

# Editorial

This first issue of *Spes Christiana* for 2023 sees a replacement of the editorial staff. Reinder Bruinsma has served the journal for several years and we take this opportunity to express our gratitude for his diligence and expertise as editor. The value of his contribution is evident in the fact that he has to be replaced not by one, but by two editors, Laurence Turner and Paul B. Petersen.

Laurence served as principal lecturer at Newbold College of Higher Education for twenty-one years and is well known throughout the European continent for lectures and presentations both on a professional and a popular level. He also taught for nine years at Avondale College (now Avondale University) in Australia. His many academic contributions include the well-received commentary on *Genesis* in the University of Sheffield's series, *Readings: A New Biblical Commentary*.

Paul is originally from Denmark where he now in retirement serves part-time as a pastor. His experience includes the positions as Field Secretary of the South Pacific Division and chair of Religion at Andrews University from which he earned his Ph.D. through a study of the prayers of Daniel. Among his academic contributions, he co-edited *Biblical and Theological Studies on the Trinity* published by ATF and Avondale Press.

Both Laurence and Paul are engaged in the new SDA International Bible Commentary, Laurence writing on the books of Samuel, Paul on Habakkuk and Acts. Paul also serves as associate editor of the series.

The topics of our first issue cover a vast territory. They range from the social background of the New Testament to Adventist identity issues in present-day Nigeria, from a study of the Old Testament figure Melchizedek to reflections on the concept of the remnant as survivors, from a study of Ellen White's relationship to the Apocrypha to a call for the need for an Adventist ethics of politics.

In spite of the variety in topics, they all discuss issues that are important for Adventist history and identity. Darius Jankiewicz's informative article on how the Christian gospel preached by the apostles broke down the walls of gender, speaks directly to our ongoing discussion of gender roles in the church of the present. Kendra Haloviak Valentine's study of the remnant motif suggests ways in which this historically significant topic may still carry relevance for

Adventists today. Jan Sigvartsen's study of Melchizedek is the first in a series which will look also at this figure in the second temple period as well as in the New Testament where Hebrews refers to him in its presentation of the heavenly sanctuary and its services. Chigemezi Nnadozie Wogu's article on the development of the Adventist Church in Nigeria presents issues still relevant for Adventist missiology in which European Adventists have played, and still play, an important role. Laurence Turner's discussion of Ellen White's potential use of the apocryphal Esther presents implications for understanding the nature of prophetic practice and inspiration. John Okpechi's suggestions for ethical principles for Adventist political engagement are not only relevant for those areas in the world where Adventists exercise an obvious political impact on society, but certainly also for Europe with its complicated history of the relationship between church and state.

Working with this first issue, we have come to realize how important it is that we receive responses from readers. As editors, we will strongly encourage you to submit articles or proposals for articles. Please share your professional reading with a wider audience by submitting book reviews. And if you have suggestions for thematic issues, do not hesitate to share with us. And finally, recommend *Spes Christiana* to your colleagues and invite them to join EASTRS if they are not already members. Blessed reading.

Laurence Turner & Paul B. Petersen,  
Editors