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Introduction

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Introduction

Gary L. McIntosh, Editor

For the past fourteen years, it has been my privilege to edit the *Journal of the American Society for Church Growth*. John Vaughan's vision of seeing a new journal devoted to Great Commission research became a reality when the first issue was released in 1990. He edited the first four years, and I followed him as editor in 1995. My two major goals were to publish on a regular time schedule, and to move to multiple issues per year. Both of those goals were accomplished in 1997 when we first began publishing three issues per year.

Now, after editing thirty-seven issues, it is time to pass the editorial leadership on to a new person. Beginning with the first issue of 2009, Alan McMahan will take over as editor. He has assembled an editorial team, and together they will take the journal to new heights. I will leave the details for Dr. McMahan to share with you in next year's first issue. However, I am excited about the new plans he has for the journal, and I know you will be too.

Producing a journal three times a year does not happen without support from many people. Much appreciation goes to the following persons who helped me along the way. First, my administrative assistant at Talbot School of Theology, Megan Gibson, who supervised the mailing of the journal for over ten years. Second, my former secretary, Carolyn Fithian, who prepared the page proofs of all thirty-seven issues that I edited. Third, my wife, Carol McIntosh, who managed the mailing list and financial accounting. Without the support of these people the journal could not have been produced.

The writers, of course, are the foundation for a journal. Over the last fourteen years nearly 185 articles and book reviews, which were contributed by about 150 authors, have been published. I thank each of them for doing the research and writing the results so that we could grow in our understanding of how people come to Christ and His Church. This issue highlights church planting with three articles devoted to that topic. One article focuses on changing perspectives on leadership, and the final article on measuring the impact of personal evangelism. Six book reviews close out the journal. For authors and titles, please see the table of contents.

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Finally, I thank all of you for reading the *Journal of the American Society for Church Growth*. It has been my pleasure to serve you as editor, and I trust you will find the journal a continuing resource in the years to come.

—Editor