

School of Religion
Faculty Publications and Presentations

Liberty University

Year 1995

Memorials 1995

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Whereas the office of the presidency ought to combine excellence of scholarship, service to the Church of Jesus Christ, and personal devotion to our Lord, and

Whereas the president of the Evangelical Theological Society presides over and moderates the annual meeting, and

Whereas those who labor faithfully are deserving of our praise,

Therefore be it resolved that the Evangelical Theological Society, meeting in plenary session on November 18, 1994, commends L. Russ Bush for his service to the Society.

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

1. November 16–18, 1995, Radisson Philadelphia Airport Hotel: "Defending the Faith: Christian Apologetics in a Non-Christian World."

2. November 21–23, 1996, New Orleans, Louisiana: "The Holy Spirit: His Presence, Ministry and Gifts."

The secretary-treasurer noted that two ETS members had passed away during 1994. He read memorials for Gerhard F. Hasel and W. B. West, Jr. After reading from Psalm 116 he led in prayer.

Our Society is growing both in numbers and in effectiveness. I encourage each member to attend the upcoming regional meetings and to plan now to join us next November in Philadelphia as we consider "Defending the Faith: Christian Apologetics in a Non-Christian World."

JAMES A. BORLAND

MEMORIALS

GERHARD FRANZ HASEL

Gerhard Franz Hasel was born in Vienna, Austria, on July 27, 1935. His father was a minister and literature evangelist in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. At the age of eighteen Gerhard was an electrical engineering apprentice in Frankfurt and was offered scholarships to continue. Instead, he entered a theology program at a small seminary, finishing the four-year licentiate program in 1958. He sold books each summer to pay for his expenses.

In 1958 he journeyed to America by ship to enroll at Atlantic Union College where he earned the B.A. degree and learned English all in the same year. He then moved to Berrien Springs, Michigan, where he earned an M.A. at Andrews University in 1960, followed by the B.D. in 1962. On June 11, 1961, Gerhard married Hilde Schafer, a student at Emmanuel Missionary College, also in Berrien Springs. To this union were born three children, Michael, Marlena and Melissa, all of whom are now married.

Gerhard pastored a church in Boston for one year (1962–63) after receiving his B.D. degree, then served as assistant professor of religion at Southern College, Collegedale, Tennessee, for four years. His Ph.D. was concluded at Vanderbilt University in 1970 in Biblical studies. In 1967 he commenced a twenty-seven-year teaching career at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, moving from assistant professor to department chair, then a seven-year stint as dean, and finally as the first John Nevins Andrews Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Theology. He also directed the seminary's Ph.D. and Th.D. programs. Hasel was a member of eight learned societies and two honorary societies and was listed in nine *Who's Who* publications.

Hasel also contributed a great deal in the field of scholarly research and writing. He produced fourteen books and 319 articles, presented over fifty scholarly papers, and was associate editor of *AUSS* for over twenty years. He contributed a major article to each volume of *TDOT* and was an associate editor of *The New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology*. Hasel was widely recognized around the world for his achievements. Nearly forty reviews appeared for just four of his books.

He was greatly interested in creation science, serving for twenty years as editorial consultant for *Origins*, and he spoke frequently at church conferences on that subject. In fact at the time of his death Hasel was en route to read a paper on the "days" of Genesis 1. On August 11, 1994, in the middle of the afternoon Hasel's rented car was struck by an oncoming vehicle as he exited Interstate 15 near Ogden, Utah. He never regained consciousness.

Hasel died at the age of fifty-nine years. He is mourned by Hilde, his loving and devoted wife of thirty-three years, and by their three married children.

He had been a member of the Evangelical Theological Society for the past three years. He delivered a stimulating plenary address on OT Biblical theology at the Society's thirtieth annual meeting in Deerfield, Illinois. His son Michael, also an ETS member, read a tribute to his father at our recently held annual meeting in Lisle, Illinois.

W. B. WEST, JR.

W. B. West, Jr., was born on January 24, 1907. He was born again at the age of fourteen in Deckerd, Tennessee. Two years later he began preaching. The next year he held his first meeting in which thirty-nine persons were baptized at the church in Deckerd. After ten days of meetings he told the people he had run out of sermons.

West received an A.A. degree from David Lipscomb University in 1927 and a B.A. from Abilene Christian University in 1934. In 1936 and 1943 respectively he earned his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Southern California. He later studied at the University of Chicago and at Oxford and Cambridge Universities in England.

West taught at Pepperdine University in 1938, was promoted to head of the religion department in 1941, and in 1944 began the first graduate studies program in any school associated with the Churches of Christ. In 1952 he became head of the Bible department at Harding University and built the graduate program into Harding University Graduate School of Religion, now located in Memphis. West was appointed dean of the school and continued in that position until his retirement in 1972. Thereafter he taught NT at Harding until 1978. In that year West began serving as administrator and professor of Bible at Alabama Christian School of Religion, now Southern Christian University, where he continued until 1985. After moving back to Memphis, West taught part-time until 1989 at the age of eighty-two.

West had a series of lectures established in his honor at Harding University Graduate School of Religion in 1977, and he was honored as alumnus of the year at David Lipscomb University in 1983. He was eloquent and kind, yet Biblical and truthful. He was a unifying force in his church, a peacemaker and a healing influence. He was a people person and a motivator. Students, pastors and laypeople alike all admired and respected him.

West and his first wife, Velma, had a daughter Patty. Patty and her husband Chuck presented the Wests with four granddaughters—Jenny, Beth, Abby and Emily. After Velma's death West married Gladys, who was a comfort and help to him the rest of his days.

W. B. West, Jr., passed into the presence of the Lord on March 9, 1994, at the age of eighty-seven. His funeral was conducted at the Quince Road Church of Christ in Memphis. He had been a member of the Evangelical Theological Society for more than thirty-four years.

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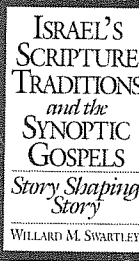
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