

Editorial – June 2017



CRUCIBLE
THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

Dear readers,

Welcome to the June 2017 issue of *Crucible* which focusses on the topic of migration. One of the most pressing issues facing our world today is mass migration. From the "boat people" debate in Australia to the refugee crisis in the Middle-east and Europe, the world is struggling with some of the biggest mass migrations in history. In light of these issues, several articles in this issue of *Crucible* are devoted to migration.

In her article, "Taking Stock, Taking Heart, Taking Action: Australia, refugees and the ethics of Isaiah," Bron Williams applies the ethics of Isaiah to Australia's treatment of asylum seekers and refugees with disturbing implications. In the Test Tube section, Wilma Gallet from the Christian Research Association uses a practical theology lens to examine how the Christian church in general is responding to one of the more critical social issues affecting humanity: how we deal with the mass migration of people and, in particular, refugees who are fleeing persecution and conflict. In the same section I offer a sermon on the topic, "Migration and the People of God," which is an attempt to translate a thematic study of migration in the Bible into an applicable concept for the average church attender.

The Filter section also touches on the theme of migration, especially Muslim migration. Discussion about Islam is often hindered by the fact that few ordinary Australians – Christians and Muslims alike – have a deep knowledge of Islam's authoritative texts. Bernie Power's book, *Understanding Jesus and Muhammad* is built upon the idea that Islam (and Christianity) cannot be properly understood without reference to its foundational texts. The book is reviewed by Richard Shumack. On a similar theme John Steward and Bernie Powell both review Dave Andrews' thought provoking book, *The Jihad of Jesus*.

Alongside these articles related to migration are some generic articles. Jeff Pugh explores the connection between the imagination in preaching and the illuminating work of the Spirit in his article *The Transforming Power of Preaching With Imagination*. The Filter section also offers reviews on Kelle's commentary on Ezekiel, Macchia's book on Pentecostal theology and Mascord's *Faith without Fear* which explores his own faith journey and articulates some of the concerns he has with contemporary (Australian [Sydney Anglican]) evangelical Christianity.

The November issue of *Crucible* will be themed on the book of Psalms. This is because we are incorporating a number of articles based on the fruit of the "Young Scholars Summit," convened at Tyndale House, Cambridge, in the summer of 2014. The Summit was sponsored by the International Reference Library for Biblical Research and directed by the Institute of Biblical Research. The work was presented later in 2014 at the Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting. Its goal was for four young scholars, with the leadership of two senior scholars, to pursue a question of how are we as Christians to understand the Psalms messianically? The task of the young scholars was to develop literature addressing this question, not for other scholars but for the pastor and interested churchgoer.

It is exciting that *Crucible* will host such quality scholarship. It would be great if we could fill the Test Tube and Filter section of the issue with ministry resources and reviews related to the messianic Psalms. Please extend this call for papers through your networks. Submission guidelines are at: <http://www.crucibleonline.net/>

Thanks for your support of *Crucible*.

Ian Hussey

General Editor.