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Editors' Notes

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Editors' Notes

D'ESTA LOVE AND STUART LOVE

We are pleased to open the year 2013 with an issue on *Missions for the Twenty-first Century*. Dr. Daniel A. Rodriguez, professor of Missions at Pepperdine University, serves as the guest editor. “Dr. Dan,” as our students affectionately call him, brings a combination of excellent training, worldwide missions experience, writing skills and a commitment to keep abreast of new directions in mission work. In other words, for Dr. Rodriguez, the task of a holistic approach to the task of missions is a life commitment that grows out of his devotion to Christ and the church. All of this will become evident as you read his introduction to the issue and the various authors he has chosen. We believe his effort provides our readers a state-of-the-art introductory view of several aspects of the missionary task for our time. Hopefully, this issue of *Leaven* will be used in churches and Christian university classrooms for some time.

Before Dr. Rodriguez introduces what follows, let us indicate the rich feast ahead for 2013. **DANNY MATHEWS** will edit our second issue on the book of *Exodus*. **CHRIS DORAN** is preparing an issue on *A Christian Response to the Environment*. Finally, your editors will pull together materials from the Pepperdine University Annual Bible Lectures devoted to the book of *Revelation*. We hope you come to these lectures, now directed by **MIKE COPE**. Our speaker for the *Leaven* luncheon will be **JOHN YORK**. In addition, work is underway for most of 2014 with issues on *Spiritual Formation* and *Gender Inclusion Among Christian Churches*. Continue to pray for the work of *Leaven*.

Guest Editor's Introduction

DANIEL A. RODRIGUEZ

In 2010, I was invited to serve as a U.S. delegate at the Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization, commonly referred to as Cape Town 2010. While in South Africa for this historic event, I was impressed with the overwhelming and worldwide support for two exciting trends in missions. As guest editor, I am excited because each of these trends is illustrated concretely in this important issue of *Leaven*. The first trend is toward the recognition of the inseparable relationship between preaching *Good News* (e.g., evangelism and church planting) and doing *Good Works* (e.g., relief, development and structural change). For example, Christopher Wright, principal author of “The Cape Town Commitment,”¹ insists that we need more “models of the kind of comprehensive redemptive response to human need that God himself enacted and then demanded of his people.”² This trend toward “holistic models” of mission is clearly evident in the article co-authored by **BURT NOWERS** and **RANDY STEGER**, who work with Healing Hands International, and in the article by **AMANDA MADRID**, MD, a health care missionary working tirelessly in Central America with PREDISAN.

In *Well-Connected: Releasing Power and Restoring Hope through Kingdom Partnerships*, **PHILLIP BUTLER** laments that “around the world, duplication of effort, division, and lack of coordination seem to be

¹ Access the “Cape Town Commitment” at <http://www.lausanne.org/en/documents/ctcommitment.html>.

² Christopher J. H. Wright, *The Mission of God's People: A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010), 112.

the greatest single roadblocks to Kingdom advancement.”³ In response to this reality, the Second Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization made the following pledge, “We affirm the urgent need for churches, mission agencies and other Christian organizations to cooperate in evangelism and social action, repudiating competition and avoiding duplication.”⁴ The commitment to the kinds of partnerships envisioned in Manila (1989) and echoed at Cape Town (2010) is illustrated throughout this issue of *Leaven*. For example, **DOUG PRIEST** provides helpful case studies and challenges Great Commission Christians to build global partnerships following the reproducible model at CMF International. **DAN BOUCHELLE** and **JAY JARBOE** describe the grass roots efforts at Missions Resource Network to equip local churches in the United States and abroad to partner together for a greater harvest. **DAVID LIMIERO** describes the strategic partnership in Ecuador between Stadia, an innovative and successful church-planting agency and Compassion International, a child advocacy ministry. Similarly, **SHERRYLEE WOODWARD** describes the efforts at Let’s Start Talking to establish partnerships between short-term mission teams from the United States and indigenous churches around the world.

Finally, mental health specialists **DOTTIE SCHULZ** and **DALE HAWLEY** describe the often overlooked partnership between sponsoring churches and their missionaries, particularly in identifying and providing the minimum physical, spiritual, relational and emotional health care needed by those sent into the harvest. In this regard, **JEANENE REESE** describes the efforts of Come before Winter, an organization that seeks “to renew, equip, honor and unite women in ministry around the world.”⁵

Each of the contributors in this issue is keenly aware that their ministries and organizations exist to enhance the local church’s ability to participate in the mission of God. More importantly, they understand that the ultimate goal of the mission of God is “to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ” (Eph 1.10 NIV). As far as humanity is concerned, this will finally result in praise and worship of God and the Lamb by a great multitude from every nation, tribe, and people (Rev 7.9–10). So it is appropriate that this issue concludes with a liturgical reading by **LEE MAGNESS**.



³Phillip Butler, *Well-Connected: Releasing Power and Restoring Hope through Kingdom Partnerships* (Federal Way, WA: Authentic, 2005), 5.

⁴The Second Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization, “The Manila Manifesto,” in *Making Christ Known: Historic Mission Documents from the Lausanne Movement, 1974–1989*, ed. John R. W. Stott (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996), 232.

⁵See <http://www.comebeforewinter.org/about-us/> (accessed February 21, 2013).