

REPORT OF THE EDITOR TO THE 1979 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF THE WESLEYAN THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY


This has been a challenging year to the Editorial Committee. We stepped into the middle of an on-going two-year discussion of the historical-theological and exegetical-theological developments of Wesleyan thought, particularly as these related to the use of Holy Spirit-baptism terminology. A new Editor and one new committee member assumed office at the close of last year's annual meeting in which significant differences of opinion had been expressed, and the Committee faced the responsibility of publishing papers which had already provoked questions and other papers which were expected to be written in response. The latter expectation was due to a bold move by the Society to publish two numbers of the Journal rather than one for the first time in its history.

As Editor, I set four goals last year. (1) I wanted to involve as much as possible the full Editorial Committee in the preparation and publication of the Journal. We achieved this involvement significantly in the first number, but our diversion from normal schedules during the summer left the second number a one-man production. (2) I wanted to publish the first number of the Journal early--originally by the end of January. In this we miserably failed, ending up with the latest publication ever--the beginning of July! This was due to a three-month lag in receiving final manuscripts on some of the papers, an extended illness of the Editor, difficulty

in finding a printer whose price for two numbers would fit into our budget, and the Editor's insistence that each writer have the opportunity of reviewing galley proofs before the Journal went to press. (3) I wanted to publish a second number of the Journal in the summer. This we achieved with completion in September. The speed with which the second number was issued was what we had planned for the first--we indeed tried harder! (4) I wanted to develop an editorial policy which would guide us in future handling and editing of manuscripts. We have made a beginning in this direction and will be presenting recommendations for such a policy to the new Executive Committee for its approval.

An additional responsibility was assigned to our Committee at last year's annual conference, and that was to study the question of continuing with two numbers per year or an enlargement of the one. At this writing, the Editorial Committee has been unable to meet and prepare a recommendation. But the Editor, as a member of the Executive Committee, has discussed the matter thoroughly with that committee and concurs in their recommendation that we issue two numbers per year.

I would like to express appreciation to Charles N. Dillman and Timothy L. Smith for their help this year, and to those who submitted articles for the second number of the Journal. We will need continued support of this kind if the second number maintains the standard of excellence for which we shall strive.



Lee M. Haines, Editor