

# VAIHARAI

(The Dawn)

A Theological Quarterly

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**Issue Editor: Dr. Cruz M. Hieronymus**

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## Book Review

- 1. History of the World Christian Movement, Volume 1: Earliest Christianity to 1453.**  
Dale T. Irvin and Scott W. Sunkuist, Orbis Books, Maryknoll, New York 10545, USA, 2001, Paperback, Pp xiv + 517.
- 2. Christianity: History and Future.**  
Hans Kung. New York: Continuum, October 1996, Pp xxvi + 936 + 2 (summary diagrams). \$29.95.
- 3. Common Objects of Love: Moral Reflection and the Shaping of Community.**  
Olier O'Donovan. Grand Rapids, Michigan / Cambridge, UK: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2002. pp. viii+72,\$15.00

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## **Bible in the Church**

**Editorial**

The Bible and the Church belong to each other. The Bible “produced” the church. The church was gathered together by the preaching of the word of God. Peter declares that “You were born through the living word of God” (1Pt. 1:27). The document of the Second Vatican Council, *Presbyterorum Ordinis* says, “The people of God is gathered into one, first of all through the word of the loving God” (No. 4). The same point is stressed also by *Lumen Gentium* 1, 9, 29 and *Dei Verbum* 17.

It is equally true that the Church ‘produced’ the Bible. It is the ‘product’ of the Israelitic and early Christian communities. It contains the faith experiences of the people of God in the Old and New Testament eras. These experiences and faith formulations are shaped into biblical books.

Since the church itself is formed by the word of God, it was always accorded a very high place in it. The Vatican document *Dei Verbum* says, “The church has always venerated the Divine Scriptures as she venerated the Body of the Lord. She never ceases to partake in the bread of life and offer it to the Faithful from the one table of the word of God and the Body of Christ” (No. 21). The Vatican Council regards the Bible so important that it quotes from it 1333 times!

The word of God is the source of life and renewal in the Church. It is her support and strength. It is the pure and lasting fountain of spiritual life (cfr. Dv. 21). Hence the church is nourished by it. It is continually read, prayed and proclaimed. In this issue of Vaiharai we discuss on reading, praying and preaching the Bible. Dr. A. Aloysius Xavier, Professor at St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bangalore, deals with the theme of 'Reading the Bible'. After showing that reading the Bible was a continuous practice of the people of God since the inception of the Israelitic faith community, he gives the various ways of encountering the word of God. He speaks of several ways of reading the Bible. At the end he suggests some practical guidelines for Bible reading.

Fr. R.J. Raja S.J., Professor of Sacred Scriptures in several centers of biblical studies, writes on 'Prayer in the Bible'. After giving the general framework of prayer, he speaks of prayer as a God-Human encounter. He demonstrates this God Human encounter from the J.E. Traditions, Deuteronomic School, Prophetic writings, Psalmic collection, Post exilic books, Jesus prayers and the practice of the Early Church. The second part of his article deals with the communitarian aspect of biblical prayer.

The third article by me deals with the theme of preaching the Bible. After showing that the Christian preaching was always based on the Bible, it attempts to portray Jesus as the model of Christian preaching. Instead of just repeating the words of the biblical texts, Jesus always interpreted and re-interpreted them and brought out the living and loving message of God to His children. Final part of the article, after showing the difficulties involved in preaching areas such as the 'clean and the unclean', belief in the 'one and only biblical God' and a 'God who is at ease with violence', shows the necessity, especially today, of interpretation and re-interpretation of several biblical passages.

Now I have an important information to our dear readers of *Vaiharai*! *Vaiharai* has entered the 10<sup>th</sup> year of its publication from 2005. It has been a Theological Quarterly Though quite often only 3 issues were published, one of them being a double issue. Now the publishing agency i.e. St. Paul's Seminary, Tiruchirappalli has decided to make *Vaiharai* a 'Theological Half-Yearly' from 2005. Hence there will only be two issues of *Vaiharai* a year from 2005, i.e., January – June issue and July – December issue. Evidently as a 'Theological Half Yearly' *Vaiharai* will have more pages and will be in a position to deal with theological topics in length and depth. I am confident that our dear readers will be happy about this change and continue to offer their patronage.

**Cruz M. Hieronymus**

**Editor**