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A table of contents for *Scottish Bulletin of Evangelical Theology* can be found here:

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_sbet-01.php

EDITORIAL

Shortly after our last issue went to print, three Christian evangelical ministers and theologians, whose ministries influenced a generation at home and abroad, died within a short time of one another. Each of these men in the course of their ministries also left a personal impression on me, which I recall here in remembrance of them.

The first of these men, Harry Reeder was pastor of Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Alabama. I had the privilege of spending time with him in 2017 when he visited Inverness, along with a group of men from his congregation. It was evident to me after a few days in his company that he was a leader of men, moulded in the best fashion, after Christ, having a servant mindset. Harry brought energy to the room and had a magnetic personality. He was passionate about Christian ministry and a fun-loving family man. A few days with him would give good-natured stories to recall for a lifetime! On that same visit he wrote a book entitled *3D Leadership*, published by Christian Focus. His best-known book was *From Embers to a Flame*. It is a book on the subject of church revitalisation. Having read it after meeting him, I was left with the impression that the subject was personally important to him. His love for the church is evident in this book as well as the brightness of his personality. He died suddenly on 18th May this year.

Tim Keller died the day following Reeder, on 19th May. Keller was one of the most influential Christian figures in recent times. He is especially remembered for his ministry at Redeemer church in New York City. As a teenager I heard him preach in Glasgow on Abraham's intercession for Sodom in Genesis 18. He explained that Abraham's interaction with God pointed to Christ and his righteousness being sufficient for the salvation of many. For the sake of ten righteous God would have saved Sodom, anticipating the one man's righteousness, by which many are saved. His book *Reason for God* (2008) was a best-seller, yet Keller was already widely renowned for the successes of Redeemer church in Manhattan.

Third, Donald Macleod, formerly Professor of Systematic Theology at Edinburgh Theological Seminary, died on Sunday 21st May. He will be remembered as one of the most notable Scottish theologians of the last century. I enjoyed some correspondence with him while editing *SBET*. He spoke at the 2017 SETS annual conference on the greatness of God. Customarily after addresses time is allowed for questions. Memorably, after he spoke, no questions were forthcoming, there was only a reverent silence. Many who heard Macleod preach similarly spoke of being brought into God's presence through his preaching. This is not to men-

tion his writings, which will surely be treasured by Christians for generations to come.

These men were closely aligned with one another in their Christian beliefs and God in his providence brought their lives close together again in this final way as they entered his kingdom within only four days of one another. This binding together of these Christian ministers in life and death serves to more deeply impress upon us the reality of the kingdom they proclaimed and the purposes of God in the connections he makes both in life and death.

Turning to the present issue of the Bulletin we have a selection of articles covering the following subjects: the atonement, the work of the Spirit in the church, self-consciousness, Trinitarian relations and available Christian resources.

Geordie Cryle and Mark Stirling's paper on library collections at Highland Theological College, UHI introduces the library's resources to readers. Knowledge of the collections that have been assembled at the College in Dingwall will also be of interest to users of the library.

Ryan Denton's paper makes a welcome contribution to studies of Hugh Martin's theology. He helpfully develops and assesses a concise argument that Martin offers on the extent of Christ's sacrifice in his first chapter of his book, *The Atonement*.

I was delighted that Andres Miranda agreed to have his paper on self-consciousness published in the Bulletin. His article is one of a series he gave as moderator at the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia Synod meeting in May this year. He addresses a subject that concerns our overall welfare and directs us to the life of wisdom, grounded upon the fear of the Lord.

Joe Mock has special interest in the writings of the reformer Heinrich Bullinger. His paper studies Bullinger's theological considerations of the *filioque* clause. As well as surveying Bullinger's thinking on this subject, he is singled out among the reformers for his extended treatment on this doctrine.

David Smith's article presents to readers the subject of lament and the church. This is surely a subject of present-day importance. When our Lord is described as 'a man of sorrows' (Is. 53:3) and one for whom people will mourn (Zech. 12:10) and where 'godly grief' in contrast to 'worldly grief' is called for in view of sin (1 Cor. 7:8-13), it is surely plain, as Smith argues, that lament cannot be excluded by praise in Christian or church life.

Our final article for this issue is from Stephen Williams on the subject of the work of the Holy Spirit upon the church. It is the first of a two-part series planned for *SBET*. This first paper focusses especially on assessing

the writings of John Calvin. It's a subject that deserves attention and his deliberations lead us to carefully consider how the body of the church is knit together (Col. 2:19).

NOTE FROM MIKE PARKER, SETS CHAIRMAN

John's modesty prevents him saying this will be his last edition of the Bulletin, as for a variety of family and ministry reasons he steps down. We congratulate him and Louise on the birth of Susanna in September. We are deeply thankful for John's steady, clear and careful stewarding of SBET since 2017, and pray the Lord's blessing on him and his family. We also warmly thank Phil Foster for his part in editing book reviews, and pray for him as he steps away from this role for health reasons.

As SETS considers its future, we are pleased to be having a good conversation with a potential SBET editor and look forward to informing you in due course.

CONTRIBUTORS IN THIS NUMBER

Mr Geordie Cryle, at time of writing, was Librarian at Highland Theological College UHI, he is now Sales Executive at Christian Focus Publications.

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Mr Mark Stirling, at time of writing, was Library Officer at Highland Theological College and PA to the Rev Prof Andrew McGowan, he is presently Librarian at Highland Theological College UHI.

Professor Stephen N. Williams is Honorary Professor of Theology, Queen's University Belfast.

Mr Cryle and Mr Stirling's paper originally appeared in *Theological Librarianship* 16.1 (2023), 15-23.

Revd Miranda's paper was originally delivered to the Synod meeting of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, May 2023.