

ASSISTANCE FOR THEOLOGICAL LIBRARIES IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

Have you read the Editorial (p3) and my comments concerning the isolation of our colleagues in theological libraries in the Asia-Pacific region?

I have wondered for some time now, whether ANZTLA members might be interested in establishing some form of assistance to our colleagues in theological libraries in the Southeast-Asia and Pacific areas. As already intimated, many of these libraries manage on a shoestring budget (BPTC eg. receives US\$5000 per annum!), and consequently many important recent publications are not acquired. An organisation to assist our colleagues in the region would collect books, journals and other significant publications, relevant to the studies offered and distribute to colleges requesting materials.

A scheme, known as the Australian Centre for Publications Acquired for Development (ACPAD) already exists to assist universities and institutions for higher education in developing countries. I am proposing a similar scheme, under the auspices of ANZTLA, to assist any theological libraries in the Asia-Pacific region.

I would be pleased to hear from any member who is interested in helping to establish such a scheme. If there is sufficient interest, a paper could be prepared for presentation and discussion at the ANZTLA conference in Brisbane in July.

Lynn Pryor.