

EDITOR'S PERSPECTIVE TOO: I AM GRATEFUL

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The *Journal of Biblical Integration in Business* (*JBIB*) had a dual mission when I became editor in 2009. It still does. The first part of the mission is to provide a refereed academic space where the presuppositions and principles in the Judaic/Christian Scriptures can be integrated with the business disciplines. Business shapes the world; this journal is a scholarly forum to explore Biblical ways of thinking about business (Johnson, 1996; Brown, 2015). Consider, for example, how the articles and dialogues in the *JBIB* have broadened our perspectives on servant-leadership (Tucker, Stone, Russell, & Franz, 2000), worldview in strategy (Martinez, 2003; Salgado, 2011), Christian family business (Discua Cruz, 2013), and shock advertising (Hagenbuch, 2015). The special issues on Hybrid Organizations,¹ Gender² and the Sabbath³ not only summarized significant areas of scholarship, they extended them in profound new directions.

The *JBIB* has become a forum for well-considered and interesting ideas. It is also a forum for ideas that are not just academic exercises but have eternal consequences (Seibert & Ashley, 2015; Smith, 2014). This journal has offered an almost unique outlet for scholars interested in publishing academic articles about Biblical integration in business.

The second part of the *JBIB* mission is to help faculty members develop their academic and integration writing skills (S. Chewning, 2015, Johnson, 2015). The *JBIB*, along with the *CBAR* and the CBFA conference, are forums where Christian business faculty and doctoral students can hone these skills so they can pursue their God-given vocation with excellence. This part of the mission has focused on writing workshops, views behind the “black box” of journal processes, and so forth.

The stars of the dual mission are the members of the *JBIB* Review Board and the *Ad Hoc* Review board. Without these people, neither part of the

mission could have been accomplished. A journal is only as good as its reviewers, which is why the names of the Review Board are published in every issue. It is the reviewers who take their personal time to help novice writers, and experienced ones, hone good ideas into strong and interesting articles. The *JBIB* Reviewers are extraordinarily dedicated to the mission of the journal.

Who are these people? Many of them are, like me, part of the large group of Ph.Ds. that Christian colleges and universities hired in the mid-1990's. Our universities expected us to publish and to do Biblical integration in the classroom. However, most of us had graduated from secular doctoral programs and were not trained in Biblical integration. So we began to attend the CBFA conference.

Senior CBFA scholars like John Boersema, Dick Chewning, Sharon Johnson, and others set high standards and challenged and guided us. But it was my talented contemporaries who most helped polish my academic writing and Biblical integration skills. The analogy of iron sharpening iron is very apt for CBFA. I am exceedingly grateful for my contemporaries, who presented and published amazing papers and were willing to co-author with me. Thank you for your scholarship, your encouragement through multiple edits, and your humor. You have been there for the long haul. I am very grateful.

It is those gifted people who are now members of the Board of Review for the *JBIB*. It is they who have been instrumental in keeping the standards of the journal high and in helping develop the next generations of integration scholars.

Thank you, Review Boards, for displaying gentle but firm scholarship, paper after paper, sometimes line after line. Thank you for supporting the dual mission of the *JBIB*. Thank you for forcing writers to articulate presuppositions, to be Biblical, to understand the business literature, and

to express their ideas with clarity. Thank you for being gracious when you were the author being forced to do those things.

Thank you, too, to the Board of CBFA who sponsored the journal through its changes of editors and changes of format. Without you, there would be no journal. I am so grateful that you saw the value of the *JBIB* and were willing to stand behind it. Thank you.

I am very grateful for the next generation of integration scholars. One of the great pleasures of being an editor is to watch new scholars emerge. Just think of all the authors in recent issues whose names you did not immediately recognize! Some of these gifted people are assistant and associate professors in Christian universities; some are faculty members interested in integration who found the *JBIB* through the data bases; and some come from Christian doctoral programs. Reading the papers they submitted to the journal leaves me excited for the future. The next generation of scholars are now publishing in the *JBIB* and joining the *JBIB* Board of Review. This is wonderful.

The past six years as editor have been, mostly, fun. Thank you for allowing me to be the editor of the *JBIB*. Thank you for your support and help. Thank you for reading the journal. I am grateful.

Now go write something.

May God be praised in the heights and in the depths.

ENDNOTES

¹ *JBIB* Vol. 15(1), 2012, edited by Margaret Edgell.

² *JBIB* Vol 16(1), 2013, edited by Julia Underwood.

³ *JBIB* Vol. 18(1), 2015, edited by Kent Seibert

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