

*School of Religion*  
*Faculty Publications and Presentations*

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Memorials 1996

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## MEMORIALS

GREG LYLE BAHNSEN

Greg Lyle Bahnsen was born on September 17, 1948, in Auburn, Washington. He grew up in a Christian home and received Christ as his Savior and a call to prepare for the ministry at an early age. He received his B.A. degree from Westmont College in 1970. His M.Div. and Th.M. degrees were granted in 1973 from Westminster Theological Seminary. In 1979 he graduated from the University of Southern California with a Ph.D. degree in philosophy.

Bahnsen served as assistant professor of apologetics at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi, from 1976 to 1979. He was a minister in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church for twenty years, having been ordained in southern California in 1975. At the time of his death he pastored a local congregation of about sixty people in Huntington Beach, California.

He was resident scholar of the Southern California Center for Christian Studies located in Irvine, California. He traveled widely as an apologist for the Christian faith and publicly debated several well-known atheists. Bahnsen was the author of five books in the areas of theology and ethics, including *Theonomy in Christian Ethics*, *By This Standard, No Other Standard*, *Homosexuality: A Biblical View* and *House Divided: The Break-up of Dispensational Theology*. He had many articles published in such journals as the *Evangelical Quarterly*, *The Westminster Theological Journal*, *The Presbyterian Guardian* and *The Journal of Christian Reconstruction*. A posthumous work on his mentor, Cornelius Van Til, is awaiting publication.

Greg Bahnsen died in Santa Ana, California, of heart failure the afternoon of December 11, 1995, just six days after surgery on his dysfunctional aortic valve. Greg is survived by his parents Robert and Virginia, who live near Phoenix, Arizona; his former wife Cathie; four adult children, Jonathan, David, Michael and Wendie; and two grandchildren. Bahnsen had been a member of the Evangelical Theological Society since 1976.

RALPH EARLE

Ralph Earle was born in Dighton, Massachusetts, on January 17, 1908. He received his A.B. degree from Eastern Nazarene College, his M.A. from Boston University, and his B.D. and Th.D. degrees from Gordon Divinity School. Earle pursued post-doctoral studies at Harvard University, the University of Edinburgh and Episcopal Theological School. From 1933 to 1945 he pastored churches in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, and Everett, Massachusetts, while serving as professor of Biblical literature at his alma mater, Eastern Nazarene College in Wollaston, Massachusetts.

In 1945 he became professor of NT at the founding of Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City. He was elected distinguished professor

in 1976 and continued at Nazarene Seminary until his retirement in 1983 when he was elected professor emeritus.

Earl served as chairman of the Committee on Bible Translation for the NIV and authored more than fifty books in addition to countless articles and reviews. Kenneth Grider, fellow Nazarene Seminary professor, commented: "Dr. Earle appears to have been the most published person in the Wesleyan-Holiness tradition since John Wesley himself." Earle was an ordained minister in the Church of the Nazarene and ministered the Word in nearly twenty different countries.

Earle joined the Evangelical Theological Society on February 28, 1950, as a charter member. He served on the executive committee from 1958 to 1966 and was president of the Society in 1962.

Ralph Earle went to be with his Lord on May 23, 1995, eleven days after suffering a stroke. He was eighty-seven years old and was living in Scottsdale, Arizona, at the time. His wife, Mabel, aged ninety-one, preceded him in death by just sixty-nine days. The Earles are survived by a son, Ralph, Jr.; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

#### CHARLES LEE FEINBERG

Charles Lee Feinberg was born on June 12, 1909, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was reared in an orthodox Jewish home and prepared for the rabbinate for fourteen years prior to his conversion to Christ in the fall of 1930. He graduated from the Hebrew Institute of Pittsburgh in 1927 and received his A.B. from the University of Pittsburgh in 1929. He served as a home missionary in both Detroit and Brooklyn with the American Board of Missions to the Jews. At Dallas Theological Seminary, Charles received both his Th.B. and Th.M. (*magna cum laude*) in 1934 followed by the Th.D. (*summa cum laude*) in 1935.

