CHANGE—THE UNCHANGING REALITY

Heraclitus observed that “there is nothing permanent except change.” If Cardinal Newman is to be believed—“Here below to live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often”—we at AUSS should be approaching perfection! Unfortunately, “Change is not made without inconvenience, even from worse to better” (Richard Hooker). In our estimation, some changes are downright painful.

Kenneth Strand, editor-in-chief of AUSS from 1974 to 1987, and co-editor from then on, retired on July 1, 1994. Strand entered the Seventh-day Adventist ministry in Michigan in 1952. His teaching career began in 1959 at his alma mater, Emmanuel Missionary College—today Andrews University. At the time of his retirement he was Professor of Church History, chair of his department, and secretary of the Ph.D.-Th.D. Committee of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. A true Renaissance man, Strand is interested in and well versed in many fields; for his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan (1958) he majored in church history and minored in Old Testament. The subjects on which he has written for AUSS—Revelation, Roman history, Early Church, Reformation, German Bibles, among others—show the breadth of his well-cultivated intellect and insatiable curiosity. The AUSS index shows 36 articles and 69 book reviews written by Strand. An inveterate worker, he has been known to sit up all night to get an article or dissertation edited. As an ordained minister, Strand has been actively involved in the ministerial formation of seminary students. His belief in the potential of his students has empowered them for learning and service. To me, as well as to many others, he has been a mentor and friend. Although he has retired, Strand still is actively involved in the Ph.D.-Th.D. program and still serves as AUSS Editor Emeritus. We wish Dr. Strand a long, active, and happy retirement!

Jerry Moon has joined the AUSS staff as associate editor and book review editor. Moon served as a Seventh-day Adventist minister for 10 years before coming to Andrews University for doctoral studies. While studying here, he endeared himself to the church history department by his excellent teaching. Thus, when he completed his Ph.D. in Adventist Studies in 1993, he was invited to join the faculty of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. Since then he has been working on an additional master’s degree in history at Western Michigan University. As editor of student publications in college, Moon wondered whether he
should be a pastor, teacher, or editor. Now he is all three! Jerry brings to AUSS young blood and new ideas. We welcome our new Moon and hope he will wax and not wane!

A very unwelcome and tragic change in the AUSS staff comes from the death of Gerhard F. Hasel in a traffic accident in Utah on August 11. At the time of his death, Hasel was associate editor of AUSS. His association with AUSS had been long and fruitful. From 1973 to 1980 he was circulation manager; from 1973 onwards his name appeared on the masthead as associate editor. Fifteen articles and 34 reviews by Hasel have been published in AUSS. Shortly before his death, he completed a series of three articles, the first of which appears in this issue of AUSS. We also present a life sketch and a select bibliography of Hasel’s works. To his wife and children, we at AUSS extend our deepest sympathy. With them we look forward to the day of that greatest of changes, when the “dead will be raised imperishable” and death will be “swallowed up in victory” (1Cor 15:51-55).

A much less traumatic change is the transition of AUSS from three to two issues a year beginning with volume 33 in 1995. This year’s experiment with a Spring-Summer issue of 160 pages convinced us of the financial wisdom of publishing only twice a year. By so doing we will be able to give our readers 320 pages of articles, notes, dissertation abstracts, and reviews each year, instead of the usual 264 pages, at no additional cost—at least through 1995, and beyond, if at all possible. Publication dates are set for October/November and April/May. We are confident that the benefits of two larger issues will far outweigh the drawbacks.

Another change is found in the last 16 pages of this issue of AUSS. After 17 years we are republishing our guidelines for authors. The modifications made are an attempt to keep up with the times and technology. Additional copies of the guidelines in a separata may be requested from the AUSS office.

Finally, a word concerning the bibliographical essay by Gary Land in this issue. In 1844 William Miller and his followers expected the return of Christ to this earth. Theirs was a Great Disappointment. The Seventh-day Adventist Church, born out of the Millerite movement, has changed from a handful of disappointed believers in 1844 to a worldwide fellowship of some 8 million believers in 1994. We publish Land’s essay, as well as three book reviews on Millerite themes, in recognition of the sesquicentennial of the Great Disappointment.

Nancy J. Vyhmeister