IJAC Issue Vol.5, No. 1 (2022 Mar)

Common Public Life Values:
A Roadmap to Inclusivity and Understanding and the Case of Lebanon

Abstract - Ana Maria Daou (Ms.)

Throughout the years, many religious and secular organisations worked on developing declarations that called for the celebration of all forms of diversity, the protection of Freedom of Religion or Belief, the inclusion of marginalized groups in decision-making, and the promotion of active citizenship. However, the rise of populist movements around the world increased the propagation of hate speech and violent narratives. This article aims to explore how common public life values in Christianity and Islam can contribute to the development of peaceful and inclusive societies and to explore the added layer this provides to practical interfaith dialogue. The article draws on real-life examples from the Lebanese context – especially from the experiences of members of the Forum for Religious Social Responsibility at Adyan Foundation.

The Bible and Women's Subordination:
A Tribal Woman Re-reads Genesis 2–3

Abstract: Chingboi Guite Phaipi

Tribal Christian patriarchal societies promulgate women subordination as biblical by using the creation stories in Gen 2-3. This paper re-examines the narrative of Gen 2-3, whether women subordination is promulgated in the text. Terms and logic often used for women subjugation—such as the woman created to be 'helper' for the man, the woman being created later and from the man, the man to 'rule' the woman—are not so straightforward as they seem. A close analysis of the biblical narratives demonstrates that these terms, in their root meanings, are rather ambiguous. Rather than subordination, sameness and togetherness between the man and the woman are emphasized throughout the narrative of Gen 2–3.

Adaptation and Change among Asian Muslim Immigrants in the West

Abstract - David Emmanuel Singh

Drawing on a variety of sources, this paper highlights the reality of diverse choices immigrants make as they come to terms with crises. Two theoretical domains are used to explain the disparate responses instead of simply identifying the options adopted by the immigrants and describing them. The first is 'modernity' understood here in its expanded sense i.e.: it is not just an idea unique to the West but that it is 'variegated' or 'multiple'. The second is 'conversion' involving the idea of it being a dynamic process especially for those dealing with crises. The immigrant responses converge around these ideas thus revealing how some of them find answers within Islam (through re-visioning) and others who find them outside Islam

(through conversion). This shows an illustration of how 'Muslim modernity' expresses itself in the heart of the West, but also highlights the agency of some who seek change through a radical affiliation with Christianity and secular humanism. The underlying argument is that Muslim responses are far more diverse and varied than existing literature shows.

Bible Translation as Contextual Theology:
The Case of the Chinese Union Version Bible of 1919

Abstract – Jerry Hwang

Lamin Sanneh has influentially observed that translating the Bible is always a seminal act of doing contextual theology. While this has been well demonstrated for the African context, it has rarely been explored for the Asian context. This article examines the Chinese Union Version (CUV) Bible of 1919, a venerated translation that is simply 'the Bible' for Chinese Christians. As a result of being mainly the work of Western translators, however, the CUV has lexicalised and sacralised a distinctly western and Protestant understanding of sin as 'crime' which has become conventional usage among Chinese Christians. Even so, the linguistic potential for defamiliarising the concept of sin and recasting it in a more contextual manner for Chinese readers already lies within the CUV. Greater attention to the CUV's concreteness in rendering Old Testament sin-idioms, as opposed to the standard Protestant abstractions, would therefore refresh the voice of Chinese Christianity.

Christian Fundamentalism in Japan

Abstract - Markku Ruotsila

This article examines the ultimately unfruitful attempts by U.S. Christian fundamentalists at establishing a presence within Japanese Protestantism. Almost unknown even to scholars in the field, this missionary effort was launched in 1949. It yielded several indigenous institutions, including the Tokyo Christian Theological Seminary, the *Japan Bible Times*, and the Christian Presbyterian Church of Japan. This uniquely American import of a fundamentalist defense of the "faith once received" is here put in regional, anticommunist and intercultural contexts.

The Crusade of the Pen: Images of the Crusades Developed During the Colonial Period and Dismantling the Discourse of the War on Terror

Abstract - Ruairí Meyler

In March 2021, Pope Francis visited Iraq, highlighting the challenges faced by the Christian community in Iraq and meeting with the Shia cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani. By engaging in this interreligious dialogue with al-Sistani, Pope Francis reminded us of another interreligious episode from the Crusades between Saint Francis and Sultan al-Kamil and challenged our perspective on the Crusades. This paper submits that in order to facilitate the

repairing of relations between Christian and Muslim communities in the Middle East, we must dismantle the War on Terror discourse and in particular the nineteenth century Crusader images that underpin it and follow the example of Pope Francis in recovering not only a more ecumenical vision of the Crusades but also of the relationship between Middle Eastern Christians and Muslims. This article aims to dismantle this discourse which divides Muslim and Christian communities both in the West and in the Middle East by examining the use of Crusader imagery from Napoleon's invasion of Egypt to the present, arguing that our modern images of the Crusades are developed in the eighteenth, nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and it is these ahistorical images that also fuel the rhetoric surrounding the War on Terror.

Clinical Christianity' as Philanthropy: Missionaries and Western Medicine in Colonial Travancore, 1813-1947

Abstract - Satheesh Palanki

This study aims at looking in to the role of Protestant Missionary groups in disseminating western medicine and medical practices in Travancore during the colonial period. The process of institutionalization of Western Medicine in Travancore was filliped and complete by the process of a triangular patronage. It was not only due to the state's patronage (both the British and the Princely rulers), that Western medicine was institutionalized in Travancore, but also due to the keenness shown by the missionaries to dispense it particularly among the lower classes. Hence, this study also attempts to look in to how the missionaries functioned as promoters of western medicine to popularize Christianity in Travancore during the colonial period. As in the case of education, missionaries viewed western medicine as a tool for evangelisation through charity. Missionaries developed Medical Philanthropy for the elevation of the lower sections of the society in Travancore.