

Theology on the Web.org.uk

Making Biblical Scholarship Accessible

This document was supplied for free educational purposes. Unless it is in the public domain, it may not be sold for profit or hosted on a webserver without the permission of the copyright holder.

If you find it of help to you and would like to support the ministry of Theology on the Web, please consider using the links below:



Buy me a coffee

<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/theology>



PATREON

<https://patreon.com/theologyontheweb>

PayPal

<https://paypal.me/robbradshaw>

A table of contents for *Theological Students Fellowship (TSF) Bulletin (US)* can be found here:

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_tsfbulletin-us.php



BULLETIN

THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS FELLOWSHIP

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1983

Vol. 7, No. 2 \$2.50

Mark Lau Branson Editor

Thomas H. McAlpine Managing Editor

ADVISORY EDITORS

Clark H. Pinnock, McMaster Divinity College

Paul A. Mickey, Duke Divinity School

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Ray S. Anderson, *Systematic Theology*
Fuller Theological Seminary

Stephen T. Davis, *Philosophy*
Claremont McKenna College

Donald Dayton, *News Analysis*
Northern Baptist Theological Seminary

Roberta Hestenes, *Christian Formation*
Fuller Theological Seminary

Robert L. Hubbard, *Old Testament*
Denver Seminary

Stephen C. Mott, *Ethics*
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Grant R. Osborne, *New Testament*
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Donald Tinder, *Church History*
New College, Berkeley

David Lowes Watson, *Evangelism & Missions*
Perkins School of Theology

PERSPECTIVES EDITORS

George Cummings Chicago Theological Seminary

Luis Cortes Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Nancy A. Hardesty Atlanta, GA

Thomas F. Stransky Mt. Paul Novitiate

FACULTY CONTRIBUTORS

Bernard Adeney New College, Berkeley

Donald Bloesch University of Dubuque Theological Seminary

Geoffrey W. Bromiley Fuller Theological Seminary

Harvie M. Conn Westminster Theological Seminary

Charles Ellenbaum College of DuPage

Vernard Eller University of LaVerne

Elouise Renich Fraser Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary

David Gill New College, Berkeley

Larry Hurtado University of Manitoba

Susanne Johnson Perkins School of Theology

Richard Mouw Calvin College

Richard Lovelace Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

PHEME PERKINS Boston College

Bernard Ramm American Baptist Seminary of the West

Gerald Sheppard Union Theological Seminary

Charles R. Taber Emmanuel School of Religion

Keith Yandell University of Wisconsin

Gregory A. Youngchild New Haven, CT

Barr on Canon and Childs:

Can one read the Bible as Scripture?

Gerald T. Sheppard

2

“Evangelical”: Integral to Christian Identity?

An Exchange Between Donald Bloesch and Vernard Eller

5

Self-Esteem: The New Confusion

A Critical Assessment of Schuller’s “New Reformation”

David F. Wells

11

The Wholeness of Evangelism

A Bible Study Guide

Alfred C. Krass

13

Fasting: Twentieth Century Style

Richard J. Foster

14

Christian Witness in the City

Clinton E. Stockwell

17

Evangelical Historians

Richard J. Mouw

19

Book Reviews (Itemized on back cover)

20

Christian Witness in the City: An Annotated Bibliography

by Clinton E. Stockwell

I. The City: The Context of Urban Mission

A. Historical Development

Berg, Barbara J. *The Remembered Gate: Origins of American Feminism. The Woman and the City, 1800-1860* (Oxford, 1978). Berg's theme is that urban women suppressed their class identity to establish associations of benevolence for the city's poor and "deviant." The city provided a liberating effect on women who responded aggressively to the shared plight. Many of these "feminists" were also evangelicals.

Brownell, Blaine A. and Goldfield, David R. *The City in Southern History* (Kennikat, 1977). A seminal survey of Southern urban history documenting the growth and prospects of Southern cities. The South is not, and perhaps never was, a rural paradise.

