
WORD OF INTRODUCTION

This issue of *Scriptura* is the sixth publication for which the Southern African Biblical Studies Society is responsible. Following the Society's policy, some of the papers read at its 1992 annual congress have been published here. Held at Vista University, Pretoria, from 22-23 May, the congress helped to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the foundation of Vista University.

In line with the Society's congresses over the past few years, the 1992 congress paid attention to the actuality of Biblical Studies within the context of the rapidly changing Southern African scene. The theme, *The Bible, Theology and our Context*, focussed upon the three foundations of the subject Biblical Studies. Failure to give attention to any one of these areas would seriously hinder and undermine the subject itself.

Not all the papers read at the conference could be reproduced here. Those presented here have been selected according to the principle of merit, following our usual procedure of submitting them to peer evaluation within the academic community of our discipline. It is our hope that these articles will contribute to a wider discussion beyond the narrow confines of our Society itself.

The issues with which these papers grapple are vital to our discipline. The future of Biblical Studies as a subject both at secondary and tertiary level in South Africa depends upon the seriousness with which we view the issues raised by these papers and the answers that we try to implement arising from them.

Professors Patrick Hartin, Malan Nel and Stephan Joubert.

(Editorial Committee for the Biblical Studies Society.)