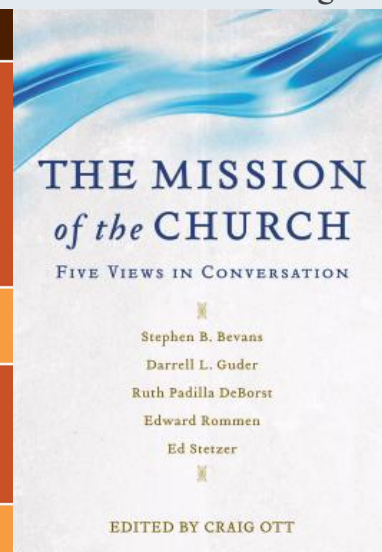
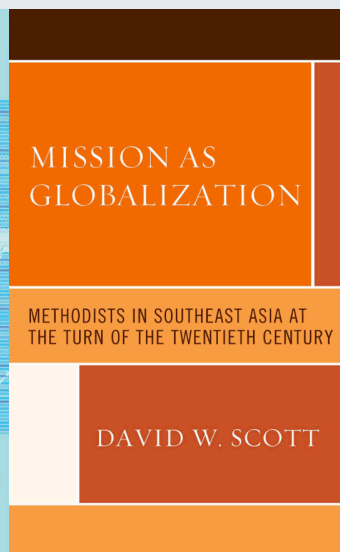
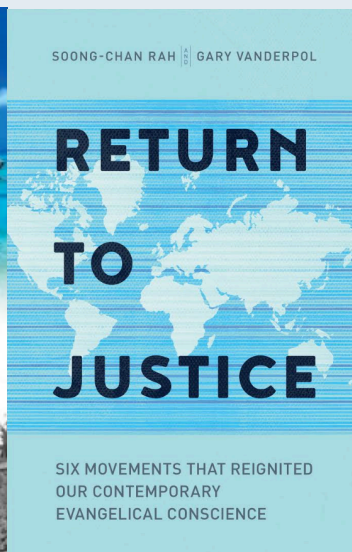
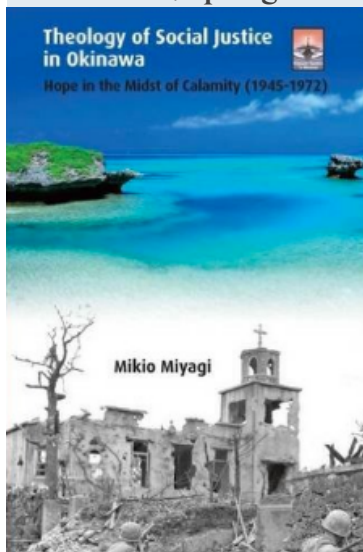


# CGCM NEWS

## Center for Global Christianity and Mission

Number 23, Spring 2017

[www.bu.edu/cgcm](http://www.bu.edu/cgcm)



### A Note from the Director

I am pleased to share this issue of CGCM News that highlights some of the fabulous research and writing being done by our students and alumni. These publications show a deep engagement with diverse aspects of world Christianity and mission. If you have announcements of publications you'd like posted on our news feed, please email Daryl Ireland. During 2017, I will be on sabbatical funded by a Henry Luce III Fellowship in Theology. Dr. Ireland will be Acting Director and can be reached at [dri@bu.edu](mailto:dri@bu.edu).

Best wishes for 2017,

Dana L. Robert

### A Year in Publications: The CGCM at Work

Stephen Lloyd

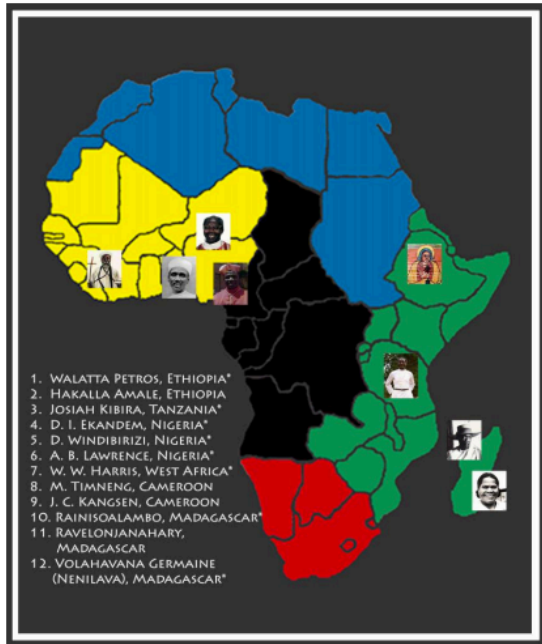
Affiliate students and faculty of the Center for Global Christianity and Mission have been hard at work during this last year furthering the scholarly conversations in their fields. Many projects have come to fruition, and the CGCM news wanted to take some space to showcase those important contributions.