Callow, Alexander B., Jr., ed. *American Urban History: An Interpretive Reader with Commentaries*. 3rd ed. (Oxford, 1982). This reader documents the history of the American city from colonial times to the present with a collection of insightful articles. The articles note the impact of boosterism, industrialism, immigration, boss politics and urban renewal on our cities. An excellent background resource.

Chudacoff, Howard P. *The Evolution of American Urban Society* (Prentice-Hall, 1981). Perhaps the best one-volume monograph on American urban history. Chudacoff has as a major theme America's historic treatment of the poor. The book is written from the standpoint of "social history," and notes the themes of "family, class, mobility, ethnicity and race" in his approach.

Franklin, John Hope. *From Slavery to Freedom* (Vintage, 1976). Still the best survey of the history of Black Americans by an eminent Black historian. Franklin notes the movement of Blacks from the cotton fields to the industrialized North, the impact of segregation and discrimination on the Black family structure.

Hammond, Mason. *The City in the Ancient World* (Harvard, 1972). Cities are not a recent invention. Hammond notes that the Sumerian civilization was urban. Remember "Ur of the Chaldees"? Also, Alexander's conquest represented the spread of urban Hellenistic civilization via the *Polis*. The author gives a good historical background for understanding the ancient city, the context of Paul's missionary journeys.

Miller, Zane L. *The Urbanization of Modern America: A Brief History* (Harcourt Brace Janovich, 1973). A good short history on American urbanization. Miller effectively utilizes city plans, old photographs and cartoons that assist in giving the reader a visual grasp of American urban development.

Mowry, George E. and Brownell, Blaine A. *The Urban Nation, 1920-1980* (Hill and Wang, 1981). This is one of several volumes in the "Making of America" series. The authors note the impact of FDR's administration, the civil rights revolution, the urban crisis of the late 1960's, etc. The authors note the cultural and societal transformation resulting from challenges to social organization, urban policy, and the depletion of natural resources.

Mumford, Lewis. *The City in History: Its Origins, Its Transformations and Its Prospects* (Harcourt, Brace & World, 1961). Mumford's works are lucid and encyclopedic. This 575-page work is still the best one-volume survey of urban history. Mumford was Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Pennsylvania. His many works, including *The Culture of Cities*, emphasize the human and cultural aspects of city planning.

Rabinowitz, Howard N. *Race Relations in the Urban South, 1865-1890* (U. of Illinois, 1980). Rabinowitz documents what happened to the Black Americans of Southern plantations after the emancipation proclamation. He cites their activities in the urban South, in Richmond, etc.; political discrimination, gerrymandering, and the effect on the Black community. Most significant is the chapter, "More Than Relation: The Urban Church." Rabinowitz shows why the Black church became the most important social and economic institution in their separate society.

Scott, Mel. *American City Planning, Since 1890* (U. of Calif., 1969). The standard history of planning in American history. Scott traces the history of city planning from the reform movements of the 1890s, the "city beautiful" movement, through the erection of utopian "greenbelt" towns and the evolution of urban policy via urban renewal and "model cities."

Sjoberg, Gideon. *The Preindustrial City: Past and Present* (Free Press, 1960). Though primarily a sociology book, Sjoberg's analysis of the preindustrial city, prior to the industrial revolution, is a modern classic. Sjoberg treats the historical beginnings of cities, then looks at the city through the vehicles of social institutions including the economic, political and religious structures.

Perry, David C. and Watkins, Alfred J. *The Rise of the Sunbelt Cities* (Sage, 1977). Sage is perhaps the most prolific publisher of materials on urban affairs. This

book is a collection of articles by government, economic, planning and public policy professors. The contributors analyze the phenomenon of the transfer of economic and political power to the cities of the sunbelt. The authors point out the problems in the shift to the sunbelt including urban sprawl, a lack of sufficient planning, pressures on city services, consequences for the snow belt, and persistent underdevelopment or subemployment as cheap labor for the unskilled. The editors' warning at the end of their article is worthy of reprint here. "Unless we . . . consider the American city first and foremost as a center for people rather than for profit, then the traditional definitions of the 'rise' and 'decline' of American cities will become meaningless measures of American development for more than simply the urban poor" (p. 304).

