

FROM THE EDITOR

Ask any student in any Baptist history class anywhere and they will tell you that Baptist origins presents a number of thorny issues, ranging from history and theology to methodology and personal perspective. Since 2009 marked the four-hundredth anniversary of John Smyth's famous self-baptism in Holland, we thought, what better way to commemorate the occasion than feature essays on Baptist origins? As you will see, James Duvall discusses successionism, while Glenn Jonas and James Renahan explore Anabaptist kinship and English Separatism as the genesis of modern Baptists.

In addition to these essays on Baptist origins, Warren Hope's "Collin T. James: Pioneer Preacher in Southwest Georgia," is a thoughtful discussion of the life and labors of Collin James, an African-American minister in post-Reconstruction Georgia. Baptist history is filled with the stories of men and women who labored in obscurity and received little or no recognition in their lifetimes. Hope's essay corrects this situation for Collin James.

We also offer an interview with Marc Jolley, Director of Mercer University Press. Over the past generation, Mercer University Press has established itself as a leader in publishing books dedicated to Baptist history and theology. Read this interview and you will see that Marc wants to keep it that way.

As always, this volume includes several reviews of recent noteworthy books in Baptist Studies. Several of the books reviewed are related in some way to Baptist origins or early English Baptist history. On behalf of everyone associated with *The Journal of Baptist Studies*, enjoy!

Keith Harper