

EDITORIAL

In this edition, the *Journal for the Sociological Integration of Religion and Society* expands its reach both geographically and topically. A reprint of Dennis Hiebert's address to the Association of Christians Teaching Sociology (ACTS) entitled "The Community, Courage, and Compassion of the Christian Sociologist" sets the tone not only for this edition, but for the journal as a whole. Hiebert calls Christian sociologists to fulfill their calling to both expand the field of sociological inquiry and to serve as a prophetic voice to society at large. As such, Hiebert demands action from Christian sociologists not only to describe and analyze human needs, but to rise up and do something about them; thus, Hiebert calls all Christian sociologists to be "scholar-practitioners". From Prague, Czech Republic, Charles Faroe utilizes "cultural exegesis" methodology to analyze a specific cultural practice in Turkey and then to apply the findings of that analysis to Christian discipleship. Faroe's work represents the ideal synthesis of sociological method and Christian application; Faroe heeds Hiebert's call.

William Tate's utilizes the Barthian concept of "secular parables" to set forth a method for Christian sociologists to identify and interpret cultural artifacts in societies that are not nominally or explicitly Christian in orientation. Tate calls Christian sociologists to listen to such "secular parables" for the sake of the Church; that tasks, he argues, is part of the calling of the Christian sociologist. The author and editors of the *Journal for the Sociological Integration of Religion and Society* wish to thank *CASE: The Quarterly Magazine of the Centre for Apologetic Scholarship and Education* for their permission to republish this significant article.

This edition also contains a record number of excellent book reviews from Steven Mittwede, Janell Paris, K. J. Eames, Scott Monsma, David Carlson, and Ken Schmidt. These reviews represent a critical analysis of some of the most relevant new works related to religion and society studies. The reviews round out this edition well and demonstrate the increasing breadth and depth of the *Journal for the Sociological Integration of Religion and Society*. As this journal continues to develop, we look forward to expanding our reach and also our contribution to the field of sociology, the study of religion, and their integration with the Christian faith.

Onward,

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Associate Editor