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

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

The 59th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society had 2290 persons registered at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center, 500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA. The facilities were superb, including a new, carpeted exhibit hall that housed more than 100 booths for participating publishers who offered generous discounts on their books and other products. The program theme, "Teaching Them to Obey," was explored in four excellent plenary sessions and by many of the more than 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.

Acting President Hassell Bullock served as program chairman and put together a fine array of plenary speakers. On Wednesday afternoon, Douglas Moo, Professor of New Testament at Wheaton College, provided a NT perspective on the theme by exegeting Paul's concept of "the obedience of faith," from Gal 5:1–6. Later that evening, the second plenary address was delivered by Christopher J. H. Wright, the International Director of the Langham Partnership. He spoke on "The Obedience of Faith among the Nations," exploring the concept of OT ethics in covenantal and missional perspective.

On Thursday afternoon attendees heard Philip Jenkins, Distinguished Professor of History and Religious Studies at Pennsylvania State University, author of 20 books and 120 chapters and refereed articles. His topic was "Teaching Them to Obey: A World Christian Perspective." What is the core message of Christianity and what is merely cultural? One needs to know this when taking Christ from one culture to another. He applied Paul's conclusion in Gal 3:24, "Now that faith has come, you are no longer under a schoolmaster."

The fourth and final plenary was delivered on Friday morning by David Wells, ETS member, prolific author, and Andrew Mutch Distinguished Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He spoke of "Christian Discipleship in a Postmodern World," emphasizing a global vision and authenticity in a borderless interconnected world of affluence and relativism. A slightly edited version of his address is included in this issue of the *Journal*.

Many 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 Acting President Hassell Bullock of Wheaton College at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 14th. He introduced ETS Vice-President Bruce Ware of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, who gave a brief devotional. It was moved, seconded, and carried (MSC) to adopt the agenda, that is, the meeting program, which had previously been printed and distributed to all members.

The Secretary-Treasurer, James Borland of Liberty University, then presented both the membership and financial reports.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Active Membership	Total	Full	Assoc.	Student
11-18-06	4214	2210	793	1211
New Members (2007)	855	223	127	505
Members Reactivated	231	114	47	70
Members Dropped	(740)	(229)	(122)	(389)
Failed to pay 2007 dues	715	212	119	384
Dropped per request	5	4	1	0
Bad addresses	12	6	1	5
Deceased	8	7	1	0
Total Membership 11-16-07	4560	2318	845	1397

FINANCIAL REPORT
EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2007 AND SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

REVENUES	2007	2006
Dues and Subscriptions	\$ 139,303	\$ 126,006
Annual Meeting	200,738	180,869
Interest on Savings	27,123	21,026
Miscellaneous Income	<u>30,004</u>	<u>35,316</u>
	\$ <u>397,168</u>	\$ <u>363,217</u>
EXPENSES		
Journal (<i>JETS</i>)	\$ 74,192	\$ 71,860
Accounting	2,650	2,450
Annual Meeting	88,316	59,553
Newsletter	1,990	1,990
Monograph	812	1,328
Directory	0	7,068
Office and General	52,102	13,287
Postage	24,283	19,770
Regional	12,000	12,000
Secretarial Help	15,303	15,322
Stipends	<u>94,740</u>	<u>89,900</u>
	\$ <u>366,388</u>	\$ <u>294,528</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN		
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	\$ 30,780	\$ 68,689
NET ASSETS, beginning of year	\$ <u>655,030</u>	\$ <u>586,341</u>
NET ASSETS, end of year	\$ <u>685,810</u>	\$ <u>655,030</u>

The financial report was audited by Geoffrey R. Mather, CPA, 1922B Graves Mill Road, Lynchburg, VA 24502, ph. 434-316-5214.

Three members were then nominated for the three slots to serve on the nominating committee along with the two most recent ETS past presidents, Craig Blaising and Edwin Yamauchi. It was MSC to close the nominations. Elected to serve by acclamation to the resolutions committee were Dennis Jowers and George Joseph Gatis.

