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# EDITORIAL

Mission is the mother of theology. These Martin Kähler's words should never be forgotten. Without mission, there is no theology. Andrew Walls has often reminded us that theology emerges out of the encounters between gospel and culture – in the context of mission. The developments currently occurring in African Christianity – e.g., the rapid growth of Africa's Christian population, the rising influence of spirit-centred prophetic ministries, growing sense of failure to engage effectively with politics, and the multiplying numbers of prosperity preachers, among many – make Kähler's words very relevant for African theology today. What kind of theology is producing and *being produced* by the type of church that we have seen explode in Africa in the past five decades? The experience of Africa's Christianity in the diaspora makes such questions as this more pertinent. How are Africans in Europe and North America engaging in mission among Westerners?

Mission is also the *telos* of theology. There is no knowing of God apart from knowing God as a missionary God. Any attempt to understand God must lead to the missionary heart of God. Thus, theology must lead us back to mission. We can not afford to lose sight of mission in our theological endeavours, for once we do that, we can easily come up with images of God that are not true. Again, Africa's diaspora Christianity is revealing; how much of our ecclesiology is shaped by God's missionary heart?

Missio Africanus Journal is a platform for missiological conversations around African Christianity. The journal takes its name from its parent organisation, Missio Africanus (following a wordplay on *missio Dei* to think about the sending (*missio*) of the Africans (*Africanus*). This journal anticipates the growing field of missiology within African Christianity. It also anticipates a missiology that is shaped by the African context through the work of both African and non-African agents. Such a missiology must reflect the African understanding of God, mission, and the world. It will also be shaped by theological issues emerging in the context of political instability, corruption, poverty, diseases, and migration, that characterise the African life today. It seeks to explore how the missionary God responds to the struggles of the African peoples. As such, it must engage other disciplines in its quest to understand the *missio Dei* among Africans such as philosophy, leadership, history, sociology, anthropology, and others.

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The journal will create space for and facilitate conversations that have to do with *missio Dei* among the African peoples. It hopes to do this in two ways: (1) by engaging the voices and perspectives of Africans involved in mission both in Africa and in the African Diaspora and (2) by listening to and learning from the many non-Africans who do their missionary work among Africans, and this too, both in Africa and in the African Diaspora.

I am delighted to bring you Issue 2 of the first volume of our journal. You will find in this issue four fresh essays, two great presentation papers from the Missio Africanus conference that took place on June 26 in Oxford. You will also find two book reviews.

This issue has been published with help from ForMission College, Church Mission Society, and the SPCK. The journal is currently based at Birmingham Christian College.

Enjoy.

Harvey C. Kwiyani, Editor