

School of Religion

Faculty Publications and Presentations

Liberty University

Year 1998

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

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

The forty-ninth annual meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society was held in Santa Clara, California, November 20-22, 1997. It was the second largest meeting of the Society ever held. The total registration was 1063. The spacious fourteen-story Westin Hotel, located right in the center of Silicon Valley, was our headquarters. We were able to rent some of the facilities of the adjoining Santa Clara Convention Center, which gave us rooms large enough to comfortably seat attendees in each of many parallel sessions.

Over 240 papers were presented as 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 Norman Geisler served as program chairman and put together a superb array of speakers on the conference theme, "General Revelation." Plenary speakers were Thomas Oden, who spoke on "General Revelation and Theology," and invited guests Dallas Willard, who spoke on "General Revelation and Philosophy," and Phillip Johnson, whose topic was "General Revelation and Science." Each session was followed by a spirited and informative question-and-answer time.

Parallel sessions were conducted on the conference theme as well as other disciplines such as OT, NT, philosophy, 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, the study of the Bible as literature, and Stone-Campbell theology.

The food and fare of the annual fellowship banquet on Thursday evening were enjoyed by a crowd of nearly five hundred. Afterwards Moisés Silva delivered his ETS presidential address, "Can Two Walk Together Unless They Be Agreed? Evangelical Faith and Biblical Scholarship." Silva took his former mentor, James Barr, to task for his often shallow, uninformed and inaccurate criticisms of evangelicals. He then turned the other cheek and aptly applied many of Barr's genuine insights. Silva's address is featured in this volume of *JETS*.

Two sections of a large ballroom were set aside for thirty-two display booths. An additional eight tables were set up outside the display area. Publishers were able to feature their latest books and computer software, and in general offered discounts of fifty percent from their regular prices. Business was brisk, and many suitcases were heavier on the return trip home.

During the first business session, held on Thursday afternoon, president Silva welcomed the conferees and president-elect Geisler gave a brief devotional. Following the adoption of the agenda, secretary-treasurer James Borland presented the membership and financial reports:

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

	Total	Full	Assoc.	Student
Active membership 11/1/96	2346	1422	556	368
New members	262	96	62	104
Members reactivated	29	20	6	3
Members dropped	(257)	(110)	(74)	(73)
Failed to pay 1997	226	92	68	66
Dropped per request	18	9	5	4
Bad addresses	8	4	1	3
Deceased	5	5	0	0
Total membership 11/1/97	2380	1428	550	402

FINANCIAL REPORT

EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE

ELEVEN MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 1997,
AND YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 1996

	1997	1996
REVENUES		
Dues and subscriptions	\$62,399.83	\$64,258.52
Annual meeting	44,111.00	41,077.00
Interest on savings	12,613.16	6,657.07
Miscellaneous income	<u>7,097.96</u>	<u>4,411.45</u>
	126,221.95	116,404.04
EXPENSES		
<i>JETS</i>	53,670.96	54,321.47
Accounting	550.00	545.00
Annual meeting	13,507.95	15,150.34
<i>Newsletter</i>	910.00	890.00
Office and general	4,757.91	6,425.63
Office equipment	0.00	1,757.07
Postage	5,861.03	6,475.00
Regional	2,500.00	2,500.00
Salary	6,784.35	6,756.85
Stipends	<u>25,050.00</u>	<u>22,400.00</u>
	113,592.20	119,309.21
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	\$12,629.75	\$(2,905.17)
NET ASSETS, beginning of year	<u>184,950.59</u>	<u>187,855.76</u>
NET ASSETS, end of year	\$197,580.34	\$184,950.59

In the second business session, held on Friday morning, president Silva called the meeting to order. Vice-president Wayne A. Grudem gave a brief devotional from Acts 15:7, noting that even in the early Church they had "much debate" about certain issues. He then led in prayer.

James Borland read short reports on the spring meetings of the various ETS sections, noting the times and places of their meetings, themes, some of the speakers, the officers elected, and the time and place of their next meeting.

