

INTRODUCTION TO VOL.2, NO. 2

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Welcome to the *Global South Theological Journal*, a platform dedicated to exploring and celebrating the rich tapestry of theological thought and practice emerging from the Global South. In this edition, we present a diverse range of articles that delve into significant historical events, individuals, and theological approaches that have shaped the fabric of the Global South.

Øyvind M. Eide's article offers a profound examination of the moral dilemmas faced by missionaries during the Communist rule in Ethiopia from 1974 to 1991. In the face of severe persecution, the evangelical churches in Ethiopia endured tremendous hardships. Eide takes us on a journey through the challenges faced by these missionaries and their determination to relay vital information despite significant political risk. This article challenges us to consider the ethical considerations for mission organizations and churches when operating under oppressive dictatorial regimes, while also reflecting on the dynamics of power inherent in such situations and the role of the church in society.

Estifanos Zewde's article takes us on a captivating exploration of the life and ministry of Gudina Tumsa, focusing on his theological approach to Marxist ideology. As the General Secretary of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY), Gudina exhibited a Christ-oriented approach that influenced his understanding of human rights during a time dominated by Marxist ideology in Ethiopia. Estifanos analyzes the dialogue between theological anthropology and Christology that informed Gudina's perspective on human rights. This thought-provoking article invites us to reflect on the interplay between theology, ideology, and the pursuit of justice.

Sarah Willson's article shines a light on the remarkable approach to ecumenism adopted by Gudina Tumsa, a visionary figure in the realm of religious harmony. Willson delves into the intricacies of Gudina's perspective, demonstrating the unique and impactful ways in which he fostered unity amidst diversity. Gudina's belief in embracing diversity as a means to deepen mutual understanding resonated across religious boundaries, inspiring individuals from various backgrounds to come together in pursuit of a common goal. This article underscores the power of unity in a world often plagued by division, highlighting Gudina's enduring legacy as a beacon of hope for interfaith relations.

Francis Stephanos' article discusses the misuse of power and authority within a church, specifically the EECMY (1994-2010). It highlights conflicts and misunderstandings that arose due to the expansion of power and manipulation of the constitution by the church leadership. He argues that the main cause of conflict within the EECMY was the disagreement over conducting church services in different languages. The decision to involve secular courts worsened the situation, leading to numerous legal battles and negative consequences for the church and its members. Efforts for reconciliation and unification were made, but no significant results were achieved until 2010. The article emphasizes the need for peace and reconciliation within the church.

Additionally, we are privileged to feature Staffan Grenstedt's comprehensive exploration of Gudina Tumsa's transformative ministry in the Kambata and Hadiya regions of Southern Ethiopia. Grenstedt takes us on a captivating journey into the heart of Gudina's work within these communities, emphasizing his unwavering dedication to fostering ecumenism on a grassroots level. Through Grenstedt's meticulous research and firsthand accounts, we gain insight into the challenges, triumphs, and lasting impact of Gudina's ministry. This article invites us to reflect on the power of engagement, understanding, and collaboration in bringing about positive change in diverse communities.

As we immerse ourselves in the richness of these articles, we are reminded of the profound influence individuals can have in shaping theological thought, fostering unity, and promoting justice. The *Journal of Global South Theological Journal* is committed to amplifying voices, stories, and perspectives

that emerge from the Global South, bringing them to the forefront of theological discourse. By engaging with these articles, we hope to inspire dialogue, deepen understanding, and encourage transformative action within our communities and beyond.

We invite you to explore the pages of this journal, to engage with the ideas and insights presented, and to join us on this journey of discovery and growth as we continue to elevate the voices and perspectives of the Global South.