Editorial – A New Beginning for AJTS

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I would like to begin by commending the founding members of the Centre for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education in Africa (CPCHEA) for their initiative and vision to start the African Journal for Transformational Scholarship (AJTS). Furthermore, I am grateful for the efforts of the inaugural Editorial Team in getting the journal off to a good start since it began in 2002.

I am greatly honored to take on the role as Editor of AJTS. The journal has great potential and value within African Christian Scholarship and its outflow to society. At present I am in Tanzania with my family (since January 2011) through the Church Missionary Society – Australia and work as an academic in the natural sciences at St. John’s University of Tanzania. Although somewhat apprehensive about taking on this role I trust in God’s enabling and the support from a new and diverse Editorial Board, together with CPCHEA, to continue on the good work.

Over the past year much work has been done to the journal including forming a revised Focus and Scope:

The African Journal for Transformational Scholarship (AJTS) is an international, peer-reviewed, open-access journal published in Africa. Thus, AJTS focuses on developing biblically grounded gospel transformation knowledge, reflection and practice which crosses languages, cultures, social status, professions, and disciplines. The aim is to encourage high quality academic scholarship focused on topics relevant to the African situation, however, realizing the globalization of human life this means that these are commonly also global issues. While it especially wants to encourage African academic endeavor, it welcomes contributions from anywhere in the world. The journal also wishes to encourage novices to publish their work and will assist, if necessary, in ensuring an acceptable academic standard for contributions that show promise.

The journal now has its own logo which includes the Bateleur eagle. This eagle is endemic to Africa (and small parts of Arabia). Eagles have a very sharp vision and teach their young how to fly and mature into an adult. This journal seeks to be like the eagle with a sharp vision for gospel transformation in Africa and the entire world and for people to catch the wind of God’s Spirit and soar on its wings towards Christian maturity.

Isaiah 40:31 – but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

As the journal moves into a new stage with volume 3, 2015, we encourage contributors to submit thoughtful and helpful articles of an acceptable standard. There is plenty of scope for new ideas and addressing current challenges. In addition we would be pleased to receive any suggestions for topics or authors to approach. A recent article in Christianity Today (October, 2014) entitled “Why it’s hard to learn from African Christians” highlights the lack of prominent African Christian authors.1 Although we are inspired by a few outstanding African Christian authors this is the harsh reality which African Christian scholarship must seek to correct. The article reveals a need for authors to respond to the African continents bursting questions in society, and also to document valuable knowledge gathered over the years. African believers and those worldwide would benefit from this and hopefully AJTS can provide a platform for such documentation and also the training of up-and-coming African Christian authors.

In closing I would like to say that a journal cannot remain stationary and we welcome at any time, thoughts or suggestions for future developments.