

EDITORIAL

The COVID-19 pandemic, which began in the city of Wuhan, China in December 2019 and first reported in Nigeria in February 2020, was a public health risk of globally unimaginable proportions. The pandemic disrupted societal and ecclesial norms and caused a significant shift in ecclesia process, practices and theologies. The church and Christianity in Nigeria did not remain the same again.

Therefore, the articles in this edition of the *Nigerian Journal of Christian Studies* (NJCS) are novel contributions to the academic discourse on the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19 pandemic) with the application of analytical, evaluation, and integrative approaches. These articles are the knowledge products of the 2021 Annual Conference of the National Association for Christian Studies (NACS), which held at the Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN), National Headquarters, Jos, Plateau State and hosted by the Department of Religion and Philosophy, University of Jos, Plateau State in collaboration with Gindiri Theological Summary, Gindiri, Plateau State. The theme of the conference was: **Reflections on Christianity and New Means of Grace in a Post-pandemic Era in Africa.**

The authors comprise Christian scholars, the clergy, Christian leaders, Christian theologians, and interested academics from various disciplines of Christian Studies, its cognate disciplines, and different Christian denominational affiliations in Nigeria. They provided incisive synopsis of the COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria; x-rayed its multiple effects on the Nigerian social and ecclesial contexts; analysed the varied responses of the church in Nigeria; and gleaned out actionable propositions for the church, Nigerian government at all levels, and individual Christians in a post-pandemic Nigerian context. It is no longer business as usual. Ecclesial normed-identities had to be reconceptualised, re-appropriate and re-modeled.

Christianity cum the church had always become stronger and more effective after every disastrous or threatening experience. Thus, the church's experience during the COVID-19 pandemic calls its attention to evaluate and rethink its varied practices, liturgy, and theologies. The Nigerian church and its operational components will be at the cutting-edge of ecclesial mission if it imbibes the multi-faceted suggestions of the submissions inherent in these articles. Enjoy an impactful reading ride.

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