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The Editor's Page

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This is the first issue under my watch, and I hope that it will further the goals of the Society in the same way that past issues have under the effective editorship of those notables who have gone before. I don't plan to write an editorial note in each issue, but I did want to take a little space in this first issue to talk about plans for the direction the journal will take in the near future.

First, the Adventist Theological Society has returned to the practice of having two annual meetings instead of one. This will naturally result in more papers from the meetings being submitted for publication in the journal. The themes from these meetings will result in a predominant theme for each issue, with most of the articles in the issue likely originating out of the meeting associated with that issue.

The present issue features primarily articles on the theme of the Trinity. They originated in connection with the first of the revived Spring meetings, the Trinity Symposium held March 30–April 1, 2006, at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee. Because of this, the reader will note that some of the articles are more scholarly while others are more oriented toward a general audience. This has in part to do with the nature of the Society and the interest of lay persons in the presentations of the Society at its meetings and in part to the fact that some papers were presented as academic research while others were presented as part of a worship service with less academic interests. The initial article was only intended as an introduction to the Symposium, not as a formal paper, and it is presented here with a similar function.

For those receiving this journal who are not members of the Society, it may be well to rehearse briefly the nature of the society. The Society was founded with a broad base. It was started by a group of Seventh-day

JOURNAL OF THE ADVENTIST THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Adventist scholars, but it was not their intention that it should be limited to scholars, but that it should be open to interested Adventist lay persons and clergy with the purpose of helping to enrich their theological awareness and providing an opportunity to dialogue about the issues facing Adventist theology without the constraints of critical scholarship and the limited view of scriptural authority which often accompanies such scholarship as a presupposition.

For this reason, the Society has attempted to avoid being overly academic, either in its general meetings or in its publications. Our goal is to be heard and read by lay persons as well as by academics. That does not mean that we tolerate poor scholarship. This journal maintains a strict double-blind peer review process in order to maintain the quality of the scholarship published, yet we attempt to be able to speak to both academia and the laity. The content and the style of presentation, therefore, should provide something for each. If you as a reader find an article too heavy for you, you can skip it and move on to something easier to read. If you find an article too lightweight and oriented more for a general audience, you can move on and find something else that is more academic and rigorous. It is a challenge to maintain this balance, but that is our goal.

In addition to the articles relating to the theme of one of the annual meetings, it is our intention always to include a few articles that do not relate to the major theme. This is done in order to provide diversity not only for the reader but also for those scholars who have good research that deserves publication but which is not related to one of the themes of the annual meetings. If you as a reader, therefore, have something you would like to submit that would be suitable for our readership and in harmony with the goals and purposes of the Society, we do solicit your contribution. Obviously, with an increase in the number of papers from the annual meetings that will be published in the journal, there will be increased competition for space for additional submissions, but this should only increase the quality of the final product. We look forward to being able to select from the best of scholarship rather than having to request people to submit articles for publication. The reader will benefit most from this process.

I do not know that we will be able to sustain publication of the papers from the Spring meeting in the Spring issue and the papers from the Fall meeting in the Fall issue. Time is tighter in the Fall, since the meetings don't take place until the end of November, leaving little time to prepare the papers for publication by the end of the year or the first of

REYNOLDS: THE EDITOR'S PAGE

January. Fortunately, there is an extra meeting this summer, the Bible Conference in Izmir, Turkey, being sponsored by the Biblical Research Institute of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, which should provide a flurry of papers for the Fall issue this year. The papers from the Fall meetings, then, will probably end up in the Spring issue, the papers from the Spring meetings, in the Fall issue, and so forth. This will take a little pressure off the matter of deadlines that we have struggled with for this issue. It will require patience, however, from our readers waiting for the publication of the papers.

For those few who take note of such things, the masthead is in the process of change. At the next meeting of the ATS Executive Committee, changes should be voted that will be implemented in the Fall issue. If you have noted little change over time and are wondering why some names are still there, please await the next issue, when we should have a new masthead.

Happy reading, and we hope you will contact us if you have any suggestions for improvement. Encourage your friends and colleagues to subscribe to our journal. We are committed to the exposition of Scripture and to enriching the theological understanding of our readers as it brings people into a closer relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and to a desire to hasten His return by sharing these understandings with others.

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