

Didache Faithful Teaching Volume 25: Number 1 Introduction

Dean G. Blevins and Eileen Ruger, guest editors

Greetings and Welcome to the 25th volume of Didache, our winter 2026 edition. I am former editor Dean G. Blevins facilitating this global edition. It is a pleasure to be back, if only to facilitate an excellent set of moderated papers by Dr. Eileen Ruger and to introduce a new writer from Reverend Constantino Magaya, a new Field Education Coordinator on the Africa South Field and student at Africa Nazarene University. Since most papers were curated at Asia Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary by Dr. Ruger, her words provide our introduction.

From Dr Eileen Ruger, DAIS (Doctorate of Intercultural Studies) Asia Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary

Asia Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary recently hosted a symposium that explored the dynamic relationship between faith and culture in the Asian context. Centered on the theme “A Theology of Home: Reconciling New Identities in Christ with Home Cultures,” the symposium brought together students, scholars and practitioners to reflect on how followers of Christ navigate the intersection of gospel and culture within their own homelands. This theme underscores the ongoing missiological task of discerning how the Christian message engages local traditions, values, and social structures—affirming what is redemptive while critically evaluating what may distort the gospel. At the heart of this discussion lies the recognition that theology is never formed in isolation but always in context.

To engage meaningfully with the diversity of Asian cultures, theologians and missionaries must employ both emic (insider) and etic (outsider) perspectives. These approaches enable a fuller understanding of cultural practices without resorting to simplistic labeling or premature judgment. The articles in this issue arise from this shared concern: to articulate a theology of home that honors local identities even as it calls all believers to find their ultimate belonging in Christ.

The papers presented at the symposium represent a rich diversity of voices and experiences. The contributors include current students who are seeking to discover relevant ways for the gospel to speak meaningfully within their home cultures, practitioners who have wrestled with these issues in the field for many years, and academics who are charting new theological pathways into contexts where Christianity has often been misunderstood or rejected. Together, these papers embody the seminary’s commitment to fostering dialogue between theory and practice, faith and culture, and global and local perspectives. Through their varied lenses, the authors collectively remind us that contextual theology is not a static discipline but an ongoing conversation—a journey of discerning how the gospel can truly become at home in every culture without losing its transforming power.

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