REFORMATION & REVIVAL JOURNAL

A Quarterly Journal for Church Renewal
Published by Reformation & Revival Ministries, Inc.
P.O. Box 88216, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188-0216
(630) 221-1817

Editor-in-Chief:
John H. Armstrong

Associate Editors:
Joel Beeke
Robert Benne
Donald G. Bloesch
David Bryant
Elmer M. Colyer
Susan Cyre
Gabriel Fackre
John Franke
Don Garlington
Timothy F. George
Michael A. G. Haykin
I. John Hesselink
John Mason Hodges
Alan F. Johnson
Reggie M. Kidd
Nelson D. Kloosterman
Robert Kolb
Erwin W. Lutzer

Contributing Editors:
Bassam Madany
Gerald R. McDermott
Andrew T. B. McGowan
Charles H. McGowen
David P. Mills
Peter Moore
Thomas C. Oden
Kevin Offner
James I. Packer
Rebecca Pippert
Tom Schwanda
H. E. Singley
C. Samuel Storms
Travis Tamerius
Robert E. Webber
Tom Wells
Luder Whitlock
Monte Wilson
Terry Yount

Reformation & Revival Journal (ISSN 1071-7277), (U.S.P.S. 011-791), is published quarterly, for $28 per year, or $48 for two years, by Reformation & Revival Ministries, Inc., 630 Paxton Place, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188-9244. Second-class postage has been paid at Carol Stream, Illinois, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Reformation & Revival Journal, P.O. Box 88216, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188-0216.


Reformation & Revival Journal is published four times each year by Reformation & Revival Ministries, Inc., a not-for-profit teaching ministry organized in the state of Illinois in 1991. The ministry is committed to the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the infallible Word of God and is in essential agreement with the confessional statements of historic Reformation theology. The purpose of this ministry is centered in its name:

1. To encourage reformation in local Christian churches worldwide.
2. To promote the cause of revival and spiritual awakening through prayer and the provision of resources to aid Christian leaders.

Subscription rates are $28 for one year, $48 for two years. Special full-time student rate is $18 for one year. Please remit in U.S. currency only. For overseas orders add $4 for each year for postage. Canadian subscribers add $2 per year for additional postage. Back issues and single issues are $10 each. To order in other currencies contact the names below:

Australian subscriptions available through:
Reformation & Revival Ministries (Australia)
c/o Michael Bouchard
110 Marshall Road
Rocklea, Qld. 4106

United Kingdom subscriptions available through:
Reformation & Revival Ministries (UK)
c/o Tony Ruston
2 Caxton House, Wellesley Road
Ashford, Kent TN24 8ET, England • Phone: 01-233-66262

Correspondence concerning articles, editorial policy, books for review, suggested manuscripts, and subscriptions should be addressed to the editor. Comments are welcome.

The conviction of the staff and editors of the Reformation & Revival Journal is that awakening, of the kind seen in the First Great Awakening in America, wedded to the doctrinal concerns of the historic Protestant Reformation as expressed in the terms sola scriptura, sola gratia, and sola fide, is needed in our generation.

The views expressed in this publication should be considered as the personal opinions of the authors and are not to be taken as an official editorial perspective.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDITORIAL

Introduction
The Emergent Church: Invention or Innovation?
John H. Armstrong 7

FEATURES & VIEWS

Modernity as a Barrier to Belief
S. Michael Craven 13

The "Hall of Shame" and the Tears of God
David Bush 25

The Imago Dei as Rebuttal to Homosexual Advocacy
Susan Hammond 29

When Art Is a Mirror
Monte E. Wilson 35

Is "Sola Scriptura" Self-Referentially Incoherent?
Steve West 43

The Legacy of Lesslie Newbigin Today
Michael W. Goheen 49

Doing Your Own Thing: The Evangelical Weakness
Luder G. Whitlock 65

ENGAGING EMERGENT VOICES

A Generous Orthodoxy or the Garden Path?
Thomas N. Smith 87

The Road to Generous Orthodoxy
John M. Frame 97

Charting a New Way for Orthodoxy?
Elmer M. Colyer 107

Seeking to Do One Thing Well: A Response to
Three Helpful Reviews
Brian McLaren 121

