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## EDITORIAL

'There is a time for everything.' (So we might paraphrase Ecclesiastes 3:1.) When I first browsed ('read' would, I think, be too strong a word!) a copy of the *Scottish Bulletin of Evangelical Theology*, probably sometime during my first year of undergraduate studies at New College, Edinburgh, it never entered my head that there would come a time when I would serve as editor of the journal. It was a huge honour to be asked to take on this responsibility (particularly as the request came from my esteemed teacher and friend, Alasdair I. Macleod, who then served as editor) and I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to serve both the church and the academy in this way. But now the time has come to pass on the baton and this will be the final number of *SBET* for which I take responsibility as editor. Before I introduce my successor, I hope readers will bear with me as I thank several people. Firstly, I wish to thank the members of the relevant committees of Rutherford House and the Scottish Evangelical Theology Society for entrusting me with this significant task and for their continued confidence in me even when I relocated to South Africa. Secondly, thanks are due to all those who have worked to support the production of *SBET*, and particularly to the new Director of Rutherford House, Dr Jason Curtis, who has provided such dedicated support since he took up his post. Thirdly, I would like to thank the numerous authors who have submitted articles for inclusion in *SBET* (even if not all submissions were finally published). It has been greatly encouraging to have a range of articles submitted from both established scholars and writers nearer the beginning of their careers; from men and women; from writers working in Scotland, England, France, Germany, the USA, Australia, South Africa. I hope that all readers have found something to stimulate, to educate, to challenge them in the articles which have been published. Finally, I would like to thank the readers of *SBET* for taking theological writing seriously and for demanding that theology has something significant to say for the good of the church.

Now, I am pleased to be able to tell you that the new editor of the *Scottish Bulletin of Evangelical Theology* is Dr David Reimer, Senior Lecturer in Hebrew and Old Testament at New College, the University of Edinburgh. I am particularly pleased that David represents, firstly, the ongoing connection between *SBET* and the institution in which I first read it. Many readers of *SBET* will have strong memories of the late Professor David Wright's contribution to the journal, as editor, author and enthusiastic advocate and I am glad that another David from New College will carry the work on. I'm sure it will be a positive move to have an editor of *SBET* who is actually in Scotland! And secondly, I am pleased that the

new editor is again a specialist in biblical studies and I trust that this will continue to encourage a healthy mutual respect among biblical theologians, systematicians and historians for their various contributions to a common task of doing theology for the church.

Please continue to read, support and pray for the *Scottish Bulletin of Evangelical Theology*.

#### IN THIS ISSUE

I am grateful to the various contributors who have provided an interesting selection of papers for this issue.

The opening article is a theological-historical study of the notion of 'uniformity' in the church, jointly written by Rev. James Eglinton (currently completing his PhD on an aspect of the thought of Herman Bavinck at the University of Edinburgh) and my colleague here at Dumisani Theological Institute, Dr John Ross.

The second article is by Rev. Mark Batluck, currently a research student at the University of Edinburgh. His comparison of the writings of one ancient author (Irenaeus) and one modern author (Bart Ehrman) on the Ebionites, provides an interesting study of what we can learn about the author as well as the subject when we read a text.

In the following article, Rev Michael Braeutigam, a pastor in St Wendel, Germany, provides a Trinitarian perspective on the doctrine of adoption which, although doubtless a relatively neglected doctrine, has nonetheless received a more appropriate amount of attention in the pages of *SBET* in recent years.

Next, Michael Brown, a pastor in Santee, California, contributes a study of Samuel Petto, a little-known 'Puritan Pastor-Theologian', highlighting his theological contribution for the sake of the church.

Finally, Dr Fergus Macdonald, also of Edinburgh, builds on an earlier article published in the Autumn 2008 issue of *SBET* with a study of how a variety of different readers (many not participants in church life) engage with the Bible, and specifically with the Psalms. This is the published form of a lecture given in his capacity as a Fellow of the Spencer Center for Global Engagement at Taylor University, IN., in February 2009.

I express my thanks to all our contributors and I trust that readers will be spurred to thought and reflection – and indeed to prayer and worship – as they engage with these papers.

*Alistair I. Wilson*