

## Editorial

This journal is devoted to a plethora of current issues in Southern Baptist life—the emerging church, alcohol consumption, the extent of Christ’s death, questions on Baptist roots, and others.

Toby Frost, Senior Director of Strategic Evangelism for the Southern Baptist Convention’s North American Mission Board, provides an article which gives a broad snapshot of the emerging church phenomenon which many say is having an impact upon Christianity. Frost’s work is based on a study of the Emergent Church launched by NAMB in July 2006 and includes interviews with three men who are central in the discussion of this subject.

Mark DeVine, Associate Professor of Theology at MBTS, furnishes another article on the emerging church phenomenon. He focuses on two efforts to comprehend the movement and discusses its relationship with and implications for Southern Baptists.

Phil Roberts, President of MBTS, contributes a brief article on alcohol consumption in antiquity to determine whether Jesus would drink alcoholic beverages in the present day. Roberts writes this essay because the 2006 SBC annual meeting included debate which took place on the rightness of drinking alcohol. Fueling the issue was a resolution passed by messengers opposing it. The resolution contained an attached amendment disqualifying imbibers from appointment as agency or entity trustees.

Rodney Harrison, Vice-President of Institutional Effectiveness at MBTS, seeks to find and validate source documents cited in J. M. Carroll’s, *The Trail of Blood*. Landmarkism is said to be on the increase amongst Southern Baptists, and Harrison’s concern is what kind of an impact Carroll’s booklet may be having on church planting across North America.

I have written a brief article providing an answer to the age-old theological question: “For whom did Christ die?” Did Jesus die only for believers or for all of humanity? This matter was also discussed at the 2006 SBC annual meeting to some degree by Paige Patterson and Al Mohler. This article is my contribution to the discussion.

This issue is also my last one as journal editor. I have enjoyed serving you, as does Midwestern’s entire faculty. If you would like to have one of us speak in your church, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Terry L. Wilder, Editor