A number of new books have come out. BU alum and Director of Mission Theology for the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries David W. Scott recently published his dissertation

This edition of the CGCM News showcases the vast array of recent publication by CGCM students and affiliate faculty.



## JOURNAL OF AFRICAN CHRISTIAN BIOGRAPHY



CUMULATIVE VOLUME, JUNE-DECEMBER 2016

*Mission as Globalization: Methodists in Southeast Asia at the Turn of the Twentieth Century.* In this work, Scott connects the history of globalization with the history of mission by focusing on Methodist missionary work in South East Asia. He does so by exploring six metaphors: Methodist connection as migratory network, mission agencies as multinational corporations, the Malaysia Mission as a franchise system, the Methodist Episcopal Church as a media conglomerate, mission institutions as civil society organizations, and Methodist mission as a global vision. He brings together a number of fields, shedding light on the way that missions contributed to globalization in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Soong-Chan Rah and BU alum Gary Vanderpol's *Return to Justice: Six Movements That Reignited Our Contemporary Evangelical Conscience*, explores the way that a passion for justice energizes evangelical Christian activity. They argue that, "By the turn of the

twenty-first century, most evangelicals, at least rhetorically, embraced some form of commitment to justice as a non-negotiable part of God's mission." They devote chapters to the Christian Community Development Association, child sponsorship programs, World Vision, the Sojourners Community, racial reconciliation, and power sharing in a global church. These case studies offer a helpful corrective to the narrative that "Evangelicals" have focused on evangelism while "Ecumenicals" focused on social justice work. Instead, they demonstrate that social justice work has always been an integral part of Evangelical mission work.

In *Theology of Social Justice in Okinawa: Hope in the Midst of Calamity*, Mikio Miyagi explores Christian praxis on the island from 1945 to 1972. Post-war Japan was left devastated, leaving those on the periphery of society even more vulnerable. Miyagi examines the practices of social justice and neighbor love that the small Christian community engaged in during that time. The study demonstrates the potential effect a minority Christian community can have on a wider society.

Ed and Loretta Williamson published their account of their love, life, ministry, and lengthy battle with cancer that ultimately ended in Loretta's death. In all of their difficult times, their commitment to each other and to God remained steadfast, and their book shares the deeper insights they gained about faith and the work of God in their lives.

Glenn Messer's new book, *Perfecting Unity*, is written at the popular level as a guide to Christian discernment. He notes that the solutions Christians in other generations found to their questions of faith might not be applicable in today's world. Messer leads readers to question "what they know" as part of a process to greater faith and understanding.

In addition to alumni book publications, the CGCM is also happy to announce that the Dictionary of African Christian Biography is introducing the *Journal of African Christian Biography*. Each journal issue showcases biographies of leaders from particular countries. The journal also places their work within a

within a larger context of the history of Christianity in a given area. The July 2016 issue featured Angolwisyè Isakwisa Malambuqi and Stephen Lloyd's respective articles about the Tanzanian Lutheran bishop (and BU alum) Josiah Kibira. CGCM director Dana Robert provided the introductory material. The articles explored the ways in which Kibira wove together the needs of his indigenous community with those of the global church. The journal promises to provide wonderful insight into both the parameters of African Christian history, as well as the many ways in which that history is being told.

