



# FROM THE EDITOR



By Mark A. Taylor

## Thanks to a Statesman

**R**egular readers will notice several differences in this issue. We hope you like the new format, the better paper, and the addition of full color. They signal a renewed commitment to make CHRISTIAN STANDARD a true reflection of the energy and potential among Christian churches and churches of Christ today.

More important than these upgrades are the changes in our staff. In earlier issues we announced the retirement of Sam E. Stone as editor, my move into that position, and the addition of Paul S. Williams in a new role, editor-at-large. In this first issue without Sam's name on the masthead, let me pause to thank him for his remarkable record of service.

For starters, Sam's 25-year tenure as editor is the longest in the magazine's 137-year history. But he deserves our thanks for far more than longevity. His speaking, teaching, and counsel have touched lives around the globe. His grace and openness are reflections of his personal passion for uncompromised unity, unhindered fellowship, and unbridled dialogue. In the process he has provided leadership and built many friendships. Perhaps no one so widely known in our fellowship is more highly respected.

He is a Christian statesman, indeed.

We honored Sam at his retirement dinner last year (see page 10). It was a wonderful evening, filled

with laughter, testimony, and, for some, a few tears. While it is sad to see Sam leave, we are glad that his influence and his ministry of teaching, preaching, and encouraging will continue.

**SOME NAMES ON OUR MASTHEAD** are staying the same, of course. Jim Nieman remains, as does Ruth Davis. Jim's title has changed to managing editor, to reflect his central role in coordinating all aspects of our weekly production. Ruth handles several tasks, not the least of them processing the weekly deluge of news reports, e-mails, and letters from our readers. Both of these staff members combine skill, experience, and grace as invaluable assets to me personally and to the publishing of this magazine.

Meanwhile, a new byline now appears on page 16. S.J. Dahlman is compiling quotes, statistics, and other facts into "Seen and Heard," a weekly assortment that should give you fresh tidbits to ponder, discuss, or share in a lesson or sermon. He is none other than Simon J. Dahlman, or Jim, as many know him. He was editor of *The Lookout* before leaving in 1996 to become editor of *Pastor's Family* magazine at Focus on the Family. He moved to Tennessee in 1999 to become associate professor of communications at Milligan College. He's a writer, a reader, and a thinker. He'll give you something new to think about each week, too.

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