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Artificial Intelligence:
Its Impact on Christian Education

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by

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INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the world has witnessed a resounding revolution in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI), and today there is no field where AI is not employed, whether in medicine, engineering, armaments, manufacturing, investment, space sciences, communication, technology, cinema, art, and Christian education, which places responsibilities on the Ministry of Education and universities together. These institutions have a major role in developing policies, curricula, and strategies to keep pace with the modern artificial revolution. Educators have been presented with new opportunities in their search for enriching learning by using AI and including it in their repertoire to facilitate learning among special groups who are challenged by traditional methods of teaching.

In computer science, the term AI refers to systems or devices that simulate human intelligence to perform tasks and that can improve themselves based on the information they collect. The AI manifests itself in several forms, some examples follow.

First, chatbots use AI to understand customer issues faster and provide more efficient answers. Second, AI creators use it to analyze critical information from a large pool of text data to improve scheduling. Finally, recommendation engines can provide automated recommendations for TV shows based on users' viewing habits. The AI is more about the ability to think superiorly and analyze data than it is about a specific form or function. Although AI presents images of high-performance, human-like robots taking over the world, it does not aim to replace humans (Monteiro, 2022, pp. 7-9). It aims to greatly

enhance human capabilities and contributions, which makes it a very valuable business asset.

After decades of regressing into science fiction, AI today has become a part of our daily lives. The sudden growth in the development of AI is made possible by the rapid accessibility of large amounts of data and the corresponding development and wide availability of computer systems that can process all that data faster and with more accuracy than humans can. Artificial intelligence is already taking some jobs away from humans. The Israeli historian and professor in the Department of History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Yuval Noah Harari, speaking to *The New York Times*, said that in the long run, no employee in the workplace will be 100 percent safe from being replaced by AI and automation (Harari, 2019, pp. 20-45). That being said: Does this apply to teachers? Will AI replace teachers? It seems that AI has replaced the Christian teacher.

In the words of James T. Flynn, “the idea of artificial intelligence in education, particularly Christian education, is off-putting for some. The idea of replacing a person with a machine seems to collide head on with Christian ideals of personal fellowship and communication” (Flynn, 2019, p. 189). The issue at hand is that AI is used in Christian education. The focal point of this article is to investigate how AI has impacted education in general and Christian education in particular. Also, the aim is to find out how current developments in this field are likely to impact education in the future, and how such developments in Edtech might impact on future graduates, colleges, universities, societies, and cultures.

References

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