

EDITORIAL:

Welcome to the Spring 2015 issue of the *Midwestern Journal of Theology*. In this, the first of two issues examining the theme of Preachers and Preaching, we will seek to remember, reflect and learn lessons from some of the many commemorations and anniversaries in Christian history that 2015 will celebrate. To that end, we are introducing a new section in this issue, which will seek to gather reflections and comments from various scholars on related themes. Again, I would like to put on record my sincere thanks to all who have given so sacrificially of their time and talents to produce this Journal.

We begin this issue with a very interesting piece from Brian Albert, who reveals in detail, the discovery and significance of the discovery of one of Charles Spurgeon's sources for his monumental *The Treasury of David*. This is followed by *Midwestern's* own Robin Hadaway's very helpful and practical encouragement and challenge to be as sensitive as possible, in our attempts at cross-cultural mission. We are then honored to have the first of two 'outside' contributions. The first consisting of a very timely challenge from Steven Smith, Vice President for Student Services and Communications at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, on seeking recapture God's voice when we preach, thereby preaching God's Word in God's way! Smith's Article is adapted from his forthcoming monograph, *Recapturing the Voice of God, Sermons Shaped like Scripture* (Nashville: B&H Academic, 2015), and from papers presented at the annual meetings of the 2013 Evangelical Homiletics Society and the 2014 Evangelical Theological Society respectively.

It is at this point in the journal that we include the first of what is hoped to be a regular feature, a forum of reflections and comments from a variety of scholars on issues relevant to the theme of the journal. Having mentioned already that 2015 is a year of many commemorations, Drs. Finn and George are asked to reflect on those that are of particular interest to them. The present editor also reflects on the life and ministry of Jan Hus. Our second 'outside' article that we are honored to publish is from the pen of Greg Scharf, and was a so-winner of the Wilhite Award of the Evangelical Homiletics Society. Scharf is currently both a Professor of Pastoral Theology and the Chair of the Pastoral Theology Department at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He too has a very timely challenge, that of the nature, history and use (or maybe lack of use) of what he terms, the 'Pulpit Rebuke'. We conclude the Article section with a piece

from the editor, examining the journaling and reading habits of the British Baptist, Andrew Fuller. 2015 is the bicentennial anniversary of Fuller's death and for that reason, he figures earlier in the Reflective Forum section.

As always, the issue concludes with a number of relevant and thought provoking scholarly book reviews.