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Spiritus: ORU Journal of Theology 5 Year Report

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Spiritus

ORU JOURNAL OF THEOLOGY

5 Year Report
2017-2021

March 1, 2022

ORU

Spiritus: ORU Journal of Theology **Five-Year Report**

March 1, 2022

Prepared by Daniel Isgrigg, Managing Editor

Executive Summary

The Journal stands as a partnership between the College of Theology & Ministry and the Holy Spirit Research Center of Oral Roberts University.

With the publishing of the Fall 2021 issue, *Spiritus* has completed five years in publication (2017-2021). The Journal has published eight different issues during this time, including four special themed issues.

Though increased visibility through indexing through ATLA Database and Google Scholar in 2020, downloads grew exponentially from 5,400 in 2019 to 27,000 in 2021.

ORU faculty have significantly contributed to the breadth of scholarship, including 56% of the articles and 47% of the book reviews. Twelve of the articles are authored by international scholars.

Through its online platform, The ORU Digital Showcase, readers across 180 countries have freely accessed 59,711 downloads of the 81 total articles and 71 book reviews.

Notable Stats 2018-2021

59,711 Downloads

180 Countries
Reached

81 articles & 71
book reviews
published

46 articles by ORU

Spiritus Editorial Team

Jeffrey S. Lamp, Editor

Wonsuk Ma, Editor

Daniel Isgrigg, Managing Editor

Robert McBain, Review Editor

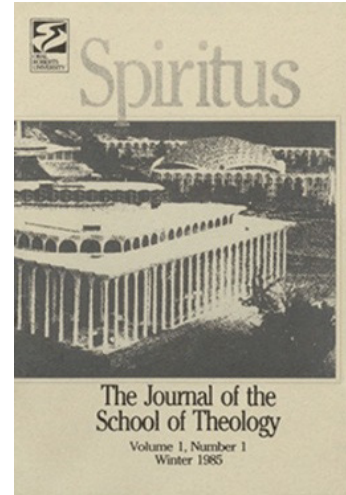
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1. Journal Background and History

By Jeffrey S. Lamp, Editor

The first issue of *Spiritus* appeared in 1985. That single issue constituted volume one. It was a modest offering, consisting largely of in-house contributions from Oral Roberts University faculty, as aptly indicated by the full title of that initial effort: *Spiritus: The Journal of the School of Theology*. Precisely why there was only one issue is lost to history. Nevertheless, after a lengthy hiatus, the Journal, renamed *Spiritus: ORU Journal of Theology* to reflect an effort to showcase ORU's contribution to wider arenas of scholarship, was resurrected and began an exciting new chapter in the story of ORU's College of Theology and Ministry (CoTM), this time with a global focus.



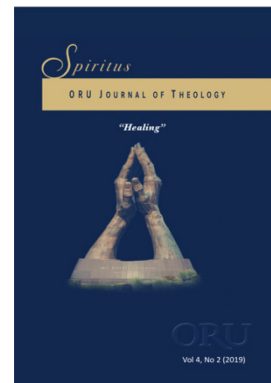
Rather than forget the first issue, the editors decided that the Journal should stand in continuity with the first effort all those years ago. Thus, with the first issue of the relaunch in 2017, numbering resumed with volume two. That particular issue consisted of issue numbers one and two, with the semiannual publication schedule of spring and fall issues beginning in 2018. The first issue also coincided with the fiftieth-anniversary celebration of ORU.



The first efforts at establishing a journal in conjunction with the CoTM began during Dr. Mark Rutland's tenure as President of ORU, but the financial situation of the University at the time precluded any significant progress. A more serious effort began in 2015, when then Dean Thomson Mathew approached Edward Decker to explore what would be required to launch a journal. Dr. Decker established a committee that initially consisted of himself as chair, Samuel Thorpe, Mark Roberts, Edward Watson, and Jeffrey Lamp (there may have been others—no written records of those meetings are extant). Those early explorations yielded the concept of a semiannual publication of an online journal in which articles would focus on a few emphases: biblical/theological/historical studies, practical theology, and student submissions. Contact with the marketing and graphic design

departments resulted in concrete steps forward to establishing the Journal. The efforts came to a halt when it was determined there was no budget to proceed with the project.

