

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEMINARY STUDIES
TURNS 50!

Ever since the pre-Socratic monists attempted to identify a single cause or prime element of cosmology, philosophers and theologians have tried to comprehend the relationship between believing and thinking. Our current debates on science and religion, for instance, are but a continuation of the age-old conversations about faith and reason. Most systems of thought include components of either information from outside the system, such as revelation or *a priori* categories, or a theoretical foundation, or both. Every system is shaped by thinking humans, who methodically interpret texts and data. This all suggests that hermeneutics and methodologies will always be at the core of understanding the relationship between believing and thinking. In the realm of biblical theology, the tasks of correctly understanding biblical truth and shaping it into doctrinal expression require a healthy conversation on hermeneutics.

This issue, the second in the fiftieth volume, contains four articles and a review article addressing methodology and hermeneutics from a number of different angles. Each contributes to the ongoing conversations about theological and philosophical hermeneutics necessary for coherent thought and systematic understanding. This is not a special edition on hermeneutics, nor were these articles specifically sought out for such a purpose, nor is there any claim to a systematic coverage of hermeneutics. However, it is fitting that a number of the articles that have reached us group together nicely under the theme of theological and philosophical hermeneutics and methodology—a continual, important theme in this journal throughout its fifty years of publication.

This issue also includes, as one of the articles addressing methodology and hermeneutics, the keynote address from the 2011 Society of Adventist Philosophers by Bruce Benson. His address makes clear that Christian Philosophy is to be a tool in the service of Theology; a tool that helps in the expansion of knowledge through the positive use of questions.

Archeology is another topic of continuing importance to this journal. This is no accident as Siegfried H. Horn, the father of Adventist Archeology, initiated this journal and was its first editor. Most of the fifty volumes contain archeological articles and dig reports. This issue contains the latest dig report from the Madaba Plains Project's 2010 season at Tall Al-'Umayri.

Biblical studies are a mainstay of this journal and are represented in this issue by Jon Paulien's article on recent research of the resurrection in the NT. The conversation on methodologies and hermeneutics is necessary precisely because the Bible, as the central source for theological reflection, should not be overshadowed by the methodologies. The methods should serve biblical faith.

I must mention two personal notes in this fiftieth year of publication. First, I extend a thank you to Leona Running, who continues her contributions as copy editor. She has had a role in every issue of all fifty volumes of *Seminary Studies*. Her concern for the journal is heartfelt and sincere. Also, I would like to congratulate Karen Abrahamson on the successful defense of her dissertation (299). Her editorial and management skills are deeply appreciated.

It is the commitment of the editorial team and the managing board that *Andrews University Seminary Studies* will continue, in its second half-century, to provide a scholarly venue within the context of biblical faith for the presentation of research in the area of religious and biblical studies.

JWR