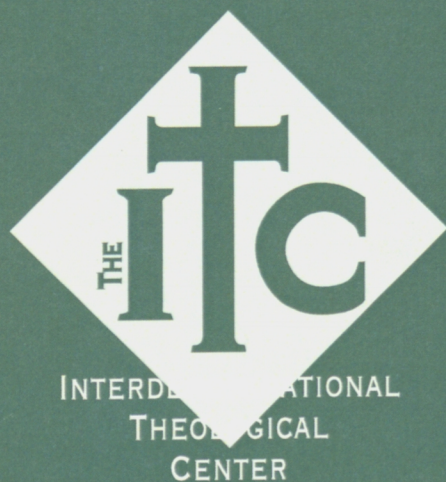


**JOURNAL OF THE
INTERDENOMINATIONAL
THEOLOGICAL CENTER**



*THE BIBLE AND THE CALL TO PASTORS
TO PREACH LIBERATING SERMONS*

Volume 38 / 2, 2012

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Table of Content

Editorial	
Temba L. J. Mafico.....	i
Sankofan Preaching: Looking Back, Speaking Forward	
Mark A. "Ogunwale" Lomax.....	1
Sankofan Preaching in Pseudo Post-Racial Worship Spaces	
F. Keith Slaughter.....	15
Toward a Pastoral Theology of Diet: Developing Another Lens for Addressing Consumption as a Concern for Comprehensive Human Wellbeing in the Life of the Church	
Willie F. Goodman.....	23
Explorations in the Synergy Between; Faith, Health, and Health- Care Among Black Baptists	
Sandy D. Maclin.....	53
What Can Blacks Learn from the Israelites Use and Interpreta- tion of Biblical Text	
Temba L.J.Mafico.....	91
Storm-Theophany and the Portrayal of Yahweh as Creator-King in Psalm 104 and in Prophetic and Wisdom Literature	
Violet Chiswa Gandiya.....	106

EDITORIAL

In This Issue

The ITC Press is pleased send you Volume 38/2 of the *Journal of the Interdenominational Theological Center*. This is the Fall 2012 issue that is slightly late. It is our hope that the Spring issue should reach you before the end of June 2013.

Although the theme of this journal relates more to the Black church, it also applies to the church universal. The church is no longer prophetic in its message because it is either more concerned with the afterlife or with increasing membership and money. This sad state of affairs will only be corrected when pastors take the so-called word of God seriously. It is by exegeting the text that the preacher or Bible study leader will hear afresh the true Word of God for the people of God.

The first two articles are special lectured delivered by Dr. Mark Lomax and Dr. Willie Goodman in 2011 and 2012, respectively, in honor of the late Dr. Charles B. Copher. In his homiletics lecture, Mark Lomax stresses that: "Sankofa preaching forthrightly marries faith to reason, Christ to culture and experience to ancestral memory and prophetic vision. Sankofan preaching reclaims, redresses and sanctifies African and Afrikan American spiritualities and cultures in ways that heal the wounded African soul."

Dr. Slaughter's response to Lomax's lecture seems to be based on the question: "What specifically does Sankofan preaching look back toward?" To which he responds, "The Sankofa concept implies that we must begin to learn how to place appropriate value on our past collective experience as God's perfect creation. Symbolically, Sankofa represents a bird flying forward while looking backwards. For us today, this symbol may be indicative of the paradox, irony and/or complexity alluded to within the Duboisian conceptualization of the Black experience."

EDITORIAL

Dr. Goodman, on the other hand, lectured on another necessity for the black church: developing the theology of diet. His goal is to alert pastors/ministers to the importance of the wellness of their congregants.

Dr. Sandy D. Maclin and his colleagues also focused on the wellbeing of Christians belonging to the Baptist tradition. After a thorough survey of attendees of a Baptist convention, they found some significant data that led them to the conclusion that called for a "thoughtful scrutiny of the constructs of health and healthcare" that would enable the emergence of a new paradigm, i.e., Optimal Health.

Temba Mafico's article also focuses on the black church, particularly its tendency to ignore biblical exegesis in its doing of Bible study or developing sermons. He argues that an exegetical study of the Bible must be employed in the black church if the Scriptures must serve as an effective agent for change in the black communities.

The final essay by Violet Chiswa Gandiya is a biblical exegesis of Psalm 104 that illustrates that the divine motif of Yahweh as the creator-king and universal judge compares with the Egyptian hymn to the god Aten. Moreover, it has many other elements that closely compare it to the Babylonian idea of a mythological creation from chaos. This close analysis and exegesis of Ps 104 provides the framework for discussing other biblical texts, from wisdom and prophetic literature like Jeremiah where the same themes and motifs exist.

Temba L.J. Mafico
Editor

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