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

James A. Borland

Liberty University, jborland@liberty.edu

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

The 55th annual meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society set a new attendance record with nearly 2400 registered. The previous record was 1850 in Colorado Springs in 2001. The meetings were held in the Atlanta Hilton in downtown Atlanta, GA. Participating publishers offered generous discounts on their books and other products from more than eighty-five booths in the Galleria Exhibit Hall, the largest exhibit area of any hotel in Atlanta.

The program theme, "JESUS," was explored in six plenary sessions, and by many of the several hundred individual papers. Participants gathered from four continents 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 Greg Beale served as program chairman and put together a superb array of plenary speakers. On Wednesday afternoon, Robert H. Stein of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary addressed the society on "The Present State of Synoptic Studies: Some Observations." That evening, Craig L. Blomberg of Denver Seminary spoke on "Johannine Contributions to Historical Jesus Research." He was followed by Royce G. Gruenler of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, addressing "Christology from a Biblical-Theological Perspective."

On Thursday afternoon attendees first heard Craig A. Evans and Darrell L. Bock discuss "Implications of the Judaic Background for Studies of Jesus: A Dialogue." Craig and Darrell are on the faculties, respectively, of Acadia Divinity College and Dallas Theological Seminary. This was followed by Henri Blocher of Wheaton College Graduate School, who spoke on "Biblical Metaphors and the Doctrine of the Atonement."

The sixth and final plenary was an insightful session, "Jesus in Secular Ideologies," delivered on Friday morning by Peter Kuzmič of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

More than twenty parallel sessions ran concurrently on such disciplines as Old Testament, New Testament, biblical, historical, and systematic theology, archaeology, philosophy, hermeneutics, missions, evangelism, and world religions. 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 David Howard, Jr. at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, November 19. He introduced president-elect Greg Beale, who gave a brief devotional from Revelation 1 and then led in prayer. 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 secretary-treasurer James Borland then presented both the membership and financial reports.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Active Membership	Total	Full	Assoc.	Student
11-20-02	3617	1819	708	1090
New Members (2003)	778	150	112	516
Members Reactivated	65	39	10	16
Members Changed Status	96	(3)	(93)	
Members Dropped	(417)	(85)	(110)	(222)
Failed to pay 2003 dues	363	60	100	203
Dropped per request	20	10	5	5
Bad addresses	23	6	4	13
Deceased	11	9	1	1
Total Membership 11-21-03	4043	2019	717	1307

FINANCIAL REPORT
EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2003 AND SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

REVENUES	2003	2002
Dues and Subscriptions	\$ 112,116	\$ 118,375
Annual Meeting	138,708	125,117
Interest on Savings	7,109	14,308
Miscellaneous Income	<u>24,596</u>	<u>23,699</u>
	<u>\$ 292,529</u>	<u>\$ 281,499</u>
 EXPENSES		
Journal (<i>JETS</i>)	\$ 58,039	\$ 62,385
Accounting	1,800	1,725
Annual Meeting	47,340	41,115
Newsletter	1,575	1,408
Office and General	9,111	8,979
Office Equipment	1,369	2,204
Postage	12,193	18,389
Regional	5,000	5,000
Secretarial Help	16,350	9,047
Directory	150	6,508
Web Site Rental	60	160
Stipends	<u>73,100</u>	<u>62,848</u>
	<u>\$ 226,087</u>	<u>\$ 219,768</u>
 INCREASE (DECREASE) IN		
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	\$ 66,442	\$ 61,731
 NET ASSETS, beginning of year	\$ <u>402,531</u>	\$ <u>340,800</u>
NET ASSETS, end of year	\$ <u>468,973</u>	\$ <u>402,531</u>

It was MSC to receive the membership and financial reports. The financial report had previously been audited by Geoffrey R. Mather, CPA.

Six members were then nominated for three slots to serve on the nominating committee along with the two most recent ETS past presidents. It was MSC to close the nominations and to vote for three persons each. The three selected to serve were Bruce Ware, Russ Bush, and Bill Mounce.

Elected to serve by acclamation on the resolutions committee were Gregg Allison, Linda Belleville, and Steve Lemke.

