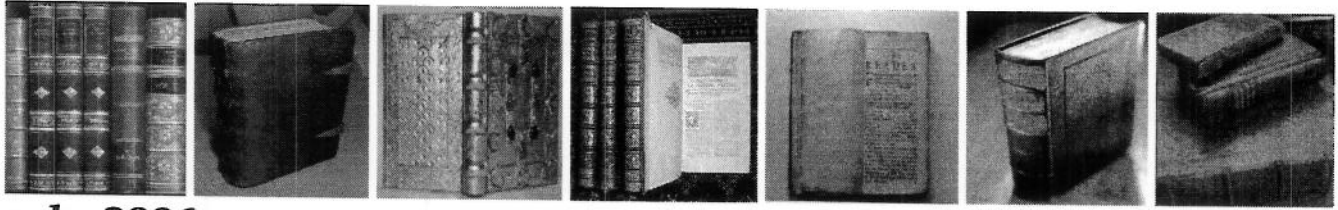


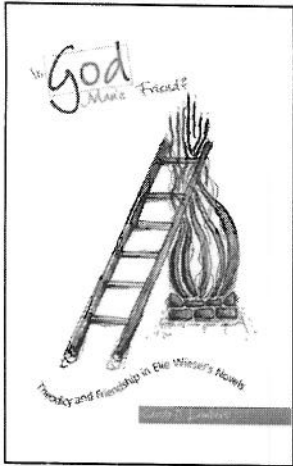
# RESEARCH REPORTER



March, 2006

APU Office of Faculty Research

## Theodicy from the Qualified



Dr. Carole Lambert, Director of Faculty Research and Professor of English, asks: Who is God in the mind of a Holocaust survivor? We know Him as the creator, the source of all being, and the foundation for all justice, who encompasses even the depths of our suffering with His love. But in Auschwitz, God was a cosmic absence – if not an insane deity – whose withdrawal from the world left a void where the only truth was the fact of cruelty, and the highest hope found in eminent extermination. Dr. Lambert's book,

*Is God Man's Friend? Theodicy and Friendship in Elie Wiesel's Novels* (Peter Lang, 2006, cover design by Bill Catling, Chair of APU's Department of Art), is a study of one famous survivor's "why?" – a question rooted primarily in rage, of course, but one that also shows a glimmer of willingness to find an answer. For Wiesel, meaningful answers are extremely scarce, since most options have been swept away by the death camps. Throughout his novels, though, there is indeed one thing left: friendship. For Wiesel's characters, the dialogue between friends does not end at a conclusive view of God's existence, but only the grounds of possibility for man's belief. If being "chosen" by God brought the Hebrews together, it seems possible for that togetherness to at least point back toward the Chooser, however obscure He might be in the minds of individuals. He is found in paradoxical yet dependable companions; in clinical madness that bears a resemblance to Kabbalistic mysticism; in others who, by giving us a reason to live, actually give life itself; and in the most horrific evil, where, beneath the distortions, we still find a hint of the good. Sadly – but understandably – Wiesel cannot reconcile himself with God; the fight within him continues. Yet that very fight produces rich and fascinating novels that point those who *can* believe in an supremely thoughtful direction. It is Dr. Lambert's hope that, through her book, Wiesel's American audience will embrace him with due appreciation. – Kevin Walker

## Nursing

### Focus on Homelessness

Professor Pamela Cone sensitively explores the biographical parallels between Jesus' life and that of many homeless people today. She poses two haunting questions: "Why does society view

those without a stable home in such a negative light? Does having a home make a person more valuable or worthwhile?"

She notes that Jesus was "born in a temporary shelter," there not being "enough beds for the number of people in town", that He lived in "transitional housing" after his birth, that he had to flee "from violence" after the visit of the Magi, and that He and His parents had to camp "out along the way" to Egypt and later from Egypt to Nazareth. After several years of stability in Galilee, He resumed his homeless life style during the last three years of His life: "'the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head'" (Matt. 8:20). He thus enjoyed "no stable income, housing, or food." Finally, "He was laid in a borrowed tomb."

Professor Cone affirms that "Jesus understands the plight of the homeless and is able to identify with them and to enter into their pain." Her brief, poignant essay raises one more question: "Do we?" "Homelessness: A Look at the Life of Jesus" appeared in *Crossnetwork Journal* on February 15, 2006. – Carole Lambert

## Business

### Monsters, Behemoths, and the Free Market

Dr. Stuart Strother and APU graduate Geoff Martinez write on the impending downfall of two major corporate giants, AT&T and IBM. Like the railroads, automobiles, and MP3 players, new technologies always invite an initial race to the top among competing companies; one manufacturer figures out how to design a superior version of the product, markets it, and wins the public, while all others sink into obscurity. But none of them go into complete obscurity in a truly free market system – nor do the monopolies always stay on top. Indeed, some have met their decline through anti-trust legislation and litigation; yet nothing undermines market superiority but the market itself. The life of any big company across the decades brings far too many obstacles – the greatest being their ability to meet shifting consumer preferences, which is far more complex than styles of product, much less price. The character of the company, their approach to advertising, their consideration for employees – all are factors that a company must master to maintain its greatness, which is simply impossible in the long-term. The difficulties for AT&T and IBM are amplified, Strother and Martinez write, when they became global: the sphere of consumer preference becomes even broader, creating such a diversity of demands that no one company can account for them all. Hence, new companies appear who *can* meet the challenge – drawing new talent, creating more jobs, and offering yet more remarkable goods to the consumers in America and abroad. "How the Mighty May Fail: The Coming Irrelevance of AT&T and IBM" appeared in *Marketing Mastermind* (ICFAI University Press, 2005) 23-27. – Kevin Walker