Warner, Sam Bass. *The Urban Wilderness: A History of the American City* (Harper & Row, 1972). A well-written one-volume history arranged thematically. Warner notes the effects of governmental and private institutions on the nature of the city. He is particularly conversant with the effects of city planning.

B. Politics and Economics

Bailey, Jr., Robert. *Radicals in Urban Politics: The Alinsky Approach* (U. of Chicago, 1974). Bailey documents the theory and practice of Saul Alinsky's methods of community organizing in Chicago. Alinsky's successes give hope for the future of political involvement from a grassroots perspective.

Bowden, Charles and Kreinberg, Lew. *Street Signs Chicago: Neighborhood and Other Illusions of Big-City Life* (Chicago Review Press, 1981). This book is not just about Chicago or about street signs. It is about "power" in the city and its effects on city neighborhoods. Filled with anecdotes and stories, the authors argue that cities have never been about neighborhoods or community. Rather the image of neighborhood is needed to move us to a more viable city.

Caro, Robert A. *The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York* (Vintage, 1974). Robert Moses' political life spanned almost sixty years. He was the greatest builder the world has ever seen; bridges, parks, public housing, etc. Caro documents the incredible costs of such activity to people, neighborhoods, environment, and to one of the world's great cities.

Fainstein, Norman I. and Fainstein, Susan S., eds. *Urban Policy Under Capitalism* (Sage, 1982). A significant collection of articles on the nature of urban policy in capitalist societies.

Freiden, Bernard J. and Kaplan, Marshall. *The Politics of Neglect: Urban Aid from Model Cities to Revenue Sharing* (MIT, 1975). The authors categorize the effect of federal urban policy as basically the neglect of cities. The authors argue that there has not been a coordinated effort at formulating or implementing a coherent urban policy, that citizen participation has been frustrated rather than encouraged, that the federal government has had little positive influence on the welfare of cities.

Gappert, Gary and Knight, Richard V. *Cities in the Twentieth Century* (Sage, 1982). This collection discusses the future of cities in the light of present demographic trends, technological innovation and public policy. Chapters include "Seven Scenarios of Urban Change," and "The Future of Urban Neighborhoods."

Gartner, Alan; Greer, Colin; and Riessman, Frank. *What Reagan Is Doing To Us* (Harper & Row, 1982). Seventeen experts discuss the impact of Reaganomics on society, including health care, housing, neighborhoods and foreign policy. The conclusion is uniformly critical. The experts expect continued "high unemployment, greater inequalities, ineffective economic policies, reduction in social programs," and "dangerous tension" in foreign relations.

Gelfand, Mark I. *A Nation of Cities: The Federal Government and Urban America, 1933-1965* (Oxford, 1975). Gelfand traces the discovery of the "urban crisis" and the prescriptions for urban ills by the federal government since the early years of the great depression. The author notes the impact of New Deal, urban renewal, and Great Society programs on the cities. The author characterizes those efforts as largely "futile," but hopes that a more viable federal-city partnership will emerge.

Gilder, George. *Wealth and Poverty* (Basic Books, 1981). This is still the "Bible of Reaganomics" emphasizing what amounts to a "trickle-down," "supply-side" economic theory. Gilder calls for a growth-oriented economy characterized by values of faith, risk-taking, and freedom. For Gilder, a viable economy is best achieved with fewer taxes and less governmental interference.

Goodman, Robert. *After the Planners* (Simon & Schuster, 1971). Goodman believes that traditional architects and planners are oppressive. He opts for "guerilla architecture," housing built by the people for the people, liberated and built on a human scale.

Jacobs, Jane. *The Death and Life of the Great American Cities* (Vintage, 1961). Jacobs argues that the promise and vitality of the cities are in the diversity and community of the neighborhoods. To destroy the neighborhood is to destroy the city, she concludes.

