Editorial

Curtis W. Hart

Published online: 27 October 2011
© Springer Science+Business Media, LLC 2011

This issue of the *Journal* concludes our fiftieth anniversary year. We have succeeded in publishing a record number of articles of both quantitative and qualitative research combined with essays of a more philosophical character. Our authors, as is typical, have come from a wide variety of cultural settings and from academic and non-academic backgrounds. Our contributors represent both those who have a long-term interest in the *Journal* as authors, editorial board members, and reviewers of articles as well as a number who are with us for the first time. We are thus both “old” and “new.” As has been the tradition of the *Journal*, we have continued to demonstrate commitment to high standards of excellence in thought and expression.

What is new in this last year is that on two occasions, we have published “*Special Sections*” of articles devoted to a specific area or topic. In September, this special section had to do with “*Remembrance, 9/11*” and this month “*Judaism and Health*.” This latter topic was suggested to me by our Editorial Board member and long-time contributor, Jeff Levin. When Jeff approached me with the idea for this “*Special Section*” I immediately agreed recognizing that it was long overdue particularly in light of the articles having to do with Judaism and health that had been accumulating in our online format. Jeff’s *Guest Editorial* that follows spells out the scope and intent of this effort. We are pleased to have this collection become part of our jubilee year.

The practice of having Guest Editorials and Special Sections is one that I hope will continue in issues to come. Already in the work and thought of our readership and Editorial Board members, there may be an idea for such a section waiting to come forth. While not every issue of the *Journal* will engage this format, I am open to suggestions and possibilities from all quarters, all points of view. It is one sure way to keep us alive to new possibilities and not rest on our laurels; however, well deserved they may be.

Reinhold Niebuhr once famously remarked that “Nothing worth doing can be done alone.” Because Niebuhr was himself an editor (of the periodical *Christianity and Crisis*) I would like to believe that when writing those words he might have been thinking at least a bit of the editorial dimension of his public life along with the rest of his career as

C. W. Hart (✉)
New York, NY, USA
e-mail: cuh9001@med.cornell.edu

theologian, social ethicist, and political activist. At any rate, his statement is certainly true of the past year at the *Journal of Religion and Health*. From my perspective, it has been altogether worth doing and has not been done alone. With any measure of good fortune, we will strive to keep it that way.