

EDITORIAL

From its inception in 1963, *Andrews University Seminary Studies* (*AUSS*) has intentionally kept editorial comment to a minimum. Our articles speak for themselves as part of the conversations that are taking place within the academy. Our intermittent editorials are limited to presenting the purpose and goals of the journal; introducing special issues, such as this one; making staffing introductions and goodbyes; and discussing mechanics of publishing and distribution.

The editorial in the first issue of *AUSS* introduced our journal as cosmopolitan in character, welcoming “suitable contributions of a distinctly scholarly nature not only from Seminary faculty and students but also from alumni and scholars around the world regardless of color or creed.” As such, the *AUSS* editorial team continues to seek academic conversations in the pursuit of truth rather than apologetics or polemics.

In this current special issue on hermeneutics we are now able to publish a number of articles that engage matters that should be of interest to all interpreters of Scripture. Of course, it is not possible to adequately address so large a subject as hermeneutics through the publication of a few articles. Therefore, this is simply one scholarly exchange in a wider ongoing discussion, and it is likely that we will publish other articles on hermeneutics in the near future.

We anticipate that the following four articles on hermeneutics will inform and challenge you. Separate articles, one by Boubakar Sanou and the other by Wagner Kuhn and Esther Happuch, discuss hermeneutics from the perspective of biblical and contemporary mission studies. Erik C. Carter’s article on hermeneutics and practical theology complements these mission studies. In another article, Ante Jerončić provides a philosophical perspective on hermeneutics through dialogue with Michael Foucault.

In harmony with the vision expressed in our first editorial mentioned above, this issue of our journal also includes several abstracts for dissertations recently completed by students at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University and reviews on significant and recently published books. You may have noticed that, starting with this year’s volume 56, we have “revived” the publication of book notices in *AUSS*. The purpose of these notices is to inform you about the most recently published books that we have received and to pique your interest in possibly reviewing one of them for the journal. If you are so inclined, you can send your book review request to our Book Review Manager, Dominic Bornand. You may also be interested in the details of our most recent call for papers on the subject of Ecclesiology which is presented on the inside back cover of the journal.

Students play important roles on our journal staff in fulfilling its purpose. Rebecca Murdock, our recent Circulation Manager, has transitioned from student to professional and has moved to Colorado. We thank her for her excellent work and her buoyant use of team skills while she was on staff here. We are happy that she can continue in service to the journal as an offsite copy

editor. Joining our staff are Danielle M. Barnard, as Office Assistant; Lincoln Nogueira, as Circulation Manager; and Natalie Dorland, in the new role of Public Relations & Marketing Manager. We welcome these new members of our team and have already appreciated their competence, energy, and insights.

This is the last issue to benefit from the skills of Matthew L. Tinkham Jr., our Editorial Assistant. He is returning to pastoring, while completing his PhD in Theological Studies. Matthew played a crucial role in implementing our large step forward to Digital Commons as host for our web interactions with authors, referees, and subscribers. He was also instrumental in compiling the updated writer's guidelines. We thank Matthew for his diligence and commitment to *AUSS* these last three years. As Editorial Assistant, starting Spring 2019, we welcome Sandra Stebenne, who brings editorial skills with a considerable passion for excellence in language as well as biblical and theological research training. She is being instructed on the software side of our publishing by Matthew.

We have a recent change in our shipping procedure to which we'd like to draw your attention. International shipping has long been the largest expense in printing and distributing *AUSS*, but in 2018, this expense has more than doubled. Whereas in 1963 it was possible to print and distribute the first issue for USD 2.50, the cost of shipping a single issue internationally has risen above USD 22.00. In an attempt to avoid raising subscription prices, we propose (starting in 2019 with volume 57) to regularly ship the journal to our international subscribers one volume at a time, rather than one issue at a time. In other words, we propose shipping internationally once a year instead of twice a year. In cases where this might cause difficulties, we may consider the possibility of, upon special request, continuing to ship individual issues for international subscribers, but this would require a steep additional charge.

Finally, we want to again express our appreciation for your ongoing support of *AUSS* through your continued subscribing and reading. It is your investment in the journal that keeps us working so hard to provide you with cutting-edge research for your personal and professional enrichment.

MFH and JWR