

PREFACE

This is the last issue that will have my name on the masthead as editor. I am handing over the editorship as of the next issue to my assistant editor, Ken Mulzac, who has been appointed as the new editor. It was a challenging experience to found this journal and get it off the ground from scratch, including the extensive subscription list, yet it has also been a very rewarding experience. We are pleased to have found major universities and seminaries willing to subscribe to our journal, believing we have something to offer them. We have already been abstracted in *Old Testament Abstracts*, and we were pleased recently to receive a letter from ATLA, the American Theological Library Association, which indexes over 700 religion journals from around the world, that they have waitlisted us for regular indexing beginning in the year 2004 or 2005.

Ken Mulzac is well qualified for the job of editor. He is a prolific writer, as well as a speaker who is greatly in demand. He is a careful researcher and a top-notch scholar. He has served as Assistant Editor for the last two years, learning the rigors of editing a journal. He is Associate Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Languages at the AIIAS Theological Seminary, and he will be taking over as chair of the Biblical Studies department upon my departure. Welcome to the helm, Ken. I know the journal will fare well under your leadership.

Because all of our regular Forum papers this year were presented by AIIAS seminary faculty, we have decided to publish only one regular article in addition to the Forum papers. It was written by Praban Saputro, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of World Mission. He comes from Indonesia, so he has a strong interest in Christian-Muslim relations. His article on a suggested approach for building bridges between Christians and Muslims in attempting to present the gospel to Muslims is based on thoughtful reflection on the teachings of Islam in the Quran. Other papers may be published in later issues of the journal.

The Theological Forum 2002 was presented by selected AIIAS seminary faculty, and most were responded to by selected Forum participants. Only one of the responses is being included in this issue. We encourage those of our readers who are near enough geographically to attend the Forum to benefit by registering for this annual event, normally held early in August of each year. Contact the office of the Seminary Dean by mail, or by e-mail at semdean@aiaas.edu.

As usual, we also include abstracts of theses and dissertations successfully completed since the last issue. And there are critical book reviews submitted by faculty and students of AIIAS.

We trust you will once again enjoy the content of this issue and will subscribe to our journal if you have not already done so. Every year we reduce the number of complimentary subscriptions we are sending out. Make sure that this will not be the last issue you receive.

Edwin Reynolds