

EDITORIAL

Dear colleague Stelian TOFANĂ,

On 2 April 2023 you turned 65. On this occasion the friends of this journal from near and far, colleagues, New Testament scholars from Romania and abroad greet you and sincerely wish you God's blessing and much strength to continue your work in the field of New Testament studies.

In a manner visible to many, you have dedicated all your intellectual and spiritual energy to the service of biblical studies, to the dissemination of the results of New Testament research to many interested listeners and readers.

After obtaining the degree in Orthodox theology from the Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj in 1984, you entered the service of the Church as priest in the university city and its vicinity. You have been serving at the Orthodox cathedral of this city since 1998 and thus biblical interpretation has reached a large audience through your sermons. At the same time, soon after completing your studies, you took on a teaching position, first as a substitute professor at the Orthodox Theological Seminary (1988–1990), then as an assistant at the Orthodox Theological Institute (1990–1994), as a lecturer at the Orthodox Theological Faculty of the Babeş-Bolyai University (1994–1996), as a senior lecturer (1996–1998) and professor of New Testament (since 1998) at the same university. In this capacity you participated in the 1998 meeting of the East-West Symposium on Biblical Theology organised by the Eastern European Liaison Committee of the Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas at the Neamţ Monastery. Soon thereafter you were elected as a member of the SNTS. Joining the society gave you the opportunity to convey the Orthodox approach to New Testament interpretation to many colleagues from all over the world and you contributed thereby to a shared understanding of this part of our Bible.

With this experience, together with your colleagues from the Roman Catholic, Greek Catholic and Reformed Faculty, you founded the Centre for Biblical Studies of the Babeş-Bolyai University in 2003, serving as its first director between 2003–2005, and once more between 2011–2013, as its deputy director between 2005–2007 and 2013–2015. In this capacity, you have founded the yearly biblical conference of the Centre and you have overseen the establishment of a biblical library, which hosts many important works by international scholars. At the same time, together with colleagues from the Centre for Biblical Research, you have founded and edited the bi-annual journal *Sacra Scripta*, which publishes scholarly articles in international languages by scholars from Romania and abroad. Since 2005 you are a member of the Association of Biblical Scholars in Romania, and its leader since 2022. Your studies have found considerable resonance at home and abroad. At least

as important for us is the kindness and friendship you have shown us during all these years.

May our Lord in heaven grant you good health and creative energy for many more years to come.

Ad multos annos!

In the name of your colleagues and contributors to this issue,

Hans KLEIN

Em. Professor of New Testament Studies

Lucian Blaga University, Sibiu, Lutheran Theological Department

Former President of the Association of Biblical Scholars in Romania