On Thursday evening, the Annual Fellowship Banquet was attended by nearly 1,000 guests. The program commemorated the 50th anniversary of the

publication of the *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*. *Journal* editor Andreas Köstenberger presided. The first speaker was former ETS president Alan Johnson of Wheaton College, who remembered the early editorships of Steven Barabas, John Luchies, and Samuel Schultz, all faculty members at Wheaton College during their terms of service. Next, longtime *JETS* editor Ronald Youngblood of Bethel Seminary West reminisced about the progress and trials of the *Journal* during his term of service. Finally, present *JETS* editor, Dr. Andreas Köstenberger of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, brought the threefold story to a fitting conclusion. The remarks of the three speakers filled the room with laughter many times, and are printed in full in this issue of *JETS*. Andreas then announced the publication of a volume to commemorate the 50 years of publishing *JETS*. Dr. Lane Dennis, president of Crossway Books, presented the volume, *Quo Vadis, Evangelicalism?*, a compilation of nine ETS presidential addresses drawn from six decades of such messages and edited by Dr. Köstenberger.

The final business session was called to order on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. by ETS Acting President Hassell Bullock, who called on ETS Vice-President, Bruce Ware, for a brief devotional on being thankful, followed by prayer. James Borland, ETS Secretary-Treasurer, presented brief memorials for the eight 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*, mentioning that each of the quarterly issues contained 224 pages for a total of 896 pages for the year, including 33 articles (about 8 per issue), and about 250 pages of book reviews. To commemorate the 50th Anniversary Year each issue had a gold rim on the spine and a gold ribbon across the cover.

The resolutions committee chairman, Dennis W. Jowers, and committee member George J. Gatis moved the adoption of the following resolution:

"On this day, Nov. 15, 2007, the members of the Evangelical Theological Society resolve:

First, to thank the management and staff of the Town and Country Resort & Convention Center for the use of their beautiful facilities, for their assistance in staging the Society's 59th Annual Meeting, and for the prompt and courteous service they have rendered the meeting's attendees;

Second, to thank President-Elect Hassell Bullock for assembling this year's vast, yet distinguished, program;

Third, to thank the members of the Executive Committee and the volunteers who have assisted with registration and recording for their contributions to this year's Annual Meeting;

Fourth, to thank James Borland for his fifteen years of faithful service as the Society's Secretary-Treasurer;

Fifth, to thank Andreas Köstenberger for his outstanding performance as Editor of the *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*;

Sixth, to thank the presenters of papers at this meeting, the officers of the Society who have not been mentioned heretofore, the book review editors, Editorial Committee, and referees of *JETS*, and all who contribute to the Society's flourishing; and

Seventh, to thank God for the high privilege and grave responsibility of carrying the gospel to all nations, teaching them to obey all things that God has commanded."

The motion carried by voice vote.

The nominations committee chairman, Craig Blasing, moved the report of the nominations committee, that the following persons be elected:

President, C. Hassell Bullock of Wheaton College
 President-Elect, Bruce A. Ware of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
 Vice-President, Eugene H. Merrill of Dallas Theological Seminary
 Secretary-Treasurer, James A. Borland of Liberty University
 Vacancy on the Executive Committee, Gerry Breshears of Western Seminary
 Vacancies on the Membership Committee,
 Diane Poythress of Westminster Theological Seminary
 and Dan Heimbach of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

The motion carried to elect the above slate of officers.

James Borland, Secretary-Treasurer, then introduced proposed amendments to the ETS Constitution and By-Laws that would prescribe the hiring of a full-time executive director to handle the daily functions of the Society under the leadership of the ETS Executive Committee. The purpose of these changes is to help handle the Society's growth and development. The proposed changes will be voted upon at the 60th Annual Meeting, and are as follows.

ETS CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1. The officers shall consist of a president, a president-elect, a vice-president, and a secretary, all of whom shall be elected at each annual meeting.

Section 2. These four officers, together with four members at large, one to be elected at each annual meeting, shall constitute the executive committee.

Section 3. The executive committee shall employ an executive director, who shall serve as the chief operating officer and chief financial officer of the Society and who shall report to the executive committee.

Section 4. The executive committee shall appoint an editor of the *Journal*, who shall report to the executive committee.

Section 5. Standing Committees: (a) *Membership*. The committee shall be composed of the secretary, who shall serve as chairperson, together with six members, two to be elected at each annual meeting. (b) *Editorial*. The

committee shall be composed of the editor, who shall serve as chairperson, together with four members, one to be elected at each annual meeting. (c) *Program Units*. The committee shall be appointed by the executive committee.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

Section 1. The society shall hold national meetings each year at a time and place determined by the executive committee.

