

## INTRODUCTION

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*Mike Morris, General Editor*

As a long-term missionary in South Korea, I came to appreciate the short-term mission teams that assisted me in the task. The people who went on those trips were well prepared and were a big help to my team. Last summer, I went on two short-term trips, one to Japan in May and one to South Korea in July and August. I have observed good partnerships and their synergistic effects on the mission field. Some short-term mission partnerships, however, do not go well.

Partnerships occur not only through short-term mission trips abroad but also through partnerships with other people and churches in close proximity with each other. As a church planter in America, other churches helped me immensely. Some partnerships between churches, however, do not go well.

In this issue of the journal, three articles are relevant to the partnership theme. Adedayo Oladele Odesola and Moses Audi, both serving in Nigeria, discuss the bases, challenges, and benefits of partnerships. Richard Frazer shares recent research concerning the equipping of indigenous leaders, and he makes recommendations for utilizing short-term trips for such equipping. Bárbaro Abel Marrero describes the negative effect of a recent doctrinal dispute in a Cuban denomination.

Other articles in the journal deal with topics concerning church health and growth. Pierre-Alain Giffard explains the views on church growth of the late Chuck Smith, founder of the Calvary Chapel movement. David Parks discusses the global problem of pornography among Christians from the missiological perspective of different cultural lenses: Guilt/Innocence, Shame/Honor, and Fear/Power.

The final article is again by Gary McIntosh. It is another excerpt from *Donald A. McGavran: A Biography of the Twentieth Century's Premier Missiologist* (Church Leader Insights, 2015). This excerpt is the chapter entitled "Growing Stronger."

Three book reviews are included in this issue. Beau Lee, Ed Lutz, and Kevin Dibley contributed these reviews. I appreciate the work of the journal staff members who helped edit the material in this issue: David Dunaetz, Kelton Hinton, Moses Audi, and Alan McMahan. In future issues, we will be making the transition from Turabian's *A Manual for Writers* to APA style. In the future, rather than footnotes, contributors should use in-text citations that consist of the author's last name, the year of publication, and page number or location. The theme for the next issue will be "Church Music's Influence on Church Growth."