- Katznelson, Ira. *City Trenches: Urban Politics and the Patterning of Class in the United States* (Pantheon, 1981). The author holds that government has emerged as a reaction to potentially and actually fomenting working classes. Politics has emerged as a class struggle, the upper classes entrenched against the encroachment of the working class. Local organizations have emerged in protest as a class phenomenon, though diffused in the 1960s and 1970s by institutions (i.e., little city halls) created by the "entrenched" upper classes.
- Lekachman, Robert. *Greed Is Not Enough: Reaganomics* (Pantheon, 1982). Lekachman vigorously critiques Reaganomics on the grounds that it has favored the rich, but is yet to trickle down to the rest of us.
- Novak, Michael. *The Spirit of Democratic Capitalism* (Simon & Schuster, 1982). If Gilder's *Wealth & Poverty* is the "Bible" of Reaganomics, this is the "Systematic Theology." Novak argues that democratic capitalism is not only a superior economic theory, but "Christian" in roots and focus. For Novak, democratic capitalism's greatest feature is "liberty." If other nations have failed to achieve America's wealth, it's "their fault" for not prescribing liberty. For Novak, such freedom and belief in the goodness of human beings (and corporations?) stems from the belief "In God We Trust." Novak likes capitalism because it agrees with his theory, or vice-versa.
- Pasquariello, Ronald D.; Shriver, Donald W., Jr.; and Geyer, Alan. *Redeeming the City: Theology, Politics and Urban Policy* (Pilgrim, 1982). This book first articulates a biblical vision of "shalom" (well-being), applying it to the city and urban ministry. The authors then proceed to critique urban policy under Carter and Reagan, suggesting new alternatives for urban public policy. The authors argue that the churches have an important role in shaping urban policy.
- Piven, Frances Fox and Cloward, Richard A. *Regulating the Poor: The Functions of Public Welfare* (Random House, 1971). The theme of this book has to do with government regulated social control. For the authors, it has been desirable by those in power to keep a certain amount of cheap labor around, insuring a manufacturers' market. To prevent social chaos, the welfare system was invented. The result is that the poor have been regulated, kept on ice until industry needs them, kept at bay by the welfare system to maintain social stability.
- Schumacher, E. F. *Small Is Beautiful: Economics As If People Mattered* (Harper & Row, 1973). Within an economic system that stresses profit, growth, and production, Schumacher offers an alternative that values the welfare of people, that recognizes that resources are scarce, that there is a limit to "growth."
- Warren, Rachelle B. and Warren, Donald I. *The Neighborhood Organizer's Handbook* (U. of Notre Dame, 1977). The authors greatly assist those involved in local ministry by helping define a neighborhood, identify leaders and resources, and pointing out ways for persons to become more aware of and involved in their community. Key chapters include "The Neighborhood Bridging Role" and "How to Diagnose a Neighborhood." We could rename these chapters "Networking" and "Neighborhood Mapping" strategies for involvement. The implications for evangelization in an urban context are obvious.
- C. Sociology**
- Banfield, Edward C. *The Unheavenly City: Revisited* (Little, Brown, 1974). Banfield's work is essentially a sociology of social problems. However, he argues that things aren't really that bad in the city. Slow learners should be taken out of school; the poor "enjoy" being poor because that is their culture. A most stimulating chapter is perhaps the author's chapter on time. For Banfield, the poor don't save money; they are not thrifty because they have a different concept of time as more temporal and "present oriented." This work should be read in parallel to Ryan's work described below.
- Berger, Alan S. *The City: Urban Communities and Their Problems* (William C. Brown, 1978). Cities are processes, communities of people, not static, unchanging places. For Berger, cities have problems when the sense of "community" breaks down. Every effort, therefore, should be made to improve community life if cities are to remain viable.
- Blackwell, James E. *The Black Community: Diversity and Unity* (Harper & Row, 1975). An excellent sociology text on the nature of the Black Community. Blackwell argues that while Blacks have many things in common, their community is anything but monolithic.
- Burgess, Ernest W. and Bogue, Donald J., eds. *Urban Society* (U. of Chicago, 1967). Contains some seminal articles from the "Chicago School" of sociology.
- Egan, Gerard and Cowan, Michael A. *People in Systems: A Model for Development in the Human-Service Professions and Education* (Brooks/Cole, 1979). Cities are comprised of people who interface with various social systems. Egan and Cowan argue that interpersonal skills are needed to act favorably within the context of people-systems. In effect, people-systems have the potential of becoming viable communities of interpersonal relationships, not just impersonal institutions.
- Fischer, Claude S. *To Dwell Among Friends: Personal Networks in Town and City* (U. of Chicago, 1982). Fischer is a noted sociologist and the author of *The Urban Experiment*. He argues that there are personal networks in towns and cities; that urban life is not necessarily detrimental to health, community, ethnicity, or even religious faith. In fact, he concludes that urban life "supports rather than weakens" these networks.
- Frazier, E. Franklin. *The Negro Church in America* (Schocken Books, 1963). A classic essay by an eminent Black sociologist.
