

***Nur-e Afshan* (the refulgent light) An Introductory Examination of a nineteenth-twentieth century Christian Periodical from South Asia**

Abstract – DAVID SINGH

Periodicals played increasingly an important role, particularly from the nineteenth century, within missionary circles. This paper focuses on the American Presbyterian Periodical, *nur-e afshan* (the refulgent light). The initial evidence presented here supports the argument that there were changes in its ownership and use over the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Initially edited by the Presbyterian missionary, Wherry, by the turn of the nineteenth century, the periodical reflected the broader change from missionary to native leadership in the Presbyterian Mission. The policy to gradually 'indigenise' the periodical went hand in hand with the native Christians replacing the missionaries as lead contributors and consumers. *Nur* has been dismissively described as a 'semi-secular' magazine, which undermines its significance as a forum for native agency and thought in the changing socio-political context of India. Under this agency, the periodical surrendered the traditional triumphalist polemics for a more reflective discourse leading up to India's independence.

Migration of Telugu Catholics in Madras Presidency - CE 1780-1910: Empowerment, Identity and Social Mobility

Abstract - MARTIN JOSEPH

The Catholic dioceses of Madras-Mylapore and Chingleput are home to 44 Telugu Catholic villages. These villages were established between 1780 and 1910 by Telugu Catholics who migrated from Andhra Pradesh to Tamil Nadu. This article delves into archival materials to trace the origins and destinations of these migrants, the factors that prompted their migration, the key protagonists and institutions involved, the caste dynamics at play, the assimilation process, and the contributions they made to the local society from a historical perspective. While this article primarily focuses on research about early colonial peasant migrations, it also explores the micro history of the Telugu community, offering insights into the challenges faced by contemporary migrations, including issues of land ownership, citizenship, and identity crisis. Furthermore, it analyses the post-migration environment, highlighting the social interactions, as well as the cultural, religious, and spiritual experiences of these communities. This analysis aims to demonstrate how these Telugu communities have successfully assimilated into the local society while preserving their unique identities.

Symbolic and Interpretive Meaning of the 'Church' of Jacobites in Kerala and its Role in the Construction of Identity

Abstract - ELDBHOSE VARGHESE; JESURATHNAM DEVARAPALLI

Symbolic and interpretive anthropology is a paradigm shift in the theoretical advancement of studies about cultures. The theory focuses on the meanings and interpretations of the symbols in a particular culture. The symbols are encoded by the origin, historical incidents, myths, metaphysical perceptions of the community, indigenous knowledge, faith system, power distribution, among others. The church of the Jacobites of Kerala functioned as a symbol. The church also shapes the habitus and practices of its members, constructing the identity and boundaries of the community. This paper analyses how the church becomes a symbol and explores the meanings it embodies. It also delves into how the church constructs the identity and boundaries of the community.

Coastal Ecology and The Christian Fisherfolk of South Asia A Socio–Theological Inquiry

Abstract - P.T. MATHEW

This article studies a Christian fishing community on the southwest coast of the Indian peninsula and explores how it negotiates the deteriorating marine ecosystem. In this process, we get an insight into the inner world of this community whose life, occupation, and faith are deeply intertwined with the ocean and its changes. The fisherfolk's indigenous wisdom, skill, and religious heritage help them face the threats around them. The article argues that the coastal worldview has much to offer the contemporary world amidst the threat of environmental crisis. The issues raised can offer new perspectives on Christian faith life and show the direction for a rich theology of the ocean.

Nyi Roro Kidul and Marine Eco-Pneumatology: *Javanese Contextual Theological Studies in Maritime Society, Yogyakarta, Indonesia*

Abstract - ANDREAS KRISTIANTO; EMANUEL GERRIT SINGGIH; STEFANUS CHRISTIAN HARYONO

Indonesia is the country with the largest archipelago in the world, with a total of seventeen thousand islands. The term 'maritime nation' has actually been surging through stories of local wisdom (culture), but during the colonial period, the term lost its original significance and Indonesia came to be treated as if it were an agrarian country. This paper shows that Indonesian maritime society contains various inherited values of religiosity, including myths, legends, folklore, and oral traditions about marine cosmology. Folklore, myths, and legends have an important position in society, not only referring to cultural traditions but also containing religious or theological values that are closely related to the identity of the Indonesian nation. This paper studies the mythical figure of Nyi Roro Kidul who is

considered the sea guardian. The legend surrounding the figure of Nyi Roro Kidul can serve as an important trope to develop a contextual Javanese eco-pneumatology [Holy Spirit] and help address some of the contemporary ecological issues.

Church Music, Community, and Faith Formation: A Korean Presbyterian Perspective

Abstract - HWARANG MOON

Has there ever been a time in history when the status of music in worship was as high as it is now? From the early church to the present, the Word and the Lord's Supper have formed an important framework for worship. This is an emphasis that transcends denominations and is found in any liturgy. However, after the praise and worship movement evolved in the 1960s, music in worship came to occupy an important place no less than that of the Word and the Lord's Supper. Regardless of the denomination's theology and liturgical traditions, it is no exaggeration to say that the first half of the service is dominated by the band-leading praise and worship style music. Believers of this age are looking for a church that longs for good quality of preaching, but at the same time, they are searching for a church that provides good worship music. While music ministries are in the spotlight, pastors and leaders have a fundamental question: Is church music necessary in worship? Would not the negative function of music be greater than the positive one in this era? What hymns will churchgoers sing in worship? What kind of music is suitable for worship? Why are church hymns important?

Humans are created as *homo musicus* beings who love and use music. It expresses a person's inner feelings and emotions and it shapes as well a person's character and thoughts. Not only does the melody of music stimulate people's nerves and bring about psychological changes, but the lyrics woven into the music also convey thoughts that become ingrained knowledge in the mind. Above all, music contributes to the togetherness of the community, its formation, identity, and transmission of its traditions.

This study, due to space limitations, does not delve into the diverse views of theologians regarding church music or the historical controversies surrounding it. From a liturgical theological point of view, I will discuss why church music is important, which church music could be used, how church music forms personal faith identity, and how it affects community faith formation will be analysed. In the end, this article will demonstrate that the music people sing shapes the character of their faith.