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## EDITORIAL

This special edition of *Scriptura* contains once again selections of papers presented to the Southern African Biblical Studies Society at its Tenth Annual Meeting held on 24 and 25 May, 1991. The Conference, hosted by the University of South Africa, had as its theme: *Values and education for a new generation*.

Looking back on the past, the conference attempted to see what one could learn from our mistakes and successes as we prepared to move forward towards an unknown future. In particular the focus was on the role that values (and in particular biblically inspired values) play within the field of education.

Professor D C Badenhorst, in his article *The limitations and possibilities of the South African Education system in the inculcation of values*, speaks from an educationalist point of view. After presenting some important general considerations with regard to values, he makes an analysis and comparison of the value systems of some of the South African cultural groups. From this examination he draws conclusions for an educational system and its values in a new South Africa.

In his article *What went wrong with our system of values? A contextual study in dialogue with Sampie Terreblanche*, Dr W A Sebothoma argues that South Africa is a microcosm of the world. Most of the problems in South Africa, he maintains, have been inherited from the past, especially through colonization. He makes an appeal above all for the gap between preaching and the practice of Christianity to be bridged.

Dr G B Mitchell, in his article *Religion and values: what went wrong?* argues that a new education model should be adopted wherein dialogue plays a central role, replacing the model of the all-knowing teacher who communicates all truth. Dialogue and discovery should be the hallmarks on the path to the discovery and transmission of values.

All the papers at the conference were followed by responses of scholars who tried to see things from a different perspective. These are included here in order to stimulate the discussion.

Finally, the shorter article of Professor S J Joubert, entitled *Van werklikheid tot werklikheid: die interkulturele kommunikasie van Nuwe-Testamentiese waardes*, has a twofold aim: he analyzes basic New Testament values and then endeavours to translate, as he says, these values into the new context of a changing South Africa.

In this process of a changing society it is important that the role and the importance of values within an educational system receives close attention. These articles are offered as an attempt to stimulate further discussion on the issue as well as to erect signposts towards the future, for which we are preparing and which we are eagerly awaiting.

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Editor for the Bible Studies Society.