

Bauer: Editorial
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This issue of the *Journal of Adventist Mission Studies* continues the interesting and challenging discussion that took place in Cancun, Mexico from May 2-9, 2016, where most of the Andrews University faculty of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary met for a Symposium on Biblical Hermeneutics, Methodology, and Worldview. Several of the articles in this issue were presented at that forum.

There is a growing awareness that all people have acquired multiple filters that impact their interpretation of the biblical text. These filters either allow them to see or not to see certain aspects in the Word of God. Ann Hamel's interesting article describes many of the psychological factors that are acquired so early in life that people are not even aware that they have been shaped and formed by their environment, experiences, and their culture to see the world in a particular way, while also being resistant to new or other possible ways of viewing and interpreting what they see.

Darius Jankiewicz's article on the Hermeneutics of Slavery is a reminder of the sad fact that even so-called godly people have used a "Bible and the Bible only" approach to support their very wrong interpretations of Scripture. This should be a warning to all today that the best interpretation of Scripture, even when using and following the rules of biblical interpretation can go terrible wrong because of underlying presuppositions and cultural filters that warp the intent of Scripture and distort God's character.

For too long there has been the view that if the Bible student does the proper word study, looks at the grammar, syntax, the statistical use of words and phrases, understands the different literary features, and follows the many other important methodological principles of the grammatico-historical approach to hermeneutics, then the right interpretation will be arrived at. The events in the Seventh-day Adventist Church over the past six years concerning the issue of women's ordination has proven this to be not true. Culture, personal experience, and worldview impacts how a person reads and interprets Scripture.

Welcome to the discussion.

Bruce L. Bauer, editor