

Editorial

Voice or echoing voices in the new millennium

Before 1994, Black Liberation Theology saw it as its mission to be the voice of the voiceless in South Africa. This has always been a missiological discourse. Post-1994, or eighteen years into democracy, voice and voicelessness continue to be pertinent in missiological discourse. It is for this reason that missiological issues continue to shape society and reposition the voice of the voiceless not only in South Africa, but also on the continent and in the diaspora.

Authors from the African continent and the diaspora, in diverse fields of the humanities, have contributed towards this issue number 3,¹ which emerged from the Voice and Voicelessness: Religious, Ethical, Political and Theological Perspectives on Social Discourses and Praxis in the New Millennium conference, hosted by the University of South Africa from 4 to 6 October 2011. The theme of this issue is “Voice or Echoing Voices in the New Millennium” and seeks to examine common issues concerning voice and voicelessness relevant to Africans in Africa and in the diaspora. This issue integrates multi-, inter- and transdisciplinary research and discourses, and deals with issues of gender and justice, among others.

A question may be asked: how is the voice or echoing voices in the new millennium different from that of the past missiological voice? The voice in the past was raised in isolation owing to the apartheid system, whereas today the voice forms part of the global community.

The articles contained in the supplement were subjected to strict peer review according to the editorial requirements of *Missionalia*. They reflect on voicelessness in sacred texts as evident in Judges 19, theological voicelessness in the new millennium, justice-focused Christian worship as a means of overcoming voicelessness, the current voicelessness of theology and religious studies in Africa, and the liberation of theological education. From this, it can be seen that it remains important to reflect on and engage in missiological discourse on the issue of voice and voicelessness. Undoubtedly, the African continent continues to be an echoing voice amidst the dominant discourse.

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¹ The project is a collaboration between the University of South Africa and other universities both on the continent and abroad. This is in accordance with the University of South Africa’s Institutional Operational Plan, which stresses academic excellence in the African context.