

2018 APNTS Thesis and Dissertation Abstracts

Lustaña, Ingrid Bella Kiper. “A Graphic Way of Purification: Understanding and Contextualizing the Day of Atonement for Filipino Millennials through Sequential Art.” M.S.T. thesis, Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary, 2018.

This thesis focused on the study, translation, and interpretation of the Day of Atonement as described in Leviticus 16:11–28. The goal of the study was for Filipino millennials to understand the rituals of the holy ceremony. The purpose was to test which medium accomplished this goal. Therefore, the researcher first created an English translation from an exegesis of the passage in its Hebrew texts through the Hermeneutical Spiral. The researcher then used the Praxis Model of Contextual Theology and asked the assistance of Filipino millennials to help her create a sequential art that would be comprehensible for the target audience. She had Filipino millennials read two documents, the translation and production, and assessed for reading comprehension. The researcher found that the Filipinos who assessed the sequential art not only enjoyed the production, but they found connections to their lives more than those who had assessed the translation. Therefore, the researcher can conclude that a contextualize sequential art is more effective in theological education than just a simple reading of the Bible.

Lustaña, Terence D. “The Relationship between Intimacy and Mediated Communication among Adolescents at Taytay First Church of the Nazarene in Rizal, Philippines.” M.A.C.C. thesis, Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary, 2018.

This thesis investigated the relationship between computer-mediated communication (CMC) and perceived level of intimacy (PLI) of adolescents of Taytay First Church of the Nazarene (TFCN), Taytay, Rizal, Philippines. The researcher used a survey questionnaire adopted from Natalie Pennington’s “Building and Maintaining Relationships in the Digital Age: Using Social Penetration Theory to Explore Communication through Social Networking Sites” (Pennington, 2015). Spearman’s Correlation Coefficient was utilized to examine the relationship between the TFCN adolescents’ age and

PLI, gender and PLI; perceived type of relationship and PLI; depth and breadth of communication and PLI; and the use of other communication forms and PLI. The purpose of this study was to examine the perceived levels of intimacy in CMC among adolescents in Taytay, Rizal, First Church of the Nazarene, Philippines.

The study was quantitative in approach. The researcher conducted a survey for measuring the PLI between 60 respondents and their CMC friends. This research asked the respondents to choose a CMC friend (person with whom they communicate on a daily basis using CMC) and investigated the respondents' PLI via CMC. Summarizing the research findings, respondents' PLI had no correlation with the respondents' age, depth of communication, or breadth of communication. Meanwhile, the respondents' PLI correlated with the respondents' gender, respondents' perceived type of relationship, and the use of CMC and other forms of communication. Based on the findings, the thesis suggested that TFCN should consider CMC as a platform for adolescents to express themselves and at the same time continue to encourage face-to-face meetings and interactions such as cell groups, Bible study groups, and accountability partners.

Obedoza, Mark Joshua M. "Factors Contributing to Generation Congregation (GenCon) Young People Deciding to Become Members of Taytay First Church of the Nazarene." M.A.R.E. thesis, Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary, 2018.

This study sought to identify and describe factors contributing to Generation Congregation (GenCon) young people deciding to become members of Taytay First Church of the Nazarene. This research is significant because it showed the factors which led to the decision of GenCon young people to become members of Taytay First Church of the Nazarene. The study may also help the church evaluate all the programs and strategies they have for retaining the young people who attend their youth group. The findings of this study will also help other youth organizations in the local congregation of the Church of the Nazarene and other denominations in the Philippines and globally.

The researcher used purposive nonprobability sampling for the quantitative survey, wherein the respondents were selected from the target population on the basis of their fit with the purpose of the study. In this study

the members of Taytay First Church of the Nazarene who were previously and currently attending the GenCon service were identified. Two youth leaders were involved in identifying the members. The surveys were administered in three services, *Tagalog*, English, and GenCon of Taytay Church of the Nazarene. The Wilcoxon Matched-Pairs Test was used to treat the data.

Null hypothesis one says, "There is no significant comparative difference between the answers of GenCon attenders regarding factors that led them to initially attend GenCon and factors that led them to join in membership with Taytay First Church of the Nazarene." This null hypothesis was accepted. Although the factors that led people to first attend GenCon, and the factors that led attenders to join the church could be identified and ranked, it showed no significant comparative difference. Overall findings of the scores did not show a significant difference above the mark of 0.05. However, a notable comparative finding in this study was that both the number one factor why respondents attended for the first time and the number one reason why they became members was because "they want to know and grow in the Lord." This led the researcher to a conclusion that GenCon young people are longing to grow in knowledge and faith in God.

