

Editorial

Jamie Grant

How do you write an editorial? Never having written one before, I begin my oversight of the *European Journal of Theology* at something of a loss. However, I guess that every editor of a journal has had to start somewhere. So let me start by looking back and offering my grateful thanks to Dr Mark Elliott for all of his hard work with *EuroJTh* over the last seven years. Mark has done an excellent job as editor of the journal and has moved *EuroJTh* forward in many ways. *EuroJTh* has become a 'refereed' journal in recent months and we have seen participation expand to include contributions from many of the countries of the 'new Europe'. Mark has done an excellent job in providing leadership for the journal over these years and we are grateful to him.

As always, however, we want to look forward as well as back. Where will *EuroJTh* go from here? Well, the aim is to continue the progress that the journal has made over the last number of years. We will continue to strive after academic excellence in our discussion of theology in the European context. *EuroJTh* seeks to promote good-quality, theological research written by Europeans or addressing those issues that the Church and academy face in Europe today.

EuroJTh will also continue to celebrate its roots in the Fellowship of European Evangelical Theologians and seek to serve the aims of that organisation. From its outset some 30 years ago, the aim of FEET as an organisation was to combine scholarship of the highest academic standards with a commitment to the authority of Scripture and to orthodox, biblical theology. We will strive to continue to reflect this aim in *EuroJTh* in the years to come. So, I will be looking for contributions to the journal that reflect the very best that contemporary, evangelical theology in our part of the world has to offer.

As Europe is expanding, we want to continue the trajectory of growth in terms of breadth of participation. This journal includes contributions from Holland and Germany – written in both Eng-

lish and German. However, it is also a delight to include three articles from Italy on ethics, the internet and cyberculture. These articles are published in Italian with translation into English. Traditionally, the countries of North-Western Europe have been well represented in *EuroJTh* and we are thankful for the regular contributions that we receive from Germany, France, Holland, Belgium and the UK and hope very much that they will continue. However, Europe is changing and we hope to see *EuroJTh* change with it. There is much creative work going on in theological circles in Southern, Central and Eastern Europe and we want to tap these rich resources for the benefit of the rest of the continent and beyond. So can I encourage colleagues in Spain and Portugal, Italy and Greece, the Balkans and the so called 'accession states' of Central and Eastern Europe to contribute fully to the life of the journal by offering their research for publication in *EuroJTh*.

There is probably much more that could be said at this stage, but I trust that our vision for the *European Journal of Theology* will continue to grow and develop in the years to come. Let me finish my first editorial (so that's how you write an editorial!), by commending to you this issue of the journal. *EuroJTh* 17:2 shows something of the diversity of theological study in Europe at present. We begin in the early days of Christianity by considering the Pauline nature of the Pastoral Epistles before moving on to consider the mission history of Germany in the context of Europe's missionary experience throughout the centuries. A return to the present day then ensues with consideration of Christian, ethical responses to the challenges of the internet age and these short articles are followed by the continuation of a debate begun in *EuroJTh* last year (see the preceding articles by Thomas Gerold in *EuroJTh* 16:1 and Lydia Jaeger's response in *EuroJTh* 16:2). This latter debate is an important one, as it focuses on the question of what constitutes 'saving' faith, so I would encourage you to look out the previous articles if you have not read

them already. While we will not always agree on every issue, it is good for our thoughts to be challenged as this will help us to refine our beliefs and come to clearer statements of the doctrines that we hold.

As I write I am aware that the biannual FEET conference will be held in Woltersdorf (near Berlin), 22-26 August. However, by the time this issue of *EuroJTh* is in print the conference will already have

passed. I trust that this conference will have been a challenge and an encouragement to many theologians throughout Europe. Let us remember that *EuroJTh* is, first and foremost, the journal of *a fellowship*. So in all that we do over the coming weeks and months, let us 'spur one another on' through the rigorous study of the Bible and theology for mutual edification across the boundaries of language, country and culture.

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Jason A. Whitlark is a Professor in Religion, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, USA.

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Barry C. Joslin

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