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EDITORIAL

I sense, as others have before me, the privilege in taking up editorial duties for *SBET*. My immediate predecessors were Alistair I. Wilson and, before him, Alasdair I. Macleod. The change in name with this transition is somewhat more marked! I trust that the goals and standards maintained through their editorships will be observed through my tenure as well. A special word of thanks, too, for Alistair Wilson's assistance during this transition, and for continuing in the role longer than he may have wished!

When Alasdair Macleod took up the role in 2003, he articulated his aspirations for the *Bulletin* under five headings. He looked for it to provide theological resources which were *personal*, issuing from a commitment to Christ and his church; *canonical*, arising from a deep engagement with Scripture; *evangelical*, articulating the gospel; *communal*, participating in fellowship across time and space; and *pastoral*, contributing to growth in discipleship. Such a framework is as timely now, entering the 'teens' of the century, as it was in 2003.

Although over my years in Edinburgh I have been aware of the work of Rutherford House and the Scottish Evangelical Theology Society, it took being engaged in a delightful detective case by my late and still lamented colleague, David Wright, to be drawn more closely into their orbit.¹ For me as the new editor of the *Bulletin*, that is a significant marker. There are many journals which cater for academic theology, but few which attempt the difficult exercise of being directed *both* to the church *and* to the academy. David's work here is exemplary: fine and careful scholarship was no end in itself. Rather, it had both its origin and goal in the life of faith.

While there may be some minor cosmetic changes in the *Bulletin*, I trust that the commitment to providing theological resources which serve the church will not change. Looking over tables of contents from past issues, I am struck by how many articles issued from the manse or other ministry setting, rather than from academic offices. Long may it continue.

To coincide with this editorial hand-over, the Society, one of the partners in the *Bulletin's* production, has mounted a new website. Those interested will find the new site at the old URL (www.s-e-t-s.org.uk). While still much remains to be added, the structure is in place for growth. There

¹ This was David's preparation for his Finlayson Lecture, which appeared as 'The Great Commission and the Ministry of the Word: Reflections Historical and Contemporary on Relations and Priorities (Finlayson Memorial Lecture, 2007)', *SBET* 25/2 (2007), 132–57.

are already resources available for those interested in contributing to the *Bulletin*. Meanwhile, Rutherford House continues to provide the infrastructure and practical support for the running of the Bulletin. This is an opportune moment to thank both its director, Dr Jason Curtis, and administrator, Carmela Batluck, for their abundant assistance as I embark on this venture. On the side of the Society, Dr Fergus Macdonald's characteristic encouragement has been greatly appreciated. I am grateful, too, to *SBET*'s energetic Review Editor, James Merrick, for his significant contributions, not limited to the book reviews.

IN THIS NUMBER

On the side of biblical theology, by way of 'introduction' I offer an essay of my own on the relationship of 'diaspora' to the language of 'exile' in the Old Testament. Glen Shellrude, Associate Professor of New Testament at the Alliance Theological Seminary in Nyack, New York, re-examines Paul's language of 'imputation'.

As I write, I am only a few hundred meters from 'Moffat Cottage' in Inverkeithing, Fife. It was the home of Robert Moffat's parents; I imagine precious letters making their way here, telling of the progress of the mission in southern Africa. Bruce Ritchie, minister of Dingwall Castle Street Church of Scotland, brings into perspective Moffat's views on the dignity of all people against some currents of his day.

Dane Ortlund (Wheaton) and Jason Sexton (St Andrews) both contribute work from their on-going doctoral research, the former sketching lines of intersection between Bavinck and Berkouwer, the latter tracing the intersection of Stanley Grenz with British theologians.

Our final article concerns the Christian life and contemporary culture, as Richard Mouw (President of Fuller Theological Seminary) re-considers the continuing impact of H. Richard Niebuhr.

David Reimer