- Freire, Paulo. *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* (Continuum, 1981). Though written with education in mind, this book has had a profound effect on the direction of mission and theology. Freire argues for "empowerment," for conscientization, for the right of the poor to name their own worlds. A contextualized-indigenous approach to mission has prospered greatly as the result of Freire's "mission in reverse" methodology.
- Gans, Herbert. *The Urban Villagers: Group and Class in the Life of Italian-Americans* (MacMillan, 1962). This study documents the life of an "Italian Ghetto" in the west end of Boston just prior to urban renewal. Particularly helpful is the chapter "The Caretakers" for how not to do urban ministry.
- Helmer, John and Eddington, Neil A. *Urbanman: The Psychology of Urban Survival* (MacMillan, 1973). An interesting collection of articles documenting the effect of city life on human behavior. The book documents urbanman's ability to cope in an urban environment.
- Kochman, Thomas, ed. *Rappin' and Stylin' Out: Communication In Urban Black America* (U. of Illinois, 1972). Cities are places of divergent cultures that use very different communication styles. This book illuminates the unique communication style employed by urban black Americans. Skills in cross-cultural communication greatly facilitate ministry in black communities. See also the author's *Black and White Styles in Conflict* (1982).
- Palen, J. John. *The Urban World*. 2nd ed. (McGraw-Hill, 1981). A good recent urban sociology text with excellent bibliography and statistics. Palen surveys the history of the city, profiles recent immigrants in the city, and documents the incredible rate of urbanization with concomitant problems in Third World cities.
- Riis, Jacob. *How the Other Half Lives* (Hill & Wang, 1957). Riis was one of the more famous of the progressives and reformers of the 19th and early 20th centuries. He describes the plight of newly arrived immigrants in New York's overcrowded tenements. In addition to illuminating the economic and social problems connected with tenements, Riis helped encourage legislation and reform for housing in the city.
- Ryan, William. *Blaming the Victim* (Random House/Vintage, 1976). Ryan is a psychologist and argues in this book that poor communities, especially minority communities, are victims of oppressive social institutions rather than causes of their own plight. His initial discussion on how and why affluent persons "blame the victim" is upsetting, but true. Ryan deserves careful attention to counter-balance the prophets of the New Right like Giler and Novak.
- Schiller, John A. ed. *The American Poor* (Augsburg, 1982). One of the few books that seeks to handle sociological realities from a Christian perspective. This book seeks to analyze the nature of poverty in the United States, its causes, economic structures, policy reactions, biblical perspectives, and effects on individuals and families.
- Sinclair, Upton. *The Jungle* (New American Library Reprint, 1960). A novel that did much to unmask the horrors of factory life at the beginning of the 20th century in Chicago. *The Jungle*, first published in 1906, stirred up the concern of the public, and forced a series of government investigations that led to legislation for healthier food processing methods.
- Suttles, Gerald. *The Social Order of the Slum* (U. of Chicago, 1968). An investigation of the identity and lifestyle of four ethnic groups in the West Side Addams area of Chicago. Suttles describes the significance of ethnicity and "turf" among Italian, Black, Puerto Rican, and Mexican Americans in a Chicago neighborhood.
- Thompson, Daniel C. *Sociology of the Black Experience* (Greenwood, 1974). Thompson, an eminent Black sociologist, describes well the experience of Black Americans in the ghetto, with a separate chapter on the Black Middle Class. Thompson argues that the Black community is an integral part of the whole community.
- Wiseman, Jacqueline P. *Stations of the Lost: The Treatment of Skid Row Alcoholics* (Prentice-Hall, 1970). An indispensable work for persons interested in working in "rescue missions." Wiseman documents well perspectives of skid row, attempts to police and control the area, and attempts to rehabilitate skid row individuals, including "spiritual salvation," and the "prodigal-son syndrome," of returning to society.
- Zorbaugh, Harvey Warren. *The Gold Coast and the Slum* (U. of Chicago, 1929). A still useful history and portrayal of Chicago's diverse Near North Side community area. The area historically has appealed to drifters, artists, developers, immigrants, the rich and poor. This book is useful in seeing how a "neighborhood" can change and go through "transition" with consequences in just a few years. Zorbaugh believed that the Gold Coast would eventually bail out the slum-dwellers, a "hope" that has yet to achieve reality.
- D. Ethnic America: The People of the City.**
- Dolan, Jay P. *The Immigrant Church: New York's Irish and German Catholics, 1815-1865* (Johns Hopkins, 1975). America is a nation of immigrants, and Northern cities were built largely by immigrants, especially Roman Catholics. Religion was a unifying force in many urban communities.
- Glazer, Nathan and Moynihan, Daniel Patrick. *Beyond The Melting Pot: The Negroes, Puerto Ricans, Jews, Italians, and Irish of New York City* (MIT, 1963). The "melting pot" theory in the cities does not describe well what happened. The immigrants who came sought their own people in distinct neighborhoods.
- Handlin, Oscar. *Boston's Immigrants, 1790-1880* (Atheneum, 1972). Boston was a city of immigrants, especially the Irish. This book documents the arrival and adjustment in the New England city.
- _____. *The Uprooted* (Little, Brown & Co., 1951). Handlin documents in this "classic" the experience of immigrants as they came to a new country.