Null hypothesis two says, "There is no significant comparative difference between the answers of GenCon attenders regarding their level of spiritual commitment while attending GenCon and them becoming a member of Taytay First Church of the Nazarene, in regards to their spiritual habits and involvement in the ministry." This null hypothesis was rejected. All of the respondents scored a positive growth in their spiritual commitment. All of the respondents grew in the two areas tested, their spiritual habits and involvement in the ministry. Growing in their spiritual habits and involvement in the ministry is also the fruit of their desire to know and grow in the Lord, which was the number one factor in their attending for the first time and also their becoming a member of Taytay First Church of the Nazarene.

Recommendations were identified for the enhancement of the GenCon youth ministry: (a) continue to introduce new and interesting ways of teaching the Word of God to the new generation; (b) create a separate list of the membership roll which comes from GenCon, aside from the general membership list of the church, for easy evaluation of the growth of GenCon in terms of their commitment to become a member; and (c) conduct further

research into factors contributing to young peoples' decision to drop out of GenCon service. This will balance the current study.

Oh Suoh. "An Evaluation of the God Image of Selected Third Culture Kids (TCKs) from Faith Academy in Rizal, Philippines." M.A.R.E. thesis, Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary, 2018.

This study was conducted to explore the God Image of Third Culture Kids (TCKs) at Faith Academy located in Rizal Province of the Philippines. These were students who were between 16 to 19 years old. Specific demographic factors were investigated to explore the relationship between their demographic characteristics and their God Image. There were 106 respondents for this study. Criterion-type purposive sampling was used to choose the respondents.

This research was designed as a descriptive study using quantitative methodology. The respondents were given a survey in a questionnaire format which was invented by Richard Lawrence in 1997 to assess their God Image. Along with it was given a demographic questionnaire as well. The God Image Scale (GIS) Questionnaire was based on three main issues with two sub-categories under each: the Sense of Belonging (Presence and Challenge), Goodness (Acceptance and Benevolence), and Control (Influence and Providence for Control). Eight items were examined for their demographic characteristic data. The statistical data was analyzed with the use of the one-way ANOVA and t-test. The statistical treatment was conducted by a software program, SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences).

Based on the statistical analysis, the following conclusions were drawn according to the null hypotheses. The first null hypothesis ("There would be no statistical significance between the Sense of Belonging and the God Image within TCKs") was rejected. The result showed that the selected TCKs agree with the Sense of Belonging with God. The second null hypothesis ("There would be no statistical significance between the Goodness of God and the God Image within TCKs") was rejected. The result was identified that the selected TCKs agree with the Goodness of God. The third null hypothesis ("There would be no statistical significance between Control and the God Image within TCKs") was rejected. The result meant that TCKs agree with their sense of Control with God. Thus, it was found that

the respondents who were TCKs generally have a positive God Image. Finally, the fourth null hypothesis (“There would be no statistical significance between the demographic characteristics of TCKs and the God Image”) was rejected. It was found that four demographic factors of the selected TCKs do affect their God Image. The four factors were: 1) gender, 2) number of years living abroad, 3) the number of countries that TCKs have lived, and 4) frequency of attending church. There were no statistical significances among the rest of the demographic items.

Finally, based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were identified to the ministers, parents, educators, and caregivers of TCKs, as well as for further study. The caregivers should be reminded of the possibility of a negative or unhealthy God Image of TCKs. The caregivers need to carefully consider the students’ God Image and may attempt to apply God Image improvement programs, mentoring, or counseling. Further, the caregivers should be careful about the students’ specific demographic factors which may affect their God Image. For further study, the researcher recommends: a) a qualitative research study in this area, b) a more thorough explanation about the concept of God Image, such as delivering a script along with administration, c) extended studies related to counseling TCKs, and d) more studies regarding TCKs and their spirituality as Christians.

Sancho, Apple P. “An Analytic Induction Study of the English Reading Comprehension of the Selected Pastors of Metro Manila District Church of the Nazarene and Their Preaching Tasks.” M.A.R.E. thesis, Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary, 2018.

This study examines the English reading comprehension of selected pastors of the Metro Manila District (MMD) Church of the Nazarene and their preaching tasks. There are 33 respondents in the study who are the pastors of MMD Church of the Nazarene. The English reading comprehension skill of the pastors was assessed to determine the deviant cases for the process of Analytic induction. Analytic Induction is the methodology of the study to solve the statement of the problem: What can be learned about the English reading comprehension of the selected pastors of Metro Manila District Church of the Nazarene and their preaching tasks.

