

ACADEMICUS™

Quarterly Newsletter of the Ph.D./Th.M. Program of SEBTS

Volume III, Issue 2

Rome was not built in a day. This well-known phrase has been used in a myriad of situations to point to the fact that a successful final product requires a lot of planning, hard work and perse-

verance. The task of crafting a well-built, successful piece of academic research is certainly no exception. Much planning, digging, sifting, building, reconstructing, fine-tuning and polishing all have their place in the research and writing endeavor. The legend of the "Overnight Masterpiece" that enamors many an M.Div. student brings nightmares upon the fledgling Post-Grad student. Successful research and writing takes a great deal of time and hard work.

Why, some might ask, include an article on research and writing in the Ph.D. newsletter? After all, should not those who have achieved such a level be well-versed in this process already? One

might think so. However, after talking with many SEBTS faculty members, the assumption that post-grad students have a well-oiled system for research and writing has proven faulty. In fact, many students have come to faculty members expressing concern over their

own self-admitted lack of proficiency for research and writing.

In light of this identified need, the lead article for this and the next two issues of Academicus will address different aspects of research and writing method. This first article will briefly discuss the topics of "choosing a topic" and "selection of sources." The second article will deal with "data collection and filing" and "building an outline." The final article will discuss "Writing and Rewriting"

From

Research

to

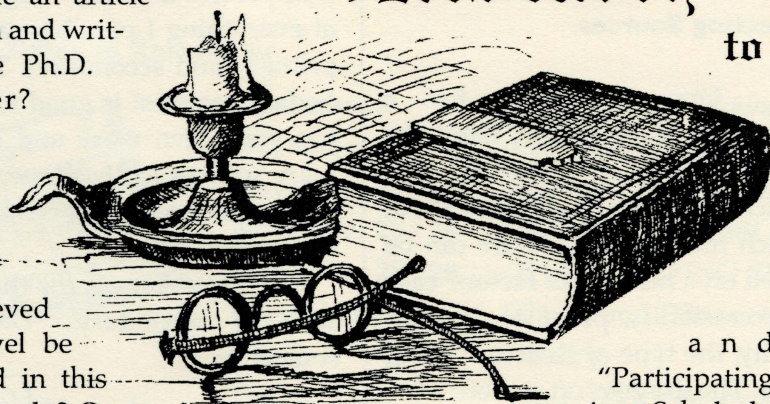
his Writing: objective has been

How SEBTS Professors Work

by Randy Mann

reached. Such is the case with research and writing. The topic for a research project serves as the blueprint for the project. And, just as many builders get their ideas for blueprints and designs from a variety of sources, so too do scholars get their ideas for research topics from a variety of sources.

There are three main areas from which SEBTS professors draw ideas for research and writ-



and "Participating in Scholarly Dialogue." These articles will by no means serve as the definitive work on Research and Writing Method. However, they are designed to highlight certain key elements of this process and are based primarily on contributions made by

ing. The main impetus behind choosing a topic is personal interest. Dr. Keith Harper states, "I choose topics based on what interests me. Why not? If I'm going to invest huge chunks of time figuring something out, I need to have an interest in it or the project will never get done." This is good advice indeed. The work done at this scholarly level is not done to meet the requirements for a class

The rule I was taught and still follow is that one **never** uses a secondary source unless there is no other **alternative**.

assignment. There is no one standing over your shoulder to make sure the project is carried out to its completion. The personal interest in and motivation behind a project may be the only thing that gives you the strength to see it through.

Gaps noted in the scholarly literature serve as a second area from which to draw topics. As you read the scholarly literature in a given field, a sense of the thoroughness, or lack thereof, will begin to develop. As these major gaps in the literature begin to surface, they can serve as good indicators of areas where further work is needed.

The third source for finding a topic involves the emergence of new ideas. Dr. John Hammett comments, "Emerging issues often speak ideas. The key for me is when I think I can make a useful contribution." Obviously every emerging issue will not spark the interest of every scholar. This

gives further evidence of the importance of having a personal interest in the topic about which you are writing. In light of the above, the ideal topic is one where a gap in the literature on an emerging issue grabs the interest of the researcher.

