

Editorial

NEW DIRECTION, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Welcome to this (somewhat late) double edition of the *Evangelical Review of Society and Politics*. It contains various articles and book reviews we trust readers will find valuable and timely. Noteworthy are Michael Brownutt's analysis of postmodernism, regarded with suspicion (and often misunderstood) by many Evangelicals, and Andy Cheung's ground-breaking article on biblically-responsible investing. In his essay Robert Boyd explores how individual Christians can advance social justice by replicating divine action. Tim Lim considers Charismatic/Pentecostal economics through an Old Testament lens, while Paul Brazier takes stock of the Just War theory in light of events following 9/11. Several essays and numerous books reviews engage with the latest scholarship of interest to Evangelicals engaging with the social and political realms.

A NEW DIRECTION FOR THE JOURNAL

This journal was established in 2006, with the first edition published in 2007. Despite doubt by some in the academy that a small, independent journal could survive in the cut-throat business of academic publishing, this double edition marks the sixth successive year (twelve bi-annual editions) of the *Evangelical Review of Society and Politics*, demonstrating there is indeed a niche for Evangelical engagement with society, politics and economics.

Yet there is also a sense in which the editorial work has sometimes been a challenge. A narrow focus and niche has meant there is not always as wide a range of contributions to choose from as we would like, while some excellent manuscripts have been discarded because they did not fall exclusively within

the social or political arenas, drawing on other theological disciplines that were arguably better suited to other journals. Recently this has resulted in publication delays, with the editors unwilling to publish until they have sufficient manuscripts to choose from.

More positively, the journal has benefited from the arrival of two new colleagues, new production manager and editorial committee member Dr Paul Brazier (who has professionally designed for over thirty years), and Tim Lim as our first book review editor. Their involvement has contributed to a flurry of activity and desire to see the journal reach beyond its current narrow circles to a wider audience.

These issues and changes have led myself and my co-editor Stephen Vantassel, in consultation with various colleagues, to make two decisions concerning the future of the journal. The first is for it to become an online-only journal, from 2013. This has many advantages. All articles and reviews are fully typeset and published online as PDF files, downloadable by subscribers in a format that allows them to bind them in a folder for future reference if they wish (each year will be a new volume so they can be cited like any print journal). Articles and reviews will also be published in real time, an important advantage for contributors waiting for their work to be published (many traditional journals now have a waiting list numbering years before an article appears in print even after acceptance). Once peer-reviewed, typeset articles will be published immediately and the subscribers notified by email. Another advantage is that subscribers will have access to all past editions of the journal. No longer will new subscribers have to purchase all back editions to complete their collection. To these benefits of an online journal can be added one other: lower subscription costs not possible for print editions.

The second decision is to widen the journal's scope. We will continue to focus on an Evangelical analysis of society and politics, but from 2013 the journal will accept and publish contributions delving into Biblical Studies and Theology, not only where articles focus on society and politics, but in those fields more generally. Thus scholarly submissions that are suitably respectful of the Evangelical Christian tradition are welcomed and invited from across the disciplinary spectrum, whether Evangelical theology, Biblical Studies, politics, society and economics, missiology, Church history, and

so on. This broadened focus allows us to offer a wider Evangelical analysis to the academic and Church communities. The journal's name will change to *The Evangelical Review* and the editorial committee expanded to reflect this widened scope. Stephen and myself will continue to exercise editorial oversight over the new set-up. Like its parent, *The Evangelical Review* will continue to offer an Evangelical analysis of contemporary social and political issues, but other areas of interest to Evangelicals as well.

A complete redesign of the website and hosting of all past articles is well-underway, while new resources are already being considered for the new site. We expect it to be completed ready for the new academic year in September. Full details and how to subscribe will follow. We will also be publishing the most noteworthy or timely essays and articles appearing in *The Evangelical Review* in a book. Frequency has not yet been determined but a yearly publication is envisaged at some stage. More on this when the new online journal is launched.

In the meantime we would encourage prospective authors to begin submitting any papers you wish to be considered for publication in *The Evangelical Review* as soon as possible, allowing time for the peer review process to take place. These can be submitted to myself (calvin@kingsdivinity.org) or to Stephen Vantassel (svantassel@kingsdivinity.org). To review a book, contact Tim Lim (timteck@regent.edu). As noted above, from now on articles will be published in real time once accepted for publication. So we would encourage readers to pass on this information to established and up-and-coming scholars.

