

Editorial

If I could summarize the golden thread of this first issue for 2023, it would be the implications and applications of God's Word in the lives of the saints. From Bible translation to the responsible equipping of laypersons for preaching, *Conspectus* 35 contains five articles that acknowledge the centrality of the biblical text and the importance of its message in the lives of those who read or hear it.

***Conspectus* 35 Articles**

In the first article, "Theologizing in Africa: With Special Reference to Bible Translation in Chichewa," Ernst Wendland emphasizes the many ways in which Bible translators function as theologizers. To illustrate this, he focusses on the New Testament Study Bible in Chichewa, reflecting on the art of conveying the meaning of a biblical text in understandable ways in order to serve the reader(/hearer) well.

Next, Dan Liroy argues for the basic categorization of human speech as either *verbum efficax* or *verbum inefficax* in his article, "The Destructive Power of the Tongue as a *Verbum Inefficax*: A Canonical-Literary Reading of James 3:1–12 through the Lens of Speech-Act Theory." Employing speech-act theory, Liroy discusses efficacious speech as the proclamation of the gospel and inefficacious speech as marked by James in 3:1–12, concluding that efficacious speech promotes human flourishing, while inefficacious speech leads to decay.

In his article, "Salt and Light: Reading Matthew 5:13–16 within the Context of the Matthean Community," Frans-Johann Pienaar explores the rhetorical effect of Jesus's command to be salt and light in the lives of the original audience of Matthew's Gospel. Pienaar argues that Jesus's words in

Matthew 5:13–16 come as a challenge to an audience facing daily temptation to assimilate after the destruction of the temple in AD 70.

Next, Charles Owiredu discusses the metaphors used for menstruation in the Old Testament in his article, "Euphemisms and Metaphors for Menstruation in the Old Testament and Two Ghanaian Bible Translations." Owiredu analyzes the metaphorical conceptualizations of menstruation in the Hebrew Bible and then compares them with their translations in two Ghanaian Bibles, Twi and Gã, demonstrating that in both Ghanaian and Israelite thought, ideas around indisposition and separation are prominent when language about menstruation is concerned.

Finally, in his article, "Reimagining the Role of the Pastor as a Teaching Elder in the Twenty-First-Century Church of Central Africa Presbyterian Nkhoma Synod Context: A Situational Audit of Lilongwe City Congregations," Maxwell Chiwoko underscores that most preaching in the Nkhoma Synod is done by laypeople. The author argues for a reimagining of the fulfillment of the teaching responsibilities of pastors and for more effective training for laypersons.

The issue concludes with three book reviews. Robert Badenberg reviews *Who Do You Say I Am? Christology in Africa* (2021), edited by Rodney L. Reed, and David K. Ngaruiya. This is followed by a review of Nijay Gupta's, *Tell Her Story* (2023), written by Joshua R. Barron. Finally, Robert P. Menzies reviews Scott Adams's book, *In Jesus' Name: Johannine Prayer in Ethical, Missional, and Eschatological Perspective* (2022).

New Editorial Board Members

On behalf of the Editorial Board chairperson, Dr. Desmond Henry, I am honored to welcome four new members to the board. The first is Mr. Izaak

Connaway, the journal's newly appointed Copy Editor. Mr. Connaway is currently completing his Ph.D. in Old Testament at the South African Theological Seminary, where he also lectures and serves in the Faculty Research and Publishing team. Colleague, we celebrate this new appointment with you and are grateful for the immense value that your service is adding to the journal.

We also welcome Drs. Scott Adams, Kevin Muriithi Ndereba, and Abeneazer G. Urga. Dr. Adams (Ph.D., Radboud University, Netherlands) serves as an adjunct Assistant Professor in the School of Divinity, Regent University. He is the lead pastor at the Midtown location of Our Savior's Church in Lafayette, Louisiana. His main area of specialization is John's Gospel. It is an honor to feature a book review of Adams's recent publication, *In Jesus' Name: Johannine Prayer in Ethical, Missional, and Eschatological Perspective*, in this very issue.

Dr. Muriithi Ndereba (Ph.D., University of South Africa) is Lecturer and Head of Department, Practical Theology in the School of Theology at St. Paul's University, Kenya and postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Practical Theology and Missiology, Stellenbosch University, South Africa. He previously served on the pastoral staff of a Presbyterian church and leads an apologetics ministry, Apologetics Kenya. He serves on the executive boards of the Africa Society of Evangelical Theology and the International Association of the Study of Youth Ministry. Dr. Muriithi Ndereba's research interests are in pastoral, practical and public theologies, youth ministry, apologetics, and integration of faith and science within an African context.

Dr. Urga (Ph.D., Columbia International University) is a Lecturer in New Testament and Greek, and the Head of the M.A. in Biblical Studies at the Evangelical Theological College in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He is also an adjunct Professor at Columbia International University. His research interests include New Testament research in Africa, Ethiopian Orthodox Christology, African biblical hermeneutics, Hebrews, Colossians, and 1 Peter.

We are grateful for the addition of these colleagues and pray that their contributions will serve the journal and church. Welcome, friends!

DOAJ Indexing and DHET Accreditation

Finally, it is my pleasure to inform the reader that *Conspectus* is now indexed on the Directory of Open Access Journals. DOAJ is an international index that hosts high quality, open-access articles. This also means that the journal is now accredited with the Department of Higher Education and Training, South Africa.

The accreditation of our journal has been a dream living in the Editorial Team for the past three years. A few key players deserve to be acknowledged as we celebrate this achievement. Firstly, the previous editor, Dr. Batanayi Manyika, deserves much recognition for birthing this dream and helping us lay the foundation for our application. I also wish to mention the Editorial Team, and, in particular, the Associate Editor, Dr. Caswell Ntseno, for his diligence and commitment to the process. We acknowledge the continuous support of our Editorial Board and the wise input from the Seminary. Most importantly, we are grateful to God for this opportunity and pray for his continued wisdom and grace in all we do.

My gratitude to all our contributors, the Editorial Board, Review Board, Editorial Team, and Seminary for the successful publication of this issue. May the reflections and discussions bring glory to our Lord, and may you find them helpful as you serve him in your unique contexts.

In Christ,
Dr. Cornelia van Deventer
Editor