

INTRODUCTION

Mike Morris, General Editor

David Hesselgrave (1924-2018) was one of the greatest evangelical missiologists of the past 100 years. One of his important contributions to missiology was *Paradigms in Conflict: 10 Key Questions in Christian Missions Today* (Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic & Professional, 2005). His chapter about the conflict between holism and prioritism is still relevant. Concerning holism, he said, “The holism in view here promotes the partnership of social (and, sometimes, political) action with evangelism in ways that supersede traditional theory and practice” (120). Concerning traditional prioritism, he explained, “With reference to social action and evangelism, it gives priority to evangelism” (121).

The second edition of Hesselgrave’s book was published last year: *Paradigms in Conflict: 15 Key Questions in Christian Missions Today* (Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2018). Hesselgrave wrote a preface to the second edition, and he thanked Keith Eitel “who both initiated this project and graciously assumed the role of editor” (18). Five questions were added to the original ten, and various missiologists wrote update reflections after each of the original ten chapters. Christopher R. Little wrote the update reflection following the chapter about holism and prioritism. He said, “One cannot logically affirm at the same time the statements ‘there are priorities in mission’ and ‘there are no priorities in mission’ as true. One

must be true and the other false; there are no other options. Hence, a choice must be made regarding which conceptual framework should be adopted by the church as it engages the world in mission” (127). Thus, Christians should not dismiss this important question. Several of the articles in this issue of the journal will provide information to help our readers answer the question.

Paul Seung-Oh An, Professor of Missiology at Youngnam Theological University and Seminary in South Korea, wrote “An Alternative Mission Paradigm for Healthy Church Growth,” which examines the history of the holistic paradigm and how it was gradually accepted by evangelicals. After explaining the weaknesses of the holistic paradigm, he presents an alternative to it.

John P. Thompson, Associate Professor of Missiology and Leadership at Oral Roberts University, wrote “Christian Ministry to Refugees in the Contrasting Settings of Greece and Germany.” He analyzes ministry to refugees in Western Europe. He observes that evangelicals in Germany are interested in both evangelism and social ministry, whereas mainline Protestants are mainly interested in social ministry. Thompson shares the results of his research there, including different levels of receptivity to the Gospel.

Gordon E. Penfold, President of the Great Commission Research Network, exposes the declining emphasis on the Great Commission in America in “Reach, Assimilate and Develop: Essential Keys for the Resurgence of the Church in America.” He provides a model for assessing churches based on evangelism and assimilation. He uses ten case studies to show the effects of effective evangelism and assimilation or the lack of those two factors in growth.

Seungsoo “RJ” Jun is the senior pastor of Raleigh Court United Methodist Church in Roanoke, Virginia. In his article, “Finding the Church Planting Model for Our Church: How Existing Churches Can Be Part of the Church Planting Movement,” he discusses the history of various movements in America and then presents a model to classify church planting and revitalization.

Chris Messerer, a Ph.D. student majoring in Church Administration and minoring in Church Vitalization, wrote “Visionary Differences.” He

reviews the history of the vision concept as it came into common usage by church leaders. Chris makes a distinction between organizational vision and supernatural vision; he explains the biblical basis of each type. He also discusses how vision in a church plant differs from vision in an established church undergoing revitalization.

David R. Dunaetz, Assistant Professor of Leadership and Organizational Psychology at Azusa Pacific University, and Joshua McGowan, the Assistant Director of Recruitment for Graduate and Professional Admissions at Azusa Pacific University, wrote “Perceived Strengths and Weaknesses of American Churches: A Quadrant Analysis of Church-Based Ministries.” They conducted research to determine what church attendees think are important ministries and also what the attendees think about the quality of those ministries.

Bill Stewart, Lead Pastor of the Table Community Church in Fort Worth, Texas, wrote “How Team Leadership Benefits the Health of Pastors.” He explains the increased demands placed on church leaders today and then discusses the biblical basis of team leadership. Bill concludes by talking about the benefits of team leadership in churches.

The final article is by Gary McIntosh, Professor of Christian Ministry and Leadership at Talbot School of Theology, Biola University. His article is an excerpt from *Donald A. McGavran: A Biography of the Twentieth Century's Premier Missiologist* (Church Leader Insights, 2015). This excerpt is the chapter titled “Coming of Age.”

Brit Redfield's book review is relevant to the main theme of this edition of the journal, the paradigm conflict between prioritism and holism. The review also deals with the conflict between the complementarian and egalitarian positions.

I appreciate the help and advice that I received from our staff: David Dunaetz, Kelton Hinton, Moses Audi, and Alan McMahan. Our email addresses can be found on the copyright page of this journal. Feel free to submit articles and book reviews as email attachments to the appropriate persons. Please copy me on any submissions, and also send me any questions that you have about subscriptions, etc.