- ingham, John. *Strangers in the Land: Patterns of American Nativism, 1860-1925* (Atheneum, 1971). The second wave of immigrants, the "new immigrants," were not like the first wave of German, Irish, and Anglo-Saxons. They were Catholics from Southern and Eastern Europe, Slavs, Italians, Jews and Poles. Americans reacted strongly, appealing to nativist doctrines bolstered by racism. This book documents the reaction and restrictive immigration laws by "native" Americans.
- Howe, Irving. *The World Of Our Fathers: The Journey of the East European Jews to America* (Bantam, 1976). The East European Jews came to this country at the turn of the century fleeing persecution and poverty. This group came to New York City attracted to social radicalism. Howe documents their assimilation into American culture.
- Jones, Peter d'A. and Holli, Melvin G. *Ethnic Chicago* (Eerdmans, 1983). This new edition combines the finest articles from two previous books. The work contains articles profiling Mexican, Polish, Black, Italian, Jewish, Japanese and other ethnic Chicagoans.
- Killer, Randall M. and Marzik, Thomas D. *Immigrants and Religion in Urban America* (Temple U., 1977). The authors note the interrelationship between religion and ethnicity in America.
- Novak, Michael. *The Rise of the Unmeltable Ethnics* (MacMillan, 1971). Novak, too, rejects the "melting pot" myth, noting how the ethnics used and are using the political system to insure their own identity.
- Olson, James Stuart. *The Ethnic Dimension In American History* (St. Martin's, 1979). Possibly the best (440 pages) overall history of ethnic America. Good bibliography after each chapter.
- Shanabruch, Charles. *Chicago's Catholics: The Evolution of An American Identity* (U. of Notre Dame, 1981). Shanabruch traces the history of the Catholic Church in the nation's largest Archdiocese. Key issues include the church's struggle with nativism and strategies of assimilation and homogeneity by church officials.
- Sowell, Thomas. *Ethnic America* (Basic, 1981). This book has recently appeared in paperback. It is a good historical, sociological and statistical portrayal of ethnic Americans including Irish, Black, Chinese and Mexican Americans.
- Spear, Allan H. *Black Chicago: The Making of a Negro Ghetto, 1890-1920* (U. of Chicago, 1967). Spear documents the development of the Black belt, a separate city, on Chicago's South and West sides. Due to racial discrimination, Blacks were forced to develop their own institutions.