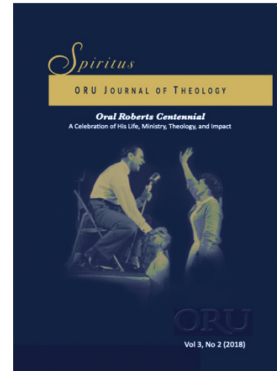
At that point, the effort went dormant until Wonsuk Ma came aboard as director of the new PhD program. He learned of the previous effort to launch a new theology journal and approached Dr. Lamp about resuming the effort. In December 2016, the first meeting was held to begin planning for the launch of a new journal. This early committee consisted of Dr. Ma as chair, Mark Roberts, Samuel Thorpe, Cheryl Iverson, Sally Shelton, and Jeffrey Lamp. Drs. Ma and Lamp were designated as editors for the first



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issue. Another key decision of this meeting was to publish the Journal jointly with the Holy Spirit Research Center. With volume three, Dr. Lamp was designated lead editor, Dr. Ma as co-editor, and Dr. Roberts as the review and technical editor.

The fall issue of 2018, a commemoration of the centennial of the birth of Oral Roberts that examined aspects of his life, ministry, and theology, helped establish the current model of having the fall issues explore a specific theme with invited guest editors. The themes explored so far include healing (2019), Spirit-empowered leadership (2020), and counseling and the Spirit (2021). The fall 2021 issue was also published as the first issue of ORU's new counseling Journal, *Salubritas: International Journal of Spirit-empowered Counseling*.



The editorial team has undergone some changes over the past five years. Dr. Daniel Isgrigg was designated associate editor with the Fall 2018 issue and managing editor with the Fall 2020 issue in recognition of his indispensable work in bringing each issue to publication. Dr. Sally Shelton became book review editor in 2018 as Dr. Roberts' responsibilities with the University changed, and in 2020 Robert McBain assumed the role of book review editor. As of the Spring 2022 issue, the editorial team consists of Jeffrey Lamp and Wonsuk Ma as editors, Daniel Isgrigg as managing editor, and Robert McBain as the review editor.

As the statistical data show, *Spiritus* has had an extensive reach globally, both in terms of its audience and its contributors. Each year has evidenced increasing numbers of downloads. The first five years of *Spiritus: ORU Journal of Theology* has gone a long way toward becoming a leading voice in the global Spirit-empowered Movement. There is every reason for optimism that this will continue into the future.



2017 *Re-Launch Editorial Committee*

30 years after that first issue, ORU professors, Jeffrey Lamp, Samuel Thorpe, Sally Shelton, Wonsuk Ma, Mark Roberts and Cheryl Iverson formed a new editorial committee to re-launch *Spiritus* for a new generation.

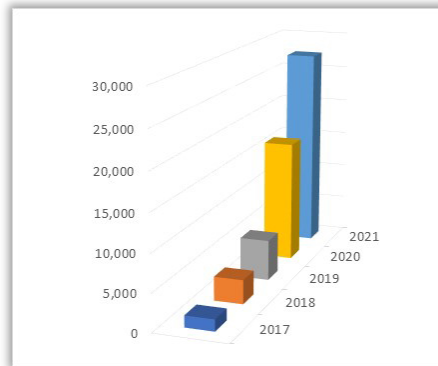
2. Development and Growth

After the modest relaunch issue (just one for the 2017 volume year), the Journal has gained its credibility as volumes were added. The role of the DigitalShowcase as the public platform for the Journal cannot be overemphasized, as evidenced by the visits to the site.

Downloads by Year with Total All Time – 59,711 (as of February 22, 2022)

The dramatic growth in readership is attributed to the increase in the available studies and the growing reputation of the Journal and ORU.