In that same year Charles and Anne Priscilla Fraiman were united in marriage on May 14 in Dallas, Texas. Charles pastored in Dallas from 1936 to 1940 and also served as professor of OT at Dallas Seminary from 1934 until 1948. Feinberg earned an A.M. degree from Southern Methodist University in 1943 and a Ph.D. in Archaeology and Semitic Languages from Johns Hopkins University in 1945.

The Feinbergs moved to Los Angeles in 1948. There Feinberg was professor of OT at Los Angeles Bible Theological Seminary for four years before serving as dean and professor of Semitics and OT at Talbot Theological Seminary from 1952 to 1975 and then as dean emeritus for the next four years. He also pastored two churches in the Los Angeles area from 1948 to 1955.

Feinberg authored a dozen books, edited others, and wrote countless articles in various periodicals and reference works. He served on numerous boards of reference, was heavily involved in radio broadcasting, and spoke often in local churches and Bible conferences. He was a member of the

American Schools of Oriental Research, the Society of Biblical Literature and the National Association of Professors of Hebrew.

Charles Feinberg was a charter member of the Evangelical Theological Society, joining barely sixty days after the initial organizational meeting held in 1949. He was active in the Society until 1990, when ill health became a concern. Feinberg passed into the presence of the Lord he so faithfully served on August 22, 1995, while living in the Walnut Creek area of northern California. He is survived by his three children, Paul, Lois and John, as well as by eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

#### WILLIAM RICHARD FOSTER

William Richard Foster was born on March 31, 1922, in Kerwood, Ontario, Canada. Following his early schooling, William studied accounting and then took a job with Jackson's Bakery as an accountant. He worked in that capacity for eight years. During that time he became interested in spiritual things and trusted Christ as his Lord and Savior through listening to Charles E. Fuller's Old Fashioned Revival Hour radio broadcast. He later enrolled at London Bible College where he met his future wife, Maureen Carson. D. A. Carson is Maureen's nephew. William and Maureen were married on June 9, 1951, at Calvary Baptist Church in Ottawa.

William received his B.A. degree in 1952 from the University of Western Ontario, followed in 1954 by his Th.M. from Grace Theological Seminary. The Th.D. degree was conferred on him by Grace Seminary in 1956. William began a long and fruitful teaching ministry in 1954 at Baptist Bible Seminary in Johnson City, New York, where he taught for seven years as assistant professor of theology. He next taught for seven years at London College of Bible and Missions in London, Ontario, where he also served as academic dean. He was instrumental in helping to merge the school with Toronto Bible College in 1968. The new school purchased property in Toronto and became Ontario Bible College. Foster also helped to found Ontario Theological Seminary on the same campus and served as the school's academic dean until his retirement eight years ago.

Dr. and Mrs. Foster helped start the Erin Mills Baptist Church in Mississauga, Ontario, twenty-five years ago and continued to serve there since that time. William was busy in retirement. He preached, taught, tutored and disciplined. One Muslim couple he led to Christ and disciplined later went to Pakistan as missionaries. In the summer William loved to work in his garden.

Foster had three books published: *The Discipline of Godliness* (Welch, 1983), *The Promise of the Kingdom* (Welch, 1985) and *Understanding the Christian Faith* (Diatheke, 1994). Others were in the making at the time of his unexpected death. William Foster went to be with his Lord while sleeping in a chair at home on January 1, 1995. He lived seventy-two years, nine months and one day.

William and Maureen were married for forty-three years and had four children, each of whom is now married with children. Glenda McArthur has six children, Allan has one, Elaine Kendall has three and Maureen Buist has one. All eleven grandchildren were a blessing to William and he was well loved by them. William is remembered by Maureen and the children as a very kind, patient and quiet man. William had been a faithful member of the Evangelical Theological Society for thirty-five years.

