

International Journal of Christianity & English Language Teaching

A refereed, online journal on Christianity and ELT

Volume 9


Article 3

10-2022

Editor's Column: Wisdom and Sorrow

Bradley Baurain

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.biola.edu/ijc-elt>

 Part of the [Applied Linguistics Commons](#), [Christianity Commons](#), [Language and Literacy Education Commons](#), and the [Teacher Education and Professional Development Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Baurain, Bradley (2022) "Editor's Column: Wisdom and Sorrow," *International Journal of Christianity and English Language Teaching*: Vol. 9, Article 3.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.biola.edu/ijc-elt/vol9/iss1/3>

This Editorial is brought to you for free and open access by the Cook School of Intercultural Studies at Digital Commons @ Biola. It has been accepted for inclusion in *International Journal of Christianity and English Language Teaching* by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ Biola. For more information, please contact university.archives@biola.edu.

Editor’s Column: Wisdom and Sorrow

Bradley Baurain

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.
– Ecclesiastes 3:1–8 (NIV)

“There is a time for everything.” This truth is clearly seen in the current issue of this journal.

At first, it was a time for wisdom and rejoicing. We invited the winners of the Christian English Language Educators Association’s (CELEA) Earl W. Stevick Award to reflect for the benefit of our readers on their collective decades of teaching and service. This award, which is something like a lifetime achievement award, “honors members of the English language teaching profession who embody some of the characteristics of Dr. Stevick in their teaching, mentoring of teachers, scholarship, service to the profession, and living out the life of Christ in this profession.” Indeed, I rejoiced to read the lessons they shared and am excited to explore this Forum section with my own students.

As we were putting this issue together, however, it became as well a time for grief and sorrow. Our colleague and brother, the well-known scholar Zoltán Dörnyei, passed away and “graduated to heaven,” as a friend of mine used to say. In my very first editor’s column for this journal (Volume 5, 2018), I wrote of being “held spellbound” by how Dörnyei wove together in his plenary address (at the CELT 2018 Chicago conference) theology, social science, ministry,

and English language teaching. Others who knew him far better than myself have contributed remembrances and tributes to honor him in this issue.

This current volume 9 of the *International Journal of Christianity and English Language Teaching* covers a spectrum of topics and “times and seasons.” There are two main articles. The first is “Language Policy and Planning in Church-Sponsored ESL Programs,” by Andrew Schneider, a qualitative research study which explores one church-sponsored ESL program and how its anti-proselytizing policy was interpreted by volunteer instructors within a ministry context. Important issues addressed include integrity, professionalism, and the Christian responsibility to both speak and live the gospel.

The second main article is “Collaboration and Reconciliation in ELT? Personal Reflections on Critical Incidents,” by Michael Lessard-Clouston. This essay is based on a presentation he gave as part of a panel at this year’s TESOL International Convention in Pittsburgh, entitled “Faith-inspired Collaboration and Reconciliation in English Language Teaching.” Questions surrounding collaboration, reconciliation, and cross-cultural ethics in several international contexts are fruitfully analyzed and discussed.

The Forum section is richly stocked with a reflective article as well as the content mentioned above. “Reflections on Church-Based English Ministry,” by Rachael Sloan Tsaneva, conveys the thoughts and stories of an early-career teacher working with a nonprofit organization and church network in Virginia. This piece adds to the growing literature on church-based TESOL ministries.

In the second Forum entry, “Wisdom from Experience – Thoughts from Stevick Award Winners,” five award winners distill their reflections into “lessons” that are challenging and, while humbly presented, are themselves humbling.

The third Forum entry collects tributes to Zoltán Dörnyei from, respectively: Eleanor Pease, who initially connected him with CELEA via the 2008 Christians in English Language Teaching (CELT) Conference in New York City; Elfrieda Lepp-Kaethler, his doctoral student and a current faculty member at Providence University College and Theological Seminary; and Mary Shepard Wong of Azusa Pacific University, his collaborator and co-editor.

Finally, there are two books reviewed in this issue of the journal:

• *How Shall We Then Care? A Christian Educator’s Guide to Caring for Self, Learners, Colleagues, and Community*, edited by Paul Shotsberger and Cathy Freytag, reviewed by Michael Lessard-Clouston.

- *Teaching and Learning across Cultures: A Guide to Theory and Practice*, by Craig Ott, reviewed by Mary Cloutier.

Finally, in the spirit of “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens,” it’s time for myself and my co-editor, Michael Pasquale, to pass the baton. After five years, countless hours, and co-editing five volumes of this journal, I am going to step down and, while remaining on the Editorial Board, move on to other priorities and projects. Michael is also stepping down after six years. I have been hugely privileged, both personally and professionally, to work alongside him as well as the founding editor, Michael Lessard-Clouston. At the present time, we do not know who will take the reins. If you have relevant publishing and editing experience and would like to consider (co-)editing the journal, please contact me.

Now it’s your turn . . . time to read and enjoy—and please pass on this free and open-access resource to other faith-engaged TESOL professionals!

Bradley Baurain (bbaurain@gmail.com) is a Professor of TESOL at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A. He is the author of *On Waiting Well: Moving from Endurance to Enjoyment When You’re Waiting on God* (Moody Publishers, 2020) and articles in *ELT Journal*, the *Journal of Language, Identity, and Education*, *RELC Journal*, *TESL-EJ*, and *TESOL Journal*. For more information about him, his website is <https://moody.academia.edu/BradleyBaurain>.