The secretary-treasurer then read memorials for our members who had gone to be with the Lord during 1997, or earlier if we had not heard about them before. These included George J. Bertsche, Paul E. Best, Charles W. Carter, Robert J. Dunzweiler and Allan A. MacRae. He then led in prayer.

Ronald Youngblood gave his annual report on the *Journal* and also announced his resignation, effective December 31, 1998, from the post of *JETS* editor, a position he has held for twenty-two years. During Youngblood's tenure the *Journal* has increased from 72 to 176 pages per issue, and he has edited over 12,000 pages of text. The editor thanked the writers, book review editors and others who have had a part in the production of the *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*. He was recognized at the session for the able service he has rendered faithfully for so many years.

The executive committee will seek a suitable replacement during the next few months and invites any of our members who possess editorial skills, sharp eyes, a discerning mind, and sensitivity to diverse views to send evidence of these and other pertinent qualities to James Borland. He will then communicate this information to the committee for a decision. Hopefully a new *JETS* editor can be found within six months to allow for a time of transition in working with the current editor.

It was moved, seconded and carried to amend the Society's bylaws to lower the annual membership dues for fulltime students from \$18.00 to \$15.00. Students who agree with our doctrinal position should be encouraged to join the Society.

During the second business session the following officers were elected for 1998:

President—Norman L. Geisler
 President-Elect—Wayne A. Grudem
 Vice-President—John Sailhamer
 Vacancy on Executive Committee—Moisés Silva
 Vacancies on Membership Committee—Gerry Breshears and
 H. Wayne House

The Society adopted the report of the resolutions committee:

Be it resolved that the Evangelical Theological Society, meeting in plenary session on November 21, 1997, extend special thanks to:

Moisés Silva, 1997 ETS president, for his excellent service of leadership and scholarship represented in his presidential address;

president-elect Norman L. Geisler, 1997 program chair, for an outstanding program of plenary and parallel sessions;

secretary-treasurer James Borland, for his continuing service to us in his faithful administration of our growing Society, especially in his work with site arrangements;

the Society's executive committee, the *Journal* editor, the *Newsletter* editor, the book review editors and the monograph editor for faithful performance of their duties;

registration table helpers, including Daniel Borland, Barbara (Mrs. Norman) Geisler, and the volunteers from the Santa Clara Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Bureau, Marian Dietz, Marcia Heeger and Lawrence Syvick;

the Santa Clara Westin Hotel, especially Libby Barnett, conference coordinator, and the Santa Clara Convention Center, for the services of Al Ornelas and Camden Barbour;

the Near East Archaeological Society, the Evangelical Philosophical Society, the Evangelical Missiological Society, the Adventist Theological Society, and the study groups for their important participation this year;

all presenters and participants whose involvement made our 1997 meeting such a success; and

the many exhibitors and displayers who gave of their time and resources to contribute to our need to keep up with the latest print and other information technologies.

The dates, places, and themes for future annual meetings are:

1998, Orlando, Florida: "Teaching Them All Things. . . ."

1999, Boston, Massachusetts: "Eschatology."

2000, Nashville, Tennessee: "Israel: Past, Present and Future."

2001, Denver, Colorado (tentative): "Defining Evangelicalism's Boundaries."

Our Society anticipates continued growth and effectiveness in its scholarly presentations and discussions in the years ahead. I encourage each member to join us next November 19–21 at the Radisson Twin Towers Hotel, 5780 Major Boulevard, Orlando, Florida, as we consider the theme, "Teaching Them All Things. . . ." Hotel rooms are \$99.00 per night for single or double occupancy and \$109.00 for three or four occupants. Rooms at this rate may be secured until October 19 at 407-351-1000 (FAX 407-363-0106). We have 350 rooms for Wednesday, 500 on Thursday, 400 on Friday and 75 on Saturday.

JAMES A. BORLAND