

**WE HAVE COME AT LAST TO THE END OF
THE BEGINNING AND WE LOOK WITH
ANTICIPATION TO THE FUTURE**

It has been said that all things come to an end, that life moves on or it ceases, that new things come to be. In the case of *Andrews University Seminary Studies* all these statements are simultaneously true. The grand lady of the Seventh-day Adventist theological seminary at Andrews University and one of the few remaining original creators of the journal, Dr. Leona G. Running, has laid down her pen for the last time and gone to her quiet rest. I, Dr. Karen K. Abrahamson, long-time managing editor of the journal, have spent the last year in transition, telecommuting from my home state of Arkansas, where I am in the process of laying the foundation for my own ministry in professional counseling and marriage and family therapy for those with little or no access to mental health care. It is a journey that began long ago with a Masters degree in Community Counseling and which continued to influence the direction of my doctoral research on the meaning of human being and my studies in consciousness with the Midwest Religion and Science Society at Goshen College, Indiana, where I served as a steering committee member and fellow. Finally, Dr. John W. Reeve, editor, is busy creating a new vision for the journal as it moves forward.

As I prepared the journal for publication without the benefit of Dr. Running's insightful help as copy editor, I would often hear echoes of her past wisdom when I would find one grammatical problem or another. This is the first edition that she did not participate in since the journal began in 1963 (she would, of course, beg to differ as she did not copy edit the edition dedicated to her), and she was sorely missed. During the sixteen years I have worked with the journal, I came to depend on her wisdom and insights not just as the only original creator of the journal to remain on staff, but as a friend and mentor. She loved nothing more than to be a continuing part of seminary life and worked not only for the journal, but with various other publications on campus. She also guided and mentored a host of seminary students through their theses and dissertations. I rarely visited her when she did not have a pen in one hand and a manuscript of some sort in the other. She was full spice, opinionated, but most of all, as she revealed in our last face-to-face visit, she saw herself as a mother to nearly every student pastor and theologian in the Seventh-day Adventist Church for many decades. This latter aspect is what drove her to push and prod us all to always do our best no matter how difficult the task.

I came to the journal in 1998 at the request of Dr. Nancy Vyhmeister, who is herself a grand lady of the seminary and who was at that time editor in chief. I was, at the time, working for a sister journal at the university, but Dr. Vyhmeister decided since I was coming to the seminary to begin work on a Ph.D. in Religion that I might as well work there too. I had no idea that I would spend so many years with the journal as I worked toward the completion of my doctorate. When I traveled abroad to Europe for the purpose of doing

dissertation research, I was granted the privilege of taking my work with me so I have prepared the journal for publication in various hidden corners of Italy, Spain, The Netherlands, Sweden's lovely university town of Uppsala, Switzerland, and in England at the British Library in London and the Tyndale Library at Cambridge. The thanks for this goes to Dr. Jerry Moon, former editor in chief and current chair of the Church History department at the seminary.

My learning at *AUSS* has been rich and broad as I worked with authors and manuscripts and ideas from across the theological spectrum. With the guidance of Vyhmeister, Moon, and Running, I also honed my skills in copy editing, content editing, journal production and management. It has been a good educational experience that I will always be glad that I had the opportunity to experience.

But now the time to move on has come. During the last year, I began the process of jumping through the hoops for licensing as a licensed professional counselor and a marriage and family therapist and for credentialing as a hospital chaplain. I have had the privilege of walking patients and their families through the process of injury, illness, and death, and I have consulted with those whose lives have been altered by the events of life. Even though it seems as if I have worked with little free time or much sleep in the past several months, it has been a rewarding experience and I am thankful that the seminary allowed me this year of transition. I look forward to the new challenges that lie ahead.

As the journal moves into a new phase, I wish Dr. Reeve and his new coeditor, Dr. Martin Hanna, many well wishes and blessings. KKA