceptual problem for Rattray, but also a general difficulty that has persisted in subsequent scholarship.

Charles Owiredu used the Conceptual Metaphor Theory of Lakoff and Johnson to discuss how *Tsui*, 'heart' is used in the Gã Bible to express human experiences and show that there is a relationship between the linguistic systems of a people and their conceptual and cultural experiences.

Hackman-Aidoo and **C. K.M. Kudzedzi** investigate the meaning of the concept of 'food taboo' and the difficulty it poses in food discourse within the broad spectrum of religion. After providing a functional definition of 'food taboo', they propose a shift in paradigm from merely considering the prohibitions associated with food to an exploration of the guiding principles underlying food conduct which may be termed 'food ethics'.

In their paper entitled 'What is Greater than the Temple', **John Appiah** and **Daniel Berchie** use the text-centred approach to exegesis to discuss the Matthean style of using comparative adjectives and point out that what is greater than the temple in Matt 12:6 is Jesus's ministry.

Writing on the Gospels, **Augustine M. Mensah** engages the sensitive question of whether Jesus called women disciples alongside the men. The author has argued that contrary to the presentation of the Synoptic Gospels that the disciples Jesus called were all men or males, which has

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shaped the practice of some Christian churches to prefer having their ministers or pastors as only males, the Fourth Gospel presents not only men but also women as disciples of Jesus.

Paul Kang-Ewala Diboro and **Raymond Charles Ehiem** examined the morality of certain ministerial practices among contemporary Ghanaian Pastors reported in print, electronic and social media to call for sanity in Christian pastoral ministry in Ghana.

Olukayode Felix Oyenuga contends in his paper entitled *Indigenous knowledge and Africa's quest for sustainable development* that to formulate a good philosophy of sustainable development for Africa, an engagement with the socio-cultural knowledge of the African people is indispensable. He intimates that the major problem for the technological, economic, social, and political backwardness of Africa lies in her attempt to attain sustainable development without recourse to its rich cultural knowledge.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every aspect of human life and existence. Using the cyber-ethnographic method, **Genevieve Nrenzah** and **Michael P.K. Okyerfo** examine the various means deployed by five selected churches in Ghana to manage church finances and membership. The results show that the churches' monetary interests and survival strategies were paramount amidst the pandemic. One of the most striking observations of their paper is that in contemporary Ghana, 'religion is caught in a paradoxical quandary', namely, it attempts to serve the needy and poor gratuitously but it has also 'taken on business traits where goods and services are sold to the highest bidder.'

I am pleased to inform our cherished contributors and readers that *GJRT* is now indexed in *ATLA* and *AJOL* databases. This is a welcome achievement for us as our visibility has been broadened.

Many thanks to our *ATLA* and *AJOL* partners!

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