## Theology

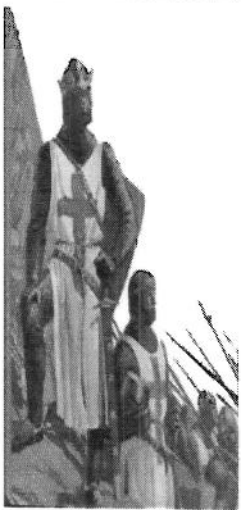
### The Women of Pentecostalism

Dr. Heather Ann Ackley and Ms. Annette McCabe (B.A., APU, Distinguished Scholar) analyze the problem of Wesleyan, Pentecostal, and Holiness women trained for full-time pulpit ministry but finding few opportunities to serve as pastors in their denominations. Although the Holiness movements were first to ordain women as preachers, acceptance of women as pastors has declined. Ackley and McCabe note: "For example, in 1933, 20.2% of the credentialed or ordained ministers in the Church of the Nazarene (CotN) were women...as of 2000, only about three percent of Nazarene senior pastors worldwide were women." Women often serve as children's pastors, worship ministers, and Christian education pastors rather than preachers fulfilling the role of senior pastors.

Ackley and McCabe also discuss the important role of female professors and pastors mentoring women approaching ordination, but unfortunately few such mentors are available: few women are found on many Bible colleges' Department of Religion's faculties or as seminary professors, and few have themselves found positions as senior pastors in churches. Quoting Barbara Brown Zikmund, President of Hartford Seminary, Ackley and McCabe affirm: "Women clergy have great difficulty in finding employment, they are more likely to be part-time, and even when their experience and qualifications match those of male clergy in the same denomination and in the same positions, they still average 9 percent less in salary."

Ackley and McCabe explore in depth the problems women in ministry face in "Dynamics of Ministry Training and Ministry Opportunities for Charismatic Women: Socio-historical Perspective of Wesleyan, Pentecostal, and Holiness Women in Ministry in the Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century U.S." in the *Cyberjournal for Pentecostal Charismatic Research*. — Carole Lambert

## RESEARCH COLLOQUIA



*"I did not come  
to bring peace,  
but a sword..."*

— Jesus (Matt. 10:34b)

Dr. Paul Hertig, Professor of Global Studies, and Dr. Keith H. Reeves, Professor of Biblical Studies, will be speaking on the perils of biblical interpretation, and how we can best understand the intent of the Gospel writers, given our present circumstances.

There are always assumptions in the ways we read Scripture, which can be greatly mistaken and even destructive. But should we avoid this by trying to sweep away all opinions about the meaning of words and purpose of certain statements and try to

read the Bible in its purity, or should we make sure we have the most just, rational, and sensible views of things *before* we turn to scripture for answers? Come join us on **Thursday, March 23, 3:30-4:45 pm in the LAPC** for this fascinating discussion.

Dr. Hertig's article, "The Subversive Kingdom of Jesus and Christian Social Witness," appeared in the October, 2004 issue *Missiology: An International Review*; Dr. Reeves is co-author (along with Dr. Kenneth Waters) of "The Academic Side of New Testament Studies," which appeared in *Christian College, Christian Calling: Higher Education and the Service of the Church*, edited by Drs. Steve Wilkins, Paul Shrier, and Ralph P. Martin (Alta Mira Press, 2005). — Kevin Walker

## GUEST LECTURER

### Darwinism, Culture, and Politics

Dr. John G. West, Chair of the Department of Political Science and Geography at Seattle Pacific University, will be speaking on the peculiar social history of Darwinism in American political theory. Simultaneously loved and feared, Darwinism in the early Twentieth Century came to mean both the complete undermining of human dignity *and* the basis of man's highest hope

in the philosophy of progressivism. How do we reconcile vicious "social Darwinism" on one hand with the basis for the administrative state on the other? Come join us on **April 5, 6pm, in the LAPC** for this fascinating discussion of the history of ideas. The lecture will be hosted by the Center for Research in Science and Faith and Culture.

Dr. West is author of "Darwin's Public Policy: Nineteenth Century Science and the Rise of the American Welfare State," which appeared in *The Progressive Revolution in Politics and Political Science: Transforming the American Regime*, edited by John Marini and Ken Masugi (Rowman & Littlefield, 2005). — Kevin Walker



## APU FACULTY RESEARCH

The Office of Faculty Research and the Office of Sponsored Research and Grants work to assist APU faculty with their research and dissemination endeavors, provide external research funding, and promote an academic climate that celebrates and strengthens the Azusa Pacific University community of Christian scholars and researchers.

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