

## Editors' Perspectives

### **Introduction to *The Journal of Biblical Integration in Business: Business Cases with a Christian Worldview***

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A miracle can be defined as an event that appears inexplicable by the laws of nature and so is held to be supernatural in origin or an act of God: One that excites admiring awe. Miracles by definition are spontaneous; they cannot be summoned, but come of themselves.

This special issue of *The JBIB: Business Cases with a Christian Worldview* has something of this “miraculous” feel to it – a spontaneous happening prompted by an unexpected coming together of God’s people. Nearly 18 months ago, Ron Galloway and Sam Dunn at Northwest Nazarene announced a case-writing workshop in February 2004, to which all CBFA business faculty were invited. It was during this workshop that one of the co-leaders, Dave Rosenthal, encouraged us to consider submitting Christian worldview business cases (with an attending teaching note) to the *Case Research Journal*, of which he is the editor.

Dave’s comment got several of us thinking about the great need for such cases and how we might promote case-writing within the CBFA membership. Part of this thinking led to the case method workshop that took place at the 2004 CBFA meeting. However, if you had asked any of us about the possibility of a special issue journal, we probably would have just smiled and said something about it being an interesting idea. After the CBFA session, however, the enthusiasm was palpable. Hence this special issue of *The JBIB*, which, after a double-blind review process of nearly 20 submissions, contains cases and vignettes encompassing such topics as accounting, entrepreneurship, human resources, marketing, and strategy.

What is particularly exciting is that this is only the beginning. At the CBFA meeting in San Diego this October there will be a one-day preconference workshop focusing on writing case teaching notes. The quality of these notes is a primary factor in deciding whether

or not to use a case, yet constructing a good teaching note is usually more difficult than writing the case itself. This preconference workshop is being taught by a successful case writer and experienced workshop leader, and the cost is only \$100 (about one-third of what one would pay elsewhere).

Other exciting developments include 1) two additional special issues of *The JBIB: Business Cases with a Christian Worldview*, 2) future pre-CBFA conference case-writing workshops for the beginning and experienced case writer, and 3) an agreement with Regent University to be the case repository, allowing for Web download capability.

Another part of the “miraculous” is how quickly everything has occurred and the excitement and support people have exhibited. Evidence of this includes the fact that the special issue has come together in less than six months (from announcement to final acceptance decisions), the upcoming preconference workshop took about one month to organize, and commitments from key participants Sharon Johnson at *The JBIB* and Mike Zigarelli at Regent took one conversation each.

As mentioned above, another *The JBIB: Business Cases with a Christian Worldview* will be published next year. In addition to cases and vignettes, we are considering including industry notes. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact me (tom.buckles@biola.edu). More details will be provided in October at CBFA, but it’s not too early to get started. I encourage you to attend the pre-CBFA conference workshop on writing case teaching notes. It will be a profitable time for both the beginning and experienced case writer.

An issue such as this is due to the efforts of many people. Without the initial idea and effort of Ron Galloway and Sam Dunn to host the case-writing workshop in 2004, none of this would have happened. Thank you for listening to the Spirit. Thanks also go to Sharon Johnson, who has agreed to publish three special issues of *The JBIB* dedicated to business cases with a Christian worldview. Of course, if it were not for the authors, there would be nothing to publish. Their efforts, especially in light of the tight time frame, were Herculean. The same is also true for the reviewers. To say thank you does not seem enough.

I am very grateful to Associate Editors Sam Dunn and Tim Redmer, with whom it has been a privilege to work. Their tireless effort, ready advice, and insights made a seemingly impossible task doable.

Finally, thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ, whose example provides a valuable window into the power of the case method. It is our prayer that this special issue will be a fragrant sacrifice, thereby honoring and glorifying His name.

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