

Contents

Editorial

- Embracing the Future and Continuing Our Legacy 305
Soojin Chung

Articles

- The Missionary Movement from the West: A Biography from Birth to Old Age 308
Thomas John Hastings
- Introductory Essay: Multiple Belongings in Transpacific Christianities 322
David Chao and Easten Law
- How Post-1965 Asian Migration Changed US Protestant Christianity 326
Jane Hong
- Multiple Unbelongings: Filipino American Theology and the Problem of Home 333
Gabriel J. Catanus
- Exiled Aliens: Christianity and Korean Migrant Nationalism, 1903–1945 347
Soojin Chung
- Migration and Multiple Forms of Asian Indian American Christian Belonging 357
Geomon George and Kamalesh Stephen
- Taiwanese Churches in Diaspora and Ethnic Identity Formation 367
Shirley M. Lung
- The Hidden Stories of Burmese American Christians: Understanding their Imagination of Identity 383
David Thang Moe
- The 1517 Project and World Christianity: Migration and the Uses of Doctrine 399
David Chao
- Sanctification and Migration Across Generations: Expanding the Explicit Curriculum of Asian American Discipleship 427
Easten Law

Book Reviews

- Portraits of Global Christianity: Research and Reflections in Honor of Todd M. Johnson* 442
Reviewed by Susangeline Patrick

<i>Baptizing Burma: Religious Change in the Last Buddhist Kingdom</i> Reviewed by Pum Za Mang	443
<i>Christianity Remade: The Rise of Indian-Initiated Churches</i> Reviewed by Sam George	445
<i>Evangelicals and Electoral Politics in Latin America: A Kingdom of This World</i> Reviewed by Stephen Di Trolio	446
<i>Faith that Indigenizes: Neo-Pentecostal Aimara Identity</i> Reviewed by John Mark Robeck	448
<i>The Contextualized Psalms (Punjabi Zabur): A Precious Heritage of the Global Punjabi Christian Community</i> Reviewed by Eric Sarwar	449
Noteworthy	451

With Appreciation—Farewell

“Our natural inclination,” wrote Oswald Chambers (in *My Utmost*, utmost.org, April 29), “is to be so precise—trying always to forecast accurately what will happen next—that we look upon uncertainty as a bad thing. We think that we must reach some predetermined goal, but that is not the nature of the spiritual life. The nature of the spiritual life is that we are certain in our uncertainty. . . . We are uncertain of the next step, but we are certain of God.”

Those words and the hope of 1 John 3:2 took on a new reality when I learned that, after twenty-four years as Managing Editor of the INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN OF MISSION RESEARCH, my position has been eliminated for budgetary reasons.

I started working for the Overseas Ministries Study Center in New Haven in June 2000 as Director of Communications and Publications, as well as Managing Editor. The OMSC team provided some of the greatest blessings of my life so far—the opportunity to encourage hundreds of Christian servants and scholars from around the world. My understanding of and appreciation for those who serve on the frontlines of the world Christian movement grew with each new year and each new encounter.

Now, in retirement (as of July 1, 2024), I will spend more time learning what God is doing to fulfill his Great Commission and helping others as much as I can—by God’s grace. Blessings for the future of OMSC and the *IBMR*. Keep in touch (danieljnicholas@gmail.com).

All the best, Dan Nicholas
Managing Editor, *IBMR*

International Bulletin of Mission Research

The *International Bulletin of Mission Research* (ISSN: 2396-9393 print, 2396-9407 online) is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October by Sage, 1 Oliver's Yard, 55 City Road, London EC1Y 1SP, UK (USA – 450 Fame Avenue, Hanover PA 17331), on behalf of the Overseas Ministries Study Center. OMSC @ PTS, P.O. Box 821, 64 Mercer St., Princeton, NJ 08542-0803, USA, omsc.ptsem.edu/ibmr.

Annual subscription (2024) including postage: Individual Rate (print & electronic) £27/\$49, combined Institutional Rate (print & electronic) £156/\$287, and Non-university affiliated Theological Seminaries and Colleges Rate (print & electronic) £109/\$201. Electronic only and print only subscriptions are available for institutions at a discounted rate. Note: VAT or sales tax is applicable at the appropriate local rate. Visit sagepub.com for more details including individual rates, single-copy rates, and pay per view. Abstracts, tables of contents, and contents alerts are available on this site free of charge for all. Further details are available from Sage Publications, 1 Oliver's Yard, 55 City Road, London EC1Y 1SP, UK, tel. +44 (0)20 7324 8500, email: subscriptions@sagepub.co.uk and in North America, Sage Publications, 2455 Teller Road, Thousand Oaks, California 91320, USA, email: journals@sagepub.com.

