

EDITORIAL

“The trouble with him was that he was without imagination. He was quick and alert in the things of life, but only in the things, and not in the significances” (London, 2008, pp. 3-4).

Jack London’s tale of a *cheechako*, or new-comer, to the Klondike Gold Rush was a story of survival. There was, as in all short stories, a moral. The failure of the man to recognize the *significances* of environmental elements, as well as his hasty responses to the problems he faced, resulted in his demise. The reader views the struggle and available options, and is aware of the gravity of the man’s situation. So, too, it is for the Christian sociologist viewing the problems facing society today. Political unrest, religious extremism, and the threats of disease appear to flood the news today. While those threats have always plagued humankind throughout history, it appears society is “...quick and alert in the things of life, but only in the things, and not in the significances.” For Christian sociologists, the task of recognizing and placing significance upon the *things of life* is an academic responsibility and calling of faith. The articles and essays in this edition are both timely and noteworthy, and direct the reader to take note of importance of what is happening in the society in which we live. It is, therefore, with pleasure the editors of the *Journal for the Sociological Integration of Religion and Society* present this edition.

David G. LoConto and Danielle Jones Pruett provide us with some valuable insights into the work of Charles A. Ellwood and his integration of Christianity with sociology. Exploring the social networks and official dispatches of U.S. Ministers in Korea from 1883 to 1905, Henry Kim explores the social structure that promoted Protestant missions U.S. diplomacy in Korea during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. James Ponzetti, Jr. investigates the rise of new monasticism, the movement’s roots, and how it fits in current Christian life. There are two essays in this edition. Dennis Hiebert offers a thought-provoking essay on the nature of the sacred in everyday life. Paul Serwinek asks us to consider the nature of freedom and personal life. To round off this edition, there is a fine review by D. Moberg.

Kenneth A. Schmidt
General Editor

WORKS CITED

London, J. (2008). *To build a fire*. Mankato, MN: Creative.