EDITORIAL

This first volume of the Caribbean Journal of Evangelical Theology (CJET) is a fulfillment of a long held dream to present an evangelical theological viewpoint from the Caribbean region. The fulfillment of the dream began with the appointment of a Theological Commission by the Caribbean Evangelical Theological Association (CETA). Deliberations of this commission gave birth to the idea of the journal.

This first issue of the journal is a compilation of papers presented at the Twelfth Biennial Consultation of CETA held in 1995 at West Indies School of Theology in Maracas Valley, St. Joseph, Trinidad. The theme of the consultation was "A Caribbean response to the Great Commission."

In the paper, "Caribbean Missions in the Perspective of the Kingdom", Noelliste presents foundational concepts for the development of a theology of missions for the contemporary Caribbean. The writer examines the impact of themes such as christo-centricity, grace, commitment, wholism and transformative witness and their impact on a Caribbean missiology. The theme of the paper is that "the ultimate purpose of missions is the manifestation of the Kingdom of God in the historical domain." Noelliste reiterates that "missions conducted from a Kingdom perspective would have a greater impact on the Caribbean than missions conducted in any other mode."

Newman presents the role of Caribbean missionaries in the development of the universal church. He highlights the Caribbean presence in the history of the British Baptist movement in Jamaica and the Presbyterian Mission among East Indians in Trinidad. From as early as 1783, Caribbean persons have taken the initiative to evangelize within and outside of the region. Newman describes three examples

of the Caribbean response to missions. They are the ethnic model, mission to Caribbean and mission to the urban poor. Newman concludes that "the Caribbean's response to the Great Commission may have ebbed and flowed over-time according to prevailing economic and social conditions. But from the fullest impact of the Gospel . . . the native Church has responded in ways which demonstrate its full awareness of the missionary obligation of the Church."

In her article, "Training the Caribbean Missionary," Henry observes that one of the first challenges to training the Caribbean missionary is to develop within our people a sense of missions. Other challenges include the "tendency to compartmentalize and prioritize the gifts and ministries that God has given to His people to be used in His service." She examines issues of cultural context, personnel, accreditation and institutional structure as these would impact the training of missionaries from the Caribbean. The article ends with some goals for training the Caribbean missionary.

Seale examines the task of recruiting and sending Caribbean missionaries. First, there must be a paradigm shift. Caribbean persons must see themselves as senders and not recipients. They must move from an attitude of inability to ability and move away from isolation to partnership. Seale presents steps to recruiting and sending the Caribbean missionary. He recommends the building of denominational support bases for this endeavour.

Finally, Allen presents a challenge to Caribbean missionaries. The life and ministry of Dr. Zenas Gerig demonstrates the importance of faithfulness in the lives of God's ambassadors.

The articles of this volume reflect the continuing concern among evangelical leaders of the region for effective involvement in global ministry by the people of the region.

Claire Henry