

From the Editor

We finally made it! September of 2023 marked the official 100th anniversary of the founding of Asbury Theological Seminary! This issue of *The Asbury Journal* demonstrates the current nature of the Seminary, by including articles from faculty and students, and from those outside the Seminary, including one by a Jewish rabbi. Articles come from the fields of Missions, Biblical Studies, and Wesleyan Studies. Articles come from writers with backgrounds in India and Kenya as well as in the United States and Europe. From Asbury's first graduating class in 1927 of five students, the Seminary has grown to fulfill its ambitious slogan of "The Whole Bible for the Whole World." As the Seminary celebrates its foundation one hundred years ago, we also celebrate what it has become and the promising future which is in store.

We open this issue of the *Journal*, with an article by one of Asbury's newest faculty members, Stephen Bailey and some of his thoughts on contextualizing the Gospel message for the Lao people of Southeast Asia. With their strong Buddhist background, the Church has had a difficult time taking root in this culture. Bailey argues it is not just the message we deliver, but *how* we deliver that message that really matters. At Asbury the field of missions has grown and developed over the years, and this article is an excellent example of how missions has changed and worked to fit the cultural contexts of people in every corner of the globe.

The next three articles emerge from Ph.D. student presentations at the Fall 2022 Advanced Research Program Colloquium held at Asbury Theological Seminary on October 14, 2022. The Colloquium theme for this year was, "Theological Education and the Ministry of the Church," and was chosen especially for the centennial celebration of the Seminary. Eric Laudenslager challenges readers to think about ministry in the workplace, not just in helping individuals, but in forming community or team approaches to changing the workplace context. Hannah Hopkinson explores how the Bible and Bible study can be used with an emancipatory vision, helping people (in this case women) to pursue justice and change in today's context through applying scripture. Myra Watkins brings together

Bonhoeffer's views on discipleship with small Seminary-level leadership training, through a case study of Every Nation Seminary and the idea of relational discipleship.

The next three articles bring in the dimension of the Methodist influences in Asbury's history. The first two articles tackle the same type of theme, but in different ways. Both seek to explore how Wesley's view of faith changed with his mission trip to Georgia, and his subsequent Aldersgate experience. Kenny Johnston explores how John Wesley's epistemological view of faith was connected to rational understandings of his day, which influenced Wesley's understanding of faith, and how this view shifted after encountering the Moravians in Georgia and his Aldersgate experience. Roger W. Fay continues to explore the issue of how Wesley's faith developed, by taking a theological view, which examines the thought in the Church of England and how Wesley's view of "Primitive Christianity" impacted his mission to Georgia, and how experience influenced his understanding of faith in his well-known Aldersgate experience which followed. J. Russell Frazier turns his attention to the issue of accommodation and how God has revealed God's self so that human beings can understand this revelation. Frazier explores this issue in the early Church Fathers and Calvin before turning his attention to a Wesleyan approach as found in the works of Charles and John Wesley, and John Fletcher.

Finally, we turn to three articles which help us bring in outside perspectives. David J. Zucker, a rabbi who is no stranger to *The Asbury Journal*, presents an assessment of 2 Kings 5, examining it as a set of five chiasms. As usual, his insight from the Jewish perspective helps us see and understand scripture in a new light and also encourages interfaith dialog in the process. Uma John, a Ph.D. student at Asbury, explores the concept of "righteousness" as it is found in the Hebrew and Greek, as well as how it has been seen by other theologians, including John Wesley. Paul Ekal Lokol examines how transformational leadership can help mediate between a pastor's training and a congregation's spiritual health, with a focused study on the Africa Gospel Church in Kenya.

For one hundred years, Asbury Theological Seminary has worked to spread the message of Jesus Christ throughout a hurting world. While times have changed and even theological imperatives have shifted over the course of time, Asbury remains strongly rooted in its Wesleyan-Holiness history and roots. As I look at my time as editor of *The Asbury Journal*, and all of the insightful material that has been published

about its contribution to the next one hundred years of Seminary students, faculty, and staff. I pray along with the Psalmist, when he wrote,

“Let this be written for a future generation,
That a people not yet created may praise the LORD.”
Psalm 102:18

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