

Børge Schantz and Reinder Bruinsma  
Editors

# Exploring the Frontiers of Faith

Festschrift in Honour  
of Dr. Jan Paulsen

Congratulatory Edition

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Laurence A. Turner  
Bertil Wiklander

Biographical information about the authors is found at the end of their essay.

## Preface

It has been both a privilege and an honour to be so heavily involved with the preparation of this *Festschrift* for Dr. Jan Paulsen, long time church leader in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and since March 1999 its nineteenth world president. This collection of essays is a fitting tribute to Dr. Paulsen at a significant moment in his life.

We (Børge Schantz, Denmark, and Reinder Bruinsma, The Netherlands) have known Jan Paulsen for many years as a personal friend, esteemed colleague and our ‘boss’. We have appreciated him in those roles, while we ourselves were still in active church service, and we have also enjoyed his collegiality and friendship—and still do. In many ways we have looked up to him, and continue to do so, as an inspiring role model.

Børge Schantz came up with the idea of honouring Jan Paulsen with a *Festschrift* on the occasion of his 75th birthday in January 2010. This moment was a fitting opportunity to express appreciation for his 54 years of committed service to the world church. He approached Reinder Bruinsma with the request to serve as his co-editor—a request that was gladly accepted. For some fifteen months we have invested a significant amount of our time in this special project. The fact that we have both retired from ‘regular’ church service enabled us to do so. It has been a deeply satisfying experience.

When we approached leaders and academics (in many cases these qualities being united in the same person) to contribute a chapter to this extraordinary publication, we received many enthusiastic responses. The result, which you now hold in your hands, is a rich collection of essays on a wide variety of topics. All twenty-eight authors have a strong European connection. They either live or lived in Europe, work or have worked on the same continent where Jan Paulsen also lived and worked for most of his distinguished career. All are either active or retired Seventh-day Adventist workers, except two contributors who are Lutherans. But everyone of them has had personal associations with Paulsen, either as his professor, student, colleague or co-worker, or as part of a team with him as leader.

We are, in particular, delighted with the positive response from Prof. Dr. Peter P. J. Beyerhaus, who was Paulsen’s *Doktorvater* when he received his doctoral degree from the University of Tübingen. Professor Beyerhaus’ contribution is a special tribute to one of his most prominent students. For this reason, and because of its very personal content, it fittingly opens the collection of essays.

The authors of this book, who combine thirteen different nationalities and currently live in ten different countries, are, of course, not truly representative of all the leaders and academics who serve or have served the Adventist Church world-

wide. (As far as this lack of representativeness is concerned: we are acutely aware that there is, in spite of our efforts to avoid this, a lamentable disparity in the gender balance!) Yet, in a very real way the contributors are representative of the quality of leadership and intellectual strength that is so abundantly present in the Adventist Church, and of which Jan Paulsen himself is such a prominent example.

All contributors to this *Festschrift* have chosen a topic within the area of their particular expertise. Each essay, in its own way, fits well within the Adventist Christian tradition and, we believe, also to a large extent coincides with the interests of Dr. Paulsen. As the editors, however, we want to underline the fact that not all opinions expressed by the authors necessarily concur in every detail with our own. Nor do we assume that the opinions that are expressed and the conclusions that are reached represent in all cases the thinking of Dr. Paulsen. From our association with him we are, however, quite sure that he does not expect everyone to think in all matters, theological and otherwise, as he does.

The essays have been organized into four sections: (1) biblical and theological studies; (2) church administration; (3) education; and (4) mission and Christian witness. We realize that in a few cases a particular essay could fit in more than one category. The wide diversity of topics defies easy categorization.

A very special feature in the book is the Congratulatory List (*tabula gratulatoria*) with about one thousand names of colleagues and friends from around the world who have expressed their desire to also send their best wishes to the person to whom this *Festschrift* is dedicated. Those who are listed, and many others, cherish the direction and inspiration Paulsen has provided in the various phases of his ministry.

Before we come to the final paragraphs of this preface it should be pointed out that, since this project has been initiated on European soil, we have chosen to employ British spelling throughout.

A few words of appreciation are in order. First of all, we thank the authors for their willingness to invest so much time and energy in the essays they have produced, and also for reacting so positively to our reminders regarding deadlines and to our editorial decisions regarding details of style and formatting. We know from experience that it is quite challenging to achieve full consistency and correctness in any major publication.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> There are, admittedly, some inconsistencies in the editorial format of the book. We have accepted some variations in the way Greek words have been transcribed by the different authors. We have also accepted some variations in the footnote format with regard to the way authors refer to a source they previously quoted. The sources that are referred to or quoted are from publishers located in a wide range of countries. As a rule the country is indicated with the place name where the publisher is (or was) located. Since the majority of the publications that are referred to or quoted are, however, from American publishers, as the rule only the place name, with the abbreviation of the state are mentioned, without the addition of 'USA'.



If we approach the ideal of consistency to some extent, it is due to the sharp eye and the English language skills of Mrs. Jonquil Hole (who taught in the School of English at Newbold College, when Paulsen was the school's principal). We greatly value her assistance. Likewise we are indebted to Bettina Krause and Lynda and John Baidam for preparing the bibliography of the publications of Dr. Paulsen.

Preparing a *Festschrift* is a complex enterprise. In addition to intense communication with authors, there are other important aspects concerning biography, bibliography, finance, time and place for the presentation of the book, and so on. The organization of the extensive Congratulatory List required a great deal of time and care. Many people have given us a helping hand in these matters. Special mention deserve Weslyne Sahley, Tor Tjeransen, Øivind Gjertsen, Randi and Svein Myklebust, Steven Thompson and Esti Pujic.

In addition, we like to thank the management of the Advent Verlag in Lueneburg, Germany, for their willingness to publish this volume as a non-commercial venture. We have benefited greatly from their technical advice and practical support.

Producing a substantial *Festschrift* demands an outlay of funding that will not be fully met by income from sales. Our thanks go to the church entities and a few private donors who have helped to provide the support that we needed. Among these generous church entities are a number of world divisions of the Adventist Church (the Trans-European, North American, South Pacific and Euro-Africa divisions) and church organizations in Britain, Finland, Norway, Iceland, Denmark and the Netherlands as well as some private contributors. These donations have also made it possible to send out more than five hundred free copies to theological libraries operated by Adventist and other Christian traditions. Copies of the *Festschrift* have also been made available worldwide to public affairs agencies in the Adventist Church for use in their contacts with other churches. In addition, some free copies have been reserved for special friends of the church around the world.

Together with about one thousand men and women whose names are listed on pages 437-464, and with the authors of the essays in this book, we congratulate Jan Paulsen on his 75th birthday. May the Lord, whom he has served so well for so many years, continue to give him, with his wife Kari, good health and sustained energy for many happy years to come.

*Reinder Bruinsma*