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CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY: *AJET* IS TWENTY YEARS OLD

There are many occasions which lead people to celebrate – holidays like Christmas or New Year, accomplishments like graduation or promotion, or milestones like a **birthday**. When people celebrate, they go beyond the usual and customary. They have a blast and spend money to celebrate.

With the publication of this issue *AJET* is celebrating twenty years of continuous publication. The first word of thanks belongs to the Lord of the Church who made all this possible - the vision, personnel, authors, readers and the funding. *AJET* is God's gift to the Church in Africa and the world.

AJET began with a vision sparked by a lectureship in 1981 sponsored by ACTEA (Accrediting Council for Theological Education in Africa). Dr. Carl Henry, renowned evangelical theologian, challenged the participants to think theologically about African Christianity and to engage thinking Africans with the gospel and its implications. Dr. Mark Shaw, a lecturer at Scott Theological College, felt strongly that something should be done. So he drafted a proposal for a theological journal which was approved by the Principal and Academic Council at Scott. This journal was launched in 1982 as the *East Africa Journal of Evangelical Theology* with the title changed in 1990 to be the *Africa Journal of Evangelical Theology*. Dr. Mark Shaw became the first Managing Editor of *AJET* and continued in this position until 1995 when the present Editor took over. Rev. Isaac Simbiri became General Editor and Dr. Tokunboh Adeyemo, the General Secretary of the Association of Evangelicals of Africa, served as a consultant. Dr. Adeyemo's series of lectures at Scott in 1981 on "Salvation in Africa" became serialised in the first few issues of *AJET*. Dr. Paul Bowers was an early consultant who then became the book review editor. He continues to this day as an active and invaluable assistant behind the scenes.

By God's grace *AJET* has grown from strength to strength. Let us enumerate the ways in which *AJET* has grown.

- Today subscribers are found in five continents.
- Authors of articles come from all over Africa and the world.
- African scholars are now the principal contributors to *AJET*.
- The number of pages in the journal has grown more than three-fold.

To celebrate the birthday of *AJET*, we have made this issue 50% larger than any other previous issue. It includes a complete index of all articles and book reviews that have appeared in *AJET* from the beginning. These indexes include an Author's Index, Topical Index and a Book Review Index. You may scan the variety of articles throughout the history of *AJET* publication and you will find a rich and unique contribution to the field of theological reflections in Africa.

A few years ago we were scrounging for articles. These days we are receiving excellent articles in greater abundance than we can publish. *AJET* has become a premier theological journal for Africa.

"The future is as bright as the promises of God." Though we look back to see what God has done through *AJET*, we look forward to even greater things to come. We value your support and invite your prayers for an even greater ministry of *AJET* in the years to come.

An Apology: In the last issue of *AJET* (20.1), we published an excellent article by Dr. Samuel Kunhiyop entitled, "Poverty: Good News for Africa." We want to extend our apologies to the author and to you, the readers, for an oversight by not including the many scholarly footnotes and bibliography. The article was received by Email and the editor overlooked one of the Attachments which provided the important documentation.

If you desire to receive the endnotes and bibliography along with the whole article on "Poverty: Good News for Africa," you may obtain this by sending an email addressed to:

<kunhiyop-poverty@xc.org> Do not enter any subject heading or message, just the email address. You will receive a copy of the complete article automatically by email (about 18 pages).