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## Editors' Notes

stuart Love  
slope@pepperdine.edu

D'Esta Love  
dlove@pepperdine.edu

Bill Love

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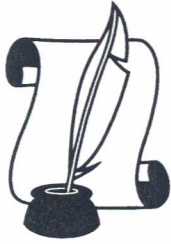
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## *Editors' Notes*

Stuart & D'Esta Love

We appreciate the excellent work of **BILL LOVE** in editing this issue for the readers of *Leaven*. As guest editor, Bill brings his own years of experience and devotion to the task of preaching, and we have benefited from his vision and his call to preach the gospel faithfully. While this issue is dedicated to “those who are young students of preaching,” we believe all our readers who are engaged in and/or influenced and inspired by preaching will read the articles with interest and recognition.

Although preaching has not been my task in the Kingdom, I have been intimately connected with preaching for a lifetime through three generations of preachers. While reading **DAN ANDERS'** personal journey down “the preaching road,” I found a familiar road map. I answered “yes” to his question, “Do you identify?” I have walked that road with my father, my husband, and my son, and I recognized and knew all the forces of a lifetime shaping the traveler and all the stops and places along the way. As you read, we believe you will find yourself somewhere along that road, if not traveling it yourself.

Two of the articles present aspects of the vocation of preaching and the character of the life of the preacher. **FRED BARTON** presents the challenges and blessings, obligations and responsibilities associated with the call to preach. **PHILIP SLATE** calls preachers to lifelong learning and outlines the multiple emphases integral to that process. In the article that follows, we are allowed to hear voices from the pew as five women, diverse in age, experience, geographic location, and perspective, tell us what they need from the pulpit. **CLAUDIA FERGUSON, JOAN VANRHEENEN, JAN RANDOLPH, GLADYS JEFKINS,** and **JUDI EAGER** speak of their desires to gain more glimpses of eternity, receive the message of grace and hope, experience a connection to God through worship, be refreshed and inspired, and hear God's word and find therein encouragement for all who listen to the message.

The content of preaching is discussed by two preachers, and you will wish for an opportunity to sit among their congregations as they proclaim the message. The richness of character, language, story, and theme in the Old Testament, as well as a greater understanding of God, await the preacher and the congregation willing to experience the “sheer delight” of preaching from the Old Testament. **PAUL WATSON'S** own joy in preaching from the Old Testament is evident and makes the reading of his article equally enjoyable. **JAMES WOODROOF'S** answer to his own question, “What have I been called to preach?” results in a passion for preaching Jesus. His call to the preacher to “exude the

aroma of Christ” and to present Jesus in the context of life and crises is compelling, even to those of us who are not preachers.

A mature insight into the particular calling to an “older church” with a long history unfolds as **EDDIE SHARP** writes of the unique challenges and blessings associated with preaching for a church such as the University Church of Christ in Abilene, Texas. **TOM OLBRICHT**’s article explores the wonder and mystery of God’s work through the preaching of the Word. **JOHN OWSTON** and **HANS ROLLMANN** write two articles out of the richness of our Restoration history. One focuses on the influence of the Scotch Baptists on our heritage; the other, on the often forgotten but significant contributions of Joseph Lemuel Martin. The issue is completed with three book reviews authored by **DON KERN**, **MARKUS MCDOWELL**, and **ELEANOR A. DANIEL**.

Two of our writers, **JOHN OWSTON** and **ELEANOR A. DANIEL**, come from the Restoration heritage of Christian Churches. *Household Conversion Narratives in Acts: Pattern and Interpretation*, one of the books reviewed in this issue, is authored by **DAVID LERTIS MATSON**, who teaches at Milligan College. David will serve as our guest editor for the issue on Ministry in Luke-Acts, to be published this year.

Other news: **ROBERT CARGILL** has consented to help with some of the business/management aspects of the journal. If you have access to the Pepperdine Web Site, check it out. Thanks to Robert’s good work, you will find a Web Page for Leaven.

STUART AND D’ESTA LOVE

#### Editor’s Foreword

#### To Our Students of Preaching:

“What could be more full of meaning?—for the pulpit is ever the earth’s foremost part; all the rest comes in its rear, the pulpit leads the world. . . . From thence it is that the God of breezes fair or foul is first invoked for favourable winds. Yes, the world’s a ship on its passage out, and not a voyage complete; and the pulpit is its prow.” (Herman Melville, *Moby Dick*)

No modern novelist would write such words. Readers would laugh out loud. Even religious people do not believe the pulpit is “the earth’s foremost part” and that it “leads the world.” Television and movies usually depict the preacher as a buffoon or, worse, as a slick manipulator out only for filthy lucre. The preacher had power and influence in Melville’s time, but not in ours.

As a result of research I did a few years back, I am convinced that some of the strongest and most faithful preachers in our Restoration history are living and proclaiming today. However, they may be exceptions to the rule. Many preaching ministers seem confused about their roles

in the church and society. Look at the hats some preachers have chosen to wear: entertainer, CEO of the corporation, amateur psychologist, fund-raiser, multimedia expert, church growth sociologist, public relations agent to the community, etc. It is hardly surprising that many of the next generation of preachers, today’s students of preaching, are bewildered about their calling.

This issue of *Leaven* is intended to raise questions and offer perspectives on the calling, life, and role of the preaching minister. Our agenda is not to restore the prestige of preaching to that enjoyed by preachers in the last century. We hope, rather, to stimulate fresh thought about what it means to preach the gospel faithfully.

I dedicate this issue to you who are the young students of preaching. May the words of these who have gone before you be an inspiration moving you faithfully to “preach Christ crucified.”

BILL LOVE  
HOUSTON, TEXAS