

From the Editor

At its heart, theological education is all about dialogue. There is the dialogue between teacher and student, and the frequent dialogues that develop within all academic conferences and workshops. But there is also a dialogue that occurs between the various disciplines as well. This edition of *The Asbury Journal* is devoted to the academic dialogues that occur within theological education.

There is a classic dialogue between the present and the past in the study of Christian history. This issue presents three good examples of dialogue with our Methodist past. Andrew Thompson enters into a dialog with Wesley's General Rules to examine them as theology and not just a set of disciplinary guidelines. Joseph McPherson seeks to clarify how water and Spirit baptism became separated in American Holiness teaching by dialoging with the earliest teachings of Methodism. Victoria Campbell examines the historical struggle between Christian Perfection and antinomianism.

On another level, there is a dialogue of theological ideas in the present as we seek to understand how God desires us to minister in today's world. In his inaugural paper for the J.W. Beeson Chair of Christian Mission, Kima Pachau seeks to understand how a Trinitarian view of mission, as reflected in the encounter between Peter and Cornelius in the book of Acts, can provide vital lessons for crossing ethnic and cultural frontiers. Rob Hughes delves into the pneumatology of one of the great leaders of the modern church, Lesslie Newbigin, to understand more about the role of the Holy Spirit in mission theology.

Another classic pair of dialogue partners is the dialogue between scripture and the present. Nigerian theologian, Miracle Ajah examines how the Old Testament Biblical view of tithing may provide crucial avenues to help the Church in Africa deal with concerns of financial responsibility and some of the issues of modern prosperity gospel teaching. Moshe Reiss and David Zucker examine Chronicles as an early revision of Jewish history. In what may be a first for *The Asbury Journal*, this dialogue with scripture is presented by two Jewish scholars, allowing for interfaith dialogue to also occur as our readers think about a Jewish perspective on the Old Testament.

Finally, dialogue also occurs between our faith and other disciplines. Jeremy Griffin examines how short term missions can parallel some of the issues raised in the discipline of the anthropology of tourism. Understanding how

our short-term mission programs impact the local culture depends on developing ways for constructive dialogue between hosts and guests. Dialogue may be interfaith, interdisciplinary, historical, or in depth dialogue with scriptural text, but it is always a part of theological education. It is through dialogue with each other, with the past, with the text, and with ideas, that we draw closer to God in the academy.

On another note, this issue also celebrates the 90th Anniversary of Asbury Theological Seminary, with a special cover depicting Asbury's founder, H.C. Morrison at an unknown camp meeting. Time and technology can lead to many changes in how we spread our faith, but the essential core of scriptural holiness remains in all Asbury Theological Seminary aims to do in ministry. To this end, I would encourage all of you to explore the 90th Anniversary publications being freely made available on Asbury Theological Seminary's open press, First Fruits Press (<http://place.asburyseminary.edu/firstfruits>). This endeavor is another attempt by the Seminary to make scholarly and heritage material freely available to a global audience using modern technology.

This issue, while celebrating our past, is also the first time *The Asbury Journal* will be made available completely online at the same time as the print version. This will enable *The Asbury Journal* to reach a wider, global audience, and also be more environmentally aware, as fewer copies will be printed for distribution. Printed copies will continue to be available for subscribers only, but the online version will be freely available to all at <http://place.asburyseminary.edu/asburyjournal/>. Please, feel free to let us know how you feel about these changes, as we continue to dialogue with you, our readers, as well.

— Robert Danielson, Ph.D.