Editorial

From 21–25 October 2018 an international Barth conference was held in Stellenbosch with the theme "Embracing things past and things to come". The conference was jointly hosted by Stellenbosch University, The School of Humanities at UNISA and the Centre for Barth Studies at Princeton Theological Seminary. The conference theme drew upon Karl Barth's introduction to his *The Theology of John Calvin* (1922). Barth wrote, with reference to Calvin, that we should engage with history "on the simple grounds that we are humans and not oxen and asses that only know the present. We have a reason to embrace things past and things to come. We then, have a sense of time." In the light of this remark the conference – 50 years after Barth's death – focused on our complex and ambivalent pasts, as well as our current challenges and visions for the future. We are happy to include a selection in this edition of the *Stellenbosch Theological Journal* of the papers (by De Gruchy, Edwards, Field, Haddorff, Hartman, Nierop, Taljaard, and Wolff) presented at the conference

Apart from these eight articles, we include twelve further peer-reviewed articles. Many of these articles engage directly with ecclesial and societal challenges emanating from various South African contexts (see for instance the articles by Kgatla, Mashau, Pali, Resane, Vorster and Van Niekerk). In addition, a number of articles provide theological perspectives on global challenges related respectively to health (Rheeder) as well as to the so-called refugee crisis (Louw, Schinagl). Also included are articles that explore readings of biblical material (De Villiers, Rochester). The article by Francois Wessels on Martin Luther was presented in October 2017 as the annual Willie Jonker Memorial Lecture.

Robert Vosloo

Editor: *STJ*

Voorwoord

'n Internasionale Barth Konferensie is van 21–25 Oktober 2018 op Stellenbosch gehou. Dié konferensie is gesamentlik aangebied deur die Fakulteit Teologie, Universiteit Stellenbosch, Skool vir Geesteswetenskappe, UNISA en die Sentrum vir Barth Studies, Princeton Teologiese Seminarium. Die tema van die konferensie was "Embracing things past and things to come". Hierdie tema is aan 'n opmerking van Barth ontleen in die inleiding van sy *The Theology of John Calvin* (1922) waar hy skryf, met verwysing na Calvyn, dat ons met die geskiedenis bemoeienis moet maak "on the simple grounds that we are humans and not oxen and asses that only know the present. We have a reason to embrace things past and things to come. We then, have a sense of time." In die lig hiervan het die konferensie die 50ste sterfjaar van Barth met 'n blik op ons komplekse en meerduidige verledes herdenk, asook op die hedendaagse uitdagings en ons visie op die toekoms. Ons sluit graag in hierdie uitgawe 'n aantal van die artikels in wat by hierdie konferensie gelewer is, onder andere deur De Gruchy, Edwards, Field, Haddorff, Hartman, Nierop, Taljaard en Wolff.

Naas hierdie agt artikels sluit ons twaalf verdere portuur-geëvalueerde artikels in die Julie 2019-uitgawe van die *STJ* in. Baie van hierdie artikels fokus spesifiek op belangrike uitdagings vir die kerk en samelewing wat vanuit verskeie Suid-Afrikaanse kontekste ontspring (vergelyk byvoorbeeld die artikels deur Kgatla, Mashau, Pali, Resane, Vorster en Van Niekerk). 'n Aantal artikels bied teologiese perspektiewe op globale vraagstukke rakende onderskeidelik gesondheid (Rheeder) en die sogenaamde vlugtelingvraagstuk (Louw, Schinagl). Ons sluit ook twee artikels in wat reflekteer oor hoe die Bybel gelees word (De Villiers, Rochester). Die artikel van Francois Wessels oor Martin Luther is in Oktober 2017 as die jaarlikse Willie Jonker Gedenklesing gelewer.

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