Evangelical Historians

by Richard J. Mouw

The newly formed Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals got off to a fine start recently with a three-day conference at the Billy Graham Center in Wheaton. Since the conference topic was "Evangelical Christianity and Modern America, 1930-1980," it is not surprising that the gathering was dominated by historians. And they made an impressive showing. I came away with the clear sense that the kind of work and scholarly exchange taking place in the community of evangelical historians is an exciting feature of the contemporary evangelical scene.

To be sure, this was not an exclusively evangelical gathering. While most of the major presentations were by professing evangelicals, other perspectives were well represented among the respondents. And the registrants at the conference came from a broad spectrum of religious groups—from Roman Catholicism to Mormonism. The evangelicals seemed quite content to engage in open dialogue. I detected no evangelical defensiveness in the give-and-take of scholarly discussion. Indeed, the nonevangelicals at the conference were complimentary about the level of evangelical historical scholarship, while the evangelicals showed a willingness to be critical of their own traditions.

In one sense this event is only one part of a much larger evangelical scholarly resurgence. In my own academic field of philosophy, evangelicals are also making significant gains. A few years ago conservative Protestant philosophers joined with some Roman Catholics to form the Society of Christian Philosophers, which sponsors well-attended philosophical discussions at regional meetings of the American Philosophical Association. Similar evangelical groups have formed in other academic areas—the natural sciences, political science, sociology, and literature and the arts. In a variety of disciplines evangelical scholars have been quietly moving beyond the evangelical ghetto.

But the evangelical historians are especially notable. For one thing, they are engaging in a full-scale critical assessment of the North American evangelical tradition. The range of topics at the Billy Graham conference was striking: youth organizations, the role of

women, political involvement, Southern religion, science, the arts, Bible translations.

The evangelical historians are taking on many topics, and they are extremely industrious in pursuing their work. George Marsden, the keynote speaker at Wheaton, has obviously inspired self-confidence in his comrades with his widely acclaimed book *Fundamentalism and American Culture* (Oxford, 1980). Wheaton College's Mark Noll and Notre Dame's Nathan Hatch, the organizers of the conference and the co-directors of the Institute, are planning interesting projects and producing important materials at a brisk pace.

In short, good things are happening among the evangelical historians. Readers of this magazine should be aware of this fact, and they should take advantage of the results. Before I attended the Wheaton conference, I read George Marsden's book again, for the third time. It was well worth the rereading. Every *TSF Bulletin* subscriber should read it at least once. And then he or she ought to go on to read books and articles by Hatch and Noll and Wacker and Pierard and others. We have much to learn from the evangelical study of evangelical history.

But there is, I suggest, another lesson to be learned from all of this. I have a hunch that many of my evangelical friends in academic philosophy are people who really wanted to be theologians, but were frightened off from academic theology because of the ways in which evangelical groups treat their theologians. If a person wants to pursue theological issues in the evangelical community, it is safer to do it in a field other than theology proper.

I suspect that something like this has also been drawing evangelical scholars to historical studies in recent years. It is at least obvious that many evangelical historians would have made fine theologians. This is not to say that what they are doing is really theology in disguise. But they are offering us a self-critical evangelical perspective—stressing both the positive and negative in their appraisal of conservative Protestantism—which is of profound importance for an understanding of the North American evangelical experience. They are doing their homework, and they are doing it well. They deserve our gratitude and our support.

Richard J. Mouw is Professor of Philosophy at Calvin College. This report appeared in The Reformed Journal, May 1983, and is reprinted by permission.

The ISAE begin printing a newsletter this November, is planning a number of conferences, and developing a data bank. Inquiries may be addressed to Joel Carpenter, Administrator, ISAE, Billy Graham Center, Wheaton, IL 60187.