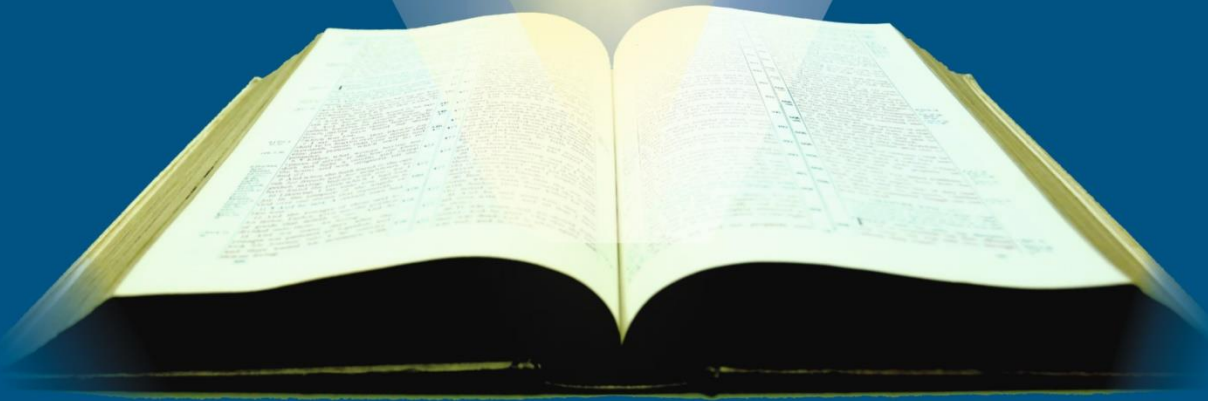


# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR FAITH INTEGRATION



BABCOCK UNIVERSITY



# International Journal for Faith Integration

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## **A Dream Come True!**

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## Editorial

### A Dream Come True!

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Over the years, I have been dreaming of ways to help move faith integration from being a subject for discussion to being a living experience. God put several ideas in my head. Sometimes those dreams felt like fantasies. I wanted to sponsor workshops that emphasized the “how-to” (pedagogy) of IFL in the classroom, workshops on the integration of faith in service for non-teaching staff, symposia on faith integration, a recurring international conference for faith integration, and a journal that will encourage both thinking about and living out our faith. Prior to writing this editorial, I could not say that I had implemented all the ideas God put in my heart. There was *one* left to be completed: the journal focused on faith integration! Thank God that is no longer true! Today, you have before you a brand new online, open access journal that will encourage your walk with God! At last, the *International Journal for Faith Integration (IJFI)* is a dream come true!

The mission of *IJFI* is to promote faith integration for the holistic development of human capacity. In other words, and quoting Joshua, our office web designer, “Faith Integration is our mission.” Human development is incomplete without spiritual development. God created us in His own image (Genesis 1:26-28), and He created us as whole beings with the capacity to develop physically, intellectually, socially, and spiritually (Luke 2:52). Unfortunately, many of us neglect spiritual development, and that leads us to live compartmentalized lives. We only think spiritually when we go to church, or pray, or read our Bibles. Therefore, the issue of faith and living our faith continue to surface. And, there should be no compartmentalization in the life of a child of God!

*IJFI* is here to encourage holistic living and discourage the dichotomy of life we all struggle with. We need to live integrated lives. Our faith in God should reflect in all we do – teaching, learning, research, service, hobby, play, and lifestyle. Christians should be Christians every second, every minute, and every hour. That is why *IJFI* does not discriminate between faith in learning and faith in other service areas. Most of the time when studies are done in the area of faith integration, it is in connection with teaching and learning (that is, integration of faith and/with/in learning, (IFL)). But, *IJFI* goes beyond IFL to other service areas and includes how we live out our faith in our daily lives.

Since the emphasis of this journal is on living our faith, it will contain a variety of articles, including research, or review of articles on faith integration, but also articles focused on practical aspects of faith integration. That way, faith integration will not remain only in the laboratory; rather, humans become the laboratory of living faith. Thus, the articles in this first edition reflect this resolution. Three of the articles are based on research, while two present the practical. All of these articles will stimulate and challenge your everyday living.

So, come along and enjoy reading these articles. The authors and I hope they will inspire you to live your faith rather than conform to this world! Romans 12:2 (Amplified) reminds us:

And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed *and* progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you].

May the Lord bless you as you read!

**Constance C. Nwosu, PhD.** Professor of Curriculum, Instruction, and English, and the Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness at Babcock University. Her areas of expertise include, but not limited to Faith Integration, Curriculum Development, and Instructional Strategies. She is in charge of on campus faculty and staff development, and also heads the Institute for Faith Integration at Babcock University. She conducts workshops and organizes symposia and conferences on faith integration.