

Editorial

In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus set the agenda for the Christian church in all eras and contexts. In a sort of farewell speech, he said to his disciples: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Making disciples of all nations was so central to the identity of the Early Church that each of the four gospels ends with a version of it (Matt 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20; Luke 24:45-49; John 20:21-23). Since then, this commission has been interpreted and applied differently over the centuries. Today there is renewed emphasis on the fact that effective mission leadership is of critical importance to the fulfillment of Christ’s commission to make disciples of all nations. Effective mission leaders not only do their best to serve God at their maximum potential, they also make it a point to intentionally equip, motivate, and enable others to do the same.

This edition of the *Journal of Adventist Mission Studies* focuses on mission leadership. The contributors to this volume attempt in a unique way to address specific mission leadership issues in their ministry contexts. A special emphasis is put on intercultural mentoring, leadership development and succession planning, and biblical principles of leadership. Because making disciples requires crossing boundaries (physical, social, cultural, religious, etc.), the points these authors raise reinforce the mission principle that one size does not fit every situation. Benjamin Bonilla’s article challenges positional leaders and church administrators to be intentional about developing and including indigenous leaders in decision-making. Anthony WagenerSmith pleads for the recovery of apostolic leadership in Adventist ministry. Daniel Nae and Clifmond Shameerudeen’s articles highlight the unique place of mentoring in the process of making disciples. I encourage you to carefully read each of the seven articles.

Boubakar Sanou, associate editor