To General Conference, Division, Union, and Conference Administrators and Ministerial Secretaries, College/University Presidents, Deans/Heads of Religion/Theology Departments, Academy Principals/Bible Teachers and Chaplains

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings from the Biblical Research Institute. It is with mixed feelings that we send out the July 2011 issue of the BRI newsletter. As you will see, in the cover article, by Ekkehardt Mueller and Gerhard Pfandl, we bid farewell to our beloved director, Dr. Ángel Manuel Rodríguez and look back on his many accomplishments. We have also included many tributes, both from his coworkers here at BRI and a number of those who sit on BRICOM plus many others, including our General Conference President, Pastor Ted N. C. Wilson. At the same time, we are happy that Dr. Rodríguez will continue to contribute to BRI in some ways even in his retirement. Further details are in this issue.

Also, on p. 2, we officially introduce the new leadership team for BRI: Artur Stele, GC Vice President now also assuming his responsibility as director of the Institute and, assisting him in the capacity of deputy director, Ekkehardt Mueller. Ekkehardt has contributed a very important piece on “The Divisiveness of Theology,” which provides much food for thought for scholars and church administrators alike. Also in the Theological Reflections section is an article by Gerhard Pfandl which examines the notion of some that Daniel 12 provides a basis for new time calculations of future events. There are also two book reviews, one by Ekkehardt Mueller on a recent book dealing with spiritual formation, and another by Gerhard Pfandl on William Miller and the Rise of Adventism. Finally, there is an announcement of a new book on Revelation by Ekkehardt Mueller and a brief report of the recent symposium in South America devoted to the topic of the Holy Spirit.

This entire July issue with its various articles is warmly and respectfully dedicated to our outgoing director in gratitude for all that he has given to the Institute and to the church worldwide during his fruitful tenure of nearly 20 years here. Thank you for passing along this issue of Reflections to your pastors, Bible teachers, and professors of theology and theology students. Your working with us to encourage theological understanding among us is greatly appreciated.

Yours in Christ,

Clinton Wahlen, BRI
Associate Director and Editor of Reflections