

## ***Editorial Note: Vox Evangelica 1962-1997***

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This year sees the final edition of *Vox Evangelica*. The first was published in 1962, when both the scholarly and evangelical worlds were very different from today. The journal, first published by Epworth Press, was conceived by members of the faculty of London Bible College as a way of injecting an evangelical voice into an academic conversation from which they had been largely excluded up until then. It was a vehicle for stating a distinctively evangelical position on topics of common academic concern, and for raising issues of significance to evangelicals that would not have found expression elsewhere.

From 1971, *Vox Evangelica* has published the annual Laing Lecture. The first of these was given by Professor F.F. Bruce on 'Some Thoughts on Paul and Paulinism'. Since then, many distinguished scholars have delivered the lecture, which has subsequently been published in the journal. Early lecturers included H.D. McDonald, Donald Wiseman, Alan Millard and R.T. France. More recently they have included Gordon Wenham, David Wright, N.T. Wright, I. Howard Marshall, Alan Kreider and David Cook. The most recent Laing Lecture, by Stanley Grenz, is included in the current volume.

I wish to express my thanks to those who have edited the journal over the years. Ralph P. Martin was its first distinguished editor. He was followed by the late Donald Guthrie, and then by Harold H. Rowdon. Most recently the editor has been Antony Billington, who undertook the task at a time when information technology was changing the way such publications were produced. He has not only solicited or received material and edited it, but prepared it in its final form ready for printing. The College also wishes to express its special thanks to Paternoster Press, who took over the publication and distribution of *Vox Evangelica* in 1983.

Academic journals have proliferated since 1962. Evangelical scholarship now has many journals to represent it, and has taken its place alongside others in a way which was not possible then. It is chiefly for these reasons that it has been decided to discontinue the publication of *Vox Evangelica*. Changes in communication techniques are also upon us, and the demise of the journal coincides with LBC's appearance on the Internet. It is hoped that the voices of those associated with the College will continue to find expression both there and in other journals.

In one sense it is sad to see it go. As a student, I benefited from some of the 'model answers' to scholarly questions that the faculty had the thoughtfulness to publish in it! Then, along with many others, *Vox Evangelica* carried the first piece of my own writing which I ever saw in print. For these very personal reasons, as well as for others, it is sad to bid farewell.

In another sense, however, the decision to cease its publication is simply an exercise in necessary pruning. Pruning leads to greater fruitfulness and, though it is painful in the short-term, it is foolish in the long-term not to do it. Bidding farewell to *Vox Evangelica* makes way

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for the faculty, research students, former students, and others associated with the college, to make their writings even more widely available. We trust that it will be so.

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