

Who Needs AJET?

An AJET Editorial

The editorial staff of AJET has experienced some embarrassing problems in the past few years. Two years ago the newly appointed Assistant Editor became seriously sick and has been incapacitated ever since. Last year the Managing Editor transferred to a new ministry. As a result, the publication of AJET has fallen way behind. With pressure of many responsibilities we at Scott Theological College have asked the question, "Who needs AJET?" Is this an important priority of the College Staff among all the many other pressing demands?

The newly appointed Managing Editor together with the Editorial Committee have concluded that AJET is indeed an important contribution to theological education in Africa for many reasons.

AJET facilitates theological reflection and research by evangelicals on theological issues throughout the continent of Africa. Many scholars, from all over the continent of Africa and beyond look to AJET to publish their research writings. Recent issues of AJET contain articles and book reviews by scholars in universities and theological colleges in Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, Nigeria, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Central African Republic and the United States. It is important that AJET continue to serve the African evangelical theologians desiring to publish their research.

More important is the need to encourage budding and seasoned theologians to reflect more deeply on the Scriptures and develop a biblical approach to the many challenges facing the Christian Church. To some limited degree, AJET has facilitated interaction by scholars on critical issues, such as the question, "How do we develop an African Christian Theology?"

But we have only begun this challenge. Back in February 1986 a special seminar convened in Nairobi with various key leaders from the Africa Inland Church to consider challenges and needs in the A.I.C. which required a biblical resolution. These challenges included: baptism of polygamists, inadequate worship in churches, breakdown of marriages, witchcraft, lack of biblical knowledge of the laity, legalism, gap between the leaders (clergy and elders) and the laity, funeral services, female and male circumcision, baptism and communion, family planning and birth control, fund raising, dreams, church discipline, accountability of money, misconception of spiritual authority - and the list goes on. These are only some of the problems of one Protestant Church in

one nation of Africa. There must be hundreds of challenges which confront the African Christian Church.

The purpose of AJET is to encourage scholars to research deeply into the Scriptures, in libraries and in the field in order to assist the African Church to move into the next millennium, renewed and vibrant, full of the knowledge of God's will for his people. AJET is needed to assist in these efforts.

AJET is also needed to provide students in universities, theological colleges and seminaries with current thinking by evangelical men and women. A lecturer in one theological seminary recently declared that AJET had saved the day for some of their students who needed resources on a particular topic. AJET provided this resource for them. AJET publishes theological reflection on a variety of topics: African traditional issues which continue to disturb the Christian Church, contemporary challenges arising out of changing African society, accounts of church history, Christian Education and much more.

We believe that a renewed and actively published AJET will provide all thinking Christians in Africa with thought provoking articles. We invite you to read the stimulating articles in this issue. We also encourage you to renew your subscription for AJET and encourage others to do the same. Your scholarly articles are also welcomed.

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