

A Word from the Editor

In the English language, ‘hope’ is an interesting word. In some contexts, it displays skepticism, worry, or doubt that things will actually work. However, on the flip side, it can also be a word displaying trust, confidence, and faith in what is to come.

What does ‘hope’ look like for *Theological Librarianship* (TL)? In the 21st century, where technology is continually transforming educational venues, theology is consistently developing, and libraries are consistently changing (either leading the change, hanging on for the ride, or often somewhere in the middle), the idea of hope can easily be lost. However, a strong and stable foundation often makes hope (in the sense of trust and confidence in the good things that are yet to come) viable.

I am incredibly blessed to take on this new role as Editor-in-Chief of *Theological Librarianship*. The reason it is a blessing comes back to hope. It is not something like, “I really hope things go well,” or “I really hope that we get this issue published.” But, it is more so that I have strong confidence in what TL can do to manifest the core purpose of *Atla*: “To promote worldwide scholarly communication in religion and theology by advancing the work of libraries and related information providers.”

I have two grounds for this hope. The first has to do with TL’s three original purposes:

1. To provide a clearinghouse or place of exchange for best practices within our profession
2. To encourage the writing dimension of our profession
3. To create a venue for the publication of original research, bibliographic essays, reviews, opinion pieces, etc.

Everyone is well aware that a solid foundation is critical to success. When lacking a solid foundation, it is next to impossible to build anything of any value (whether literally or metaphorically). The first ground for my hope in TL is the fact that it has an excellent foundation — a foundation that has manifested its original purposes with excellence and provided a firm groundwork to continue doing so. I give that credit to individuals who have served on the advisory team and previous editorial teams, but particularly to previous Editors-in-Chief: Jennifer Woodruff Tait, David R. Stewart, and Ronald W. Crown. TL would not be where it is today without their contribution. The firm foundation of TL has been built with rigor, integrity, passion, and community and provides hope for the future of TL.

I started in my role as Editor-in-Chief of TL on April 1, 2019. When this is published, I will have served on the editorial board for about six months. Subsequently, my interactions with my colleagues who serve on the editorial team with me have been limited. However, in our brief interactions, I have been encouraged to see their (Bo Adams, Barnaby Hughes, Keegan Osinski, and Christopher Anderson) passion for theological librarianship manifested through their editorial work in TL. The passion of my colleagues is the second ground for the hope I have as TL will continue to pursue excellence in manifesting its original purposes.

So, while I hope that you enjoy the content of 12:2, I also have hope that the future of TL and theological librarianship, while challenging, will also have rewards beyond what we can measure and beyond what we can ask or think. TL will be one way through which that element of hope can be shared.

Soli Deo gloria

Garrett B. Trott