

The
Mediator



A Journal of Holiness Theology for Asia-Pacific Contexts

**ASIA-PACIFIC NAZARENE
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

*Bridging Cultures for Christ
1 Timothy 2:5*

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Alex Shipp, Born in Lagos, Nigeria and a New Zealand citizen, Alex is a graduate of Lincoln University, Canterbury University; Graduate, Church Growth School, William Carey College; a Post-graduate Diploma in Ministry, Te Niaku Bible Training Center, New Zealand; and a 2000 M.Div. graduate of APNTS. He is currently CEO & Director of Harvest Ministries, based in the Philippines which ministers both in Metro-Manila and in the Ifugao region of the northern Philippines among tribal peoples.

Jarrett Davis is a graduate of Mount Vernon Nazarene University in Ohio, USA. He is a 2011 graduate of APNTS with a MA in Christian Communications (Intercultural Studies). His thesis summary presented in this volume of *The Mediator* is a significant study of social identity related to a church planting model. It has been praised by Filipino leaders and others for its insights. Mr. Davis is planning to pursue a Ph.D. in the area of anthropology/development.

PREFACE

The world is ever changing. Note the recent unexpected crisis in Japan as a giant earthquake, subsequent tsunami and nuclear catastrophe all seemed to strike at once. Upwards of 20,000 people are dead. Large sections of coastal Japan have been devastated. There is more than 300 billion dollars (US) of destruction. There are hundreds of thousands of homeless people. But it is not just Japan that is affected. The economies of countries across that world are feeling the adverse affects. And radiation levels are rising as far away as North America! Such is change.

Sometimes change is slow and incremental. Often it is sudden and unexpected with unforeseen consequences. Not just the physical is affected by change, but the very fabric of life—even the heart and soul of a people.

This volume of *The Mediator* is dedicated to broadly missiological interests. It represents only some of the research, thinking and emphasis of the Donald Owens School of World Mission, located on the campus of Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary. There are many other exciting areas that capture our attention today as well. Among these is the anti-human trafficking movement and our own Step-UP Program—an educational preventative program aimed especially at out-of-school youth. There is also the cutting edge Cyber-Mission emphasis represented by a recent Cyber-Cultural E-missions Consultation held under sponsorship of DOSWM that explored both how to utilize cyber space for missions, and cyber space as a mission field in its own right. It was led by one of our own APNTS graduates, Professor Emil Kaburuan who is completing his Ph.D. dissertation in Taiwan. There are the developments of web-radio, which was demonstrated by two of our APNTS students, and web-tv. But these are all things for a future edition of *The Mediator*.

This volume deals with other equally interesting aspects of missiology. The lead article is mine this time. It is an article dealing with the constant change in the practice of missions. Change has always been a factor in missions. The difference now is the rate and scope of change.

We are living in a time when change is happening much more rapidly due largely to technological advances; change often can have a world-wide impact. Think of the things like the social phenomenon of FACEBOOK, which in four short years has 500,000,000 users across the generational spectrum.

Robert Bickert offers a very insightful article into the urban mix of Islam and Christianity. This article was urged to have been published quite some time ago, but it is our privilege now to be able to bring it to you in the pages of *The Mediator*. This is a case study conducted in Sierra Leone West Africa, but it has implications in many urban settings today. We trust you will find some enduring principles that may inform your own present or future ministries.

Alexander Schipp is a 2000 graduate of Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary. He gives us a short case study based in the Philippine context. We appreciate his keen insights and observations. The twin concern of missions, and indeed Christian ministry in general, is both to exegete the gospel message well and to exegete the people with whom we minister at the same time.

We are publishing a summary of Jarrett Davis's thesis about social identity of a community of people in the Philippines who are part of a church plant. This is the first time we have published such a summary. We recommend this case study to you for its fine insights into the social dynamics of people in a Christian ministry setting related to church planting methodology. I hoped many will benefit from the insights presented through the first-hand interviews as well as the analysis of the author.

Please feel free to contact me or interact with me about this volume at rdonahue@apnts.edu.ph.

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