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Faith and Mission

Reflections on Pentecostal Higher Education

John D. Griffiths

Alphacrucis University College

john.griffiths@ac.edu.au



In Luke 10, the 70 (or 72) disciples are sent by Jesus into “every town and place where he was about to go” (Luke 10:1). Jesus then gives them various instructions about how they are to conduct themselves in these towns and places (Luke 10:2–12). As the disciples return with joy, they exclaim that “Even the demons submit to us in your name” (Luke 10:17). At which, Jesus responds that he saw Satan fall from heaven like lightening (Luke 10:18) and that the disciples have been delegated authority from Jesus to trample on snakes (Luke 10:19).

Interestingly, idea of the trampling on snakes alludes back Genesis 3, where the seed of the woman will crush the head of the seed of the snake (Gen 3:15). The casting out of demons, which Jesus likens to trampling on snakes, is then a fulfillment of the coming dominance of the seed of the woman over the seed of the snake. However, it is the disciples who are the ones who are trampling on snakes because of the delegated authority of Jesus. The process of discipleship that the 70 had been undergoing includes these disciples taking up the mission of their teacher Jesus

and overthrowing the forces of the seed of the snake. Through the instruction of Jesus and the empowerment of the Spirit, the disciples are able to be effective representatives of God's kingdom.

These themes are evident in the various articles that form my first issue as editor-in-chief of Australasian Pentecostal Studies. The first three articles have been presented at the Cartledge lecture and research symposium in August 2025 at Alphacrucis University College. Beginning with Stuart Piggin's "Reason and the Spirit", Piggin comprehensively shows that theological education was at the center of the forming and early advancement of Universities in Britain, America and Australia. Similarly, Jacqui N. Grey addresses "What Makes Pentecostal Higher Education *pentecostal*?", proposing a model for Pentecostal Higher Education based upon the Pentecostal five-fold Gospel. Kirsty Mills' "Stirred by a Noble Theme" highlights the adverse impact that neglecting Pentecostal history has for the Pentecostal church in Australia. Finally, along a similar vein, Rick Wadholm Jr.'s article explores the relationship between the Spirit and Ezekiel's ability (or disability).