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## EDITORIAL PREFACE

This issue of *Scriptura* is the third annual publication for which the Southern African Biblical Studies Society is responsible. Three of the articles in this volume were read at the Society's annual congress, which was held at the Johannesburg College of Education in May 1989.

The congress centred around the theme: *The Bible, the Child and Education*. The focus of attention was directed towards three poles which have vital importance in the teaching of Biblical Studies. As in previous years, the assistance of specialists in fields outside Biblical Studies was obtained, to give insights that could be of use in the teaching of Biblical Studies.

From the papers read at the congress, three were selected for publication according to the usual process of refereeing articles. These articles merit the attention of the readership of *Scriptura*. In *Bybelkunde vir Bybelonderrig*, Professor B C Lategan examines the burning issue of the present unsatisfactory situation of religious instruction in the school system. He makes a number of suggestions for the revitalization of the subject within the Southern African context. Professor L du Toit, in *Die kind en godsdiens: op weg na volwassenheid*, gives an insightful description of the child's religious development towards maturity. She argues that in both the planning as well as the presentation of the subjects of Biblical Studies and Biblical Instruction, the various stages through which the child develops must be taken into consideration. Dr J G du Plessis, in *Teaching Biblical Studies creatively: a theological perspective*, presents a constructive answer to his own question: how can we discover the Bible as a source for creativity? The need for the development of faculties of creativity in the realm of Biblical Studies and Biblical Instruction comes from what Dr Du Plessis terms 'man's chief aim: to praise God and enjoy Him'.

As a final contribution to this collection of articles we incorporate one from Professor W Vosloo (the chairman of the Society), which was not read at the conference, but which formed part of his inaugural lecture as Head of the Department of Biblical Studies at Pretoria University. In this article *Bybelkunde: is die studieveld vanselfsprekend?* he investigates the actual scope of the discipline. Against the divergent approaches that are currently adopted in Biblical Studies, Professor Vosloo proposes that the main purpose of Biblical Studies must be the understanding of the Bible. This demands that the material be organized historically, and the ethical implications clearly specified.

The papers in this volume provide a valuable contribution towards the understanding of Biblical Studies and Biblical Instruction, and provide insights into successful teaching and communication within these fields.

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Editor for the Biblical Studies Society.