

Editorial

With this issue of *Spes Christiana* my mandate as the general editor of the journal comes to an end. It has been an honour and a pleasure to serve in this capacity for the past three years. I am sure the editorial task will be in good hands in the future. The board of the EASTRS (European Adventist Society of Theology and Religious Studies), under whose auspices the journal is published, has asked Dr. Laurence A. Turner and Dr. Paul Petersen-Birch to serve as the editorial team for the next three years. Both are accomplished biblical scholars and have had a long and distinguished teaching career, with many academic publications to their name. I hand the job over to them with full confidence regarding the future of our journal. John Okpechi, associated with the Institute of Adventist Studies (IAS) at Friedensau University, will continue to work with them as the managing editor and the book review editor.

In this issue of our journal, the main section consists of five articles about a range of different topics. We are very pleased that Dr. Gilbert Valentine submitted his article "Resisting 'Neo-Adventism'" for publication. It deals, as its subtitle indicates, with the tension between fundamentalists and progressives in the Adventist Church in the 1966–1979 period. This fascinating article will, no doubt, be avidly read by those who have enjoyed Valentine's recent book that covers the same period: *Ostriches and Canaries: Coping with Change in Adventism, 1966–1979* (Westlake, CA: Oak & Acorn Publishing, 2022). This already much-talked-about book is reviewed in this issue by Dr. Viesturs Reikis, who is currently a pastor in Latvia. References to his own experiences during the communist oppression of the Latvian people give his review a very unique and personal angle.

Dr. Paul Birch Petersen is in the process of writing a commentary on the Book of Acts that will be part of the multi-volume *Seventh-day Adventist International Bible Commentary*. His article here on a short passage from this Bible book – Paul's Farewell Speech in Milete to the elders from Ephesus; Acts 20:128–135) – is a by-product of this extensive writing assignment. It will give the reader a taste of much more that is to come.

I have known Mrs. Yvonne Johansson-Öster for a long time. She is a talented historian who wrote a number of books on aspects of the history of Swedish Adventism and also contributed a range of articles on Adventism to the

Dictionary of Swedish Free Churches (*Svenskt Frikyrklexikon*). I was delighted when she accepted to write an article for this issue about the history of the work of women in the Adventist Church in Sweden. Her article does not only provide a well-written historical survey, but is also a passionate tribute to the often ignored contribution of women pioneers in the past.

Dr. Laszlo Marta Hangyas is the pastor of the Adventist Church in Barberton, CA (USA), but continues to have strong academic interests. He earned his doctorate at Andrews University in 1997. His dissertation was entitled: *The Use and Abuse of Authority: An Investigation of the [Exousia] Passages in Revelation*. Small wonder that his contribution for this issue is also related to the last book of the Bible, and specifically to ethical issues in Revelation.

The final article is by Matthew Korpman, a young scholar who is presently pursuing doctoral work in New Testament at the University of Birmingham, UK, and holds a M.A.R. in Second Temple Judaism at the prestigious Yale Divinity School. Two years ago, *Spes Christiana* published an article that Korpman wrote about "Allusions to and Quotations of the Apocrypha by Ellen White." In this issue he returns to the same field with a study on Ellen White's use of the pseudepigrapha, specifically *Jasher* and *Enoch*. Hopefully, one day soon his research of this fascinating topic will result in a book-length study.

As noted above, you will find in this section a review of Valentine's recent book *Ostriches and Canaries*. I reviewed a book that does not qualify as a work of great academic merit: *Profile of a Religious Man* by Edwin Zackrison. The reason for my review is that it fits naturally with Valentine's masterpiece. His emphasis is on events at Andrews University and Loma Linda University. Almost at the same time, when these events took place – at what is now Southern Adventist University – Zackrison became the victim of similar tensions between administrative concerns for orthodoxy and a desire of theologians to explore new ways in understanding the faith. It is, in many ways, a sad story, but Zackrison did well to tell us about it, and I felt it would be good to tell others about this book which in a way complements that of Valentine. Three other important book reviews are equally included in this issue of the journal.

Finally, dear readers, remember: *Spes Christiana* can only continue to provide quality content when many of you send your articles to the new editors of our journal. I am confident that the new editorial era that begins with the next issue of our journal will build on the achievements of the past and present, while strengthening areas that need attention.

Reinder Bruinsma, Ph.D., General Editor

