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Editor’s Introduction

One night in 1985, several days after our first debate, I was driving Tony back to his hotel. That evening we had been discussing the possibilities of an afterlife. As we were driving along, I asked Tony if he was afraid to die. He chose to respond this way: “I should think that I have a good many years yet to live.” He was indeed correct, as he lived precisely twenty-five years after that evening. But as I said earlier, even at eighty-seven years of age, his life ended too early for my liking. I will miss Tony Flew profoundly.

This quotation is from Gary Habermas’s touching tribute to our dear colleague in philosophy, Professor Antony Flew, who passed away on April 8, 2010. Although the essay is a heartfelt reminiscence of a wonderful relationship between two top flight thinkers, it was for me also a reminder that the topics we address in a seemingly “stuffy” and technical academic journal have weighty implications for every human on the planet. Gary’s essay profoundly personalized some of the issues we argue in the pages of Philosophia Christi. Where is Tony Flew? Where will I be when my heart beats no longer? If our (that is, members’ of the EPS) evidence and reasoning on behalf of theism, the afterlife, and salvation in Jesus Christ are so good, why were we not ultimately persuasive to a brilliant and well-trained colleague like Flew? I know most of you reading this have answers at the ready for such questions, but we wouldn’t be very deep if questions like these didn’t bother us in the context of real people in real relationships. We may have answers, eminently reasonable answers. But at times even our best philosophical reasoning doesn’t satisfy because we long for the very best for our friends and even, if we are exhibiting rare Christian character, for our most difficult adversaries in the academy.

Well the arguments in this journal continue in the face of life and death (we need to earn academic promotions, after all). Knowing our readers, I think you’ll enjoy the articles, notes, and reviews as much as Habermas’s moving essay. Doing the hard work of philosophy and putting out another excellent issue of the journal might itself be the best tribute to Flew. Indeed, let’s make that explicit by dedicating this issue (and it is another good one) to our dear departed friend. Here’s to Tony!

Craig J. Hazen
Biola University

Just as we are off to press, some very exciting news to announce: the now retired Alvin Plantinga will be coming out of retirement in November to be the plenary speaker for the EPS annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia (November 17–19), and he will also be headlining our annual apologetics conference at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church, Marietta, Georgia (November 18–20). All the details can be found at www.epsociety.org.