

# In this number

JOUKO TALONEN

## **Laestadianism and The Finnish Civil War (1918)**

In 1918, almost the entire nation belonged to the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland. The civil war, which began in January 1918, split the nation but also split the church. This article analyzes attitudes towards the civil war among Finnish Laestadian Christians. Over the period from the end of the 19th century to the early 20th century, Laestadians were divided into three branches: the Conservatives, the Reawakening, and the Firstborn. Similar to the other groups within the Lutheran Church, for the Laestadians, the war was a tribulation, a punishment sent down from the Lord, an eschatological event. Because Laestadian views privileged authority, they rejected social democracy as an “atheist” movement aimed at destroying the Finnish social order. During the Finnish civil war, all of Northern Finland was held by the Whites, thus witnessing few military incidents. The Firstborn Laestadians, on the other hand, resided in Southern Finland and were thus forced to confront the Red Finland in their everyday lives.

SARA GEHLIN

## **Imagery for Peace: Feminist Theological Perspectives on Moral Imagination and Peacebuilding**

This article discusses UN Resolution 1325 (on women, peace, and security) focusing on the function of language and imagery in peacebuilding. It examines the aims of equality and protec-

tion outlined in UN Resolution 1325, which remain unfulfilled today, in terms of moral imagination, as theorized by feminist theologians and researchers of cognitive science and peace studies. Focusing on the work of creativity, courage, patience, fantasy, and strategic planning that underlies moral imagination, the article further draws on the peace approach advocated in the UN Declaration on a Culture of Peace: the building of peace in the human mind. Thus, the notion of a culture of peace is key to the discussion carried out in the article.

SUVI-MARIA SAARELAINEN

## **Forgiveness and Reconciliation in Cancer Narratives of Emerging Adults**

This article focuses on the manifestations of forgiveness and reconciliation in coping narratives, both verbal and visual, of emerging adults with cancer. The data comprise autobiographical interviews and life course drawings by 16 emerging adults after cancer treatment. Using a narrative-thematic approach, three main categories were identified. Forgiveness and reconciliation were found to be intertwined in the internal, horizontal, and vertical spheres. It is concluded that, to better understand young people’s experiences of illness and to provide better support for patients, consideration of the role played by forgiveness and reconciliation needs to be incorporated into the care and support of cancer patients.