

From the Editor

How do we theologize about Christian mission in an academic world that is becoming increasingly interdisciplinary in its approach? This was the question that was put to faculty and students at the 2018-2019 Advanced Research Programs Interdisciplinary Colloquium held Friday, October 12, 2018 at Asbury Theological Seminary. We begin this issue of *The Asbury Journal* with the keynote paper from the colloquium presented by David R. Bauer, the renowned Biblical scholar in the area of Inductive Bible Study. He applies his expertise in the Book of Matthew to look at the question of mission through a Biblical Studies lens. Jerry Breen follows this Biblical Studies approach by examining how Matthew utilizes Isaiah in his understanding of mission. Sochangam Shirik applies a theological lens investigating the approaches of two well-known theologians, J. Andrew Kirk and John Hick in their views on mission. Kristina Whiteman ends the papers from the colloquium with a fascinating look at mission through the Orthodox perspective on mission as the “liturgy after the liturgy.”

Moving beyond the colloquium, Philip F. Hardt brings an historian’s eye to the Methodist missional use of rotating preachers in the New York Station in the early 1800s. Fred Guyette and Matt Ayars both present papers examining the work of, and our understanding of Paul, the Biblical missionary extraordinaire, through both a leadership lens and a theological lens. R. Jeffrey Hiatt explores John Wesley’s view of mission through his work and theology regarding health and medicine. Finally, James Patole brings a sociological perspective by examining the current situation of the New Middle Class in India, and seeking how Christian mission can best reach this rapidly growing new segment of Indian society. In our *From the Archives* essay this issue, I explore a little known, but important figure in the Holiness Movement, Leander Lycurgus Pickett (L.L. Pickett) an evangelist, author, publisher, politician, and hymn writer of the late 19th and early 20th century. He was certainly an interdisciplinary man who sought to influence the world around him in a multifaceted way for Christ.

Fundamentally, mission is about the bringing of the Kingdom of God into juxtaposition with the world we live in. This can occur in any

context at any time. Whether we utilize the traditional fields of Biblical Studies, Theology, or Missiology, or branch out into more secular fields such as History, Anthropology, Sociology, or even the sciences, we can always bring the principles and truths of Jesus Christ into our study, writing, preaching, as well as our everyday lives. The Gospel of Jesus was never intended to be lived out only one day in the week; it is meant to pervade our minds and hearts and permeate everything we do and say. It is meant to be as much a part of us as breathing. As we find and explore new ways to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to a hurting world, we need to live lives that exude our faith, integrity, and compassion. This can be accomplished in any academic discipline, and thus become a part of our goal of building the Kingdom of God here and now. If you feel God's call on your life, it does not mean you need to abandon the academic fields that interest you to become a pastor, but it does mean you need to bring your field of knowledge as well as yourself under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. This is the best way for followers of Christ to influence and bring others into the Kingdom of God... and that is what mission is all about.

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