On Wednesday evening, president David Howard, Jr. called to order a special business meeting at 8:37 p.m. to vote on the membership charges brought against Clark Pinnock and John Sanders one year earlier by Roger Nicole. Dr. Howard read Micah 6:8, then led in prayer. He explained the procedure and the agenda, the latter of which was projected onto a large screen. The seating arrangement placed all full members in the center sections for ease in discussion and voting. Tellers had been appointed to distribute, collect, and count the two separate ballots.

President Howard next showed and read both the ETS doctrinal basis on inerrancy and the Trinity, and the ETS Constitution, Article IV, Section 4, on membership. He also introduced all executive committee members who lined the front of the podium. From the podium, Darrell Bock read the report of the executive committee's findings and recommendation from their October 3 meeting in Chicago with Dr. Pinnock. Bruce Ware, who had accompanied Roger Nicole to the October meeting in Chicago, spoke next and characterized that meeting as dealing strictly with the doctrine of inerrancy, and not with open theism. Clark Pinnock then read a prepared statement in which he commended the executive committee for its diligence in pressing him for clarity when it observed what he called "a degree of ambiguity" in his *Most Moved Mover*. He stated, "The committee did its duty by me. Its members were zealous in pursuit of the truth of the changes. But they did not rush to judgment and they showed me grace and treated me fairly. I have no complaints. Indeed, I am the richer for it. . . . They also insisted on some modifications which I could supply. In the end, they were satisfied and I was relieved."

Clark also mentioned his book, *The Scripture Principle*, long out of print, because he felt some might be asking, "perhaps there I am guilty of violating biblical inerrancy." He said that he was "100% certain that, were we to sift through the text of *The Scripture Principle* . . . some phrases would have to be improved on and some examples removed or modified. I am sure," Clark continued, "were we to go through it carefully, charges would be in order." At this point the audience roared with laughter, and Clark realized that he had mistakenly said "charges would be in order," instead of "changes would be in order," which he had in his private copy of typed remarks.

Comments were then elicited from any members who wished to be heard on the issue. Ten persons expressed opinions at the two microphones provided. At 9:20 p.m., it was MSC to end debate and to call for the question. About fifteen tellers passed out printed ballots to qualified members who voted. The tellers collected and counted the ballots, but held the results until the conclusion of the second ballot issue.

Darrell Bock then read the executive committee's statement on the charges against John Sanders, which recommended by a 7-2 committee vote to sustain the charges. Greg Beale read a minority report that recom-

mended not sustaining the charges against Sanders. Bruce Ware spoke briefly for the charges, and John Sanders read a prepared statement as well. Public discussion ensued, with twenty-two individuals expressing opinions at the microphones.

It was MSC to end debate. Members voted, again by secret ballot. At 10:30 p.m. a break was taken to await the results. The session reconvened fifteen minutes later. Regarding the charges against Clark Pinnock, the vote to sustain was 212, or 32.9%, while the vote not to sustain the charges was 432, or 67.1%. The charges against John Sanders were sustained by a 62.7% vote (388), while the vote not to sustain was 231, or 37.3%. The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 p.m. The result was that neither Pinnock nor Sanders were removed from membership, a two-thirds vote being required for dismissal.

On Thursday evening, ETS president David Howard, Jr., of Bethel Theological Seminary, spoke at the fellowship banquet on "Surprised by Joy: Joy in the Christian Life and in Christian Scholarship." More than 1,000 were in attendance.

The final business session was called to order on Friday morning at 7:47 a.m. Dr. Howard called the meeting to order, then introduced ETS vice-president Craig Blaising, who gave a devotion on Matthew 11 and led in prayer. James Borland, ETS secretary-treasurer, reported on the ETS regional meetings, then presented brief memorials for the members who had passed away during the year. Andreas Köstenberger, editor of *JETS*, gave his report on the journal.

Bruce Ware moved the report of the nominations committee, that the following persons be elected:

President—Greg Beale
 President-Elect—Craig Blaising
 Vice-President—Edwin Yamauchi
 Secretary-Treasurer—James Borland
 Journal Editor—Andreas Köstenberger
 Vacancy on the Executive Committee—David Howard, Jr.
 Vacancies on the Membership Committee—Jack Cottrell and Jeffrey Bingham
 Vacancy on the Editorial Committee—Bryan Beyrer

The motion carried to elect the above slate of officers.