A fourth source for finding a topic is a request from a publisher or an editor. Dr. Patterson shares his experience: "Some topics are chosen for me in the form of requests I receive from someone doing either an encyclopedia or book of theology, such as the 'Four Views' series on the question of pastors and elders, for which I am presently writing, or for a systematic theology, in which I am to do the chapter on the atonement, or the commentary on the Apocalypse, on which I am working for the New American Commentary series."

Selecting Sources

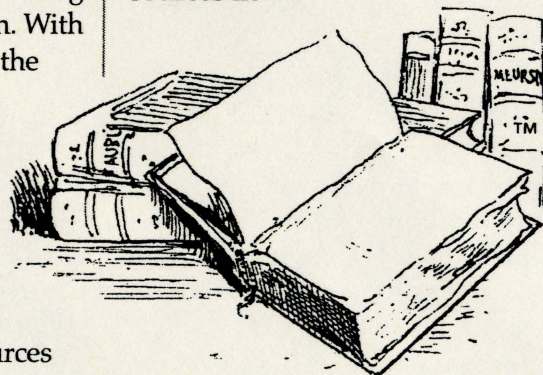
Once a builder has a design or blueprint in hand, he must choose the materials with which to build. The decision about which materials to choose can be based on a number of factors: ease of accessibility, proof of dependability, the type of structure being built. The list goes on and on. With a research topic in hand, the scholar must determine what materials he will use for building his literary work.

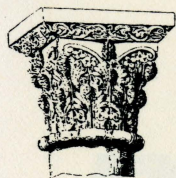
In many cases, the kind of scholarly research being done will determine what kind of sources

will be consulted. For the Biblical Studies scholar, commentaries, concordances and lexicons may be the materials of choice. For the Church Historian, biographies, proceedings of meetings, and other historical records may be sought after. Considering the type of work you are doing will greatly assist you in determining what kind of materials you need.

However, regardless of the area you are working in, a couple of key points apply when choosing sources. One key point is to be as thorough in your research as your project requires. Hear again Dr. Hammett on this point: "it depends entirely on the topic, but basically you do as exhaustive research as necessary for the topic and audience. A paper for ETS or a scholarly journal demands a different level of thoroughness than a popular-level book or article." However, when doing scholarly work, thoroughness is the key. One professor states, "I try to look at everything I possibly can (both primary and secondary). The secondary material is good for framing your own work and the primary sources really shape your interpretation of the event in question."

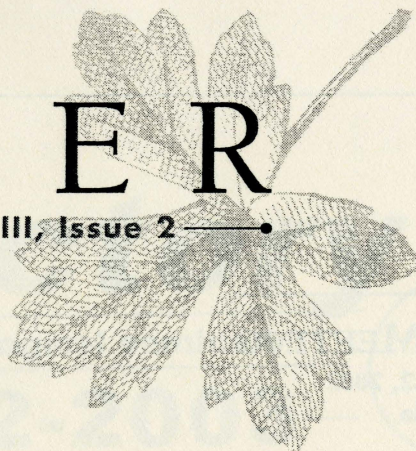
However, as for the inclusion of secondary sources in





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Volume III, Issue 2



• Getting to Know You

Ph.D./Th.M. Lunch Fellowships

Thank you to all who have faithfully attended the lunch fellowships. They have included great times of prayer, fellowship, and mentoring. There are only **2 remaining fellowships** for the Fall Semester. Come, bring your lunch and enjoy a great time of fellowship. Remember that wives and guests are welcome to attend as well. Once again, the time is **11:30am-12:15pm** on the following Tuesdays:

- November 5** Choosing a Dissertation Topic Dr. John Hammett
- December 3** Keeping a Mindset in an Academic Environment Dr. Alvin Reid*

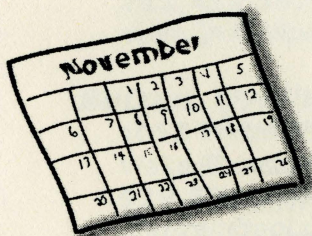
* Note the change to Dr. Alvin Reid on December 3rd. Dr. Bruce Little was unable to do the fellowship due to a scheduling conflict.

