

Foreword from the President of NACFLA

It is with great joy, a deep sense of blessing, and immense gratitude that I welcome the first volume of the *Journal of Christianity and Foreign Languages (JCFL)*. I have great joy, because this is, to my knowledge, the first refereed journal dedicated to publishing research written from Christian perspectives on the teaching of modern foreign or second languages and on literature and culture studies germane to the field.

I feel a deep sense of blessing when I look back upon what has led up to this first issue of *JCFL*. In January of 1990, when I organized a week-long workshop on “Christian Perspectives in Foreign Language Education” with Earl Stevick as our main speaker, none of the twenty professors from the United States and Canada foresaw that within a decade we would have established our own academic journal. Under the visionary leadership of Claude-Marie Baldwin the *North American Christian Foreign Language Association (NACFLA)* was founded in 1991. That same association now sponsors and supports this *Journal of Christianity and Foreign Languages*. Since 1991, NACFLA, which numbers about 150 members, has held ten annual conferences and published their proceedings. (For more information please see the NACFLA website).

NACFLA has always maintained that one’s faith commitment shapes and directs one’s professional work. As Christians and faculty members in foreign language departments our calling is to find together creative, helpful and perceptive answers to this question: How can instruction in foreign language, literature and culture shape our students into educated followers of Christ and thoughtful agents of shalom in our world? I am confident that this journal will suggest stimulating answers to this question. I trust that *JCFL* will attract refreshing faith-based insights from diverse Christian traditions all over the globe. Moreover, I am convinced this journal offers an exciting forum for scholarly and

pedagogical exchange among faculty members both at Christian and secular institutions of higher learning. And I hope that through this journal our Christian voices will gain their place in national and international conversations in the field.

Finally, I am grateful for all the dedicated colleagues who have organized and hosted NACFLA's annual conferences and have served as officers for this organisation and, thereby, have welcomed and nurtured the vision for the journal. Special thanks goes to our editor Phyllis Mitchell for making the vision a reality by studying the feasibility of this venture and editing the inaugural issue.

Barbara Carvill
President of NACFLA
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