

Editorial

Pieter J. Lalleman

With the previous volume of *EJT* you received the brochure for the 2012 conference of the Fellowship of European Evangelical Theologians which will once again take place in Berlin. If you have not yet registered, please do so without delay to facilitate the planning. If you require one or more extra brochures, they are available from the secretary, Dr Klaus Bense, at KIBense@aol.com or via me. We look forward to seeing many of you in August.

This volume of *EJT* contains a book review from my hand in which I comment critically on the price of the book. In reviews in other places I have from time to time made similar comments. My point is that printing and distributing a book is not as expensive as some prices suggest and that the price differences between publishers are enormous. Whereas some publishers ask exorbitant amounts for their books, others manage to work for much smaller amounts. And with modern technology printing, even when it contains different fonts, is relatively simple. My impression is that, generally speaking, evangelical publishers are among the cheaper ones.

For large universities in the West the high and inflated prices of scholarly books – not just of theological books – are annoying but not insurmountable. For seminaries and Bible schools in the West, not funded by governments, they are a real prob-

lem. For any institution in the majority world they make building a library almost unaffordable. Here we have a case of Western capitalism at its worst.

The above is also true of periodicals. The Editorial Board is grateful to Paternoster Press and to AlphaGraphics for making *EJT* available at an affordable price. With our 200 double column pages per year we are among the cheaper journals and, we think, excellent value for money! Other evangelical journals such as *Tyndale Bulletin* and the *Jahrbuch für evangelikale Theologie* are also reasonably priced yet offer great contents. A good journal or book does not have to be expensive!

What to do? Just a few ideas:

1. Those among you who write for publication may consider offering their work to a publisher / editor who will spread it for an affordable price, even if that means that it appears on less 'prestigious' pages.
2. In reviews of books and journals, you can draw attention to the problem.
3. You can suggest to the librarian of your institution that s/he unite with colleagues to put pressure on the publishers concerned.
4. If you want to consult a particular book or periodical but it is missing from your library due to the costs, don't ask for it to be ordered but mention it in a footnote as unaffordable.