This research was a combination of quantitative and descriptive approaches. A quantitative approach was used to assess the level of the pastors' English reading comprehension and a qualitative approach was used to assess the sermon preparation of the pastors.

In terms of two hypotheses of the study, both hypotheses were reformulated. The first hypothesis states that, Poor English reading comprehension skills will result in poorer practice of two skills that are a part of the preaching task, namely Biblical exegesis and sermon preparation in the sample group. This hypothesis was revised to, Poor English reading comprehension skills will result in poorer practice of two skills that are a part of the preaching task, namely Biblical exegesis and sermon preparation in the sample group, unless the pastor will spend more time in the sermon preparation and Biblical exegesis. The basis of the reformulation was because there was another factor that strongly influenced sermon preparation of the pastors between the score of their English reading.

Tadesse, Aweke Solomon. "The Joy and Burden of Caring for Orphans and Vulnerable Children: A Case Study on the Wellbeing of Primary Caregivers in Food for the Hungry, Ethiopia Child Development Program."

Ph.D. dissertation, Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary, 2018.

This dissertation is an understanding and investigation about the joy and burden of caring for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in Food for the Hungry Ethiopia Zeway Child Development Program. The study explored the factors that affect the wellbeing of OVC primary caregivers, their caring and nurturing role towards the OVC. The study provided understanding of the theoretical framework of family-based care and an assessment of its significance for childcare. It also described the theories that directly contributed and related to the wellbeing of OVC primary caregivers, and projects the logical thoughts that direct how to improve and secure the wellbeing status of the family.

The study examined a basic scientific framework for child character development and the role of primary caregivers. It gave a brief description of the scientific character and identity formation of children and the place of the caregiver or parental role in the process. The descriptions included specifics on the connection between the mental development (thinking facili-

ties), character, identity, and social development. The content also gave description of holistic learning theories and principles for effective childcare implementation and argued that the interactive skill-based learning approach has the potential to sharpen the child's mind and thought processes in dealing with practical life experiences.

The study analyzed and presented the place of a supportive community or the need of care and support for OVC primary caregivers as a key and back up those caregivers who are in extreme poverty and living with considerable wellbeing defects. Following this thought, the study argued that there has been a considerable emphasis on the immediate losses and material needs of the OVC and yet the wellbeing, caring, and parental role and burden of their immediate interventionist or primary caregivers are often significantly overlooked. The effectiveness and sustainable nature of child development programs are directly related to the quality of support provided to primary caregivers, which in turn are passed on to growth in the wellbeing of the OVC.

The study found that there is a direct relation between the quality of care and support provided to primary caregivers and maintaining healthy and quality care and support to the vulnerable child. As part of the child holistic care and nurture strategy, the study provided Biblical and theological precepts for caregivers, parents, and the faith community. This included instances and views from early church tradition, as well. The research used a case study method in which the data were collected using a mixed-method approach.

The quantitatively structured questionnaires measured the wellbeing of primary caregivers and ascertained issues that need to be given more attention. As a dependent variable, the condition of wellbeing depends on the status of different domains. The method is used as probing tool to move sequentially from the general investigation to the in-depth and specific study, which was set up through the qualitative tools. Through the qualitative means, multiple data collection methods such as focus group interviews, individual interviews, and informal individual interviews were carried out. These tools helped in investigating and discovering the underlying causes and effects of the caregivers' burden and sense of joy in relation to their caring and nurturing role towards the orphan and vulnerable child.

The research also looked into some other important themes affecting

the wellbeing condition of caregivers, such as relationships with supportive communities and worries for the future. These understanding and exploration of the study led to the identification of recommendations for the improvement of the care and support approach, which in turn would benefit the process of the OVC holistic care and support provided to the direct beneficiaries.

The study hoped to enable Food for the Hungry (FH) Ethiopia to identify the factors that directly affect the wellbeing of primary caregivers and indirectly the OVC through the exploration of the wellbeing domain score and through analyzing the burden and sense of joy that the OVC primary caregivers experience as they act out their role. Furthermore, the study recommended that the organization and the professionals need to develop a methodology and tools that can enable valid and sustainable intervention, which improves the wellbeing of the caregiver and enhances the holistic growth of the OVC as well as the effectiveness of the program and performance of the professional engaged as a strategy developer walking with the caregiver as social worker.