CGCM students have made important contributions to books and academic journals. Gina Zurlo and Todd Johnson published their article "Unaffiliated, Yet Religious: A Methodological and Demographic Analysis" in the 2016 annual review of the sociology of religion. They add an important new nuance to the ongoing questions about the rise of the "nones," those persons not affiliated with any institutional religion. "None" does not necessarily mean secular, but can include "atheists, agnostics, and—counter-intuitively—religionists." Their article is a helpful qualification to the recent pew survey, which reported a massive rise in the number of "nones" while giving very little qualification to the term.

Eva Pascal, Michèle Sigg, and Gina Zurlo recently contributed their essay "Indigenous and Vernacular Christianity" to the *Wiley-Blackwell Companion to World Christianity*, edited by Lamin Sanneh. They



Left to right: Anika Fast and Jeremy Hegi

Former CGCM student and current Director of Christian Formation and Leadership Development at World Vision International Ruth Padilla DeBorst contributed one of the viewpoints in Craig Ott's edited volume, *The Mission of the Church: Five Views in Conversation*. She offers a view of "integral transformation" in Christian mission. Christians are sent into the world in the same way Jesus was, to "proclaim the good news of God's reconciling presence and purpose for the entire creation." God's reconciliation touches on all dimensions of life, from the personal, to the social, economic, political, and ecological realm. The Christian community is called to live into the realized eschatology of God's kingdom and justice in the world.

Daryl Ireland's research on John Sung is shedding important new light on the history of Chinese Christianity. Sung was a famous missionary, known for his dramatic and highly physical presentations of



Left to right: Michèle Sigg, Eva Pascal, Gina Zurlo, and Stephen Lloyd

## Upcoming Events

Thursday, February 9 at 12:30  
Gina Zurlo presents “**A Miracle from Nairobi**”:  
**David Barrett and the Quantification of World Christianity** in STHB23

Thursday, February 23 at 12:30  
Eugenio Menegon speaks about  
**Matteo Ricci: Christian Encounters with China** in STHB19

Thursday, March 16 at 3:30  
Nelson Jennings presents  
**Japanese Christianity in the Age of Imperialism** in STH441

Thursday, March 23 at 12:30  
Jesudas Athyal discusses  
**Religious Diversity among Indian-Americans** in STH325

Thursday, April 27 at 3:30  
Helen Kim explores  
**Contestations and Accommodations: Korean Christianity and the State in the Cold War Era** in STH441

Dana Robert is director of the CGCM and Daryl Ireland is associate director. S. Lloyd edits the CGCM News. For more information about the center, visit our website [www.bu.edu/cgcm](http://www.bu.edu/cgcm) or write to [cgcm@bu.edu](mailto:cgcm@bu.edu).

presentations of the Gospel. He famously discussed his institutionalization during his student days at Union Seminary as a misunderstanding of his conversion. Ireland’s research, however, shows a much more complicated story. He unpacks Sung’s hospitalization and life in his recent article in the *International Bulletin of Mission Research* and in a forthcoming article in *Mission Studies*.

In her article “Transnational Adoption: A Noble Cause?” CGCM affiliate student Soojin Chung discusses the biblical and theological grounds for adoption before presenting a case study of two female missionaries who began the adoption movement in Korea. While this early model of adoption was child-centered, contemporary evangelical adoption networks tend to be parent-centered.

Jeremy Hegi recently published his article “One-Man Missionary Society: The Indefatigable Work of Don Carlos Janes” in *Restoration Quarterly*. Janes was an advocate of mission and worked to keep a missionary focus in the Disciples of Christ tradition. He was responsible for a great deal of the recruitment done by that Church in first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Anika Fast argues that it is time for Mennonites’ to move past the contemporary debate whether to be “for” or “against” mission work in her “The Earth is the Lord’s: Anabaptism mission as boundary-crossing global ecclesiology” published in *Mennonite Quarterly Review*. She thinks that it is time to understand the history of Mennonite involvement in mission as part of an attempt to deepen relationships in the world church.

This was just a sampling of some of the work that affiliate CGCM students and faculty have published over the past year. The list of journal articles, book chapters, and encyclopedia entries, not to mention paper presentations, could go on at great length. This fruitful work is an encouraging sign that the CGCM is fulfilling its task of supporting the work of scholars interested in the field. It is also a sign that more promising work lies ahead!



Left to right: Daryl Ireland and Soojin Chung