

## Preface to the Second Edition

Since the publication of the first edition of *Notes from a Wayward Son*, Andrew's fight with Parkinson's has grown more acute. Though still swift to the theological punch, he is spending more time on the ropes than he would like. In our conversations, the voice struggles. But the mind continues to clarify and analyze. Andrew is still walking the walk.

As I mentioned in the Preface to the first edition, this project had its genesis in the hot summer of July 1998 in Dallas, Texas, when I sat around the seminar table with Andrew Walker at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University. There, I sought to absorb the implications of Andrew's insights into modern and postmodern culture and assess the church's mission in a rapidly changing world. Little did I realize at the time how much I was gaining or how much I would come to value Andrew's friendship. I have enjoyed meeting with him over the years and in London on occasion, as well as through Skype.

The following volume of essays and pieces puts readers around the seminar table with Andrew and provides a resource to make sense of what Andrew has given to the church for over forty-five years: wisdom and passion. The broad interdisciplinary approach to theology and ecclesiology will not go unnoticed, as well as his ecumenical commitment. The shorter pieces in particular reveal the range and scope of Andrew's engagement with a wide-range of matters. As the bibliography demonstrates, there is a great deal more.

There is the old proverb that says that "when the student is ready the teacher will appear." It is why I would like to commend this new edition to those who seek to engage with mission and reflection on where the church and the wider culture are at this present moment. As someone who has not only taught and influenced me but also many others along the way, may we continue to learn from Andrew's example!

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