Periodicals postage paid at Hanover, PA, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to Sage Publications, 2455 Teller Road, Thousand Oaks, California 91320, USA.

© Overseas Ministries Study Center at Princeton Theological Seminary, 2024.

Apart from fair dealing for the purposes of research or private study, or criticism or review, and only as permitted under the Copyright, Designs, and Patents Act 1988, this publication may only be reproduced, stored, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, with the prior permission in writing of the Publishers, or in the case of reprographic reproduction, in accordance with the terms of licenses issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency or your equivalent national blanket licensing agency. Questions concerning reproduction outside of those terms should be sent to Sage.

US: Authorization to photocopy journal material may be obtained directly from Sage Publications or through a license from the Copyright Clearance Center, Inc. (www.copyright.com). Questions concerning reproduction outside those terms should be sent to the Publishers at the above mentioned address.

Commercial Sales: For information on reprints and supplements please contact: reprints@sagepub.co.uk and for advertising, please contact: Patrick Shanley, Shanley + Associates, LLC, email: patrick@kevinshanley.com; tel. (312) 919-1306.

Disclaimer: The authors, editors, and publisher will not accept any legal responsibility for any errors or omissions that may be made in this publication. The publisher makes no warranty, express or implied, with respect to the material contained herein.

Abstracting and indexing: Please visit ibmr.sagepub.com and click on More about this journal, then Abstracting/Indexing, to view a full list of databases in which this journal is indexed.

Printed on acid-free paper by The Sheridan Press, USA.



Sage is a member of CrossRef.

OVERSEAS MINISTRIES
STUDY CENTER

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
omsc.ptsem.edu | ibmr.sagepub.com

OVERSEAS MINISTRIES
STUDY CENTER

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

International Bulletin of Mission Research

Established 1950 by R. Pierce Beaver as the *Occasional Bulletin from the Mission Research Library*.

Named *Occasional Bulletin of Missionary Research* in 1977. Renamed *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* in 1981.

Renamed *International Bulletin of Mission Research* in 2016.

Editor

Thomas John Hastings, OMSC

Managing Editor

Dan Nicholas, OMSC

Associate Editors

George Hunsberger
Western Theological Seminary, USA

Cathy Ross
Church Mission Society, UK

Roger Schroeder, SVD
Catholic Theological Union, USA

Book Review Editor

Easten Law, OMSC

Advertising

omsc.ptsem.edu/advertising
Advertising manager: Patrick Shanley
Shanley + Associates, LLC; (312) 919-1306
patrick@kevinshanley.com

Contributing Editors

J. Kwabena Asamoah-Gyadu
Trinity Theological Seminary, Ghana

John Azumah
The Sanneh Institute, Ghana

Stephen B. Bevans, SVD
Catholic Theological Union, USA

William R. Burrows
Orbis Books, USA

Ruth Padilla DeBorst
Western Theological Seminary, USA, and INFEMIT

Angelyn Dries, OSF
Saint Louis University, USA

J. Samuel Escobar
*Baptist Seminary of Madrid, Spain, and
Palmer Theological Seminary, USA*

John Flett
Pilgrim Theological College, University of Divinity, Australia

Robert Eric Frykenberg
University of Wisconsin, USA

Daniel Jeyaraj
Oxford Centre for Religion and Public Life, UK

Paul Kollman, CSC
University of Notre Dame, USA

Anne-Marie Kool
Baptist Theological Seminary, Budapest, Hungary

Steve Sang-Cheol Moon
*Charis Institute for Intercultural Studies,
South Korea*

Joon-Sik Park
Methodist Theological School in Ohio, USA

Dana L. Robert
Boston University School of Theology, USA

Brian Stanley
University of Edinburgh, UK

Scott W. Sunquist
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, USA

Muthuraj Swamy
Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide, UK

Tite Tiénoú
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, USA

Anastasios Yannoulatos
Orthodox Church of Albania, Albania

Gina Zurlo
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, USA

Former Editors (Chronologically)

R. Pierce Beaver, 1973–1976

Gerald H. Anderson, 1977–2000

Jonathan J. Bonk, 2000–2013

J. Nelson Jennings, 2013–2015

Darrell L. Whiteman (Interim), 2016

Thomas J. Hastings, 2017–2024

Former Staff Editors (Chronologically)