• Important Dates

Last Integrative Seminar Meeting for Fall

The last Integrative Seminar meeting for this semester will be **Friday, November 8**. The topic will be Gender-inclusive Bible translation. The discussion will be led by Dr. Andreas Köstenberger and Dr. Pete Schemm.

Important dates to Remember



- November 5** Ph.D. Lunch Fellowship
- November 8** Last Integrative Seminar
- November 15** Graduate Studies Meeting
- November 20 - 26** ETS/IBR/AAR/SBL
- November 25 - 29** THANKSGIVING RECESS
- December 2** Theses and Dissertations to be submitted to the library for binding
- December 3** Ph.D. Lunch Fellowship
- December 6** Graduate Studies Meeting
- December 9 - 13** Final Exam Week
- December 14** Commencement Exercises

• Important Dates

54th ANNUAL MEETING
November 20-22, 2002
Toronto, Canada



THE
EVANGELICAL
THEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

The 54th Annual ETS Meeting is coming up in just a few weeks. The meeting will be November 20 – 22, 2002 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Southeastern will be well represented with several of our faculty and Ph.D. students presenting papers at the conference. The theme of this year's meeting is "Evangelical Christianity and Other Religions."

Fall Ph.D. Picnic 2002

Thank you to all who attended the Fall Picnic on October 19th at Durant Nature Park. The weather was perfect and everyone seemed to have a wonderful time. This was a great opportunity to further develop a sense of "community," as stated in one of the primary goals of the SEBTS Ph.D. program. We would like to encourage everyone to watch for upcoming opportunities to fellowship with your fellow students and their families. And, here is a last-minute update: the final scores for the basketball pick-up games at the picnic were:

Josh Williams/Dr. Köstenberger (15) – David Croteau/Alan Bandy (10)

Josh Williams/Matthew McDill (8) – David Croteau/Alan Bandy (6)

• Upcoming Opportunities

Overseas Study Opportunity

Dr. Harold O. J. Brown, professor at Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte, sent the following message to invite our students to participate in an **overseas study opportunity**. The message reads:

Dear Colleague,

This year we hope once again to take a group of students and some older citizens for a three-week study course in Wittenberg, where Luther began the Protestant Reformation. The total cost of \$3200.00 covers four weeks, lodging and all meals for three full weeks in Wittenberg and lodging in hotels in Prague and probably in Vienna for five to seven nights. In 2002 we had three nights in Prague and two in Dresden, followed by three in Vienna, somewhat overspending in the process. We can guarantee at least two nights in Prague and in Vienna if we get a minimum attendance; if we have twenty-five or more participants, we can offer the same city stay that we did this year. I am enclosing a preliminary proposal. It is important to reach enough people, especially those who will benefit from this course, so that we will be able to schedule it with confidence. There are no extra charges, no travel agency commissions, and the lecturers do not receive honoraria. A complete brochure with application blank will be available soon.

If you would be interested in participating in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, please contact Janet Hellard in the Graduate Studies Office right away.

Spring Seminar with Dr. Adrio König

As a reminder from the last issue, Dr. Adrio König will be teaching Ph.D. seminar 3097 – **Seminar on a Selected Doctrine in the Spring Semester**. He is a distinguished professor and scholar from the University of South Africa who has written several important works in the field of Systematic Theology. Please contact Janet Hellard in the Graduate Studies Office immediately if you are interested in taking advantage of this great opportunity.

Time Change

Dr. Köstenberger's Spring Ph.D. seminar, 1880 – Seminar in the History of Biblical Interpretation, has a **new time**. The seminar will now meet on **Thursdays from 11:30am – 2:00pm**.

• Program Notes

Announcement of New Births

Pete & Vicki Schemm	Parker James	10/7/02	6 lbs. 5 oz
Marty & Lori Jacumin	Sarah Elizabeth	10/16/02	8 lbs.
Emir and Hannah Caner	John Mark.	10?25/0225th	7 lbs. 4 oz.

