

Volume 1, Issue 2 (December 2024)  
ISSN 3049-9704

# Journal of Religion

# and Public Life



**OCRPL**  
Oxford Centre for  
Religion and Public Life



## EDITORIAL

# Welcome to the Second Issue of the Journal of Religion and Public Life

Chris Sugden <sup>1</sup>

This second issue of the Journal of Religion and Public Life continues its purpose to distribute more widely the fruits of the work of the OCRPL International research community of faculty, graduates, students and supervisors in order to equip resource, strengthen, and empower the church's life and ministry to deal with the challenges of Christian life and witness in religiously plural contexts where Christianity is a minority religion and faces hostility, and to witness to the transforming power of Christ.

This issue includes contributions from three early doctoral graduates of OCRPL. Dr Renee Uribe, based on her research in Colombia, writes on the relationship between Jesus and Mary as a model for mutuality in Mission. This has valuable practical implications for relationships between agencies and partners in mission activities and projects.

Dr Charles Gyasi looks at the titles of contemporary prophets in Ghana and how the Ghanaian church might use such an approach rooted in Ghanaian culture in their mission praxis.

There is a review of Dr Basilius Kasera's OCRPL/Stellenbosch thesis (published by Langham Publications) on justice in post-Apartheid Namibia reflecting our concern for Christian involvement in social action.

Five articles address engagement with people of other faiths and freedom of religion. Archbishop Matta Roham of Jazirah and Euphrates in the Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch writes on Christian Muslim Dialogue, an important issue given the current clashes by Muslims against Christians in a number of parts of the world. The Anglican Archbishop Benjamin Kwashi of Jos, Nigeria, himself the victim of a number of these attacks, writes of Freedom of Religion and also reviews a study of churches suffering persecution in various countries. Dr Joyce Chao writes of Mission Education in China, another country where the freedom of Christians is restricted.

Your co-ordinating editor challenges the all too common narrative that Christian mission imposed an alien culture through colonialism on, in this instance, Pakistan.

In the field of Biblical Studies Dr Rollin Grams reviews a book on Old Testament Law and Ethics by Professor John Goldingay.

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<sup>1</sup> Canon Dr. Christopher Sugden is leader of the Ph D Programme of OCRPL.

Articles and books for review from the network of over 1200 scholars and students in the OCRPL network are welcome for publication in the journal.

With warm greetings in Christ

Chris Sugden (Canon Dr)

Co-ordinator of the Editorial Team: Professor Daniel Jeyaraj, Dr Patrick Sookhdeo, Dr Daniel Thejus, Rev Dr Rollin Grams.