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Reports Relating to the Fifty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Society

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REPORTS RELATING TO THE FIFTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

The 57th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society had the third-highest attendance on record with 2,162 persons registered. The meetings were held at the Valley Forge Convention Center and in the adjoining Radisson and Scanticon Hotels. Participating publishers offered generous discounts on their books and other products from one hundred booths in a large carpeted hall. The program theme, "Christianity in the Early Centuries," was explored in four excellent plenary sessions, and by many of the nearly five hundred individual papers. Participants gathered from six continents and the islands of the seas to fellowship, exchange ideas, critique one another, and to keep abreast of the most recent scholarship in their disciplines. More than twenty study groups also met as part of the overall program.

President-Elect Edwin Yamauchi served as program chairman and put together a superb array of plenary speakers. On Wednesday afternoon, Christopher Hall, Chair of the Bible and Theology Department and Dean of Templeton College at Eastern University, addressed the society on "What Evangelicals and Liberals Can Learn from Early Christian Literature." Later that evening, author Nicholas Perrin, Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies at Wheaton College, posed the issue, "Thomas, the Fifth Gospel?" in which he reflected on the literary dependence and relationship of the Gospel of Thomas with Tatian's *Diatessaron*.

On Thursday morning attendees heard ETS member D. Jeffrey Bingham, Chair and Professor of Theological Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary, explore the "Development and Diversity in Early Christianity," demonstrating from the early Church fathers that there were competing voices in the early Church, but that what was orthodox, and what was not, was clearly evident to the writers themselves.

The fourth and final plenary was delivered by international scholar Paul Trebilco, Head of the Department of Theology and Professor of New Testament at the University of Otago, the oldest university in New Zealand. He spoke on "Ignatius and Others as Witnesses against Bauer," pointing out that what we would call heresy was neither early nor strong in Smyrna, Philadelphia, Ephesus, and other centers of Christianity in Asia Minor, a fatal blow to Walter Bauer's thesis and the corresponding *Da Vinci Code*.

More than twenty parallel sessions ran concurrently on such disciplines as OT, NT, biblical, historical, and systematic theology, Church history, archaeology, philosophy, hermeneutics, evangelism and missions, pastoral ministry, and psychology and theology. Parallel programs were also conducted by the Evangelical Philosophical Society, the Near East Archaeological Society, and the Adventist Theological Society. Tables and a large

bulletin board were provided for members to display resumes and for institutions to advertise available positions.

The first business session was called to order by ETS President Craig Blaising at 12:45 p.m. on Wednesday, November 16. He introduced ETS Vice-President Francis Beckwith, who gave a brief devotional on the death of John Paul II. It was moved, seconded, and carried (MSC) to adopt the agenda, that is, the meeting program which had been printed and distributed to all members previously. The Executive Committee proposed as a new By-Law the resolution on inerrancy that was passed at the 56th Annual Meeting by an 80% margin to advise members regarding the meaning of inerrancy as found in our doctrinal basis. The proposed By-Law reads as follows:

“For the purpose of advising members regarding the intent and meaning of the reference to biblical inerrancy in the ETS Doctrinal Basis, the Society refers members to the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy (1978). The case for biblical inerrancy rests on the absolute trustworthiness of God and Scripture’s testimony to itself. A proper understanding of inerrancy takes into account the language, genres, and intent of Scripture. We reject approaches to Scripture that deny that biblical truth claims are grounded in reality.”

This proposed By-law will be voted upon at the 58th Annual Meeting and requires a majority vote to be adopted.

The Secretary-Treasurer James Borland then presented both the membership and financial reports.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Active Membership	Total	Full	Assoc.	Student
11-19-04	4089	2111	683	1295
New Members (2005)	497	122	79	296
Members Reactivated	130	58	24	48
Members Changed Status	75	(84)	(159)	
Members Dropped	(647)	(209)	(89)	(349)
Failed to pay 2005 dues	589	182	76	331
Dropped per request	10	6	4	0
Bad addresses	30	7	7	16
Deceased	15	13	1	1
Total Membership 11-18-05	4069	2151	781	1131

FINANCIAL REPORT
EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2005 AND SEPTEMBER 30, 2004

REVENUES	2005	2004
Dues and Subscriptions	\$ 125,787	\$ 127,190
Annual Meeting	182,621	160,830
Interest on Savings	13,060	7,523
Miscellaneous Income	<u>28,778</u>	<u>18,611</u>
	<u>\$ 350,246</u>	<u>\$ 314,154</u>
 EXPENSES		
Journal (<i>JETS</i>)	\$ 69,050	\$ 59,407
Accounting	2,250	2,000
Annual Meeting	59,797	74,757
Newsletter	1,825	1,757
Office and General	20,180	12,208
Postage	14,315	19,746
Regional	10,000	6,000
Secretarial Help	11,917	13,123
Stipends	<u>87,150</u>	<u>81,550</u>
	<u>\$ 276,484</u>	<u>\$ 270,548</u>
 INCREASE (DECREASE) IN		
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	\$ 73,762	\$ 43,606
 NET ASSETS, beginning of year	\$ <u>512,579</u>	\$ <u>468,973</u>
NET ASSETS, end of year	\$ <u>586,341</u>	\$ <u>512,579</u>

The financial report was audited by Geoffrey R. Mather, CPA, Lynchburg, VA.

