

Didache: Faithful Teaching

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Letter From the Editor

Greetings and welcome to *Didache: Faithful Teaching*. This edition includes a broad array of articles and reflective writings on the roles of theology, teaching and scholarship. The edition opens with an adaptation of Dr. Samuel Powel's first chapter in his new book, *Participating in God: Creation and Trinity*, Fortress Press, 2003 (ISBN 0800636023, our thanks to Dr. Powell and Fortress Press for permission to re-publish this chapter). The article provides an introduction to the range of scholarly writing currently emerging through various publishers: Michael Lodahl's (also of Point Loma Nazarene University) new text published by Abingdon, Diane LeClerc's text published through Scarecrow Press, as well as James Riley Estep and Mark Maddix through College Press Books. If there are other texts to highlight (and review) let us know. I would recommend two other new books published by Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City. The first book, *Discovering the Old Testament: Story and Faith*, is co-written by Robert Branson, Timothy M. Green, Jim Edlin and Alex Varughese.

The second Beacon Hill text, *Philosophy of Religion: Introductory Essays* edited by Tom Oord, includes a host of writers engaging key issues of philosophy from a Wesleyan-Holiness perspective. The intersection between philosophy and faith marks one of the key themes of this edition. Tom Oord sets the theme with his treatise on "Philosophy of Religion in the Wesleyan Holiness Tradition," (adapted from the book). Several reflective treatments follow Tom's work, primarily on the implications of teaching and faith. Frank Johnson's treatment on acknowledging diverse faith perspectives in Christian colleges introduces our Insights into Practice section. Philip Tite's reprise (of an earlier article) on fostering faith crises in secular colleges raises a different pedagogical issue for "faithful teachers" teaching outside expressly Christian contexts. Philip's reflection invites a "panel" response on faith and crises within Christian contexts, so we have three "respondents" from several Wesleyan schools: Terry Fach, Sam Powell and Henry Spaulding.

A growing number of international theology conferences provide a rich resource for *Didache*. Two such conferences, one for the Asia Pacific region and the other for the Africa region, are highlighted in this edition. From Africa we have three articles by Filimao Chambo, Rod Reed and Patrick Thomas addressing the history and future of African faith. From the Asia Pacific conference Daniel Saengwichai offers a new approach to faithful teaching from Thailand. Saengwichai's article is one of several forthcoming in a new book titled, *Scripture's Distinctives and Dynamic: Towards an Asia-Pacific Hermeneutic of Holiness*. For more information on this publication contact David Ackerman by email at dackerman@ntc.qld.edu.au. The journal closes with President Hitoshi (Paul) Fukue's inaugural address at Asia Pacific Theology Seminary, "With Roots and Branches," reminding us once again of the global focus of Faithful Teaching.

A reminder that *Didache: Faithful Teaching* is currently seeking quality articles by students in our education programs, our June volume hopes to include at least three such articles so send us your recommended submissions. Guidelines are available at the website. *Didache* is also interested in hearing from Wesleyan teachers outside our traditional Christian schools (like Philip Tite) who demonstrate "faithful teaching" in different ways. If you know someone we should contact, please send me a note at dblevins@trevecca.edu.

In closing, I recently had the opportunity to present a paper on this journal's history and future at a professional gathering of professors and researchers in religious education. The journal was given a large vote of confidence by several professionals in on-line education and publishing. That success goes largely to the people who make this journal happen, particularly our writers and our "webmaster," Cecilia Bowman. Cecilia has put in a lot of hours, often dealing with an impulsive editor and several "temperamental" word processing files, to make this journal a quality presentation. In the past, when I tried to compliment her work in the journal, Cecilia normally asked to have the writing removed. Since she had the final hand in the publication Cecilia succeeded in her request. Typical to the fortunes of internet technology, there is a good chance Cecilia will no longer provide us her ability or dedication in publishing *Didache*. We have been fortunate to have her and she will be missed. Recognizing the internet technology "fates" are fickle (to say nothing of administrative policies), I am not yet ready to concede that we will no longer enjoy Cecilia's guidance at some level in the future. For now, however, I feel it appropriate to say "thank you" to Cecilia for her exceptional work.

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