

## Letter from the Editor

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As I began to think of writing a "Letter from the Editor" for this inaugural issue of the *Journal of Christianity and Foreign Languages*," I was, I think, inevitably drawn to Cervantes' prologue to *Don Quijote*, which expresses so perfectly my own sentiments (with certain editorial changes):

"For I can tell you that, much toil though it cost me to "edit" (compose), I found none greater than the making of this "letter" (preface) you are now reading. Many times I took up "keyboard and mouse" (my pen) to write it, and many times I put "them" (it) down, not knowing what to say."(28)<sup>1</sup>

In addition, Cervantes' prologue led me to explore an editor's relationship with the journal. He, for example, remarks that he really isn't the father of the *Quijote*, but rather the step-father and for that reason the reader is "exempt and free from every respect and obligation; and so you can say anything you think fit about this story, without fear of being abused for a bad opinion, or rewarded for a good one." At first glance, I had thought that in like manner I should call myself the "step-mother" of *JCFL*, but on further consideration realized that I am more the midwife than the stepmother. That being the case, I feel free to beg, no matter how poorly the presentation and the compilation of this journal might be, that you give proper attention to the labor of the various authors who contributed to it and that you reward yourself and them by giving due thought to their offerings. Please remember, also, that though I like Cervantes may suffer from "inadequacy and scanty learning" and be "spiritless and lazy by nature," my personal shortcomings should in no way be attributed to the authors.

Furthermore, as a midwife, I can, without apology, tell you I like the look of the baby, but I am also free to wish for more: more contributions from French and German, more articles about culture and pedagogy, book and/or text reviews, and a greater number of submissions. At the same time, I am extremely grateful for all those who submitted manuscripts for consideration, and especially for the fact that they entrusted their excellent work to an unknown journal. And finally, without the referees who took the time to read and make suggestions concerning the manuscripts, *JCFL* would not have been possible.

As Barbara Carvill, in her "Letter from the President" remarked, as far as we know, no other journal, at least here in North America, seeks to provide a forum for exactly the same type of material as *JCFL*, that is, research in foreign languages and literatures undertaken from a Christian perspective. *JCFL*'s continued existence, growth and ultimate success will depend on each member of NACFLA's support and contributions. While I am the midwife who has seen *JCFL* into this world, each member of NACFLA is the true father and mother who have made my effort possible. Without you, none of this could have happened.

"And so, God give you health, and may He not forget me. Farewell"

Miguel de Cervantes

Phyllis Mitchell—(most presumptuously)

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<sup>1</sup> Miguel de Cervantes, *The Adventures of Don Quijote*, trans. J. M. Cohen (Middlesex, England: Penguin, 1950) 25-30.