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## EDITORIAL

Two important matters are addressed in this issue: the question of appropriate theological education in an African context, and the problem of conflict and peace seen from a Christian perspective.

We are honoured to publish a contribution by a distinguished theologian from West Africa. Professor John Pobee writes from a long involvement in theological education. He raises important issues, like the place of theology at the university, especially in a multi-religious context, the interaction between gospel and culture, the understanding of theology as knowledge and wisdom, and the need for an inclusive approach. Above all, he stresses the need to develop a theology suitable for Africa. This is a challenge no theologian working on this continent can ignore. His contribution opens exciting possibilities of discovering and developing common Christian values which could have a far-reaching effect on the restructuring of society which is taking place in various parts of Africa.

The next two articles were read as papers at the annual meeting of the Theological Society of Southern Africa at Stellenbosch in August 1988, which concentrated on ethical and theological aspects of the present conflict in South Africa.

Etienne de Villiers argues from a fundamental re-assessment of the concept of peace from a biblical perspective in which armed force is no longer accepted as the only way to obtain peace. The biblical concept of peace challenges Christians to criticise prevalent peace conceptions, to strive together to attain peace that is to the benefit of all in South Africa, and to persuade the fighting parties that the conquering of enmity is a far better way to attain peace than victory over the enemy.

Daniël Louw addresses the difficult issue of conflict management as part of pastoral theology. In this respect, the omnipotence of God and the churches' use of power is of crucial importance. He therefore offers a theological interpretation of the category of power, and thereby highlights the ethical aspect of conflict management.