

INTRODUCTION

Mike Morris, General Editor

I am honored to follow Alan McMahan as general editor. Alan is now our book review editor. Our journal will continue to be a broadly evangelical publication, and we will continue to emphasize the Great Commission, as our name implies. I agree strongly with Alan's statement in the introduction of the winter, 2018 issue of our journal: "The purpose of the Great Commission Research Journal has always been to communicate recent thinking and research related to effective church growth and evangelism." I am thankful to Biola University for being our publisher for many years; the Great Commission Research Network (formerly known as the American Society for Church Growth) is now our official publisher.

In this issue of the journal, we first turn our attention to the Pentecostal movement in global missions. Wonsuk Ma of Oral Roberts University discusses Yoido Full Gospel Church, which has generally been recognized as the world's largest megachurch, and its role in global Christian movements. Next, Blayne Waltrip of the Pentecostal Theological Seminary talks about the missionary force coming from the Global South, and he also

describes a new category of missionary that he calls a “global missionary.” Jacob Kehinde Oladipupo, who was reared in Nigeria (the most populous country in Africa), gives a specific example of the missionary wave coming from the Global South as he explains the Pentecostal “reverse mission” from Africa to the West.

David Dunaetz, Hannah Jung, and Stephen Lambert (all of Azusa Pacific University) next tackle the fascinating topic of pastoral narcissism. They utilized quantitative research to reach their conclusions about the difference in tolerance of pastoral narcissism between larger churches and smaller churches. They also discussed strategies that pastoral search committees can utilize to avoid hiring narcissistic candidates.

In the next article, Stanley Granberg, the executive director of Kairos Church Planting, analyzes the history of numerical growth of the Churches of Christ. He discusses the importance of church planting for the growth of this group. He ends the article with three difficult challenges facing the Churches of Christ and three strategies needed for growth.

Matthew Niermann of California Baptist University researched a subject that some church growth thinkers do not often consider. In his article, he discusses the effect of church architecture on unchurched people. He also challenges some false assumptions about buildings that can lead to expensive mistakes. Further research is needed in this area of concern.

The final article is another excerpt from Gary McIntosh’s biography of Donald McGavran. This excerpt is chapter eight, entitled “Turning to North America.” I encourage all our readers to obtain Gary’s definitive biography of McGavran.

Alan, our book review editor, has gathered some interesting and relevant reviews for this issue of the journal. Thanks go to David Thiessen, Chris Messerer, and Harvey Mitchell Jr. for their reviews. We realize that many of our readers have a limited amount of time and money to spend on books, so we hope these reviews will be helpful in that regard.

Alan and I have switched places on the journal staff. Besides that change, other people have been added to the staff. Our associate editor is David Dunaetz, who I consider to have wonderful expertise in quantitative research. He has been very helpful to me. Our journal includes both qualitative and quantitative research. Our North American editor is Kelton Hinton; he

leads the Johnson Baptist Association in North Carolina. His research on pastors, published in 2015, is helpful for pastor search committees. Our international editor is Moses Audi, a Nigerian who has two PhDs (one in Systematic Theology and one in World Christian Studies); he has served as a missionary and now serves on a seminary faculty in Nigeria. Gary McIntosh and Len Bartlotti served on the previous staff and will continue as consultants on the new staff. Our email addresses can be found on the copyright page of this journal. Feel free to submit articles and book reviews as email attachments to the appropriate persons. Please copy me on any submissions, and also send me any questions that you have about subscriptions, etc.