Norman A. Horner (Associate Editor)

James M. Phillips (Associate Editor)

Robert T. Coote (Associate Editor)

Dwight P. Baker (Associate Editor)

Craig A. Noll (Assistant Editor)

Daniel J. Nicholas (Managing Editor)

Introductory Essay: Multiple Belongings in Transpacific Christianities

International Bulletin of
Mission Research
2024, Vol. 48(3) 322–325

© The Author(s) 2024

Article reuse guidelines:

sagepub.com/journals-permissions

DOI: 10.1177/23969393241248435

ibmr.sagepub.com



David C. Chao

Center for Asian American Christianity at Princeton
Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, USA

Easten Law

Overseas Ministries Study Center at Princeton Theological
Seminary, Princeton, NJ, USA



Abstract

This short article serves as an introduction to a special issue of the INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN OF MISSION RESEARCH on the topic of multiple belongings in transpacific Christianities, focused on Asian migration to the United States. It summarizes the collection of articles included and their context within the work of the Center for Asian American Christianity and the Overseas Ministries Study Center, both based at Princeton Seminary.

Keywords

Asian American, migration, Christianity

In this special issue of the INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN OF MISSION RESEARCH, titled “Multiple Belongings in Transpacific Christianities,” we explore the intricate web of relationships, histories, and theologies that emerge at the intersection of transpacific migration and the Christian faith among Asian communities in the United States.

Our endeavor is rooted in a critical observation. Within the fields of mission studies and world Christianity, there is a growing emphasis on studying geographical regions and historical movements through the lens of migration at multiple levels, from church history to theological construction. However, a significant gap remains in understanding how these global dynamics interact with the Asian American Christian experience,

Corresponding author:

Easten Law, Overseas Ministries Study Center at Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, USA.

Email: easten.law@ptsem.edu

which has been largely focused on the North American context. In response, the Center for Asian American Christianity (CAAC) and Overseas Ministries Study Center (OMSC), both based at Princeton Theological Seminary, have collaborated to analyze relations between Asia and Asian America through the lens of transpacific migration to explore its ongoing effects within Asian religious life in the US. This special issue, therefore, not only contributes to scholarship in mission studies and world Christianity, but also positions Asian American Christianity and theology within world Christianity discourse.

Stemming from a groundbreaking conference at Princeton Theological Seminary in 2023, this collection of articles delves into the complex narratives of faith, identity, and diaspora that characterize Asian Christian experiences of migration to the United States.¹ The conference's commitment to bridging the often-separated worlds of academic theology and practical church concerns was expressed through a variety of formats, including scholarly presentations and group discussions between researchers and practitioners. As a result, the conference illuminated the importance of historical consciousness, theological reflection, and community engagement in addressing the realities of transpacific Christianities. This editorial introduction and the articles that follow seek to capture the spirit and substance of those conversations.

One of the core themes of this special issue is the recognition of "multiple belongings." The articles explore how Asian American Christians navigate their layered identities, shaped by diverse cultural histories, migration experiences, and theological themes. By emphasizing the significance of historical context, this collection challenges us to rethink theological education and discourse, advocating for a more inclusive approach that acknowledges the fluid, hybrid nature of identity and theology in a multicultural and global context.

Moreover, this issue addresses the practical implications of our findings for the church and theological education. As institutions like Princeton Theological Seminary and the broader academic community engage with the complexities of transpacific Christianities, there is a pressing need to integrate these diverse perspectives into curricula, research, and community life. This integration not only enriches theological understanding but also empowers communities to navigate their own stories of faith, migration, and belonging.

This special issue presents a collection of eight thought-provoking articles that explore the intricate dynamics of Asian Christian diasporic communities in the United States through multiple disciplinary perspectives. Through detailed historical analyses, ethnographic studies, and theological reflections, the authors delve into the ways transpacific migration has shaped the religious practices, identity formations, and communal relationships of Asian Christians in the US. Each article, while unique in its focus, contributes to a broader understanding of the complex interplay between faith, migration, and identity among Asian Christian communities in the US.

Jane Hong opens the discussion with "How Post-1965 Asian Migration Changed US Protestant Christianity," and addresses the significant impact of the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act on the racial and ethnic composition of American Christianity. Hong documents the diversification of the Asian American Christian

community and its profound influence on US Protestant institutions and organizations and the shaping of a more inclusive Christian identity.

