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Editorial

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EDITORIAL

DENIS KAISER

Editor, Andrews University Seminary Student Journal

We are somewhat behind with our publishing schedule and are glad that we can finally publish the second issue for 2016. We are thankful for continuing article submissions and for the reviews of faculty members and doctoral students that ensure high quality in our published material. Both the articles and the entire issue are accessible at <http://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/aussj/>. As in the previous issues of the journal, this issue contains stimulating and thought-provoking articles. We hope that they are beneficial to you.

The sponsoring faculty member for the present issue is Dr. Bruce L. Bauer, Professor of World Mission. For many years, he was the chair of the Department of World Mission. Recently, he passed that responsibility on to Dr. Wagner Kuhn. Before joining the faculty of the Theological Seminary, Dr. Bauer served numerous years as a foreign missionary. His article in this issue of *AUSSJ* deals with various reasons why witchcraft and occult practices continue to exist among members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He further suggests several practical steps to reduce and eliminate such practices.

A second article comes from Esteban J. Hidalgo, a graduate of the Theological Seminary. He is currently pursuing doctoral studies in the area of Biblical Studies (New Testament) at Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore KY. He is also an Assistant Professor of New Testament Studies at Antillean Adventist University, Mayaguez PR. In his article, he describes how different thinkers in the Second Temple period, in the time of the Church Fathers, and up to the late medieval period interpreted Deuteronomy 6:4 (the *Shema*). He underscores the persistent centrality of the *Shema* alongside its flexible understanding and application both Jewish and Christian traditions. He gives particular attention to how early Christian writers hermeneutically accommodated the doctrine of the Trinity in the oneness of God in the *Shema*.

The third article is written by Silvia Canalde Bacchiocchi, a M.A. in Religion student in Systematic Theology at Andrews University. In her study, she seeks to show how the Lord's Supper lost its relational and historical (past-present-future) covenant focus and instead became fixed on the Platonic *now* of mystical contemplation, displacing the eschatological hope of Christ's physical return with the real presence of Christ in the eucharist.

We hope that you will find food for thought, discussion, and further study as you read these articles, and that the contributions contained here encourage other graduate students to write and submit scholarly articles as well.