

EDITORIAL

Endeavoring to unite sociology and theology in *Sanctorum Communio*, Bonhoeffer (2009) defined sociology as "the science of the structures of empirical communities" (p. 30). While the focus of the work was on the nature of the Christian church as a community, Bonhoeffer observed "every concept of community is essentially related to a concept of person" (p. 34). The definition of *person*, the fundamental proposition upon which community was based, was crucial in all social analyses and defined the nature of social action. Bonhoeffer (2009) offered the following,

Three great, positive possibilities of acting for each other in the community of saints present themselves: self-renouncing, active work for the neighbor; intercessory prayer; and, finally, the mutual forgiveness of sins in God's name. All of these involve giving up the self 'for' my neighbor's benefit, with the readiness to do and bear everything in the neighbor's place, indeed, if necessary, to sacrifice myself, standing as a substitute for my neighbor. Even if a purely vicarious action is rarely actualized, it is intended in every genuine act of love (Bonhoeffer, 2009, p. 184).

For the Christian sociologist, identifying and researching social issues in need of a Christian response is an act of love requiring faithful dedication of time, talent, and energy. In many ways, the work of the Christian sociologist could be perceived as a unique blend of evangelist, prophet, and teacher. It is a special task with a special purpose! The articles contained in this edition describe the active work, faith, and healing involved in the Christian life.

In our Spring 2013 (Vol. 3, No. 1) edition, Henry Hyunsuk Kim engages the reader in a fascinating historical examination regarding the work of Horace N. Allen, the first American resident missionary in Korea. Allen's work as a Presbyterian medical missionary and United States diplomat is described with clarity and brilliance. Kevin J. Eames examines how the cognitive science of religion accounts for the transmission of religious belief in an article that is masterfully written and challenging. Eames has a gift for explaining a complex issue with precision. Bonnie L. Oakes qualitatively examines the results of the God Image Scale, counseling, and strategies for dealing with female childhood sexual abuse victims. The various responses to the trauma of childhood sexual abuse, including avoidance as well as self-destructive behaviors, are examined with some findings that are both insightful and useful in this field of study.

Book reviews, written by Paul Serwinek, Bennett Judkins, and James Ward, provide excellent critical analyses of recent works in the field of Christian sociology.

The Journal for the Sociological Integration of Religion and Society has grown during the past three years. This edition marks a special time in *The Journal for the Sociological Integration of Religion and Society*, as we welcome several new editors to our team: E. Basil Jackson, M.D., Ph.D.,

Th.D., J.D, of Oxford Graduate School and Ines Jindra, Ph.D. of the University of Notre Dame. Each brings a distinctive insight and talent to our publication. The Board of Editors warmly welcomes them!

Kenneth A. Schmidt
Editor

Works Cited

Bonhoeffer, D. (2009). *Sanctorum communio: A theological study of the sociology of the church*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress.



The 37th annual meeting, May 30 - June 2, 2013 of the Association of Christians Teaching Sociology (ACTS) will be held at Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights IL

The theme of the 2013 conference is "Sociology in the Public Square"

Dr. Mark Regnerus, Associate Professor of Sociology at University of Texas at Austin will be a featured speaker.

Abstracts of papers and presentations should be submitted to David Carlson, Program Chair at david.carlson48@yahoo.com by May 1

While papers addressing any and all topics are welcome, we invite papers that address the theme, Sociology in the Public Square, with emphases on any of the following, or the relations among these features:

- Nature of social scientific research (e.g. type of study, research design, sampling methods, and interpretation of data)
- Place and role of theoretical and religious perspective in conducting and reporting research
- Effects of ideological or other non-scientific social, public, professional, and institutional reactions to and effects on social research
- Tasks of social science for society and social development
- Developing sociological imagination

Registration:

Registration will take place beginning Thursday afternoon, May 30, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. This will be followed by the evening meal and an opening reception. The meeting will conclude with breakfast and worship on Sunday morning, June 12, with checkout at 11:00 am. Costs for the conference will be posted on this website as they become available. **Graduate student subsidies are available.** To apply for a subsidy contact Lindsey Johnson at: Lindsey.johnson2@unt.edu

Registration forms: Word format [click here](#). Adobe format [click here](#).

Completed forms can be directed to Attention: Brad Breems, Department of Sociology, Trinity Christian College, 6601 West College Dr. 60463. Payment will be made in full at registration. Additional updates and information will be communicated via email.