

## *From the Editor*

This issue of *The Asbury Journal* honors the holistic nature of theological education, especially as exemplified through Tillman Houser, a little-known Free Methodist missionary to Zimbabwe who passed away last year on July 24, 2014. He and his family went to the mission field of Southern Rhodesia right after World War II in a rusty cargo ship, because troop movements took priority for regular oceanic travel. He was surprised when he arrived to find the British government expected him to add the job of superintendent of local schools to his regular mission work. As he became frustrated with the traditional mission-compound mentality, he studied church growth under Donald McGavran and proposed an idea to raise funds for a Volkswagen van and equip it to travel through the bush of Zimbabwe to take the Gospel to the people directly, and thus build the Free Methodist Church and the kingdom of God. He had to use his ingenuity to fashion temporary windmill parts, hunt wild animals for food, and adapt to rapidly changing political situations in Africa. Our cover image for this issue shows Tillman Houser's Volkswagen van which was used as both living space for he and his wife, and as a travelling place to distribute bibles and tracts in the 1960's (Photo courtesy of Marston Memorial Historical Center and Free Methodist Archive). In today's world, ministry is not much different. True, we may not have to live like Tillman Houser and his wife, but we also have to adapt to changing times and shifting situations on a regular basis. We have to learn how to take all the skills we are given, even in the academic world, and use them in ministry.

In this issue of *The Asbury Journal*, there is a little something from a host of disciplines, something for everyone. The constant challenge is to see how we can take this information, learn from it, and then apply it to our own context, wherever God has placed us. W. Creighton Marlowe starts off the issue with a focus on a Biblical interpretive study of the phrase, "to call on the name YHWH." He examines what this phrase means in the Old Testament Hebrew context and how New Testament writers applied it missionally. This article should appeal to those readers interested in Biblical Studies. David Bundy follows with a fascinating study of the Société des Missions Évangéliques de Paris, a little known part of mission history in 19th century France, as Pietist and Wesleyan influenced networks worked with local French Holiness revivalists to create an early Protestant mission

organization in Roman Catholic dominated France. This should appease the missiologists among our readership. George E. and M. Elton Hendricks' article is an interesting take on Wesleyan Studies by looking at Wesley's approach to the poor from the perspective of a modern day social worker who wonders why Wesley did not use, or even comment on, the British Poor Laws of his days, when many of the Methodist poor of Wesley's day were either using, or could have used, these existing government resources to alleviate some of the effects of poverty. This article should peak the interest of those readers interested in Wesley Studies. Zaida Maldonado Perez examines the development of the theology of the Holy Spirit, with a look back to the early Church Fathers, which should capture the imagination of those interested in Church History, while Rachel Coleman's article on theologian Walter Brueggemann's influence on Biblical interpretation should appeal to theologians reading *The Asbury Journal*. Finally, Bill Thompson presents some of the findings from his recent D. Min. work, seeking to find better ways to integrate the preaching of the Old Testament prophets, especially Isaiah, into our modern pulpits. Such a thought-provoking practical article should interest the Preaching scholars out there.

In looking at the life of Tillman Houser in our *From the Archives* essay, we can reflect on how important it is to be prepared "in season and out of season," to preach the Gospel, and how important it is that we use all the tools at our disposal. Every discipline taught at the seminary has a role to play in making us more effective in ministry. What we learn from Biblical Studies, Church History, Mission Studies, Wesleyan Studies, Theology, and Preaching all helps create a better developed pastor, missionary, teacher, or counselor. Like Tillman Houser's Volkswagen van, we need to be able to adapt what we learn to fit our context. We need to be able to draw lessons from Biblical times, the early Church, 18th century England, 19th century France, and even our present day churches and theologians in the 21st century and apply them wherever they can help further the kingdom of God. Such is the nature of theological education in today's world.

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