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EDITORIAL

Welcome to Volume 2, Issue 1 of the Journal of Religion and Public Life

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Our first issue of the second year of the Journal focuses on the growth of the church in the Global South. Your co-ordinating editor remembers visiting Nepal when only one Christian agency was allowed, the United Mission to Nepal, and then only to engage in social projects such as medical work. He also visited Hong Kong when research was conducted from there on the underground churches in Mainland China.

Now a vibrant Nepali church is arguing for proper partnership in holistic mission with western agencies, and Pentecostal churches in Mainland China operate openly out of large city blocks. Two articles explore this encouraging reality. A third research article explores how in Malaysia, the 'exclusion' of non-Muslim Malay citizens, including Christians, from government employment is mainly due to religious identity in an example of increasing religious nationalism.

A further article explores how to assess realistically the legacy of European led Christian mission in the era of colonialism and thus the post-colonial growth of the church in the Global South. A book review considers a scholarly volume of research that examines the contribution of Christians, and Christian mission and institutions in the colonial era to the development of modern India.

Migrants from the Global South are still attracted to the West for a number of reasons so an article reviews Christian mission among them in Europe. And while Christianity appears to wane in the West, and with it the role of the family in society, a South African study looks at the impact of a programme that validates the role of fatherhood in society.

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