

## *Editors Introduction*

(Dean Blevins) Greetings and welcome to *Didache: Faithful Teaching* edition 8:2 (Winter 2009). This edition incorporates a wealth of theological, cultural and educational treatments that intersect with a broad readership. This edition begins with specific treatments in theological and philosophical treatments within a Wesley perspective as well as a marvelous treatment within the history of the Church of the Nazarene. The edition then turns to several interesting treatments of issues in global education. Henry Spaulding begins the edition with a critical and constructive conversation between Wesleyan theology and Radical orthodoxy, addressing areas of mutual critique and resource while addressing contemporary struggles with nihilism. Bryan Williams' presidential address to the Wesleyan Philosophical Society (published in cooperation of the WPS) also seeks a comprehensive approach to engage issues of theology, philosophy and science within a Wesleyan framework. We wish to express our appreciation to the WPS, who consistently encourages ongoing dialog between Wesleyan thought and contemporary philosophy. To find out more about the WPS please see their website <http://home.snu.edu/~brint/wpsjnl/>. Brandon Winstead's review of the documentary history of the Gulf Century District provides an invaluable resource for future studies in the African American history within the Church of the Nazarene. Utilizing historical methods reminiscent of other Black church studies, Winstead chronicles thematic issues within this movement.

The second half of this introduction includes an introduction of a new journal editor, J. Matthew Price, Ph.D., Coordinator, International Board of Education (IBOE) of the Church of the Nazarene. As part of Dr. Price's role with the IBOE, he will be serving as co-editor of the journal. Matt brings an international perspective, drawing on his role as a missionary, as well as a strong educational framework working with key global leadership across the denomination. *Didache: Faithful Teaching* continues to enjoy sponsorship of the International Board of Education, in cooperation with Nazarene Theological Seminary who graciously hosts the website and encourages continued participation. It is a pleasure to have Matt join the journal's editorial team.

(Matt Price) The remaining journal draws on scholarship from several points on the globe. Floyd Cunningham challenged Asia Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary on the occasion of his inauguration as its fifth president by calling the school to build bridges and engage its community. Jayme Himmelwright, in her role as Field Education Coordinator for Eurasia Region's Western Mediterranean Field, offers a perspective on the influence of the Bologna Process on the strategy of Nazarene higher education in Europe. Bob Woodruff responds to Himmelwright's paper by highlighting the tensions of quality and mobility for institutions in Europe also how the Process could impact other institutions around the globe. Stéphane Tibi offers an introduction to StudyMaps, a learning method he developed combining the visual strength of mind maps and the Hebraic method of verbal repetition, a learning tool now in use across Africa. Jay Sunberg engages the financial struggles among retirees in the former communist country of Bulgaria through active reflection rather than reflexive action. His work is a prime example of David Kolb's experiential learning theory, or according to a saying attributed to Confucius, "Tell me, and I will forget. Show me, and I may remember. Involve me, and I will understand."

(Dean Blevins) One final note, this edition of *Didache* closes with a unique article for an online journal dedicated to scholarship. However, in keeping with who we are as a constituency, this tribute proves quite appropriate. In the summer of 2000, I (Dean) began my journey within global higher education at a conference in Johannesburg South Africa. Though I knew some people through informal contacts, the Johannesburg 2000 meeting marked the beginning of many serious and satisfying relationships in global ministry education. The conference also provided the backdrop to the creation of *Didache: Faithful Teaching*. It was during this event, thanks to John Haines, that I had opportunity to meet a bright, energetic, gentleman from the middle-east named Raja Nwaiser. We became quick friends, primarily due to Raja's humor and hospitality. This meeting, among others, awakened me to the quality of global educators just surfacing in the Church of the Nazarene. Summer of 2007 I had opportunity to renew our friendship during an educational visit to Eastern Mediterranean Bible College. I saw Raja, a dedicated and gifted leader, among his students; and I marveled at what God was doing in these settings. Raja represented, to me, the quality of leader our schools now possess within the Wesleyan Holiness tradition that would shape the future of ministry preparation primarily through the exceptional students and teachers they gathered to them. I was hopeful for the future. Perhaps that is why Raja's sudden death proved such a shock September 21 of 2008. John Haines graciously agreed to provide this tribute, I knew no one more supportive of young leadership or more qualified to speak of Raja as an educator. Admittedly there remain other great leaders, men and women, like John Allen Knight Sr., who have also passed since this time and who provided invaluable leadership within Wesleyan Holiness higher education. Their names will be remembered at other gatherings and in other publications. However, Raja represents who we are "becoming" as passionate, diverse, theologically informed, and ministerially-shaped educators, working often in regional settings, bringing forth God's kingdom as stewards of discipleship. Raja will be missed and our tradition finds itself a bit more bereft at his passing. However, his short life was a means of grace and we remain thankful for who Raja was in his ministry... as well as for who he represents for our future. *Soli Deo Gloria*

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