

EDITORIAL

"May I take this opportunity of saying how much I have appreciated this journal ..." "I should like to say how delighted I am with this publication. It certainly fulfils a need in the U.K. ..." "Foundations is very helpful indeed ..." "I am very grateful for Foundations ..." "Just a note of appreciation for the copy of Foundations we recently received. It has long been my opinion that there is a need for such a journal ... My only regret would be that I finished reading it in two hours and now have a six-month wait for the next issue!"

These comments by Pastors illustrate the encouraging way in which this journal has been received and appreciated since its first appearance in November 1978. While imperfections have marred each issue we are nevertheless grateful to God for the blessing which has been upon FOUNDATIONS since its inception.

It is significant that nearly all the letters and comments of appreciation received by the Editor have come from Pastors and this we regard as encouraging. While the journal can be of great value to ordinary church members and church officers its main ministry is to Pastors and this clearly distinguishes FOUNDATIONS both from other theological journals and devotional or historical periodicals.

Our primary aim is to help Pastors by discussing contemporary theological issues in a scholarly but thoroughly biblical and relevant manner. For this reason the articles are both academic and practical, written not for the University library but for the working Pastor. By means of major articles and book reviews, we inform and stimulate Pastors and others by keeping them abreast of contemporary theological news and questions and also by encouraging them to apply themselves to such issues.

One important feature of FOUNDATIONS is the space given

to the general content and assessment of theological journals and new theological books. In this current issue, for example, at least 19 journals are reviewed as well as six new and important books. This kind of help is invaluable to Pastors in terms of what to buy or subscribe to and informing them of what is being written both by liberals and evangelicals. Recently a Pastor told me rather excitedly that as a result of a book review in Issue 5 of FOUNDATIONS he recommended to his members that they should also buy the book and 35 members responded. There are no prizes for guessing the title of the book or the identity of the Pastor!

The most frequent complaint concerns the format of this journal. For example, some have requested a more attractive appearance including real printing. Some changes in format will be introduced in the next issue, notably a thicker cover and 'perfect' binding but nothing more ambitious can be considered at this stage due to high printing costs. A circulation well in excess of 2000 will be required before we can consider realistically a radical change in format. In the meantime we are grateful to our printer for his valuable work and co-operation and we ask our readers to advertise and commend the journal to others.

Have you considered subscribing to FOUNDATIONS yourself? Does your Pastor receive it? Would other Church officers benefit from reading it? One Pastor wrote recently, "Clearly this journal is beginning to make a useful contribution in our churches". Why not introduce FOUNDATIONS into your church and sell a few copies there? If your Pastor or colleague does not receive it regularly, encourage him to do so and take advantage of our special offer. Churches could help, for example, by giving their Pastors a gift of a three-year subscription costing only £6 instead of £7.50 on Issues VII-XII. This is a practical way of helping the Pastor and the church.

We need your support and prayers if FOUNDATIONS is to make an even more vital contribution to pastors and churches in the future.