

“The Demise of *Insight*” by Tompaul Wheeler

Thank you for providing an “obituary” for *Insight* Magazine. When I learned of its impending demise last summer I was greatly saddened but hoped that the church had some creative plans for replacement. I left *Insight* staff forty years ago but always held my time there as a special period in my life.

As a teenager in rural Michigan I welcomed the release of our denomination’s new youth magazine and dreamed of being a part of its team. My first journalism class at Andrews University was taught by Mike Jones. When (later) I was hired to begin on staff, Mike Jones described my job as being the “quarterback” of the magazine. Moving to Maryland and working at the R&H was a huge step in my life and a great education from 1974–77. I was privileged to work and grow in my skills under the leadership of Mike Jones, Ken McFarland and later Donald John. I now treasure memories of weekly worships with some of the journalism and theological giants of that era.

In August 1974, our staff composed of an editor, assistant editor, editorial assistant, editorial secretary, art director and designer, and an office assistant. Early on we created a Declaration of our Principles for the magazine, striving for a circulation of 50,000 to reach a target of 18–25-year-olds. We recognized we printed an international magazine and wanted it to be stimulating yet practical. Mike Jones was a great advocate of “How-To” articles. We looked for bright minds to provide commentaries to the lesson, true life stories supplied by a yearly contest, features with real life and cultural dilemmas, interviews with church leaders, thought-provoking editorials, and fascinating cover art or photos.

By some point in 1975, the staff was shortened to editor, assistant editor, editorial secretary, and designer. The page proofs that we were asked to correct usually had the top tag line of “Incite” as an inside joke.

I knew that magazines must change but *Insight* really lost energy when it seemed that the target audience was for high school students.

In eleven years my grandsons will be teenagers and I only hope that they can find something like *Insight* to help feed their minds and spirits. ■

Karen Spruill
Orlando, FL

“John Calvin, John Wesley, and Ellen White’s Steps to Christ” by Norman Young

While I am no scholar, my interpretation of Wesley’s statements on Sanctification differ remarkably from Dr. Young. Soteriology is a very complex collection of information, but I think EGW does one of the best jobs of simplifying it. But I think the primary issue is one of language and how we understand it; the excerpts that Young shares read differently to me than they apparently do to him. The very first quote on this from Wesley, for me, sets the tone: “in that very moment sanctification begins.” The very word “begins” implies a process in time, not a *fait accompli*. Continued quote from Wesley, “we wait for entire sanctification, for a full salvation from all our sins.” Again, language comes to the fore. Waiting for “entire” means it is not complete, therefore completion is in the future. Add to this “that we are to expect it not at death, but *every moment*,” and you, again in my opinion, find Wesley talking about a process, a growth in Grace. Where I think Wesley departs from Calvin is in his view that both Sanctification and Justification are gifts. I further believe that EGW supports that in the statement of hers that Young so nicely quotes in footnote 26: “the righteousness by which we are justified is imputed; the righteousness by which we are sanctified is imparted.” This very statement goes along with Wesley, more than with Calvin. Every statement of Wesley’s that Young quotes implies imparted righteousness, a gift.

Here is where I think that Wesley mirrors EGW more than Calvin. I agree that Wesley and Calvin do not agree about how Sanctification works, but I believe that Calvin’s approach is pure legalism, while Wesley’s is built on faith. That is my take.

I greatly enjoyed the mental stimulation of not only Dr. Young’s paper, but all the papers in this issue. ■

Dave Reynolds
Canby, Oregon