

From the Editor

As the theological world at Asbury Theological Seminary continues to move and spin in odd unplanned trajectories, so this issue of *The Asbury Journal* has kind of landed in an odd eclectic mix of subjects. Sometimes themed issues are well planned and come off like clockwork, and other times... well, things fall apart and you are left with an interesting assortment of articles that reflect the newest trends in mission and theology, but seem to be going off in all directions.

Nathan Crawford opens this issue looking at understanding Augustine's theology of preaching in the light of the Wesleyan Quadrilateral, aiming to open up preaching to the importance of improvisation, while at the same time keeping scripture central. Samuel Law sends us on a creative dance as he seeks to understand traditional Chinese spirituality in Confucianism and Daoism and its affects on forming the Chinese Christian Church. Confucianism seemed to win the ideological dance, and he wonders if Wesleyan theology might not be the perfect dialogical partner to bring Chinese Christian Theology back into spiritual harmony. David J. Fuller critiques the current views of creation within Old Testament Theology, in order to clarify where new avenues of research need to be focused. Kelly Godoy de Danielson and Robert Danielson examine the issue of contextualized music and hymnody within the Latin American Church, and seek to offer recent music by the Pentecostal musician, Juan Luis Guerra, as an example of how the Latin American Church can revive its musical roots while still remaining true to its theological views. Samuel Lee seeks to understand how Business as Mission can measure its effectiveness, without being held hostage to traditional business metrics as the only or even primary measure of success. Finally, Shawn P. Behan examines Lesslie Newbigin's critical theory of the congregation as a hermeneutic of the Gospel, which has played an important role in the Missional Church Movement, but often been inadequately understood.

The *From the Archives* essay this issue looks back to the relationship between E. Stanley Jones, one of the great heroes of the faith in the last century, and Miss Nellie Logan, a quiet unknown prayer warrior, who was his first grade teacher, and a key part of his conversion story. Through letters for most of her life, the two of them corresponded about issues of theology, politics, and Jones' missionary adventures. It is a beautiful story of one of the people we often never



hear from, those quiet servants of God who pray for the Kingdom of God and work in their quiet ways, so that God might use someone else to become a spiritual giant. This is a lesson we often need to be reminded of. For everyone of the E. S. Jones' or Billy Graham's or Billy Sunday's in this world, there is an army of Nellie Logan's that support and sustain their ministries.

Creative energy and theology is alive and well in *The Asbury Journal* for this issue, as we seek to go global and to go deep theologically in our research and writing. The Wesleyan-Holiness heritage continues to speak to Church History, Theology, Contextualized Theology, Missions and Music. It might be difficult to tie this eclectic group of subjects together, but underneath them all is a passion for furthering the Kingdom of God and seeing the Church grow and prosper around the world!

Robert Danielson Ph.D.

