REDAKSIONEEL

Die wye spektrum van terreine waar Bybelse perspektiewe hul invloed laat geld, word goed deur die wyd-uiteenlopende bydraes tot hierdie uitgawe ge= illustreer en ons vertrou dat dit vir ons lesers sowel infor= merende as stimulerende leesstof sal bied.

In 'n skerpsinnige en insig= gewende analise van die onder= liggende kragte wat tans die debat tussen Christene en Marx= iste bepaal, identifiseer Erasmus van Niekerk die eintlike verskil= punte wat deurslaggewend vir die verdere verloop van die gesprek sal wees. Hy toon terselfdertyd aan op watter vlak van sofisti= kasie die huidige debat gevoer word en dat van Christelike kant veel meer verwag word as 'n naïewe of oningeligte veroor= deling van die Marxisme.

Johan Thom vestig die aandag op 'n heel ander saak, nl die inter pretasie van gelykenisse. Hy maak gebruik van nuwe konsepte vanuit die literêre kritiek om 'n nuwe benadering tot 'n ou probleem op die proef te stel. Sy toepassing van Jürgen Link se model van die semantiese struk= tuur van simbole op 'n analise van die gelykenis van die Verlore Seun bring verrassende aspekte na vore en illustreer die waarde van sodanige tegnieke vir die ekse= gese van Bybelse materiaal.

Die artikel oor 'n voorgestelde kernleerplan vir Bybelkunde aan Suid-Afrikaanse universiteite

FROM THE EDITOR

The broad spectrum of subjects relevant to Biblical Studies is well illustrated by the widely differing contributions to this issue, which we trust will provide our readers with informative and stimulating reading.

In an incisive analysis of the forces underlying the present dialogue between Chris= tians and Marxists, Erasmus van Niekerk identifies the issues which are likely to determine the further development of the debate. He also makes clear on what level of sophistication the dialogue is conducted and that much more is expected from the Christian side than merely a naive or ill-informed condem= nation of Marxism.

Johan Thom is concerned with a completely different issue. He uses new concepts developed by literary criticism in approach= ing an old problem, the inter= pretation of parables. By applying Jürgen Link's model of the semantic structure of sym= bols in an analysis of the Prodigal Son, he opens new per= spectives and illustrates the value of these techniques for the interpretation of biblical material.

The article on guidelines for a core syllabus for Biblical Studies at South AFrican Univer= sities, represents an important step towards a more uniform

verteenwoordig 'n belangrike stap in die rigting van groter uniformiteit in die aanbieding van die vak. Dit stuk is deur 'n studiekomitee in opdrag van die Suid-Afrikaanse Vereniging vir die bevordering van Bybelkunde opgestel en maak gebruik van basiese beginsels van kurrikulumontwerp. Hoewel duidelik-omlynde doelstellings nagestreef word, is daar voldoende soepelheid om ruimte vir variasie en aanpassing by plaaslike behoeftes te laat. Die implementering van hierdie riglyne kan alleen op grond van konsensus en vrywillige samewerking bereik word. Indien dit slaag, kan dit baie probleme oplos en die posisie van die vak verstewig. Ons wil die stuk daarom by ons lesers vir noukeurige oorweging aanbeveel. Enige kommentaar of kritiek hierop sal deur die opstellers of die bestuur van die Vereniging verwelkom word.

approach. The question of syllabi was high on the priority list of the S A Society for the Promotion of Biblical Studies at its foundation two years ago. The report published here was compiled by a work committee at the request of the Society. The proposals presented here are based on accepted principles of curriculum development. Although it was developed with specific aims in mind, it is by no means rigid and leaves ample room for improvisation and to accommodate local needs. The implementation of such a core syllabus can only be achieved by consensus and the coluntary co-operation of the institutions themselves, but if accepted as a general guideline, it could solve many problems and improve the position of Biblical Studies in general. We therefore recommend the proposals to our readers for serious consideration. Comments and cticicism would be welcomed by the compilers or the executive of the Society.