Year	Downloads
2017	1,566
2018	3,234
2019	5,484
2020	16,473
2021	27,378



Top 5 Articles

Title	Author	Downloads
“Healing for all Races”	Daniel D. Isgrigg	2,790
“Oral Roberts: Son of Pentecostalism, Father of the Charismatic Movement”	Vinson Synan	2,028
“An Overview of the Theology of Oral Roberts”	Samuel Thorpe	1,934
“Oral Roberts: Man of the Spirit”	Daniel D. Isgrigg	1,829
“Tragedy of Spirit-empowered Heroes”	Wonsuk Ma	1,763

Note that 4 of the top 5 and 8 of the top 10 downloaded articles are about Oral Roberts. At 17,266 total downloads (30%), Oral Roberts research is valued by the academy and is still a significant historical figure in the Global Spirit-empowered movement.

Printed Volumes from Snowfall Press (2018-2021): Total Printed Copies are 1,385.

Issue Number	Copies
3.2 (Fall 2018)	570
4.1 (Spring 2019)	110
4.2 (Fall 2019)	145
5.1 (Spring 2020)	132
5.2 (Fall 2020)	200
6.1 (Spring 2021)	157
6.2 (Fall 2021)	71

Issues & Articles Data

Issue	Theme	Articles	#faculty	#student	Reviews	#faculty	#student	Downloads
2.1-2 (2017)	Relaunch	9	6	0	8	2	0	9501
3.1 (2018)		7	2	0	10	7	0	6691
3.2 (2018)	Roberts	14	11	0	10	6	0	12968
4.1 (2019)		10	4	0	7	4	0	6166
4.2 (2019)	Healing	8	4	0	10	5	0	7814
5.1 (2020)		9	3	1	7	4	2	5503
5.2 (2020)	SE Leadership	7	6	0	4	4	0	3810
6.1 (2021)		9	5	0	6	1	1	3924
6.2 (2021)	Counseling & Spirit	8	5	1	9	1	1	1385
totals		81	46	2	71	34	4	57762
% of Total			56%			47%		

Special Themed Issues

Issue Number	Theme	Guest Editor(s)
3.2 (Fall 2018)	“Oral Roberts Centennial”	Wonsuk Ma
4.2 (Fall 2019)	“Healing”	Daniel D. Isgrigg
5.2 (Fall 2020)	“Spirit-empowered Leadership”	John P. Thompson
6.2 (Fall 2021)	“Counseling and the Spirit”	Andrea C. Walker, Edward Decker, Jeff Lamp
7.2 (Fall 2022) upcoming	“Spirit-empowered Missions”	Raymond Smith
8.2 (Fall 2023) upcoming	“ORU Theology”	Wonsuk Ma

Social Media Impact

- 540 Facebook Page Likes
- Articles shared 549 times on Facebook,
- Articles shared 166 times on Twitter.
- 71% of shares on Facebook in the US, 5 % Philippines, 2.6% Canada

Indexing

Beginning February 2021, *Spiritus: ORU Journal of Theology* is now indexed in the ATLA Religion Database (ADB), the premier Ebsco indexing database of over 3 million scholarly articles from over 2,400 journals in the fields of religion and theology. Being included in this database gives *Spiritus* a great deal of credibility and increases the exposure of the Journal. Now, more users will be able to find the articles that our authors wrote. See the ATLA Religion Database here: <https://www.atla.com/research-tool/atla-religion-database/>

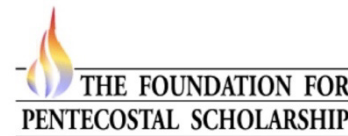


Spiritus is also indexed in Google Scholar, where articles were accessed 17,015 times by google searches.



Awards

Foundation of Pentecostal Scholarship Awarded 2021 Award of Excellence to Chris Green’s article, "We Have Seen His Glory:’ Pentecostal Spirit Christology in Conversation with Cyril of Alexandria” (5.1, 2020) the at 2021 Society for Pentecostal Studies annual meeting.



