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. In this issue of the BRI newsletter we bid goodbye to a beloved colleague and friend, Gerhard Pfandl, who is retiring. As you will see in the cover article from Ekkehardt Mueller, Ángel Manuel Rodríguez, and Artur Stele, written by way of tribute, Gerhard has contributed much to the work of BRI over the past thirteen years, not least of which is developing our research library, besides his many other accomplishments. We have also included other tributes, both from the rest of his coworkers here at BRI, many of those who sit on BRICOM, and others, including our General Conference President, Pastor Ted N. C. Wilson. At the same time, we are happy that Dr. Pfandl will continue to contribute to BRI in some ways even in his retirement. His editorial, after briefly noting changes he has observed in the church over the past forty years, reflects on the growing challenge of unity.

Ekkehardt Mueller, in the Theological Focus section, addresses the question “Did Jesus Emanate from the Father?” and, in Scripture Applied, looks at the stewardship of the body. There is also a review by Gerhard Pfandl of a significant new book dealing with creation. Ángel Manuel Rodríguez looks at two recent books on the Holy Spirit and offers some timely advice on how they should be utilized as we seek and pray for a major manifestation of the Spirit among us. Finally, there is an announcement regarding the Africa Project and a new book, edited by Kwabena Donkor, that BRI has produced in connection with this project.

The entire January issue with its various articles is warmly and respectfully dedicated to our outgoing colleague in gratitude for all that he has given to the Institute during the past thirteen years and to the church worldwide over 40 years. 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