



FROM THE EDITOR



By Mark A. Taylor

Reflecting Promise, Meeting Needs

The first brainstorming retreat of CHRISTIAN STANDARD's contributing editors is finished. But the effects of the get-together will be seen for years to come.

It was a remarkable event. Nine of our 12 newly recruited contributing editors gathered with Paul Williams and me January 27-29 in a meeting characterized by both enthusiasm and concern—enthusiasm for the vitality of our movement, concern for finding ways to nurture and lead Christian churches in the coming decade.

It was a diverse group, chosen strategically to represent our fellowship's breadth of perspectives. But before we were halfway through the retreat, we remarked and rejoiced about the unity and shared vision we were experiencing. We discussed CHRISTIAN STANDARD and what it should contain. But even more, we pondered and prayed about the message and future of our whole movement.

Among our questions: How are church leaders today receiving information? What is the role of a "denominational" magazine in a digital age? What are the issues and ideas confronting volunteer leaders and church staff members in today's Christian churches and churches of Christ?

We brainstormed possibilities for future content and created a list of more than a hundred possibili-

ties for articles and theme issues.

We discussed and refined the focus for CHRISTIAN STANDARD: This magazine is for volunteer and paid leaders in local congregations, mission stations, and parachurch agencies of Christian churches and churches of Christ around the world. It should inform them, challenge them, help them do their jobs, allow them to learn what other leaders in our fellowship are doing, and provide a place for them to share their successes.

Readers will see the fruit of these discussions in future issues. Already we've eliminated a couple of features. (As announced last week, you can find our weekly International Sunday School Lesson treatment on our Web site, www.christianstandard.com, or enjoy the excellent treatment contained in our sister publication *The Lookout*.) Soon we will make further changes, especially in our news pages.

In every way-through content, choice of regular features, and appearance—we want this magazine to reflect the promise and meet the needs of servant-leaders in Christian churches.

Please see the box on page 12 for a complete list of our contributing editors.

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Devoted to the restoration of New Testament Christianity, its doctrine, its ordinances, and its fruits.

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Letters to the Editor

Letters regarding the contents of the magazine will be considered for publication in "Mailbox" unless specifically marked "not for publication." Published letters may be shortened to meet editorial requirements. Letters must be signed, but names will be withheld upon request.

Freelance Submissions

We accept freelance submissions. Articles should be double-spaced, typed on one side of the page only. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) for replies and return of unused manuscripts.

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