

## THE EDITOR'S NOTE

### *My last word*

*Scriptura came into being in late 1980. Three of us came together in small room on a stuffy afternoon and conceived of an independent, academic journal which was to be credible, financially viable and adapted to the intellectual discourse of genuine South African Theology.*

*Of the three, Prof Willem Vorster suffered a terminal stroke some 8 years ago. Prof Bernard Lategan edited the journal until 1994 after which I took over. Now it is time for me to hand her over to the next editor, Prof Hendrik Bosman. From 1980 to 2000 the home of the journal was the department of Biblical Studies – which became the Department of Religion in 1993. Now Scriptura will move offices for the first time in its existence. From 2001 it will be housed in the Faculty of Theology, Dorp Street, Stellenbosch.*

*I would like to pay tribute to both colleagues. It is most fitting that Bernard Lategan could contribute to this, our last edition.*

*In the 20 years that I have been associated with Scriptura we have published 96 editions. It is impossible to calculate precisely the number of pages but a fair guess would be 13 000. All of these were edited, prepared and printed in-house.*

*Scriptura is, in a way, a living example of the electronic revolution of the last two decades. The first editions were all typed. The layout and professionalism grew as the technology became more popularised. But so did the scope and volume of words too.*

*But more than technology has changed over the last two decades. The world is in a process of transformation seldom experienced in human history. Scriptura has tried to reflect the process as it impacts on our part of Africa. In this my last edition as editor, I have compiled a number of articles dealing with various aspects of values. In times of great change values beg our attention because values are steering mechanisms; they play decisive directional roles.*

*Values change and it is not unthinkable that, in the times ahead, the religions of the world will have to face a re-examination of those values they explicitly or tacitly embody. I hope this volume will contribute positively to serious reflection in this regard.*

*May I wish the new team who take over this journal a fulfilling time.*

*After twenty years it is comforting to know that the journal will go over into capable hands. Looking back we have to express admiration for all the hard work done by Rene Smith, Santie Grosskopf and Heloise Davis as editors' assistants. Thank you very much.*

*Looking back, it was an honour and a pleasure to create and sustain a journal which has become an established feature in the Southern African intellectual community.*

**Johann Kinghorn**