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## Introduction Winter 1997

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## Introduction

Gary L. McIntosh, Editor

This issue marks a new era for *the Journal of The American Society for Church Growth (JASCG)*. From 1990 through 1996, the *JASCG* was published once a year. However, beginning this year it will be published three times yearly according to the standard academic year – Fall, Winter, and Spring.

Dr. John N. Vaughan served as founding editor from 1990 through 1995. It was his vision and determination which launched the *JASCG*. Thus, it is fitting that the first article found in this issue is his Presidential Address to the American Society for Church Growth originally delivered in Pasadena, California in November 1993. Dr. Vaughan's seminal lecture served as the spark which ignited a new direction for our society that is gaining momentum each and every day.

The second article is the Presidential Address given the following year in Houston, Texas in November 1994. Using Dr. Vaughan's address as a springboard, Dr. Gary L. McIntosh conducted a year long survey to determine the attitudes toward the Church Growth Movement among pastors, denominational executives, and members of the *ASCG*. The complete updated results of that survey are printed here for the first time.

Dr. Tom Steffen, a missiologist at Biola University's School of Intercultural Studies, addresses the issue of how to produce quality training partnerships for effective cross-cultural church planting. Using three case studies, Dr. Steffen develops four needs which exist for effectively training church planting teams.

Linking prayer and bold proclamation for contemporary church growth is the topic of the final article in this journal. In

this insightful study Christopher Schofield, an adjunct professor and itinerant evangelist, presents an in-depth look at Acts 4:23-31 and Ephesians 6:18-20 expounding on the need to link prayer and bold proclamation together for effective church growth.

Regular readers of the *JASCG* will note a new feature in this issue. For the first time, book reviews will be featured by three members of the *ASCG*—Jerry Graham, James Braddy, and Wilbur Brannon.

Publishing three journals per year creates the need for additional articles and book reviews. Thus, I encourage you to read over the “Information for Writers” found at the end of this journal and to submit an article or book review to me this year. I’d also appreciate your assistance in notifying me of any significant articles or books which you think we need to review in future issues.

—Editor