

#### AFTER A YEAR: A REFLECTION

In many parts of Asia, the first birthday is one of the greatest celebrations in one's life, partly because the mortality rate is extremely high. The life of academic publications, such as *Journal of Asian Mission*, experiences a similar fate especially in the developing regions. Perhaps being the very first highly academic missions publication in Asia, the representatives of the eight member schools were not very sure about the journey of the publication.

Now the first year is behind us and we can reflect upon the path that we have tread for a year, part of the previous millennium by now.

First of all, the need for such publication was well established through the enthusiastic support that the journal has received. Seminaries in Asia are frequently using various articles published in the journal. The number of visits made to our web site is even more encouraging. As we upload the articles in the actually edited page format, one can easily download and print them for class use.

Secondly, a sound support system ensures the stable operation of the journal. The eight member seminaries in the Philippines are standing strongly behind the publication. Each seminary elects a member of the journal's editorial council. The members have actively solicited quality articles for consideration and participated in making important editorial decisions for the journal. The number of partner institutions has increased dramatically. We began with only one partner for the first issue and have a current partnership of about a dozen for the current issue. These partners range from national evangelical bodies in Myanmar and the Philippines to various mission agencies working in or for Asia. This implies a broad support among those enjoying the *Journal of Asian Mission*.

Thirdly, although theologians are well known for their poor financial abilities, the journal has been enjoying a generous financial support. The annual contribution from the member schools is the bedrock for the operation. Additionally, each partner institution commits a contribution comparable to 10 subscriptions at the standard rate. Also noteworthy is the fact that the journal received two substantial donations as each of them

adopted publication responsibility for one full issue of the journal. Although it may take a long time to build a good group of paid subscribers, the journal has already built close to 200 paid subscriptions if we convert the member and partner commitments into subscriptions. The journal has been enjoying good support in the past year, and we expect it not only to continue but even to increase in the coming months.

Lastly, but perhaps most importantly, the journal has provided a conducive platform to encourage research among faculty members as well as students in Asia. Often intimidated by developed scholarship in the West, Asian theologians and missiologists are extremely reluctant to submit their studies for publication. In the past, there has been fear of rejection that has effectively discouraged them from submitting articles to academic journals such as this. The absence of such learned publications in the region should be part of the reason, the very locus the publishers and editors saw as a God-directed call for the journal. We praise the Lord for His continuing blessing upon this ministry.

The present issue of the journal continues the year-old tradition, a continuing dialogue among Evangelicals to refine our reflection on God's mission in Asia. Larry Caldwell's article has inspired a continuing dialogue on ethnohermeneutics. However, the two responses came from non-Asians and I would like to encourage Asian colleagues to join this lively dialogue.

May God's name be glorified as Asian churches are encouraged to join the missionary forces in this new century. May this moderate literary contribution be a sign of maturity for Asian churches to become truly missionary.

Editor