Hays, Richard B.: **The Faith of Jesus Christ. An Investigation of the Narrative Substructure of Galatians 3.1 - 4.11.** Chico, California: Scholars Press 1983. (SBL Dissertation Series 56). x - 305 pp., $15.00 (SBL members $10.00). ISBN 0 89130 589 0.

From time to time, scholars have suggested that *pistis Iēsou Christou* in Paul should be understood as a subjective genitive, but nowhere has this thesis been more broadly based than in this book. The author argues that Paul's letters represent a stage of primary reflection on a narrative: the gospel story of Jesus Christ, especially of his faithfulness to death, which Paul set forth in his face-to-face teaching; a narrative prolonged in the life of believing communities. This leads to the view that "in every case except Gal 2.16", where the language is so compact that the meaning is unclear, "'the faith of Jesus Christ' provides a better and more satisfying sense than the traditional translation of 'faith in Jesus Christ.'" The human response of faith, directed towards Christ, nevertheless remains "an important component of Paul's thought" (175). A more far-reaching conclusion is that "we must take more seriously the poetic functions of language for Paul. Such key phrases as *pistis Iēsou Christou* have more than one level of meaning. "The texts and symbols which grasp and move us most profoundly are almost always polyvalent. I am proposing that Paul's language has something of that character, that it belongs less to the sphere of *wissenschaftliche Theologie* than to the sphere of confession, prayer, and praise" (266). The author's argument is not based solely on Gal 3.1 - 4.11, and he is well aware of other approaches to the interpretation of Paul, most of which he considers complementary to his own. The practical lesson for translators would seem to be that, just as in each case we have to decide whether to translate *hē epangelia* as "the promise (itself)" or "(the content of) what God promises", so we should in future ask, for each occurrence of *pistis* in each context, whether Christ's faithfulness or the faith-response of the believer is the more prominent. Dr. Hays' book will help us to ask this question with a more open mind.

Lee, J. A. L.: **A Lexical Study of the Septuagint Version of the Pentateuch.** Chico, California: Scholars Press 1983. (Society of Biblical Literature Septuagint and Cognate Studies Series 14). xiv + 171 pp., $12.50 ($8.50 to SBL members). ISBN 0 89130 576 9.

Common language translation of the Scriptures may be 300 years older than the New Testament. The third century BC is the date tentatively assigned to the Septuagint translation of the Pentateuch; he finds that "the bulk of the Pentateuch vocabulary is the same as that of contemporary Greek", and that "the case for regarding the Greek of LXX as a 'Jewish-Greek' dialect is a weak one . . . The Greek of the LXX is to be regarded as essentially the Greek of the time and . . . its peculiarities are to be explained chiefly as a result of the translation process" (146). Lee also finds the vocabulary of the LXX Pentateuch generally homogeneous, though he pays careful attention to signs of change, including innovation and obsolescence. An index of Greek words helps to make this a useful tool for NT translators.

P.E.