

From the Editor

As *The Asbury Journal* launches into the future by going completely online, it is important that we reflect back and take stock of the heritage from which we come. We are committed to promoting the theological ideas of holiness from our Wesleyan background, along with a strong commitment to biblically based theology and exegesis. In this issue, while we are moving forward technologically, we are emphasizing where we come from and the strengths of our faith tradition. Paul Chilcote starts off this issue with an article about Wesleyan spirituality and the means of grace. These are key components to recognizing Asbury Theological Seminary as an institution and identifying our core spiritual values. Former long-time *Asbury Journal* editor, Laurence Wood, provides two articles on the development of Pentecostal sanctification in the writings of John Wesley, John Fletcher, and other early Methodists. It is this concept of Pentecostal sanctification that really helps connect Asbury's Wesleyan heritage to its involvement in the Holiness Movement of the 19th century. Understanding how the Wesleyan-Holiness Movement developed out of this theology takes us to R. Jeff Hiatt's article on the Pentecostal Mission, one early Holiness group that helped form and develop the Church of the Nazarene and its understanding of missions.

Another important feature of Asbury Theological Seminary and its heritage is its commitment to reading and understanding scripture. Rabbi David Zucker's article on reinterpreting the story of Rebekah from both the text and his Jewish heritage presents us with a very new way to see this Jewish matriarch, not as a scheming manipulative mother, but as a devoted wife who works with her husband to perpetuate God's covenant. David B. Schreiner's article from the New Testament examines the use of two Greek verbs that are frequently used together in Matthew, which provides a theme for understanding the nature of Jesus' Messiahship in Matthew, and helps us see interesting parallels in the birth narratives regarding the magi and King Herod. Finally, Sungwon (Moses) Kim, a recent visiting scholar at Asbury from Korea, examines the new perspective of Paul and the theology and methodology of Anglican theologian N.T. Wright. Kim seeks to assess this popular theologian from an Evangelical framework. Such work reminds us of the need to be critical scholars rooted in scripture, a crucial part of the training at Asbury Theological Seminary.

The *From the Archives* essay this issue looks back to the work of another early figure in the Holiness Movement, Arthur Greene. Rev. Greene is an obscure figure in the history of the Holiness Movement and yet he rubbed shoulders with important figures and even preached at camp meetings with Oswald Chambers. While his life has left only limited information, his family's gift of a small collection of papers and an astounding collection of large camp meeting paintings, is a major treasure in our collection. In addition, a special collaborative book review of Asbury Theological Seminary professor, Bill T. Arnold's edited book *Ancient Israel's History*, helps highlight the scholarship that Asbury Theological Seminary values.

Yes, *The Asbury Journal* has gone digital, but it remains committed to the values of its Wesleyan-Holiness heritage, its commitment to strong biblically-based scholarship, and its desire to spread scriptural holiness throughout the world. Going digital is one way to further this historic vision. As I am writing this, *The Asbury Journal* has been downloaded a total of 97,397 times since we first went digital in 2012, and we were downloaded 40,921 times last year alone. We have been downloaded in 109 countries around the world. All of this demonstrates much more impact than our traditional subscription base of around 1,200 print copies. Asbury Theological Seminary enters a globalized and technological world, but we do so firmly entrenched in our theological and historical heritage, seeking to advance the message of Wesleyan-Holiness around the world!

Robert Danielson Ph.D.

Note of correction and apology: It has been brought to the editor's attention that three paragraphs from page 104-105 of Mark A. Lamport's article *Unintended Outcomes, Curious Inventions & Misshapen Creatures* (63:1, Spring 2008), are substantially identical to material from Andy Crouch's article "Let's Get Personal." *Books & Culture*, January/February 2002, page 12. Mr. Lamport did not previously cite this material in his article. It begins, "Hard to explain, impossible to forget," and continues to, "should we, propose a new version of Christianity?" The editor extends his deepest apologies for this error to Mr. Crouch, and suggests anyone quoting material from this article to be sure and properly cite Mr. Crouch if using this selection.

