

School of Religion

Faculty Publications and Presentations

Liberty University

Year 1996

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

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

The forty-seventh annual meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 16-18, 1995. It was by far the largest ETS meeting ever held. The total registration of 1,192 broke the previous year's record by more than three hundred. The Philadelphia Airport Radisson Hotel was the comfortable meeting site. Over two hundred papers were presented. Participants from around the world came to fellowship, exchange ideas, critique one another and keep up with the most recent scholarship in their disciplines.

President-elect Robert C. Newman served as program chairman and put together a superb array of speakers on the conference theme, "Defending the Faith: Christian Apologetics in a Non-Christian World." Plenary speakers were J. P. Moreland on defending the faith philosophically, Gary Habermas on defending the faith historically, Charles B. Thaxton on defending the faith scientifically and Thomas C. Oden on defending the faith theologically. Hundreds of parallel sessions were conducted on apologetic themes as well as other disciplines such as OT and NT, theology, missions, archeology and much more. Parallel programs were conducted by the Evangelical Philosophical Society, the Evangelical Missiological Society, the Near East Archaeological Society and the Adventist Theological Society. Study groups were held in the areas of dispensationalism, hermeneutics, and literary studies.

Over five hundred persons enjoyed the food and fare of the annual fellowship banquet on Thursday evening. Afterwards George W. Knight, III, delivered his ETS presidential address, "The Scriptures Were Written for Our Instruction." A straw poll was taken regarding holding the annual meeting in Jerusalem in the year AD 2000. The results were slightly negative, but a full questionnaire will be circulated to all members of the Society in early 1996.

Forty-seven display tables, featuring the latest books and computer software, adorned the prefunction area of the Radisson. Business was brisk, and many suitcases were heavier on the return trip home.

During the first business session president Knight welcomed the attendees, and president-elect Newman gave a brief devotional. Following the adoption of the agenda James Borland, secretary-treasurer, presented the membership and financial reports:

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

	Total	Full	Assoc.	Student
Active membership 11/1/94	2102	1350	456	296
New members	331	100	106	125
Members reactivated	42	26	14	2
Changed status	0	6	34	(40)
Members dropped	(188)	(88)	(54)	(46)
Failed to pay 1995	175	81	52	42
Dropped per request	6	3	0	3
Bad addresses	4	1	2	1
Deceased	3	3	0	0
Total membership 11/1/95	2287	1394	556	337

FINANCIAL REPORT

EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE

YEARS ENDED OCTOBER 31, 1995 AND 1994

	1995	1994
REVENUES		
Dues and subscriptions	\$ 59,926.51	\$ 55,539.33
Annual meeting	48,771.00	23,839.00
Interest on savings	7,412.04	4,467.98
Miscellaneous income	<u>7,709.28</u>	<u>3,533.43</u>
	123,818.83	87,379.65
EXPENSES		
<i>JETS</i>	29,989.48	35,817.69
Accounting	500.00	500.00
Annual meeting	13,629.76	15,562.08
<i>Newsletter</i>	844.00	906.12
Office and general	4,263.78	3,661.46
Office equipment	0.00	3,431.95
Postage	5,280.98	4,303.36
Regional	1,500.00	2,250.00
Salary	6,034.78	5,956.28
Stipends	<u>18,000.00</u>	<u>10,016.67</u>
	<u>80,042.78</u>	<u>82,405.61</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	43,776.05	4,974.04
FUND BALANCE , beginning of year	<u>144,079.71</u>	<u>139,105.67</u>
FUND BALANCE , end of year	\$ 187,855.76	\$ 144,079.71

In the second business session ETS vice-president Moisés Silva gave a brief devotional, James Borland read short reports on the spring meetings of the various ETS sections, and Ronald Youngblood, editor of *JETS*, reported on the status of the *Journal*. He noted that the size of *JETS* would be increased to 176 pages per issue beginning in March 1996 and pledged to get the publishing of *JETS* back on schedule by next year's annual meeting.

During the second business session the following officers were elected for 1996:

President—Robert C. Newman
 President-Elect—Moisés Silva
 Vice-President—Norman L. Geisler
 Vacancy on Executive Committee—George W. Knight, III
 Vacancies on Membership Committee—David K. Clark, Roger E. Martin
 and W. Gary Phillips

The Society adopted the report of the resolutions committee, composed of Elliott Johnson and H. Wayne House:

RESOLUTION ONE

Whereas the Evangelical Theological Society exists for defending the faith, and

Whereas the annual national meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society provides opportunity for networking with other evangelical students and scholars for intellectual stimulation and fellowship, and

Whereas the forty-seventh annual meeting has convened a collection of scholars and presenters in an atmosphere of discussion and debate,

Therefore be it resolved that the Evangelical Theological Society, meeting in plenary session on November 17, 1995, commend Robert C. Newman for his labors in planning a program that drew a record number of participants to the forty-seventh annual meeting.

RESOLUTION TWO

Whereas the condition of the body can affect the well-being of the soul, and whereas the Evangelical Theological Society planning team, in cooperation with the Philadelphia Airport Radisson Hotel, has created an atmosphere in which the Society can meet in comfort and convenience,

Therefore be it resolved that the Evangelical Theological Society, meeting in plenary session on November 17, 1995, commend James Borland and his son Jonathan for handling the details of registration and arrangements, and ancillary organizations and staff for their highly practical yet crucial contributions to the Society.

The dates, places, and themes for future annual meetings were announced:

November 21–23, 1996, Jackson, Mississippi: “The Holy Spirit: His Presence, Ministry and Gifts.”

1997, San Francisco, California: “General Revelation.”

1998, “Teaching Them All Things . . .”

1999, “Eschatology.”

2000, “Israel: Past, Present and Future.”

The secretary-treasurer announced that several ETS members had passed away since our last meeting. He read the memorials of William Richard Foster, David Edmond Hiebert and Elmer B. Smick. After reading from the Scriptures he led in prayer.

Our Society anticipates continued growth and effectiveness in the years ahead. I encourage each member to join us next November 21–23 at the twenty-three-story Harvey Hotel in downtown Jackson, Mississippi, as we consider “The Holy Spirit: His Presence, Ministry and Gifts.”

JAMES A. BORLAND