Four members were then nominated for three slots to serve on the nominating committee along with the two most recent ETS past presidents, David Howard, Jr., and Greg Beale. It was MSC to close the nominations and to vote for three persons each. The three selected to serve were Wayne Grudem, William Mounce, and Gerry Breshears.

Elected to serve by acclamation on the resolutions committee were Russ Bush, Dan Heimbach, and Dennis Jowers.

On Thursday evening, ETS President Craig Blaising of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary spoke at the fellowship banquet on "Faithfulness: A Prescription for Theology." Nearly 1,000 members were in attendance to enjoy the tasty meal and the fine presentation.

The final business session was called to order on Friday morning at 7:45 a.m. by ETS President Craig Blaising who then asked ETS President-Elect, Ed Yamauchi, to lead in prayer. James Borland, ETS Secretary-Treasurer, mentioned that full reports of the ETS regional meetings would appear in the January Newsletter and then presented brief memorials for the fifteen members who had passed away during the year and led in prayer. The full necrology appears in this issue of *JETS*.

Andreas Köstenberger, Editor of *JETS*, gave his report on the journal, pointing out that volumes 38–47 (1995–2004) of the *Journal* are now accessible at our website, www.etsjets.org, and that more postings will be forthcoming. The editor thanked the Executive Committee, the referees, the book review editors, the typesetter and staff, his editorial assistant, and our authors and reviewers for their support, encouragement, wise counsel, expertise, and overall outstanding work. About 550 pages of articles and 300 pages of book reviews were published during the year.

The Resolutions Committee of the Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society, composed of L. Russ Bush, Dan Heimbach, and Dennis Jowers moved the following multi-part resolution.

Be it resolved:

That the members of the Evangelical Theological Society, meeting in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, November 16–18, 2005

First, express appreciation to all who read session papers, delivered plenary addresses, or otherwise participated on the program this year;

Second, express our thanks to Edwin Yamauchi, his assistant Brandon Walker, and others who assisted him in preparing our outstanding program on the theme “Christianity in the Early Centuries” this year;

Third, gratefully acknowledge the ministry of Jim Borland in his sacrificial service throughout the year on behalf of the Society, and especially in the meeting arrangements and registration process in which he was assisted by Ben Fraser and Daniel Borland;

Fourth, note with gratitude the ongoing work of our *Journal* editor Andreas Köstenberger, and encourage him in his continuing efforts to publish high quality articles that represent the wide variety of academic specializations within the membership;

Fifth, acknowledge the excellent leadership of our President Craig Blaising and the other members of our ETS Executive Committee, and thank them for the time and effort they have given to lead the Society into the new century while yet taking care to preserve our heritage and theological commitments;

Sixth, express appreciation to the Valley Forge Convention Center and the Radisson and Scanticon Hotel staffs for their efficient and courteous service enabling our Conference to be conducted with such success; and

Seventh, encourage one another, in light of our meeting and what we have learned here in Valley Forge, to continue our public commitment to biblical authority and inerrancy, and to continue to support the principles of collegial academic dialogue within the framework set forth by our Doctrinal Basis as has been exemplified through the annual meetings of the Evangelical

ical Theological Society, and to continue to present biblical values and biblical truth to Christian believers and unbelievers in our world today.

The above resolution was passed unanimously by voice vote.

Greg Beale moved the report of the nominations committee, that the following persons be elected:

President: Edwin Yamauchi
 President-Elect: Francis J. Beckwith
 Vice-President: C. Hassell Bullock
 Secretary-Treasurer: James Borland
 Vacancy on the Executive Committee: Craig Blaising
 Vacancies on the Membership Committee: Tom Schreiner and
 Richard Schultz

The motion carried to elect the above slate of officers.

The leadership of ETS was then transferred from Craig Blaising to incoming President Edwin Yamauchi, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 a.m.

Scheduled Future Annual Meetings are:

- 2006 "CHRISTIANS IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE" Nov. 15-17, Washington, DC
- 2007 "TEACHING THEM TO OBEY" Nov. 14-16, San Diego, CA
- 2008 "TEXT AND CANON" Nov. 19-21, Providence, RI
- 2009 "PERSONAL AND SOCIAL ETHICS" Nov. 18-20, TBA

I encourage each member to join us November 15-17, 2006 (Wed.-Fri.) at the Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. The theme is "Christians in the Public Square." Rooms are \$159 per night for Single or Double; \$179 for Triple; and \$199 for Quads. Rooms at these rates may be secured until October 15 at 1-800-HILTONS, requesting these group rates for the Evangelical Theological Society. We also have some rooms across the street at the Churchill Hotel, 1914 Connecticut Ave. NW, for the same prices until Sept. 29. Call 800-424-2464 or 202-797-2000 and ask for the ETS Annual Meeting group rate.

JAMES A. BORLAND