ACT 3 Review is published quarterly by ACT 3, Inc., 630 Paxton Place, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188-9244. Periodicals postage has been paid at Carol Stream, Illinois, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ACT 3 Review, P.O. Box 88216, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188-0216.

ACT 3 Review is indexed in Christian Periodical Index and ATLA Religion Database, published by the American Theological Library Association, 250 S. Wacker Dr., 16th Flr., Chicago, Illinois 60606, E-mail: atla@atla.com, http://www.atla.com/.

ACT 3 Review is published four times each year by ACT 3, Inc., a not-for-profit teaching ministry organized in the state of Illinois in 1991. The ministry is committed to the authority of Holy Scripture, the catholic creeds of the early church and the tradition of historic Reformation theology. The purpose of this ministry is centered in its mission statement:

ACT 3 is a ministry to advance the missional mandate of the Lord Jesus Christ in the third millennium, through the witness of Scripture and the wisdom of the Christian tradition.

Subscription rates are $32 for one year, $56 for two years. Special full-time student rate is $18 for one year. Please remit in U.S. currency only. For overseas orders add $8 for each year for postage. Canadian subscribers add $4 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:
ACT 3 (Australia)  
c/o Rev. John Lewis  
15 Carolyn Ave.  
Morphett, Vale 5162 • Phone: 04-040-74353

United Kingdom subscriptions available through:
ACT 3 (UK)  
c/o Tony Russon  
2 Caxton House, Wellesley Road  
Ashford, Kent TH24 8ET, England • Phone: 01-233-662262

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 ACT 3 Review is that the renewal of faith, church and culture must be deeply rooted in worship, spiritual formation and mission. 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.

ACT 3 Review
ADVANCING THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM
Published by ACT 3
P.O. Box 88216, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188-0216
(630) 221-1817

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:
John H. Armstrong

ASSOCIATE EDITORS:
Ardel Caneday
T. M. Moore
P. Andrew Sandlin
Thomas N. Smith

MANAGING EDITOR:
Anita Armstrong

TYPESETTING:
Ragont Design

SUBSCRIPTIONS MANAGER:
Stacy Kifer

COPY EDITOR:
Dana Hood

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS:
Joel R. Beeke
Robert Benne
Donald G. Bloesch
David Bryant
Elmer M. Colyer
Susan Cyre
Eifion Evans
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
Robert Kolb
Erwin W. Lutzer
Ralph MacKenzie
Bassam Madany
Gerald R. McDermott
Andrew T. B. McGowan
Charles H. McGowen
Peter Moore
Thomas C. Oden
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
## CONTENTS

### EDITORIAL

**JOHN H. ARMSTRONG**

Introduction 7

### FEATURES & VIEWS

**MONTE WILSON**

Classical Propositions for Pop Churches 11

**DOUG P. BAKER**

The Politicization of Our Churches, or My Growing Sympathy with Blindness 23

**P. ANDREW SANDLIN**

Confessional Subscription, Strictly Speaking 35

### ARTICLES

**GRAHAM KEITH**

Music in the Early Church 51

**TIMOTHY GOMBIS**

Power Demonstrated in Weakness 81

**JOEL BEEKE & MICHAEL D. BELL**

Cornelius Van Til's Concept of Man as the Analogue of God 103

### BECOMING MISSIONAL CHRISTIANS & CHURCHES

**JOHN P. LEWIS**

Christian Existence and the Mission of the Church 131

**JOHN MITCHELL**

Footprints in the Sand at Omaha Beach: A Practically Missional Ecclesiology 141

**MICHAEL W. GOHEEN**

A Missionary Encounter with Western Culture 155

### MINISTRY RESOURCES

**BOOK REVIEWS**

Inspiration & Incarnation: Evangelicals & the Problem of the Old Testament 173

God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It

Pneumatology: The Holy Spirit in Ecumenical, International, and Contextual Perspective

The Spirit of Early Church Thought

John Williamson Nevin: High Church Calvinist

The Leadership Secrets of Billy Graham

**MUSIC REVIEW**

Nothing Is Sound 205

**BOOK BRIEFS**

Final Thoughts 222
We can no longer take for granted that we share a common ground with our culture, a culture once solidly rooted in Christendom. Even a residual belief in God, in Christ, in the Bible and in the church can no longer be assumed as truly helpful by evangelists who wish to communicate effectively with unchurched people. Further, a new generation has arisen within the church that understands less and less of the language and importance of the historic Christian faith. This clearly demands that we stop assuming that we are being understood within our own household. This is a major reason why I use the term missional rather than mission, a word that notoriously carries the central idea of something we support and promote rather than something we are, the missio Dei. I believe the only solution is to teach church members how to be transformational missionaries in Western culture. Even more to the point of missio Dei, we must teach whole church communities how to become the mission of Christ in the world. This will require bold new explanations of doctrinal catholicity and fresh engaging studies of our regnant culture.

JOHN H. ARMSTRONG

Paul Hiebert has said that our culture is not what we think about, but what we think with. In a missional church, the Bible grows to have that quality for the church. It is not what we think or talk about, but what we think and talk with! Instead of interpreting the Bible through the lens we bring to the text, we interpret ourselves and our world through the lens of the Bible.

GEORGE R. HUNSBERGER

In 1987, a friend sowed a seed in my heart. Create a journal that was serious about scholarship but accessible to both scholars and non-scholars alike. The hope was for a publication that would attract fresh material and good writers who could speak to contemporary issues with candor and clarity. Make sure the focus was upon renewing the church doctrinally, ethically, and spiritually. Thus was born, in 1992, the Reformation & Revival Journal. Now, fourteen years later, this quarterly journal takes both a new name and a new look. The original vision remains unchanged, but the focus is now more precisely missional.

After a three-year process, the board of Reformation & Revival Ministries, the parent ministry of this quarterly journal, reached the decision to change our name on January 1, 2006. By this decision we became ACT 3. The new name is an acronym which represents our broader vision: Advancing the Christian Tradition in the Third Millennium. In the process of adopting this new name, we spent a considerable amount of
time writing our mission statement. We wanted it to be simple, clear, and memorable. The board and editorial staff of this publication hopes that our longtime readers, and a growing number of new readers, will resonate with our clear mission vision.

OUR MISSION

Act 3 is a ministry to advance the missional mandate of the Lord Jesus Christ in the third millennium through the witness of Scripture and the wisdom of the Christian tradition.

Our missional vision for advancing Christ’s mandate to make disciples in all the world will be advanced in three central areas, all of which will be regularly represented in this journal: worship, spiritual formation, and mission.

Further, our new tag line for this journal, as you can see on the front cover, says well what we hope to particularly address in the journal: Faith, Church, and Culture. If Christian leaders and thinkers are to intentionally impact the future, they must become better equipped to understand the Christian faith in all its rich aspects of truth. Further, we must better understand the doctrine and nature of the church and the processes by which it can be truly renewed. We believe this requires us to understand the various cultures in which this mission takes place and how the gospel shapes and changes culture when Christ’s Lordship is truly lived out in a biblically informed faith. We pray that this “new look” and direction will increasingly make this quarterly journal a strong voice for an informed, biblical, and catholic evangelicalism that does what our mission statement clearly expresses. Please let us know what you think. And please introduce the journal to others who might be helped by understanding this vision.