3. Internal Impact

3.1 Faculty / Student Research:

The Journal has encouraged and facilitated faculty members and students to produce and publish their studies. If we add contributions by alumni/ae, the ORU proportion will increase further.

Current ORU Faculty Articles (27)

Faculty Member	Contributions
Jeff Lamp	8 Editorials, 4 Articles (6.2, 5.1, 4.1, 2.2)
Daniel Isgrigg	1 editorial (4.2), 6 articles (5.2, 5.1, 4.2, 3.2, 3.2, 3.2)
Wonsuk Ma	1 Editorial (3.2), 2 articles (2.2, 5.2)
Eric Newberg	2 articles (3.2, 6.1)
Julie Ma	2 articles (6.1, 4.2)
Andrea Walker	1 Co-Editorial (6.2), 1 article (6.2)
John P. Thompson	1 Editorial (5.2), 1 article (5.2)

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Bill Buker	1 article (6.2)
Hayley Rae French	1 article (6.2)
James Shelton	1 article (6.1)
Jay Gary	1 article (5.2)
Hayoung Lim	1 article (4.2)
David Hebert	1 article (4.1)
William Wilson	1 article (3.2)
Samuel Thorpe	1 article (3.2)
Kevin Schneider	1 article (3.2)
Mark Hall	1 article (3.1)

Former and Adjunct Faculty Articles (10)

Faculty Member	Contributions
Vinson Synan	4 articles (2.2, 3.2, 3.2, 5.2)
Sally Shelton	2 articles (5.2, 2.2)
Edward Decker	1 Co-Editorial, 1 article (6.2)
Arden Autry	1 article (5.1)
Thomson Mathew	1 article (3.2)
William Epperson	1 article (2.2)

Faculty Book Reviews (10)

Faculty Member	Book Reviews
Daniel Isgrigg	4 reviews (6.1, 3.2, 3.1, 2.2)
Larry Hart	3 reviews (5.2, 5.1, 4.1)
Arden Autry	3 reviews (4.2, 3.1, 2.2)
Jeff Lamp	3 reviews (4.1, 3.2, 3.1)
Christopher Foster	2 reviews (4.2, 3.1)
William Lyons	2 reviews (6.2, 5.2)
James Shelton	2 reviews (4.1, 3.1)
Sally Shelton	2 reviews (5.1, 4.1)
Jeff Voth	2 reviews (5.1, 4.2)
Edward E. Decker	2 reviews (3.2, 3.1)
Wonsuk Ma	2 reviews (4.2, 3.1)
Bill Buker	1 review (5.2)
Jay Gary	1 review (5.2)
Mark Roberts	1 review (3.2)
Thad Horner	1 review (4.2)
Sandra Richardson	1 review (4.2)
Samuel Thorpe	1 review (4.2)
James Barber	1 review (3.2)
Daniel Thimell	1 review (3.2)

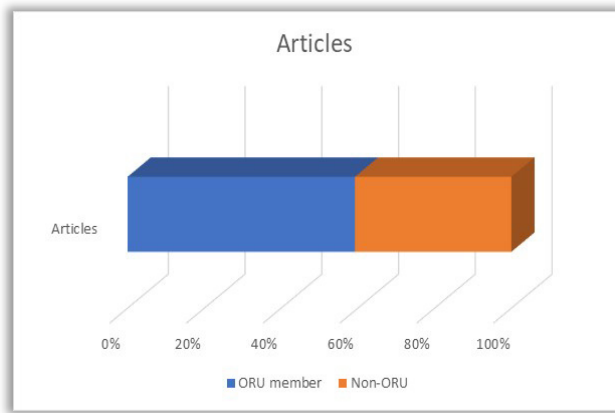
ORU Student Contributions

Name(s)	Contribution	Note
Robert McBain	1 article (6.2); 3 reviews (6.2, 6.1, 5.1)	Also serving as Review Editor
Kathryn J. Moder, Megan R. Munhoffen, Cade A. Rich, and Nathan B. Von Atzigen	1 co-authored article (5.1)	
Michael Donaldson	1 review (6.1)	
Joji Mathew	1 review (5.1)	

Overview

Out of 81 articles, ORU members contributed 48 (or 59%), fulfilling the mission of the Journal: about 50% space would be allocated for ORU members to publish their studies, while the balance is offered to like-minded thinkers outside of ORU to share their studies.