Gabriel J. Catanus's "Multiple Unbelongings: Filipino American Theology and the Problem of Home" examines the struggles of Filipino Americans with identity and belonging shaped by colonial histories and the quest for home within ecclesial contexts. Catanus invites readers to consider the theological task of constructing home amidst diaspora and dual identities, challenging Filipino American Christians to embrace their heritage while addressing the wounds of colonial mentality.

Soojin Chung's "Exiled Aliens: Christianity and Korean Migrant Nationalism, 1903–1945" explores the synergistic relationship between Christianity and Korean migrant nationalism during the early twentieth century. Chung highlights how Korean migrant churches in the US served as bastions of national pride and vehicles for political and religious expression, drawing on the collective memory of liberation from Japanese occupation and the ongoing struggle for Korean independence.

Geomon George and Kamalesh Stephen, in "Migration and Multiple Forms of Asian Indian American Christian Belonging," provide a comprehensive overview of the Asian Indian Christian community in the US, tracing its migration history and examining the challenges of economic disparity, discrimination, and the quest for belonging. The authors advocate for a nuanced understanding of this community's contributions to American society and the Christian faith, emphasizing the importance of autobiographical theology in navigating the complexities of migration and identity.

Shirley Lung, in "Taiwanese Churches in Diaspora and Ethnic Identity Formation," delves into the enduring influence of Taiwan's martial law era on Taiwanese immigrant communities and their churches in the United States. Lung's study reveals how historical events and migration patterns have fostered a unique Taiwanese ethnic identity within Christian diasporas marked by a commitment to democracy, self-determination, and anti-communism.

David Moe's "The Hidden Stories of Burmese American Christians: Understanding their Imagination of Identity" uncovers the stories of ethnic minority Christian immigrants from Burma, focusing on their imaginations of identity, homeland, and the United States as a "promised land." Moe calls for a reimagining of migration theology that embraces multiple identities, fosters reconciliation, and promotes solidarity across religious and ethnic boundaries.

In "The 1517 Project and World Christianity: Migration and the Uses of Doctrine," David C. Chao examines the dynamic relationship between Christian doctrine and social identity from the Protestant Reformation to Asian Christianity today. The study emphasizes the role of migration in spreading Christianity globally and the development of doctrine that reconciles universality with local diversity through multiple case studies, including Indian and Taiwanese American communities.

Finally, Easten Law's article, "Sanctification and Migration Across Generations: Expanding the Explicit Curriculum of Asian American Discipleship," takes a practical and pastoral approach to the question of how multi-generational migration narratives intersect with sanctification and discipleship in the Asian American church. Drawing from scripture, migration theologies, educational theory, literature in Asian American

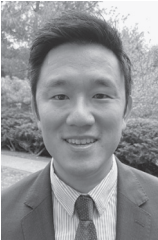
ministry, and his personal experience, Law argues that Asian American discipleship programs should expand their scope by engaging the migration stories of their ancestors as a means toward fostering Christ-likeness.

Together, these articles offer a rich tapestry of experiences and reflections that highlight the diverse ways in which Asian Christian communities navigate the challenges and opportunities of life in the US in relationship to the multiple belongings that accompany their sense of identity. This special issue invites readers to engage deeply with the stories of these communities, fostering a greater understanding of their contributions to the global Christian narrative and the ongoing dialogues around faith, migration, and identity in a transpacific context. Through rigorous scholarship and reflective practice, we aim to contribute to the ongoing conversation about the role of Christian faith in the lives of transpacific migrant communities. We hope that this special issue will not only advance academic discourse but also resonate with practitioners, church leaders, and communities as they reflect on their own journeys of faith across cultures and continents.

Note

1. Conference details and presentation recordings can be accessed at <https://pts.events/events/aat-2023-mbtc/>.

Author biographies



David C. Chao is director of the Center for Asian American Christianity at Princeton Theological Seminary. He teaches courses on Asian American theology and organizes programs in Asian American theology and ministry. His research and writing focus on the faith and practice of ordinary Asian Christians in diasporic contexts. His research on Asian American religious life and politics is funded by The Henry Luce Foundation and the Louisville Institute.



Easten Law is the Associate Director of the Overseas Ministries Study Center at Princeton Theological Seminary. His research and teaching focus on lived theology, intercultural relations, religious pluralism, and public life in contemporary China and the Sinophone world.