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EDITORIAL

The publishing of this issue marks forty years of the *Scottish Bulletin of Evangelical Theology*. I encourage readers to view the first edition of the journal which is hosted on the website <<https://biblicalstudies.org.uk>> along with editions of the Bulletin ten years and older. The first edition, published in 1983, was forty-seven pages long and included seven articles and two book reviews! In the first and second years of the Bulletin a single number of the journal was published. The third volume in 1985 saw two numbers printed – Spring and Autumn – a pattern that has been followed in *SBET* ever since.

In the editorial to the first issue, editor Nigel M. de S. Cameron describes the background to the first edition of the Bulletin. The Scottish Evangelical Theology Society was formed from the Scottish Tyndale Fellowship which published the *Scottish Tyndale Bulletin*. A joint venture with Scottish Evangelical Research Trust (Rutherford House) led to the production of the *Scottish Bulletin of Evangelical Theology*. Biblical studies and practical theology were emphases of the Scottish Tyndale Fellowship, while the Trust behind Rutherford House focussed upon dogmatic and historical theology. The Bulletin maintained an interest in publishing articles in each of these fields and it was under the editorial supervision of David F. Wright, who edited the journal after Cameron, that the opening paragraph of the Bulletin's inside cover first appeared, stating that, 'The scope of the *Bulletin* is broadly defined as theology, especially Scottish and Reformed, whether biblical, systematic-dogmatic, historical or practical, and Scottish church history.'

While editor of the Bulletin, Cameron was warden for Rutherford House. Later he became Associate Dean and then Professor of Theology and Culture at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois, USA. Wright was Senior Lecturer in Ecclesiastical History before becoming Professor of Patristic and Reformed Christianity at New College, University of Edinburgh. Readers may also be aware of Cameron and Wright's editorial work along with David C. Lachman and Donald E. Meek to produce one of the most important resources for the study of Scottish church and theology, the *Dictionary of Scottish Church History & Theology* (T&T Clark / IVP, 1993). In the preface Cameron describes it as work that was 'conceived in the mid-1980s' (p. vii). *SBET* itself was of course in its early years. Undoubtedly *DSCHT* was produced as a fruit of connections made between evangelicals in Scotland at that time. It is an indispensable volume for students of Scottish theology and church but

disappointingly has lacked a reprint and is seldomly found for purchase except for excessively priced second-hand copies.

Returning to the present issue of the Bulletin, this number includes the second part of Bruce McCormack's article on the non-negotiable aspects of reformed theology. It is the last paper of a collection we have published in association with the Rutherford Centre for Reformed Theology (formerly Rutherford House) from the 2017 Edinburgh Dogmatics Conference. I am grateful to Andrew McGowan for procuring these articles for the Bulletin, stretching back to volume 38, and trust they have proved valuable for Bulletin readers.

Angus Morrison offers his reflections on the 2021 COP26 conference held in Glasgow. Readers in Scotland will especially remember the huge amount of publicity surrounding this conference. Morrison examines Augustine's views on the environment and reflects on what Augustine might have said in response to developments at the conference, had he been with us today.

Thorsten Prill contributes to this edition with a paper relating to historical Christian missions in Africa. He appropriately addresses an imbalance of criticism relating to past missions by examining the input offered by African missionaries.

In the final article of this edition, M. Gavin Smith has provided valuable research in his paper on the developments in Geneva relating to dividing of the Scripture text into verses, the production of the Geneva Bible and metrical Psalms. He offers insight into developments that are often overlooked though integral to Christian use of Scripture today. Any who have referred to the Geneva Bible, made use of the metrical Psalms in worship, or wondered where verse numbers in the Bible came from, will surely find this article of keen interest.

Together the papers and reviews included in this edition of *SBET* add to and complete forty years of producing theological writings in service to the church for readers at home and abroad.

In the concluding paragraph to his preface in the first volume, Cameron wrote that the Bulletin, 'consists largely of material presented at the 1982 SETS conference [...]. It is hoped that future issues will publish other papers as well'. For forty years that wish has been fulfilled. In closing he made a call to readers for material to be included in the next edition of the Bulletin. That call remains open today for future issues of the Bulletin. I have depended on voluntary contributions for the article section during my time as editor and know that our review editors also welcome enquiries.

CONTRIBUTORS IN THIS NUMBER

Professor Bruce L. McCormack is Charles Hodge Professor of Systematic Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey, USA.

The Very Revd Dr Angus Morrison is retired minister of the Church of Scotland and a former moderator of General Assembly.

Revd Dr Thorsten Prill is a minister of the Rhenish Church in Namibia serving as Vice Principal at Edinburgh Bible College (EBC).

Revd M. Gavin Smith is now retired following missionary service in Thailand and pastoral ministry in Scotland and Australia.

Professor McCormack's article was originally delivered at the Rutherford House 17th Edinburgh Dogmatics Conference, hosted by Palmerston Place Church, 29th–31st August 2017. The conference theme was 'Reformation Theology: Maintenance or Revision?' The first part of his paper appeared in the previous edition of SBET.