Announcement of New Literary Births

Dr. Daniel Heimbach	"The Unchangeable Difference: Eternally Fixed Sexual Identity for an Age of Plastic Sexuality," in <i>Biblical Foundations for Manhood and Womanhood</i> , Wayne Grudem, ed. September 2002 – Crossway Books
Dr. Andreas Köstenberger	Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary: John September 2002 – Zondervan
Dr. Dorothy Patterson	<i>Handbook for Minister's Wives</i> 2002 – Broadman & Holman
Dr. Paige Patterson	<i>The Troubled-Triumphant Church</i> Reprinted 2002 – Wipf and Stock
Dr. Alvin Reid	<i>Radically Unchurched: Who They Are and How to Reach Them</i> October 2002 – Kregel
Dr. Charles Warren	<i>Original Sin Explained?</i> August 2002 – University Press of America

"Research... Continued from page 2

the actual writing project, Dr. Patterson adds: "the rule I was taught and still follow is that one never uses a secondary source unless there is no other alternative. The primary source documented is the only thing that is really sufficient for the good scholar. However, it is sometimes the case that even a good scholar simply does not have a primary source available to him. In this case, you may reasonably cite a secondary source, but always with less authority. Here you are taking

the word of the secondary source author that he has accurately cited the source and that he has been faithful not only to the precise wording, but also to the context in which it occurs. Those are huge assumptions and therefore the author must proceed carefully."

The other key point related to choosing sources is to avoid attempting to reinvent the wheel. Rather, a better approach is to "stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before you." The best way to do this is to utilize the

bibliographies of others when doing research. This is certainly not the only place to look for sources, as there will certainly be deficiencies. However, it will be a good starting point to show what sources have already been considered on a given topic. Additionally, part of your scholarly contribution on a given topic will be the sources you uncover. Those who come after you will benefit from having a starting point for their own search for sources. **A**

•A Word from the Director



Hard to believe that this semester is already drawing to a close, isn't it? I trust that you have been as stimulated and challenged as I have. Certainly the integrative seminar sessions on open theism and gender-inclusive Bible translation must rank as highlights. Thank you also for your lively participation in the lunch fellowships and the fall picnic.

Already the application deadline for next year's crop of students is rapidly approaching, and I am happy to report that there has been a substantial interest in our program. By the latest count, Janet has sent out over 130 applications! Also, we may have as many as four Th.M. and four Ph.D. students graduate this semester. Congratulations!

Very soon many of us will head north to attend the annual ETS and SBL meetings, which take place in Toronto this year. Let me encourage you now to make plans to attend the 2003 meeting to be held November 19-21 in Atlanta. Who knows, you may even want to offer a paper.

I wish all of you and your families a happy Thanksgiving and Christmas season. It is truly a privilege to serve you.

Yours in Christ,

Andreas J. Köstenberger, Ph.D.

ACADEM CUS

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General Editor: Andreas Köstenberger

Managing Editor: Randy Mann

• **Congratulations**

Th.M. Theses Defended:

Matthew McDill: October 25, 2002

"The Significance of Exegesis For Theological and Homiletical Analyses: As Demonstrated by Phillipians 3:1-11."

Jose Rondon: October 31, 2002

"A Critical Assessment of the Concept of Solidarity with the Poor in the Writings of Selected Latin American Liberation Theologians."

David Croteau: November 1, 2002

"An Analysis of the Concept of Believing in the Narrative Contexts of John's Gospel."

James Jordan: November 8, 2002

"The Theme of Judgment in John's Gospel Within the Framework of Johannine Eschatology."

Ph.D. Dissertations Defended:

Scott Kellum: November 14, 2002

"The Unity of the Farewell Discourse: A Linguistic Investigation into the Literary Integrity of John 13:31--16:33."

Derry Hodge: November 15, 2002

"African-American Preaching and the Shaping of Ethnic Identity in the Separate but Equal Era, 1990-1949: An Investigation Based on the Preaching of Elias Camp Morris, William Jacob Walls, and Reverdy Cassius Ransom."

David Depp: November 15, 2002

"A Critical Evaluation of the Developments in the Doctrine of Original Sin as Taught at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary."

Mark Walton: December 3, 2002

"The Christology of Friedrich Wilhelm Krummacher (1796--1868): A Theological Analysis of His Contribution to English Evangelical Literature."

Matt Fisher: December 13, 2002

"God the Father in the Fourth Gospel: A Biblical Patrology"



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