Women in the Emerging Church
Lauran A. Kerr 141

Sage Preaching for Postmodern Contexts
Zachary Eswine 163

MINISTRY RESOURCES

Book Reviews
The Radical Reformission
The Logic of Renewal
Preaching to a Shifting Culture
Exploring the Worship Spectrum
Dialogue and Drama
Frodo & Harry 175

Book Briefs
Final Thoughts
John H. Armstrong 205

221
A leading voice for church renewal has rightly noted, in a popular multi-authored book which addresses the church in modern culture, that there is a considerable difference between invention and innovation. Evangelicals seem to rarely display an awareness of this important difference. A great deal of good would come from gaining such awareness.

Invention comes from the Latin word *inventus*, which means that you start from scratch, thus you discover, or invent, something entirely new. Innovation, on the other hand, comes from the root word *nova*. It is now used popularly in astronomy to describe a great heavenly star that is made new again. Innovation means that you take something that is old and make it fresh or new. Innovation takes something that you already have and then combines it with what is fresh and thus brings about reformation. In a very real sense the reformer always goes back, but only so that he can go forward.

Leonard Sweet has noted, "there is something about going back that makes you go forward. The history of Christianity is filled with 'reformers' who sought only to purify what existed, and they ended up propelling Christianity forward at blazing speed." ¹ Yes, reformers do go back, but always in order to go forward. Thus Christian reformers are
not revolutionaries, but they are filled with vision and zeal for renewing the church of God.

Western society is becoming less and less religious by the day, yet spirituality is increasing. Claims for authority, especially biblical and moral authority, are under regular attack (in and out of the church). At the same time there is a distinct hunger for a deeper and deeper experience of God that has not been seen in America for more than three and a half decades. Added to these discernable shifts, we are also warranted to ask about the growing role of visual imagery upon the modern mind, which seems to be replacing a word-based culture.

How then are we to understand the present culture of the West, especially in the light of various attempts being made by younger Christian leaders who are labeled by the popular adjective, or even noun, "emergent”? In this journal we address some issues related to this subject.

It is widely agreed that Brian McLaren, the founding pastor of Cedar Ridge Community Church in the Baltimore-Washington area, is one of the most important spokespersons for this new missional trajectory known as emergent. Brian is a talented man. He writes songs, loves art, reads widely (he taught literature), appreciates drama, the Romantic poets, and modern philosophical literature, and speaks with passion and conviction. He is never bombastic, shows consistent evidence of genuine humility in his public and private dialogues, and generally causes a reaction wherever he speaks about modern evangelical Christianity in America.

After meeting Brian McLaren for the first time about eighteen months ago, I began to read his work with much greater personal interest. I have real appreciation for his distinctive apologetic and missional concerns. His words often make me uncomfortable. I like this, once I step back and think a bit more deeply. But I also have concerns about Brian’s "manifesto," as expressed in his book, A Generous Orthodoxy (Zondervan, 2004). For this reason our editors decided some months ago to do extensive reviews and critiques of this widely read book. We felt it was important to allow Brian to respond to these critiques. He happily accepted our invitation, for which I am profoundly grateful. As a result you can now enter into this conversation in a very helpful way.

Besides this Reformation & Revival Journal dialogue with Brian McLaren, the current issue tackles issues related to the wider conversation. Perhaps the most important missionary-theologian of our time was the late Lesslie Newbigin. His work has had an important impact upon emergent thinkers. We introduce you to Newbigin’s work in this issue. We also take a good look at the role of women in the emergent church movement and issue a call for keeping preaching central in modern reformation.

I think this is one of the very best quarterly journals we have ever produced. I hope you agree. There is a lot here to stir both the heart and the mind, leading to a deeper consideration of how the church is renewed in any age—through proper attention to Word and Spirit working powerfully and freely together in the body of Christ.

Notes
Identity, acceptance, belonging, connection to the whole and meaning—these are the stuff of faith, the genome of Christianity. The continued demand for them will create openings for the church. Can the church welcome these opportunities, while critiquing the excesses of consumerism at the same time?

Michael Moynagh

I can only answer the question, "What am I to do?" if I can answer the prior question, "Of what story or stories do I find myself a part?"

Alisdair McIntyre