



Dear readers,

You may have noticed that there was no May issue of *Crucible* this year. Well the good news is that this November issue is a “bumper” issue bursting with great reading for your end of year.

This Cauldron section of this issue contains a number of articles emerging from the “Ancient Wisdom Modern World” conference held at Vose Seminary, Perth, on 28-29 August 2018. James Cregan explores how John’s story of Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well (Jn 4:4-42) demonstrates how images of Eden in Old Testament representations of Wisdom were appropriated by John to reveal Jesus as the source and perfect sign of the new Creation. David Kummerow suggests how we may preach Christ from the prologue of the Book of Job. By reading Matthew 19:1-12 in the light of Matthew 18:21-35, David G. Lowe provides some important insights on Jesus’ teaching on divorce. John Olley demonstrates how the story of Chronicles can encourage us to sustain integrated living (worship and wisdom) that brings success. Finally, Erin Martine Sessions brings the Song of Songs into conversation with the issue of intimate partner violence producing a model for how love and care should be.

Alongside these articles emerging from the Vose conference is a Cauldron article by Bruce Alder calling preachers to set higher goals for preaching. In the Test Tube section are two other articles of value. Allan Varghese demonstrates how the poems in Lamentations provide a unique theological language for the 21<sup>st</sup>-century believer to express and to communicate their pain or even the remorse or rage at God. Mark Chapman develops a research-informed practical model to guide the selection of leaders for cross-cultural mission contexts. In the Filter section we have a review of Glynn Harrison’s, *A Better Story – God, Sex and Human Flourishing*.

A special thanks to Rob Fringer, the associate editor of *Crucible*, who facilitated the huge task of peer reviewing the unusually large number of articles in this issue. Thanks also to Michael O’Neil from Vose who organised the conference and suggested that the presenters find a home for their work in *Crucible*. And, of course, to our peer reviewers who are willing to sacrifice time in the busyness of their schedules for the benefit of others without receiving any recognition in return (except from the One who sees all.)

We are already collecting material for the May 2019 issue of *Crucible*. 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.