

Editorial: The King James Bible

WE DEDICATE THIS issue to the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible which has been such a dominant and beneficial factor in the history of a large part of Christianity, as well as the English language itself. So we open with an interesting account by Brian Talbot (Scotland) of the popularity of this Bible with particular attention to the more conservative and evangelical sector of Protestantism.

Our second article takes up the experiences of one of the 19th century's most famous preachers, C. H. Spurgeon, who was one of the greatest users of the King James Bible. Peter Morden (Spurgeon's College, London) presents valuable insights on Spurgeon's attitude toward suffering, and shows how he coped with his own difficulties and, through his preaching and pastoral care, with those of his people.

We then turn to a short article by Frank Koppelin and our General Editor, Thomas Schirrmacher (Germany), to show how the gospels reveal clear signs that they were shaped to promote the mission of the church and were contextualized for the culture. This emphasizes the importance of pursuing this critical task wherever the gospel is spread and churches are planted. Still on the Gospels, Russell L. Huizing (USA) calls upon his knowledge of leadership and management to discuss the way these narratives show that discipleship represents an imitation of the life of Jesus and an incarnation of his Spirit.

In a different context entirely, Benson Ohion Igboin (Nigeria) tackles an

important but little discussed topic to argue for the application of the biblical authority in relation to a practical everyday matter. In a comprehensive survey of some lesser known areas of the Bible, he points out that in Scripture (as well as in his own culture), there is a reverence for sex and human sex organs which has been drastically lost in popular speech. This is a critical moral challenge for contemporary African Christianity which needs urgent attention.

We end this issue with a short Bible study by John Lewis (Australia) on the story of Elijah (I Kings 17) which addresses 'the pseudo-modernistic world of anxious banality and shallow text messages'. Lewis says that the world has moved into a new 'post-post-modernistic' era dominated by new paradigms forged by technologies and powerful social forces. Elijah's experience will help us to move into a 'dialogue of response and participation in the divine imperative'.

This issue also features some review articles on important books which require extended treatment. We also review the publication from our own task force on Jewish evangelism which met in 2009. Finally we note with sadness the death of the renowned evangelical leader, John Stott, on 27 July 2011 at 90 years of age. This issue carries a review of his biography and we, with so many others, give thanks for his life and ministry.

Thomas Schirrmacher, General Editor
David Parker, Executive Editor

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