Villarosa, Eloisa P. "Second Language Acquisition Error Analysis on the Newsletter Writing of the Ninth Batch Frontier Missionary Trainees of the Paul Mission, Inc." M.A.R.E. thesis, Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary, 2018.

This study explored how second language acquisition (SLA) error analysis could help in the improvement of newsletter writing of the ninth batch Frontier Missionary Trainees (FMTs) of The Paul Mission, Inc. SLA error analysis is the analysis of errors in the second language writing of English learners. It was established by Stephen Pit Corder with other colleagues based on the assumption that second language errors are outcomes of first language and second language transfer. SLA error analysis is important for teachers, learners, and researchers because it shows the learners' progress that helps the teachers know what more to teach to the learners. It also helps the researchers understand more the dynamics of language learning and provides them evidence of how the language is acquired. The procedure that was used in this SLA error analysis were error identification, description, explanation, evaluation, discussion, and recommendation. Corder gave four categories of errors, namely: omission, selection, addition, and ordering.

This study tested the null hypothesis that the FMTs will not have significant improvement of 0.05 through the use of SLA error analysis and the designed treatment for their newsletter writing skills over the designated period of two months. The result rejected the null hypothesis on the basis that the FMTs as a group had an improvement of 0.61 or 6.1%. This study also explored several factors that influence the second language learning which could have contributed to the errors committed by the FMTs, namely, context of learning, interlingual transfer, and intralingual transfer.

In this research, second language acquisition error analysis was used to figure out the most frequent errors in the newsletter writing of the ninth batch Frontier Missionary Trainees of The Paul Mission, Inc. It was found that in their first writing, the most frequent errors committed were morphological selection, followed by syntactical omission. These most frequent errors were used to make a form-focused instruction (FFI) that served as a treatment designed for the particular need of the FMTs in improving their newsletter writing. Eight classes were spent by the researcher with the FMTs using the FFI, as well as a one-on-one meeting with each of them to explain the errors committed and how they could improve from committing those errors for a period of two months. Their writing in the second stage and their final writing were also analyzed. Comparing all three writings that were analyzed, the FMTs had a significant decline of errors in their writings. It was observed that the most committed errors were local errors and not global errors.

The researcher calculated the result of their writings by getting the z-score to test whether the FMTs passed the conventional critical value of $z=1.65$ that corresponds to the testing standard of 0.05. The result was that two of them did not advance, four of them experienced some improvement (but under the 1.65 critical value), and five of them advanced significantly. All of these findings were presented using a 1-tailed test standard normal curve. The FMTs' scores were also tested as a group and the result was that they had a significant improvement of 0.61, greater than the standard $\alpha=0.05$. Therefore, the conclusion of this study was that second language acquisition (SLA) error analysis with form-focused instruction (FFI) helped the FMTs to have a significant improvement in their English newsletter writing.

Yanchick, Sarah Kathleen. "Parental Involvement and Advocacy for Children with Special Needs: A Comparative Study of Three Schools Cross-Culturally." M.A.R.E. thesis, Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary, 2018.

This thesis entails a comparative study of parental involvement and parental advocacy for their children with special needs in three cross-cultural settings. The purpose of this study was to learn how parents of children with special needs get involved according to Joyce Epstein's Six Types of Parental Involvement and at what levels they were empowered to exhibit advocacy as shown through the Family Empowerment Scale (FES). Epstein's parenting types include: (a) Parenting, (b) Learning at Home, (c) Communicating, (d) Decision-Making, (e) Volunteering, and (f) Collaborating with Community.

This study also sought to discover if there was any significant statistical difference between the responses of three sets of parents in three cultural settings according to Joyce Epstein's Six Levels of Involvement using the Kruskal-Wallis Test (Non-parametric ANOVA). There was a total of 73 respondents, which consisted of mothers and fathers of students with special needs in three schools: Golden Faith Academy in Taytay, Rizal, Philippines; Mirada de Amor in Valparaiso, Chile; and Another Choice Virtual Charter School (ACVS) in Nampa, Idaho, U.S.A.

The study concluded that parents of children with special needs on average are often involved and feel empowered. In comparing the three respondent groups it was concluded that there was an identifiable statistical difference among the parental responses cross-culturally in the three special education school settings where the FES was administered concerning the parenting types (b) Learning at Home, (c) Communication, (e) Volunteering, and (f) Collaborating with Community, while there was no identifiable statistical difference among the responses in the categories of (a) Parenting, and (d) Decision-Making.