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Editorial

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EDITORIAL

DENIS KAISER

Editor, Andrews University Seminary Student Journal

We are pleased to welcome our readers to the first issue for 2016. We are thankful for the continuing article submissions and for the reviews of faculty members and doctoral students that ensure a high quality of the published material. The journal has moved from our initial online platform to a new one. Both the articles and the entire issue are accessible now on <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. John C. Peckham, Associate Professor of Theology and Christian Philosophy. He has published multiple articles and several books, among them *The Concept of Divine Love* (New York: Peter Lang, 2014) and *The Love of God: A Canonical Model* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2015). His article in this issue of *AUSSJ* deals, once again, with the subject of love. Peckham points out that many scholars agree on the significance of an ethics of love but they differ on what such an ethics should entail. He discusses the weaknesses of the influential agapist conception of love and proposes “that the continued quest for a more intentionally and distinctively biblical conception of divine love is integral to a compelling and faithfully Christian ethics of love.”

A second article comes from Adriani M. Rodrigues, the former editor of *AUSSJ*. He works currently as an assistant professor of systematic theology at the Adventist University of Sao Paulo (UNASP), Brazil. In his article, he investigates the authoritative hermeneutics of Irenaeus and Tertullian. As heretical movements misused and misinterpreted the Bible, these early Christian writers advanced hermeneutical mechanisms of control to safeguard biblical interpretation in order to protect the church. Rodrigues shows the inadequacies of such authoritative hermeneutics.

The third article was written by Christopher R. Mwashinga, a Ph.D. candidate in Systematic Theology at Andrews University. Hailing from Tanzania, he is more aware of some changes that have taken place within Christianity at large and Adventism in particular over the last decades. While Christianity and Adventism are declining in the Western world (global North), it has grown drastically in Africa, Asia, and South America (global South). Mwashinga points out that this southward movement is accompanied by a number of challenges. The fact that many of the new converts are “young, poor, orphaned, uneducated, and unemployed” suggests the need “for fresh thinking and better strategizing in order to respond responsibly to the challenges and to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the global South phenomenon and its side effects.”

I hope that these contributions in the fields of theology and missiology prove beneficial to the readers of this issue and encourage other graduate students to write and submit scholarly articles as well.