

Didache: Faithful Teaching 9:1 (Summer 2009) Introduction
Dean G. Blevins and J. Matthew Price

Welcome to *Didache Faithful Teaching* volume 9:1 (Summer 2009). The edition offers a wide array of articles addressing the major themes of this journal, a compilation of new writings available to our readership, and also an introduction to a new project exploring our generational heritage in theological education. The volume incorporates insights from a wide variety of Wesleyan perspectives while also exploring the future of Wesleyan Higher Education.

(Dean Blevins) Our first three articles engage our theological convictions and missional practice. John Wright and Greg Voiles offer two distinctly theological trajectories, justification and reconciliation, and situate them in a larger conversation with current church practice... particularly in our understanding of personal and social responsibilities in light of God's grace. David Wesley explores short term missions through the lens of a local congregation, raising issues and implications around this popular approach to missional engagement. Finally the journal turns to Wesleyan explorations in the fields of science and social science. Mark Maddix provides an intriguing overview of John Wesley's formative influences and their impact on his educational practice. Burton Webb, Professor of Biology, and Keith Drury, Associate Professor of Religion at Indiana Wesleyan University closes this section with an interesting exploration into genetic research and its implication for our understanding of sanctification.

One of the strengths of *Didache* rests with our ability to network and publish resources from other sectors of the Wesleyan tradition. This edition provides a unique opportunity to publish an article from the new publishing venture, *Methodist Review: A Journal of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies*. As an open access, peer-reviewed electronic academic journal, *Methodist Review (MR)* publishes scholarly articles in all areas and eras of Wesleyan and Methodist studies, including biblical, theological, ethical, philosophical, practical, historical, biographical, and social-scientific topics and methodologies. Sponsored by Candler School of Theology, Emory University; Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University; the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools (AUMTS); and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church (GBHEM), the journal's URL is: www.methodistreview.org. *Methodist Review* is partly a successor to and partly a transformation of *Quarterly Review: A Journal of Theological Resources for Ministry (QR)*, which was published jointly by GBHEM and The United Methodist Publishing House from 1980 to 2005. Russell E. Richey (Candler) and Ted A. Campbell (Perkins) serve as the general editors of *MR*; Rex D. Matthews (Candler) is the managing editor; and Valerie J. Loner (Candler) is the current editorial assistant. I want to extend my personal thanks to Dr. Matthews for sharing this resource.

In addition we offer excerpts from a new text published by Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City titled, *Postmodern and Wesleyan? Exploring the Boundaries and Possibilities*. Directed to a lay-based audience, the book addresses a number of themes resonant with our journal and is available through Nazarene Publishing, <http://www.nph.com>. The version presented offers three representative chapters and I would like to extend my appreciation the Brent Peterson (one of the co-editors) who made the compilation possible. Finally the section closes with a review of another NPH publication as Dr. Andy Johnson offers a thoughtful treatment of Kent E. Brower's *Holiness in the Gospels*.

A now, a new venture...

(Matt Price) There has been a contemporary fixation on the generation gap, since the British rock group The Who belted out the lyrics, “Talkin’ about my generation!” That was over forty years ago. The people of God continue to struggle with ways to bridge the dreams of the old and the visions of the young, at least from the days of the Hebrew prophets. The contours of the transition from one generation to the next is drawn most sharply in the arena of education, in which the next generation is intentionally nurtured to take the reins of the previous one.

The editors of *Didache* wondered what if any gap exists from one generation to the next within the Church of the Nazarene concerning the trajectory of higher education. We asked parents and their adult children seven questions about their place in Wesleyan theological education and what direction they anticipate about their disciplines and their contexts. The questions are:

- *What is your current role?*
- *Why did you choose this discipline?*
- *What key contributions does your discipline offer?*
- *What is the future of your discipline?*
- *What do you see proves a challenge to Wesleyan Higher Education?*
- *Where are you hopeful concerning Wesleyan Higher Education?*
- *Final words for future “generations?”*

People responded from diverse parts of the world such as Latin America, India, England, as well as from multiple points across the United States. The disciplines represent compassionate ministries, pastoral ministries, youth ministries, lay education, philosophical theology, online education, and theological education. *Didache* would like to thank each of the contributors for offering their voices to the ongoing dialogue between the generations.

For those interested, we conclude with an article by E. Lebron Fairbanks that provides an overview to Nazarene education. Dr. Fairbanks, Commissioner of the International Board of Education, provides a comprehensive introduction to the IBOE, the sponsoring body of *Didache: Faithful Teaching*. If the Generations articles provide a sense of the historical “depth” of Wesleyan education, Dr. Fairbanks provides a sense of the “breadth” of formal Nazarene educational efforts around the globe.

Table of Contents

John W. Wright, “When Did Relationship Replace Repentance and Faith?”

Greg Voiles, “Imagining Reconciliation: The Eucharist as the Reconciling Act of God”

David Wesley, “Short Term Missions: A Research Project”

Mark A. Maddix, John Wesley’s Formative Experiences: Foundations for his Educational Ministry Perspectives

Burton Webb and Keith Drury, “Possible Influence of Genetic Factors on Sin, Sanctification and Theology”

Sarah Heaner Lancaster, Catherine Keller, Donald A. Thorsen, Dennis C. Dickerson and Charles M. Wood, “What Makes Theology ‘Wesleyan’?” Courtesy *Methodist Review* and Rex D. Matthews, ed.

Tomas Jay Oord, Dana Hicks and Terry Fach, Excerpts from *Postmodern and Wesleyan? Exploring the Boundaries and Possibilities*. Courtesy Nazarene Publishing House and Brent Peterson, ed.

Andy Johnson Book Review, “A (Partial) Vision of Christian Holiness for the 21st Century: Kent Brower’s *Holiness in the Gospels*”

Generations Review

Kent Brower and Deidre Brower Latz
Wilfredo Canales Farfan and Marcos Canales
Ruben Fernandez and Juan Fernandez
Padu Meshramkar and Atul P. Meshramkar
David M. Phillips and Wesley Phillips
Mark Quanstrom, Ryan Quanstrom, and Dan Quanstrom
Garry Sivewright and Jason Sivewright
Robin Smith and Joshua Smith
Henry W. Spaulding and Hank Spaulding

E. LeBron Fairbanks, “The Global System of Nazarene Education”

Our appreciation, as always, to the authors who have contributed to this edition. We would like to offer a special thanks to Shawn Stevenson who serves as technical advisor and “web master” for the journal. We would also like to thank Dr. Fairbanks (IBOE) and Dr. Benefiel (NTS) for their endorsement of this venture and Mrs. Barb Najarian (IBOE), an able assistant and good friend in these endeavors. Along with Shawn, Jeff Sykes, Director of Information Technology at NTS, worked behind the scenes to maintain our website. Jeff will be stepping down at NTS, and we will miss him. Our comfort rests in the fact that Robert Thomas, Jeff’s replacement, will continue to provide the quality of service the journal has enjoyed these last four years.

Didache: Faithful Teaching remains a journal dedicated to being a resource for the total efforts of the Church of the Nazarene, and other educational institutions, for the sake of global Wesleyan Christian education. One reminder: we continue to solicit articles written by your students for future editions. In addition to offering articles by our scholars and educators, *Didache* would like to showcase some of our best and brightest students, at both undergraduate and graduate level, on issues of education, culture and theology. Submissions should come with a recommendation from one of our institutional educators. For additional information please feel free to contact Dean Blevins at DGBlevins@nts.edu.