

Pastor Prof. univ. dr John Christopher Thomas

http://www.bangor.ac.uk/trs/staff/john_thomas.php

USA Contact Details

Church of God Theological Seminary
900 Walker St, NE
Cleveland, TN 37311
USA
Tel: 423 478 7038

Background:

My educational journey includes the BA (Lee College), MA (Church of God School of Theology), MDiv (Ashland Theological Seminary), ThM (Princeton Theological Seminary), and PhD (University of Sheffield), with training focused on biblical studies with specialization in New Testament. Notable scholars with whom I have had the opportunity to study include Andrew T. Lincoln, Bruce M. Metzger, E. Earle Ellis, John Bright, Donald Juel, Charles T. Fritch, Karlfried Froehlich, Harry Y. Gamble, Dan O. Via, and Judith L. Kovacs.

Since 1982 I have served on the faculty of the Church of God Theological Seminary in Cleveland, TN, USA, where I was named as the inaugural Clarence J. Abbott Professor of Biblical Studies, the first endowed chair in biblical studies in the Pentecostal and Charismatic movement. The seminary, widely regarded as the global center for constructive Pentecostal Theology, has provided an exciting context from which a variety of publishing ventures have been conceived and launched. I am founding co-editor of the *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* (Brill), lead editor of the *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* Supplement Series (Deo), and general editor of the *Pentecostal Commentary Series* (Deo).

I have been an active member of the Society for Pentecostal Studies (having served as its President), the Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas, the Society of Biblical Literature, the European Pentecostal and Charismatic Research Association, and am an associate member of the Catholic Biblical Association. I have accepted invitations to present papers on a variety of other topics on five continents including major international consultations on healing hosted by the World Council of Churches (Ghana and Chile) and the Lausanne Consultation on Theology (Kenya).

My dual appointment with the Centre of Pentecostal and Charismatic Studies at Bangor University serves to extend the shape and scope of my earlier work with the opportunity to supervise PhD research in the areas of New Testament and Pentecostal Theology, especially with students pursuing their research in a North American context.

Responsibilities:

Associate Director of the Centre of Pentecostal and Charismatic Studies

Research Interests:

Currently I am at work (with Frank D. Macchia) on a major commentary on the Apocalypse for the Two Horizons Commentary Series published by Eerdmans. Other current major research projects include a monograph entitled 'And the Signs Are Following: A Pentecostal Approach to Mark 16.9-20' (with Kimberly E. Alexander) and a New Testament Introduction entitled 'Pentecostal Explorations of the New Testament' (with Emerson Powery and Ayo Adewuya).

My research interests include Pentecostal readings of Scripture, the Holy Spirit in the Biblical tradition, Healing in the New Testament, literary and narrative approaches to the New Testament, the effective history of Scripture in early Pentecostalism, and various areas of constructive Pentecostal theology especially as it relates to the five-fold Gospel that Jesus is Saviour, Sanctifier, Spirit Baptizer, Healer, and Coming King.

Recent Publications:

Books -

Footwashing in John 13 and the Johannine Community (JSNTS 61; Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1991).

Ministry and Theology: Studies for the Church and Its Leaders (Cleveland: Pathway Press, 1995).

The Devil, Disease, and Deliverance: Origins of Illness in New Testament Thought (JPTS 13; Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1998).

He Loved Them until the End: The Farewell Materials in the Gospel according to John (Pune, India: Fountain Press, 2003).

1 John, 2 John, 3 John (Pentecostal Commentary Series; London: T&T Clark International, 2004).

The Spirit of the New Testament (Blandford Forum, UK: Deo Publishing, 2005).

Articles and Chapter Length Studies -

'A Note on the Text of John 13:10', *Novum Testamentum* 29 (1987), pp. 46-52.

'Discipleship in Mark's Gospel', in *Faces of Renewal* (ed. Paul Elbert; Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 1988), pp. 64-80.

'The Fourth Gospel and Rabbinic Judaism', *Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft* 82 (1991), pp. 159-182.

'The Kingdom of God in the Gospel according to Matthew', *New Testament Studies* 39 (1993), pp. 136-146.

'The Devil, Disease, and Deliverance: James 5:14-16', *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* 2 (1993), pp. 25-50.

'Women, Pentecostals, and the Bible: An Experiment in Pentecostal Hermeneutics', *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* 5 (1994), pp. 41-56.

'The Order of the Composition of the Johannine Epistles', *Novum Testamentum* 37 (1995), pp. 68-75.

' "Stop Sinning Lest Something Worse Come Upon You": The Man at the Pool in John 5', *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* 59 (1995), pp. 3-20.

'Women in the Church: An Experiment in Pentecostal Hermeneutics', *Evangelical Review of Theology* 20 (1996), pp. 220-32.

' "An Angel from Satan": Paul's Thorn in the Flesh (2 Corinthians 12.7-10)', *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* 9 (1996), pp. 39-52.

'Footwashing in the Context of the Lord's Supper', *The Lord's Supper: Believers' Church Perspectives* (ed. Dale Stoffer; Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 1997), pp. 169-84.

Max Turner's *The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts: Then and Now* (Carlisle: Paternoster Press, 1996): An Appreciation and Critique', *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* 12 (1998), pp. 3-22.

'Pentecostal Theology in the Twenty-First Century', *Pneuma* 20 (1998), pp. 3-19.

'The Literary Structure of 1 John', *Novum Testamentum* 40 (1998), pp. 369-81.

'Reading the Bible from within our Traditions: A Pentecostal Hermeneutic as Test Case', *Between Two Horizons* (ed. J.B. Green and M. Turner; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000), pp. 108-22.

'Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet: A Study of John 13.1-20', *The Living Pulpit* 9 (January-March, 2000), pp. 28-29.

'The Spirit in the Fourth Gospel: Narrative Explorations', *The Spirit and the Mind: Essays in Informed Pentecostalism* (Donald N. Bowdle FS; ed. T.L. Cross and E. Powery; Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2000), pp. 87-104.

'Fusswaschung: I. Westliche Kirchen', *Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart* 4 Band 3 (Tübingen: J.C.B. Mohr {Paul Siebeck}, 2000), p. 444.

'Spiritual Conflict in Illness and Affliction', *Deliver Us From Evil: An Uneasy Frontier in Christian Mission* (ed. A.A. Moreau, et.al.; Monrovia, CA: World Vision Publications, 2002), pp. 37-60.

'Pentecostal Explorations of the New Testament: Teaching New Testament Introduction in a Pentecostal Seminary', *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* 11.1 (2002), pp. 120-29.

(With Kimberly Ervin Alexander) ' "And the Signs Are Following": Mark 16.9-20 – A Journey into Pentecostal Hermeneutics', *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* 11.2 (2003), pp. 147-70.

'The Spirit, Healing, and Mission: A Survey of the Biblical Canon', *International Review of Mission* 93 (2004), pp. 421-42.

'The Charismatic Structure of Acts', *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* 13.1 (2004), pp. 19-30.

'Healing in the Atonement: A Johannine Perspective', *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* 14.1 (2005), pp. 23-39.

'Health and Healing: A Pentecostal Contribution', *Ex Auditu* 21 (2005), pp. 88-107.

'The Holy Spirit and Interpretation', *Dictionary of Biblical Criticism and Interpretation* (S.E. Porter, ed.; London: Routledge, 2007), pp. 165-66.

'Footwashing: Western Church', *Religion Past and Present* 2 (Leiden: Brill, 2007).