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Editors' Notes

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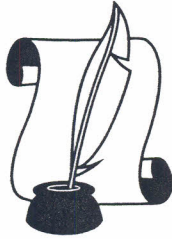


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Editors' Notes

D'Esta Love, Stuart Love

Describing the true Christian life as he writes to the church at Colossae, Paul states, "And let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Three times the apostle gives thanks. It is in the same spirit of thanksgiving that we write this editorial. We are thankful that with this issue we complete volume three. Let us count some of the ways in which God has blessed us.

1. We are thankful for the writers of articles, book reviews and special features. Almost always those we have invited to write have said "yes" in the midst of busy schedules. We have received all of our articles on computer discs making the editing task much easier, and the quality of writing has been excellent.

2. We are thankful for the subscribers and readers of **Leaven** who have been patient and understanding as we have relocated the journal to Pepperdine. We are grateful for the resources that the University provides in the preparation and mailing of each issue. A special thanks to Nancy Hughes (and others) for her copy editing and all of the student workers who have helped in mailing **Leaven**.

3. We are thankful that most of the articles for volume four have been written or will be completed by Christmas. A special thanks to Paul Watson, Dean Smith and Fran Carver, and Lynn Mitchell and Tommy King for serving as guest editors for our upcoming issues on the Psalms, Women in Ministry and Children and the Church.

4. We are grateful for the continued support of Jerry Rushford that one of our issues each year grows out of the Pepperdine Lectures. This year the theme is on Job and the members of the **Leaven** Symposium include Tim Willis, Jan Hailey, Mark Carver and Fran Carver. We hope you will be able to attend.

5. We are thankful that in February we will have a breakfast and booth at the Bible Lectureship at ACU. We invite you to attend our **Leaven** breakfast in the ACU Cafeteria, Faculty Dining Room at 7:00 a.m., February 21.

6. We are especially grateful for the interest members of Christian Churches are showing in **Leaven**. Through special efforts of Dr. Dave Matson of Milligan College and Leonard Wymore of Johnson City, Tennessee we have been invited to have a booth at the annual North American Christian Convention in Dallas, Texas in July. We look forward to articles being written by ministers, church leaders and scholars among Christian Churches. Our ministry needs are very similar. Perhaps our effort can make a contribution to increasing the grace of unity among God's people.

7. We are thankful for a growing number of unsolicited articles, worship services, book reviews and communion meditations. It is largely through these contributions and the overflow of excellent materials from our issues on Galatians, John and the Lord's Supper that this issue was compiled.

8. We are thankful for the beginning of an advisory board to **Leaven**. Would you like to advance a name(s)? Advisory board members will serve as ambassadors for **Leaven** and

suggest ways we can improve our efforts.

Along with our Thanksgivings are continued challenges in publishing **Leaven**. We ask your prayers for the following:

1. Our ability to produce issues on a more timely basis. We were able to publish four issues this past year, but we look forward to the time when issues can come to you on a quarterly basis, such as January, April, June and October.

2. Our need to market **Leaven**. In many ways you are our best marketing strategy as you encourage others to subscribe. One preacher said, "**Leaven** is the best kept secret among us."

3. Components of each issue need improvement. We still need more book reviews and special features. We are open to suggestions.

Now, a few words about this issue. Three articles by **Dan Anders**, **Markus McDowell** and **Barry Sanford** deal with preaching. Anders leads us through the process of his preparation of a sermon—not in the typical fashion of analyzing homiletic methods, but by exploring the interface of congregational needs with a particular passage and topic. McDowell's article is an extended book review of P. T. Forsyth's classic work, **Positive Preaching and the Modern Mind**. The richness of his effort is to share with the reader a number of compelling quotations. You will surely want to read Forsyth if you have not already done so, and this article will be an excellent guide. Barry Sanford writes about the use of the lectionary in sermon preparation and the worship service. Many among us do not know what a lectionary is and how it can serve us. Sanford clearly and patiently leads us into its possibilities.

Two excellent articles could not be included in our issues on John and the Lord's Supper. **John York's** piece explores the meaning of "abiding places" in John 14. It is material presented originally at the Pepperdine Lectures. **Rob McRay's** article on the Lord's Supper opens up the need to see the Eucharist as a celebration of thanksgiving. He makes an interesting point pertaining to the role of children during the supper. You will want to remember this article when you read the issue on Children and the Church. **John Free** and **June Breninger** write articles pertaining to the use of psychology and the social sciences in the church. Free's study warns us of uncritically equating the thought of Carl Rogers with the biblical notion of covenant love. Breninger's article sees possible parallels between spiritual and psychological well-being and makes specific recommendations for churches seeking to meet special psychological needs of its members. **André Resner** brings us a creative feature on ministry. You will enjoy it. **Tom Olbricht** has worked extensively with biographical materials pertaining to Reuel Lemmons. Aspects of this piece have already appeared in **Image**. We are grateful that **Image** has granted us permission to include this longer version of Olbricht's biographical sketch. A final feature is an index of **Leaven**, Volumes 1-3 which we believe will be of service to our readers. Our special thanks goes to **Tom Nicholas** for many hours of meticulous work in producing the index!

Remember, issues being prepared in the future: Bill Love on preaching, D'Esta Love on favorite texts for ministry, Kathy Pulley on Christian ethics, Mark Love and David Fleer on poetry and parable, Mike Casey on the media and the church and John Mark Hicks on the atonement.