

From the Editor

“For Christ and the Church!” This was the primary slogan and theme of the Young People’s Society of Christian Endeavor, which is being celebrated in this issue of *The Asbury Journal*. But it is also a great slogan to accompany the Advanced Research Program’s Interdisciplinary Colloquium held on October 9, 2015 at Asbury Theological Seminary and themed, “The Church and Its Expansion.” The papers from this colloquium are also presented here, along with one other paper to round out this global theme. In 2015, Asbury Theological Seminary Archives and Special Collections became the home for material from the International Society of Christian Endeavor, currently headquartered in Edmore, Michigan and material from the World Christian Endeavor headquartered in Germany. While many younger readers will be unfamiliar with Christian Endeavor, or C.E. as it was often known, this organization was the first Christian Youth Ministry, which expanded to millions of members in over one hundred nations in the world, from its founding in 1881 in Portland, Maine, until today. In this edition of *The Asbury Journal*, Dr. Christine Pohl shares how C.E. impacted her life and ministry at a personal level. Dr. Brian Hull and myself write on this historic impact of Christian Endeavor, through the writing ministry of its founder, Dr. Francis E. Clark, and through one small offshoot, the Floating Societies of the Christian Endeavor, which provides an interesting model for potential mission among migrant workers in today’s world. In *From the Archives*, more of the history of C.E. is discussed through its use of badges over the course of its history.

From the Interdisciplinary Colloquium comes a number of papers, which would be right at home in any Christian Endeavor Convention. Dr. Art McPhee explores the themes of the kingdom of God within Jesus’ teaching and its force for the ongoing work of evangelism and church planting. Andrew Gale picks up a theme very much at home with C.E. in looking at the effects of postmodernism and views of justice and truth on the theology of emerging young adults. Benjamin Snyder examines the development and growth of Jewish believers in Christ in the modern Messianic movement. Thomas Lyons takes us back to Luke-Acts to examine the relationship of water baptism, the laying on of hands, and *glossolalia* as evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Sheryl Marks-Williams picks up the theme of immigrants once more to look at how the church in the United States can do more

to both include and plant new congregations among immigrant populations in our nation. All of these themes clearly pick up on Christian Endeavor's slogan, "For Christ and the Church!"

Finally, a fascinating article by William Payne examines the modern growth of Pentecostalism in Latin America, and examines this growth through the lens of folk religions. He proposes the interesting idea that Pentecostalism has come to take the place of folk Catholicism as a new sort of folk Christianity, which can feed the need of popular religion without becoming syncretistic. This argument deserves much more focus from the Church as global Pentecostalism continues to take center stage in World Christianity. In addition to this wealth of articles about the mission and goals of the Church reaching out through the power of the Holy Spirit as it spreads the Good News of the kingdom of God, we also start this issue with a reflection on the life of Dr. Ellsworth Kalas, whose life also exhibited the theme of Christian Endeavor, as one who truly lived "For Christ and the Church!"

In conclusion, I want to announce that this issue of *The Asbury Journal* will be the last print issue. For the past few years, we have been taking *The Asbury Journal* online, where it currently has been downloaded over 82,000 times since we started going digital, and this has covered some 192 nations around the globe. We will continue to publish digitally, and make this material free for all who want to visit our site at <http://place.asburyseminary.edu/asburyjournal/>. Back issues are currently being made available, and we will offer a volume of the combined issues for sale at the end of each year for those who wish to still read us in print. I sincerely hope as the articles in this issue show, *The Asbury Journal's* commitment to spreading scriptural holiness and the teachings of the Wesleyan-Holiness heritage through out the world has not waned, but only grown stronger. We, like Christian Endeavor before us, continue forward into this new digital world with a common theme, we do what we do, "For Christ and the Church!"

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