

# Editorial

This issue of the *Journal of Adventist Mission Studies* focuses on missiological research and is unique and does not contain the usual content for the journal. Over the last 144 years of Adventist mission history the church has had many able and exceptional missionaries; however, very few of them wrote of their experience, strategies, lessons learned, or failures. So instead of each generation building on what had been accomplished by prior missionaries, too often Adventist missionaries in various parts of the world were going through the same learning curve and repeating the same mistakes that previous missionaries had made.

One of the original purposes of this journal was to provide a forum for missionary and cross-cultural research and to help build a body of literature dealing with Adventist mission theory and practice. Therefore, this issue is focused on mission research with the hope that as readers around the world read the articles that illustrate the many ways of doing missiological research that they will also be encouraged to conduct research and write for future issues of the journal.

Petr Činčala's article outlines some of the differences between social science research and missiological research—important differences that students of missiology need to be aware of lest their research neglects the importance of leading to better and more contextual gospel presentations.

Gregory Whitset's article describes his research dealing with Buddhist Background Believers and seeks to better understand how they come to faith, how they witness to others, and their distribution in the various churches in Southeast Asia.

Gustavo Portes presents an additional research method that has been little utilized by Adventist missiologists—Ethnographic Action Research. This hybrid method offers several unique features that should produce positive results for Adventist field practitioners seeking to not only understand what is taking place in a community, but also in developing interventions that will encourage the people in that community to become committed followers of Jesus Christ.

Bruce L. Bauer, editor