

An Introductory Word from the Editor

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The main topic of this issue is the one hundredth anniversary of the Pentecostal movement in Croatia. Five denominations and a number of independent congregations have emerged from within its ranks during this period. The Pentecostal movement in Croatia has experienced growth slower than that of the Pentecostal movement globally, and at the close of the twentieth century it represented about one percent of all Christians in Croatia. Pentecostal movement is a global phenomenon which has marked the twentieth century. From its inception at the beginning of the twentieth century, the movement spread rapidly and at the close of the century it encompassed more than 26% of all world Christians. The extensive research by David Barrett and Tod M. Johnson has confirmed that out of 1,999,540,000 of all world Christians in mid 2000 about 523,767,000 participated in the Pentecostal-Charismatic movement (Status of Global Mission. *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*. January 2002. Richmond, World Evangelization Research Center).

The Pentecostal movement is characterized by the intensive and specific activity of the Holy Spirit in and among people. It is founded and rooted in the teaching of the Scripture and is predominantly anchored in the conservative Evangelical theology. Pentecostals strive to live and act by emulating the example of the early church immediately after the descent of the Holy Spirit. They maintain that this church joined the truth of the Scripture and the living Word with the experience and communion of the Holy Spirit.

The first two articles will help better to understand the activity of the Holy Spirit in the Bible. Proceeding from Gen 1:2 the author of *The Dynamics of the Spirit in the Old Testament* analyses the place and role of the Spirit of God in Creation and in the Old Testament in general. The authoress of *The Role of the Holy Spirit in Romans 8* elaborates the notion of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of the believers. This Spirit raises a person for new deeds to the glory of God. Only the persons who have the Spirit may consider themselves God's children and expect the full revelation of God's children because the Spirit is the guarantee of their adoption.

The article *The Pentecostal movement in Croatia 1907-2007* provides a succinct survey of one hundred years of history and an outline of basic theological tenets of the Pentecostal movement in Croatia. In the first part the author outlines the inception, development, organization and the institutionalization of the movement. The second part treats distinctive traits of the Pentecostal thought and practice: the focus on Jesus Christ, the baptism in the Holy Spirit as the filling with the power for witnessing, evangelization resulting in conversion, the encouragement to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the outward expression of the believer's dynamic relationship with God in worship, and the awareness of the reality of Satan and the powers of evil.

The author of *The Promise and the Task* points to the inescapable Christian need to reflect "the glory of God." It investigates what it means to experience the transformation according to the likeness of Christ and how is this likeness manifested in the life of a believer.

The final article, unrelated to the topic of the Pentecostal movement, is 'Tabitha': *The First Baptist Women's Association in Zagreb (1937-1946)*", which researches the start and development of the Women's association "Tabitha" in the Zagreb Baptist church. It provides an insight into an important aspect of the activity of a minority religious community in Zagreb.

In this English edition of the Journal we are not including two works from Croatian edition. The beginnings and the historical development of the Pentecostal movement in the world at large and in Yugoslavia are outlined in *The Survey of the History of the Pentecostal Movement in Yugoslavia from the Beginnings to 1991*. It treats the initial awakening of the Pentecostal movement among ethnic German population in Yugoslavia, and proceeds to outline the development of the movement in the constitutive Yugoslavian republics through to the breakup of Yugoslavia in 1991. This article is followed by *A Chronological Bibliographical Survey of Pentecostal Publications in Yugoslavia from 1936 – 1991* which gathers and lists most publications from that period.

The last two years have seen the publication of a series of significant books three of which were chosen for review in this issue.

On behalf of the editorial board may I express my sincere thanks to all readers for the excellent reception of the first issue of the journal and for numerous congratulations and constructive critique which will help us increase the quality and relevance of the journal.

Translated by Davorin Peterlin