Guest Editorial – A History of AJTS: 2002-2014

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The African Journal for Transformational Scholarship (AJTS), an official publication of the Centre for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education in Africa (CPCHEA), was initiated in 2002 by the founding members of CPCHEA, two years after the birth of CPCHEA. CPCHEA is the official African expression of the International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education (IAPCHE).

AJTS began with a small Editorial Team comprising: Emmanuel Ayee (Managing Editor), Dordt College, USA; Isaac Mutua, Bishop Birech College, Kenya; BJ van der Walt, Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education (currently North-West University), South Africa; and Stuart Fowler, then visiting Professor Scott Theological College (currently Scott Christian University), Kenya and now an Adjunct Professor at the University of Fort Hare, South Africa.

CPCHEA endeavored to establish an inter-disciplinary peer-reviewed journal that aimed to encourage high quality academic research focused on issues relevant to the contemporary African situation. This was especially aimed at encouraging African academic endeavor, but more than that, global academic endeavor as well, since Africa is also part of the global community. For this reason contributions from anywhere in the world were welcomed so long as they met the following criteria:

1. An acceptable academic standard. As well as providing a forum for experienced academics, the journal also wished to encourage novices to publish their work and to assist, if necessary, in ensuring an acceptable academic standard for contributions that showed promise.

2. Relevance to contemporary issues. While the primary focus is on issues in the African situation, the globalization of human life means that these are commonly linked to global issues. For this reason, the acceptance of a contribution does not necessarily depend on its showing a close knowledge of the African situation.

3. Insights that are grounded in the Gospel. This does not mean that they must be theological in nature—though theological contributions are welcome. What is expected is evidence of an engagement with the issue that maintains the integrity of the relevant discipline within a world view perspective that is grounded in the Gospel.

AJTS began in print form but high printing and postage costs were problematic and prevented not only African, but many global scholars from accessing the journal. In 2004 the journal went online and subsequently there were more enquiries from across African regions and from other regions in the world.

In 2010 it became apparent to CPCHEA and the AJTS editorial team that the journal needed vibrant transformation in order to fully support and meet the challenges of Christian Higher Education. This is especially the case in Africa where faith based institutions of higher learning are mushrooming by day. Therefore, AJTS needs to provide a platform for African Christian scholars to engage in discussions on different aspects of Christian Higher Education. After a waiting period the envisioned transformation of AJTS is now at hand. In February 2014 CPCHEA appointed Malcolm S. Buchanan as the new Editor for AJTS. Malcolm is an Associate Professor at St. John’s University of Tanzania (SJUT) in Dodoma, Tanzania. Over the past year he has been working with CPCHEA establishing a completely new Editorial Board, revising the focus and scope, putting in place guidelines, policies and processes. SJUT will be hosting AJTS on behalf of CPCHEA. CPCHEA and the AJTS new Editor and Editorial Board now look forward to the forming of volume 3 in 2015, as the journal becomes operational again.

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