Gregg Allison, chair of the resolutions committee, presented the following five-part resolution, each part of which was MSC:

"Having convened on Thursday, November 20, 2003, the resolutions committee unanimously approves and proposes the following resolutions. On this day, November 21, 2003, the Evangelical Theological Society resolves,

First, to thank the Hilton Hotel of Atlanta, Georgia for the fine facilities, hospitality, and support of our program;

Second, to thank the overseeing committee of this national conference, especially the gracious, even-handed leadership of David Howard, president;

Greg Beale, president-elect and program chair, for the stimulating program; Jim Borland for service as Secretary-Treasurer, and Andreas Köstenberger, editor of *JETS*;

Third, to thank the executive committee of the Evangelical Theological Society, along with George Knight, parliamentarian, for their diligence and extraordinary service, and the integrity with which they carried out the task given them. With the approval of the Society's finance committee, we resolve that the Society express thanks to them with a small token of our appreciation.

Fourth, to thank our membership and guests for their thoughtful contributions in the papers and responses;

Fifth, to thank and honor the members of our Society for their orderly discussion and voting at the special business meeting Wednesday night, November 19, 2003.

In the spirit of this year's conference theme "Jesus" we, as the Evangelical Theological Society, resolve to grow in our knowledge and love of Jesus Christ, to exercise a deepening trust and more sincere obedience toward him, and to thank him with increasing joy, and honor him with greater devotion and praise. "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:11-13).

In other business, Russ Bush moved, and the motion was seconded, "That the ETS Executive Committee consider and recommend to the Society appropriate ways to clarify our Society's understanding of our doctrinal basis." During discussion of the motion, Dr. Bush presented this rationale: "The vote that was taken Wednesday evening fulfilled the Constitutional requirements and in my view settled the membership issue with regard to the particular charges against Clark Pinnock and John Sanders. Though my motion arises from that decision, it is not intended to re-open that issue. Many who spoke to the issues (both at the Wednesday evening session and also in several of the earlier parallel sessions) questioned the clarity of our doctrinal reference to biblical inerrancy. It seems that for many (though I think not for the majority) the basis for ETS membership is to some extent unclear. Therefore, I believe the Society is potentially facing a crisis of identity. It cannot be the case that inerrancy can mean anything that one might suppose without regard to the intent of the founders and without regard to the history of the issues that have been associated with the concept of inerrancy; but equally it seems to me that it cannot be the case that the language of inerrancy was intended to narrow our fellowship to exclude viewpoints that in fact can legitimately be proposed on the basis of a belief that the Bible is alone and in its entirety the written word of God and therefore for that reason and on that basis is alone and in its entirety fully truthful as originally given. Thus I am asking our elected leadership to help us clarify and preserve the doctrinal integrity of the Society."

It was MSC to call for the question. Subsequently, Dr. Bush's motion carried.

Outgoing president, David Howard, Jr., then passed the gavel to newly elected president Greg Beale who led in prayer. The business meeting was adjourned at 8:25 a.m.

Scheduled Future Annual Meetings are:

- 2004 "WHAT IS TRUTH?" Nov. 17–19, San Antonio, TX
- 2005 "PERSONAL AND SOCIAL ETHICS" Nov. 16–18,
Valley Forge, PA
- 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, Boston, MA

During 2003, our Society grew to a record 4043 members. We anticipate continued growth and effectiveness in our scholarly presentations and discussions in the years ahead. I encourage each member to join us next November 17–19 (Wed.–Fri.) at the Marriott Rivercenter and Riverwalk Hotels, 101 Bowie at Commerce Street, San Antonio, TX. The theme is "What is Truth?" Hotel rooms are \$122 per night for Single; \$137 for Double; \$157 for Triple; and \$177 for Quads. Rooms at these rates may be secured until October 18 at 800–648–4462. We contracted for 595 rooms for Tuesday, 700 for Wednesday and Thursday, 435 for Friday, and 300 for Saturday evening.

JAMES A. BORLAND