Similarly, 53.2% of the reviews (or 38 out of 71) were published by ORU members.



Breakdown by Issue

The details of the contributions by ORU members are found below. The numbers in the brackets indicate the total published numbers.

Issue Number	Articles	Reviews	Downloads (as of February 22, 2022)
2.1&2 (2017)	6 (of 9)	2 (of 8)	9,501
3.1 (Spring 2018)	2 (of 7)	7 (of 10)	6,691
3.2 (Fall 2018) Roberts Centennial	11 (of 14)	6 (of 10)	12,968
4.1 (Spring 2019)	4 (of 10)	4 (of 7)	6,166
4.2 (Fall 2019) Healing	4 (of 8)	5 (of 10)	7,814
5.1 (Spring 2020)	4 (of 9)	6 (of 7)	5,503
5.2 (Fall 2020) Spirit-empowered Leadership	6 (of 7)	4 (of 4)	3,810
6.1 (Spring 2021)	5 (of 9)	2 (of 6)	3,924
6.2 (Fall 2021) Counseling and Spirit	6 (of 8)	2 (of 9)	1,385

3.2 The Journal has supported the University's mission

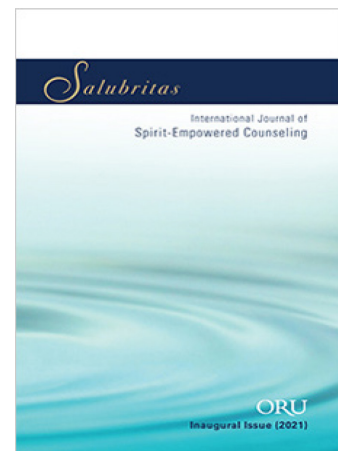
The Journal has intentionally encouraged and published studies on Spirit-empowerment to fulfill the University's mission to "develop Holy Spirit-empowered leaders." This focus is well demonstrated by the thematic issues of the Journal: "Oral Roberts Centenary," "Healing," "Spirit-empowered Leadership," "Counseling and the Spirit," and the future themes. (See "Special Themed Issues," p. 6 for the full list).

The Journal has also contributed to the enhanced profile of the University as detailed in the next section, "External Impact: Establishing ORU as a Research Community in Spirit-empowered research." The editorial team purposefully included "ORU" into the subtitle of the Journal, "ORU Journal of Theology." *Spiritus*, therefore, contributes to Goal 8 ("Serving Globally as the Premier University for Spirit-empowered Leadership Development") and Goal 4 ("Demonstrating a Vibrant Spirit-empowered Ethos that Impacts the World") of the 5-Year Adaptive Plan of the University.

Unlike the 1985 launch issue, which was published by the faculty of the College of Theology & Mission (then), the relaunched *Spiritus* has been jointly published by the College of Theology & Ministry and the Holy Spirit Research Center (HSRC) of the Learning Resources. This collaboration benefits from the resources and strengths of each other, while mutually strengthening the work of each entity, creating healthy synergy.

3.3 The Journal facilitated the birth of *Salubritas: International Journal of Spirit-Empowered Counseling*.

The Counseling faculty of the College had planned its own Journal, bringing the work of the Holy Spirit to the center of Christian counseling. *Spiritus* offered its space (Fall 2021) to organize a themed issue on "Counseling and the Spirit" (Fall 2021). Most of its contents were used to organize the launch issue of *Salubritas*. This annual journal is jointly published by the Counseling faculty of the College of Theology & Ministry and the Behavioral Science faculty of the College of Science & Engineering.




