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AICI Journal of Religious Studies and Theology is published by Adam Igbudu Christian Institute (AICI), Emevor – Nigeria a tertiary educational institution of the Anglican Communion and affiliate of the University of Port-Harcourt, Port-Harcourt, Nigeria. The journal is peer-reviewed international journal focusing on the development of a critical theoretical framework and its application to research on religion and theology. The journal provides a common venue for those engaging in critical analysis in theology and religious studies, as well as for those who critically study religion in the other social sciences and humanities such as philosophy, sociology, anthropology, psychology, history, and literature. The journal encourages submissions of theoretically and empirically guided articles on current religious and theological issues as well as those with historical interest using a wide range of methodologies. It also publishes reviewed essays; book reviews; thematic issues, symposia, and interviews.

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Prospective author's manuscript which must be written in English Language and properly worded must be original, not previously or simultaneously published elsewhere. Manuscript submitted for publication should be double-spaced on A4 papers typed with Times New Roman (Font size 12) and not exceeding 15 pages including abstract (of about 200 words) and references. Manuscripts should conform to the Kate Turabian (6th edition) or APA (6th edition) style.

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Editorial

AICI Journal of Religious Studies and Theology is coming at the appropriate time that the society needs far more than healing. The journal presents interesting piece of works that show current scholarships in the fields of religious studies and theology, in doing so, the authors employed diverse methods to drive home their points to satisfy the academic appetite of readers worldwide. The journal also documented the periodical that keep the awakened community from fracturing, encourage recent converts, and perhaps even prompt a few new ones to understand the concept of academic spirituality. It is recognized by the Editorial Board that it is not possible to fuse the gospels of religion perfectly into one any more than it is possible to translate poetry perfectly. In each case the result may not be entirely satisfactory – but it presents issues in a way to arouse a public discourse within the academics and the evangelistic community. However, it is better to have a journal in translation than not at all, as it is advantageous to have the entire academic evangelism available in a single narrative form. Therefore, this issue of AICI journal highlights multidisciplinary contents, which include fifteen original research articles.

The first article in this edition, “Using Psychological Models to Evaluate Human Religious Experience” reveals that psychology has a lot to offer to human understanding about people’s religious beliefs, values, and behavior. This is followed by “Theological Evaluation of Biblical Atonement and the Implications for African Christians” which submits that the atoning work of Jesus Christ which adequately satisfies the requirement for man’s restored relationship with God was foreshadowed in the Old Testament and can only be fully grasp by African Christians. Another author writes on “Women and Religion: A Critique of Discriminations against Women at Sacred Places in the Nigerian Context” and premised his argument on the important need of according and appreciating women in religions, using some major religions such as Judaism, Christianity and African Traditional Religion as background. The fourth topic in the edition “Managing Anger in the Niger Delta of Nigeria: The Old Testament Approach” highlights the moral issues involved in the Niger Delta crisis and points out a biblical pattern of how “risk bearers” can adequately, justly and equitably be compensated so that justice can be done justly and anger averted. Next is the treatise entitled “The Concept of Theodicy in the Book of Habakkuk: African (Urhobo) Christian Perspective” where the author drew a lesson for the Urhobo Christians and presupposed that human intellectual and spiritual limitations before God cannot make man claim total understand of God and how He operates in the affairs of humans and nature. The sixth in the issue is “Environmental Pollution and Biblical Anthropocentrism: A Case Study of Niger Delta, Nigeria” arguing that the key issue at stake in the Niger Delta crises is human misplacement of moral value. Following this is “Evaluation of the Beliefs and Practices of the Isles of Patmos Holiness Church, Ujevwu, Delta State, Nigeria” where the author posited that the future of African Independent Churches like the Isles of Patmos Holiness Church can only be realized if they deliberately embrace formal education, theological training for their spiritual leaders. Next is “A Critique of the Phenomenon of Holy Spirit Baptism in Acts of the Apostles” and argued that Christians must be more circumspect in their interpretation, understanding, and application of the phenomenon of Holy Spirit baptism. A philosopher writes on “The Problem of Epistemic Truth” with the aim to examine whether the problem of truth in epistemology exists or not. In a research titled “Historical Development of the Local Government System in the South – South Nigeria: How Far, How Well?” the author indicated that in the pre-colonial period, grass-root system of governance was the most effective system deployed by most Kingdoms to reach the people and that it was the success of this system that encouraged its application in the colonial and post-

colonial period; and recommended its proper application in the present day Nigeria. Writing on “Slavery in Pauline Letters: in the Light of the Dispute between White Slave Aristocrats and the African Slaves” the author argued that Paul was not an advocate of slavery as the White slavocracy claimed but was in favour of manumission and human freedom. Next in the series is “The Socio-Religious Contributions of Prophet Elisha to Ancient Israel in the African Context” challenging Africans and African leaders to look more to God to save the social, political and religious situations in their societies rather than putting their trust in man. The article entitled “A Critical Evaluation of the Effects of Sexual Problems in Marriage” explored the importance of sex in marriage and how sexual problems including ignorance can be remedied. Following this is “An Afrocentric Concern for Peace: Towards Authentic Development of Benedict XVI’s Socio-Philosophy” asserting that the Catholic Social Teachings have the aim for the holistic formation of the human person which can guarantee healthy living and positive symbiosis amongst the ecology of existence.

It must be placed on record the encouragement and unflinching support accorded the Editorial Team by the leadership of the Adam Igbudu Christian Institute – particularly the Governing Council; the Rector, Dr. Bernard Itebiye and; other management staff of the Institute. The unflinching support and supervisory role of the Faculty of Arts and Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, University of Port-Harcourt, Nigeria is also acknowledged. Congratulations to the Editorial Team for the success of the maiden edition.

My hope is that the articles featured here will not only strengthen our current practices but enliven our imaginations and provoke further academic study of religions that will thrive beyond apologetics and classrooms. Happy reading!

Prof. Andrew Akinmoladun

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