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## Editors' Notes

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## Editors' Notes

D'ESTA LOVE AND STUART LOVE

Pepperdine's 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Bible Lectures (2007) featured the book of Jeremiah, the legacy of the "words" and "acts" (1.1; 51.64) of Jeremiah the prophet. Drawn from the Lectures, this issue's marvelous collection of prophetic utterances, personal dialogues, autobiographical reports, and liturgical compositions is both challenging and inspiring.

Because your editors could not be at the Lectures, the *Leaven* Symposium was chaired by Dr. Paul Watson. Dr. Watson, an Old Testament scholar currently teaching at the Institute for Theology and Christian Ministry in St. Petersburg, Russia, and a member of the *Leaven* editorial board, has graciously consented to serve as our Guest Editor. It is our privilege to pass the baton to him as he frames the rationale for the issue and tells us something of the writers and their topics.

First, however, we must make an apology to you our readers and to Dr. Ron Cox, the Guest Editor of the Colossians issue (Volume 15/2). Dr. Cox's seminal article, "Christ, the Creation and You," which provided the backbone for the entire issue, was unfortunately not included in the publication. The article is therefore included in this issue.

Future issues of *Leaven* include the following: *Creation/New Creation*, edited by Dr. Tim Willis, *Your Sons and Your Daughters will Prophesy*, edited by D'Esta Love, and *Sexuality and the Christian Life*, edited by Dr. Jack Holland.

Please continue to pray for *Leaven*.

STUART AND D'ESTA LOVE

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To paraphrase a familiar Protestant slogan, the church is ever being renewed, and ever in need of renewal. Nowhere in scripture is God's call to renewal sounded out more boldly than through the prophet Jeremiah. Having himself been called "to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant" (1.10), Jeremiah repeatedly, unflinchingly says to his people, "Hear the word of the Lord. . . . This is what the Lord says" (2.4–5 passim).

Jeremiah's message of judgment and of forgiveness, of retribution and of renewal, was the theme for Pepperdine's 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Bible Lectures. Many of the presentations from that lectureship are included in this issue of *Leaven*, beginning with **Tim Willis'** sensitive overview of the book of Jeremiah—"Reading Jeremiah"—which both sets Jeremiah in the context of his day and time and suggests ways of hearing Jeremiah's message for our own day. Listening to God's call of Jeremiah in 1.4–12, **John York** reminds us that "Authentic calling to mission and ministry always means living beyond our own abilities and inclinations and living into what only God can do." **Glenn Pemberton** vividly reprises Jeremiah's "temple sermon" (7.1–15) for our modern ears and sets before us this challenge: "To hear the word of the Lord requires our recapturing the true value of the temple of the Lord, the church of Christ." **David Fleer** then invites us to take the "Jeremiah 31" Exit on the highway of scripture and imagine, with Jeremiah, what the hope of the "new covenant" truly involves.

From the *Leaven* Symposium on Jeremiah and ministry come four intriguing essays. As Jeremiah called upon his people to remember the true story of Shiloh—a story of destruction and despair that included the indictment of Jeremiah’s own ancestors—so **Jason Bembry** urges us to tell our stories and tell them truthfully today: “The goal is to tell the truth about God’s work in the world, sometimes in keeping with our best efforts, and sometimes despite them.” “It Took Me by Surprise” says **Charme Robarts**, referring to her reading of Jeremiah. Charme shares some of those surprises with us, noting that “Surprises whether good or bad have the common effect of awakening senses and arresting business-as-usual.” In a similar vein, **Mark Hamilton** would have us see the “alternative visions” of Jeremiah, for “behind the glorious muddle of the book lies a comprehensive vision of alternative possibilities open to the people of God.” Given her abiding interest in Christian formation of both children and adults, it is not surprising that **Samjung Kang-Hamilton** challenges us with the reality that “The church has lost its prophetic voice in a world struggling with poverty, hatred, and fear,” and urges us to be re-formed by the prophetic words of Jeremiah.

Rounding out this issue are a resource article by the Guest Editor and a wonderfully stimulating collection of readings from Jeremiah assembled by **Lee Magness** under the title, “Hope For Your Future.”

“Hear the word of the Lord.”

PAUL WATSON