Section 2. The president-elect will arrange for plenary speakers and any special sessions.

Section 3. The program units committee will oversee all other presentations.

Section 4. Other meetings, including those of a regional nature, may also be held as desired, with the concurrence of the executive committee.

BY-LAWS

6. The executive director will present a budget for the Society, which must be approved by the executive committee. The executive director will then execute the budget.

7. An auditor shall be appointed by the executive committee annually to audit the Society's financial records.

9. Official publicity with reference to the program shall be the responsibility of the executive director.

Dr. Borland then read a proposal to amend the ETS Doctrinal Basis submitted by two ETS members, Denny Burke and Ray Van Neste. This proposal was dated August 7, 2007. The ETS Doctrinal Basis is contained in the ETS Constitution, Article III. Amending the ETS Doctrinal Basis would require an 80% majority vote at the 60th Annual Meeting. The proposal is:

ARTICLE III. DOCTRINAL BASIS

1. The Bible alone, and the Bible in its entirety, is the Word of God written and is therefore inerrant in the autographs. This written word of God consists of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments and is the supreme authority in all matters of belief and behavior.

2. God is a Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each an uncreated person, one in essence, equal in power and glory.

3. God is sovereign in creation, revelation, redemption, and final judgment.

4. Since the fall, the whole of humankind is sinful and guilty, so that everyone is subject to God's wrath and condemnation.

5. The Lord Jesus Christ, God's incarnate Son, is fully God; he was born of a virgin; his humanity is real and sinless; he died on the cross, was raised bodily from death and is now reigning over heaven and earth.

6. Sinful human beings are redeemed from the guilt, penalty, and power of sin only through the sacrificial death once and for all time of their representative and substitute, Jesus Christ, the only mediator between them and God.

7. Those who believe in Christ are pardoned all their sins and accepted in God's sight only because of the righteousness of Christ credited to them; this justification is God's act of undeserved mercy, received solely by trust in him and not by their own efforts.

8. The Holy Spirit alone makes the work of Christ effective to individual sinners, enabling them to turn to God from their sin and to trust in Jesus Christ.

9. The Holy Spirit lives in all those he has regenerated. He makes them increasingly Christ-like in character and behavior and gives them power for their witness in the world.

10. The one holy universal church is the Body of Christ, to which all true believers belong.

11. The Lord Jesus Christ will return in person, to judge everyone, to execute God's just condemnation on those who have not repented, and to receive the redeemed to eternal glory.

Dr. Craig Blaising then reported on the Executive Committee's consideration of this proposal to amend the ETS Doctrinal Basis. The Executive Committee advised Drs. Burk and Van Neste to hold their proposal in abeyance until the Society has debated the issue of whether to change the Doctrinal Basis into a statement of faith, which is what the Executive Committee considers this proposal to be. During its August, 2007 meeting the Executive Committee went on record to oppose this amendment. "The Evangelical Theological Society from its founding in 1949 to the present has chosen to work from a doctrinal basis rather than from a doctrinal statement or confession of faith. The Executive Committee considers any changes to be a departure from this original intent of the Society. Therefore, before the question of creating a doctrinal statement should be considered, the membership should have ample opportunity to discuss this basic issue: 'Should the ETS replace its doctrinal basis with a statement of faith?' Consequently, we propose a special session at the ETS 2008 Annual Meeting to discuss and consider this prior issue."

However, since the proposal to amend the Doctrinal Basis was not subsequently withdrawn, it will be voted upon at the 60th Annual Meeting, whether discussion will have been deemed adequate or not.

It was then MSC to adjourn the business meeting.

Scheduled Future Annual Meetings are:

- 2008 "TEXT AND CANON" Nov. 19–21, Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, RI
- 2009 "PERSONAL AND SOCIAL ETHICS" Nov. 18–20, Sheraton and J. W. Marriott Hotels, New Orleans, LA
- 2010 Nov. 17–19, Downtown Hilton Hotel, Atlanta, GA
- 2011 Nov. 16–18, Marriott Hotel, San Francisco, CA

I encourage each member to join us November 19–21, 2008 (Wed.–Fri.) at the Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, RI for our 60th Annual Meeting. The theme is “Text and Canon.” Hotel information is on our website at www.ETSJETS.org. Registration will be online also after appropriate announcements have been sent to our members.

JAMES A. BORLAND
SECRETARY-TREASURER, ETS