

Editorial

The Fourth Adventist Mission in Africa Conference was held in the seminary chapel at Andrews University from October 13-15, 2016 with the theme “Biblical Responses to Witchcraft in Africa.” The overall aim of the conference was to engage Adventist leaders in a serious discussion concerning the causes, fear of, and biblical responses to witchcraft with the goal to reduce fear and dual allegiance among Adventist members in Africa. Many of the articles in this issue of the *Journal of Adventist Mission Studies* were presented at that conference.

Recently in an African country a local Seventh-day Adventist church dropped 300 people from membership because of their involvement in a witch-cleansing ceremony. Pardon Mwansa’s article also highlights additional case studies of Adventists who continue to allow the fear of witchcraft to warp their futures and rob them of hope. He also mentioned the sad case where several successful Adventist businessmen were found to carry charms and amulets for protection from evil spiritual forces. These stories highlight again that the discipleship process used in bringing people into the Adventist Church has been incomplete at best and many times has sought for quick evangelistic results instead of grounding people firmly in the protection and hope of Jesus Christ.

Two articles deal with people groups. Bruce Bauer’s article titled, “Needed: A New Metric to Assess Adventist Mission” was first presented at the Global Mission Issues Committee on April 6, 2016 in Silver Spring, Maryland. That committee subsequently voted to begin using people groups as the metric of choice to better gauge the success or failure of Adventist mission. The official action in this regard is also incorporated in this issue. Benjamin Lopez’s article titled, “Mission within Societies: Re-visiting the People Group Methodology” stresses the importance of doing mission with a focus on people groups.

One additional bit of information you can help others learn about is that the *Journal of Adventist Mission Studies* is now available on-line in full text with no password or subscription needed. It can be accessed at <http://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/jams/>

Bruce L. Bauer, editor