

From the Editors

Dear Readers,

After much planning and review, we are pleased to share our inaugural issue of the *BTJ*! This journal fulfills our vision to provide a platform for BTS students, faculty, and alumni to publish academic articles and book reviews related to their various fields of study at BTS. Many people helped bring this vision to fruition. First, we would like to thank President Ike Reeder for his support of this new endeavor. We also want to thank Dr. Thad James, who has served as a liaison for our contributors and reviewers associated with BTS' prison ministry. In addition, we have received gracious support from other members of the BTS staff, including Irene Hays, Emily Hays, and Deb Quenelle. Finally, Dr. Geoffrey Wright at Samford University provided helpful advice from his experience with starting a journal. While we wanted to recognize these individuals especially, we offer profuse thanks to everyone who made the journal a reality - the faculty editorial board, student reviewers, and contributing authors! Please see the copyright page for a list of the student reviewers and the editorial board.

From about 25 submissions, we chose two articles and four book reviews to represent the scholarship of BTS. Submissions for our first issue went through an internal, double-blind review process. We hope to incorporate external reviewers for future issues. Likewise, while submissions were received from current faculty and students for our first issue, submissions from alumni will be welcome in future issues. Also, we are pleased to include our students from the BTS Prison Initiative ministry as contributing authors and reviewers. Our goal is for this issue to inspire future contributions and engagement with the *BTJ*. Thank you to our readers for being a part of this community and joining us on this journey.

Warm regards,
Jay Haley, PhD
Associate Editor

Ryan Brady
Associate Editor

Pat Sanders, PhD
General Editor