INTRODUCTION

PUBLISHER’S INTRODUCTION

The influence of C. S. Lewis on American Evangelicalism is almost without equal. Books like *Mere Christianity* and *Screwtape Letters* have been essential reading material for several decades. Children have had their faith shaped either by hearing their parents read *The Chronicles of Narnia* and/or by reading this amazing work for themselves. On November 22, 2013, the 50th anniversary of his death, many of us will stop to reflect on the influence that Lewis has had on our lives, our thinking, and our faith development.

This issue of *Renewing Minds*, the fourth publication in the series for this journal, is devoted to vast and comprehensive ways that C. S. Lewis has touched our spheres of service and influence. Several new publications have seen the light of day this year in anticipation of this 50th anniversary moment. Perhaps, chief among these are the two publications by Alister McGrath. One of these, a major biography, receives an insightful review by Hal Poe in this issue. Other helpful reviews also engage the thoughts of Lewis.

The articles in this issue include two outstanding pieces by friends from Houston Baptist University. We are pleased to welcome the quality scholarship of Louis Markos and Holly Ordway to the pages of this journal. Outstanding articles by Union’s talented faculty members are also included: David Thomas on history, Justin Barnard on naturalism, Hal Poe on narrative, Matt Lunsford on mathematics, and Gene Fant on reading. It is a pleasure to commend these thoughtful contributions to our readers.

I am grateful for the leadership of Ben Mitchell and Hunter Baker and the capable oversight of editorial and production
processes by Jon Dockery, Sarah Dockery, and Mike Garrett. The launch of this journal several months ago was the fulfillment of a longtime dream that I had to do so at Union. I am so grateful for all who have helped to make this dream a reality.

I will soon be passing the leadership baton to the next president of Union University. In doing so, I will step away from my role with the journal. It has indeed been a joy to be involved in the launch of this project. The first three issues of this journal have provided quality pieces worthy of reading and reflection. This issue is no exception. I trust you will enjoy the opportunity on the occasion of this 50th anniversary remembrance to join our contributors in thinking about the numerous and significant ways that our lives have been influenced by the legendary C. S. Lewis.

*Soli Deo Gloria,*

David S. Dockery

Publisher