4. External Impact: Establishing ORU as a Research Community in Spirit-empowered research

The Journal has advanced ORU’s institutional objective to become the premier University through research in the work of the Holy Spirit in contemporary global Christianity by 1) promoting the University’s place in academics and 2) serving the global Spirit-empowered movement.

4.1 Reaching Educational Institutions

The Journal has reached 443 education institutions through the contents of the Journal. This outreach would not have been achieved without the Journal’s ministry.

Among these institutions which downloaded Spiritus’ contents, the following observations are made:

<p>The downloads from top academic institutions were focused on Oral Roberts Studies.</p>	
<p>US Institutions: Princeton, Stanford, Oklahoma State University, Asbury Theological Seminary, Baylor University, Lee University, Boston University, Notre Dame, Boston College, Harvard University, Biola, Wheaton College, Yale, Cambridge, Oxford, Mercer, Duke, University of North Carolina, Moody Bible Institute, University of Tulsa, and University of Arkansas</p>	
<p>International Institutions include Durham University (UK), Hansei University (S. Korea), University of Johannesburg, University of Zambia, Jeonju University (S. Korea), Hacettepe University (Turkey), University of St. Andrews, University of Pretoria, Xi'an Jiaotong University (China), University of Nigeria, Hebrew University (Israel).</p>	

4.2 Global Reach: The downloads represent 182 countries.

Top 5 Countries

- United States
- Nigeria
- United Kingdom
- South Africa
- India

Other Notable Data:

- 392 in China.
- 325 in the Middle East
- Only 365 in South America vs.
- Nearly 7,000 in Africa



International Authors (12)

Author	Country	Issue	Title
Karuna Sharma	Nepal	6.2	“Holy Spirit the Ultimate Counselor”
J. Kwabena Asamoah-Gyadu	Ghana	6.1	“Pentecostalism and Coronavirus: Reframing the Message of Health-and-Wealth in a Pandemic Era”
		3.1	“‘Your Miracle is on the Way’: Oral Roberts and Mediated Pentecostalism in Africa”
Allan H. Anderson	UK	5.1	“Pentecostalism and Social, Political, and Economic Development”
Arto Hamalainen	Belgium	5.1	“Pentecostal Collaboration: A Pragmatic Necessity or a Spiritual Principle?”
Emmanuel Anim	Ghana	4.1	“Mission in the Diaspora: The Role of Migrants (Refugees) as Principal Bearers of the Christian Faith”
Mathew Clark	S. Africa	4.1	“South German Anabaptist Ecclesiology and Its Present-day Pentecostal Counterpart”
Younghoon Lee	Korea	4.1	“Oral Roberts and David Yonggi Cho: A Life-long Relationship in Theology and Ministry”
Yeolsoo Eim	Korea	3.2	“Oral Roberts’ Impact on the Korean Healing Movement”
Brainerd Prince & Atula Walling	India	3.1	“Sexuality, Gender, and Marriage: Pentecostal Theology of Sexuality and Empowering the Girl-Child in India”
Melody Wachsmuth	Croatia	2.2	“Good Life Descriptors of Change in Roma Pentecostal Communities in Serbia and Croatia”
Irene Banda	Zambia	2.2	“Poverty Reduction as a Christian Call: A View on Microfinance loans from Pentecostal churches in Zambia”

5. Appreciation: The editorial team wishes to thank,

- University leadership for encouraging and supporting the publication of the Journal;
- The leadership of the CoTM and the Learning Resources for their support;
- The past and present editorial team members;
- The contributors who offer their valuable studies to the Journal; and
- Readers who have visited the journal page and made close to 60,000 downloads.
- Above all, we want to praise the Lord for his grace allowing us to publish Spirit-empowered research to position ORU as the premier knowledge-creator for the global Spirit-Empowered Movement.