DAVID EDMOND HIEBERT

David Edmond Hiebert was born in Corn, Oklahoma, on July 21, 1910. He was born again by faith in Christ at the age of fourteen during revival meetings held at Tabor College in Hillsboro, Kansas. As a junior in high school he preached his first sermon at his home Mennonite Brethren church in Ingalls, Kansas. After two years of study at Tabor College he was called to serve as pastor of a Baptist church in Ingalls. His call to full-time Christian service was confirmed during his eighteen-month ministry there. He resumed his college studies at John Fletcher College in Iowa, graduating *summa cum laude* in 1935. On December 26, 1935, Edmond was married to Ruth Velma Kopper. They moved to Louisville, Kentucky, where he began studies at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He received the Th.M. degree in 1939 and the Th.D. degree in 1942. He also pastored two small churches near Louisville during his seminary days by preaching at each church on alternate Sundays.

Hiebert began teaching in the Bible department of Tabor College in 1942. In the summer of 1943 Dean and Jean, twins, were born to the Hieberts. Soon thereafter Hiebert contracted undulant fever and was hospitalized for 110 straight days in early 1944. He resumed teaching in the fall of 1944 but suffered a hearing loss, dizziness and impaired vision. Total deafness came upon him in late 1946. Daughter Alice was born in October of 1946, but her father never heard her voice.

Hiebert saw his deafness not as an affliction to be endured but as a blessing from God that allowed him to single-mindedly pursue his teaching and writing ministries. Although he could not hear human voices, he was sensitive to the voice and will of God. Edmond was forced to change his discussion style of teaching to that of lecture and exposition. He anticipated student questions.

After thirteen years of teaching NT and Greek at Tabor College, Hiebert joined the first faculty of Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary in Fresno, California, when it was founded in 1955. He taught full time from 1955 to 1975 when he moved to part-time teaching for ten more years before full retirement in 1985 at the age of seventy-five. During retirement Hiebert continued a writing ministry. He pursued his writing career for over forty years. He authored seventeen books, including nine textbooks or commentaries and numerous articles in theological journals. His primary publish-

ers were Moody Press and Bob Jones University Press. He also wrote or edited 624 Sunday-school lessons for the Mennonite Brethren over the years. All of his writing was done on a portable, manual typewriter.

D. Edmond Hiebert was a member of the Evangelical Theological Society for more than forty-four years. His application for membership was dated November 3, 1950. He became the 131st member of the Society. Hiebert passed away on January 30, 1995, at the age of eighty-four years, six months and nine days. He is survived by his wife, Ruth, to whom he was married for fifty-nine years, a son Dean Hiebert, daughters Jean Spansel and Alice Wiens, and five grandchildren.

#### ELMER B. SMICK

Elmer B. Smick was born on July 10, 1921, in Baltimore, Maryland. He was greatly influenced for Christ by a Sunday-school teacher and came to know the Lord in his teens. He received his B.A. degree from The King's College in 1944. Later that summer Elmer and Jane Harrison were united in marriage on August 19, 1944, in Baltimore. They had known each other since they were six and eight years old respectively.

After his marriage Elmer earned the Th.B. and S.T.M. degrees in theology from Faith Theological Seminary in 1947 and 1948. He then received his Ph.D. degree from the Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning in 1951. Smick later completed post-doctoral studies at Brandeis University in 1958 and at New York University in 1967.

Smick pastored the Bible Presbyterian Church in Trenton, New Jersey, for nearly a decade and also taught ancient history and Semitic studies at Shelton College for seven years. In 1956 he joined the faculty at Covenant College and Theological Seminary. He participated in several archeological projects, was a visiting OT professor at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and was a special lecturer at numerous other colleges and seminaries. In 1971 Elmer joined the faculty of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and at the time of his death was professor emeritus of OT. He was an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church in America.

Smick had a fruitful writing ministry. He authored *Archaeology of the Jordan Valley* (1973) and produced the commentary on the book of Job for the *Expositor's Bible Commentary* (1988). He wrote *A Guide to the Study of Old Testament Poetry* and a *Bibliographical Guide to the Old Testament* for pastors. His articles, reviews and other monographs have appeared in numerous Bible dictionaries, encyclopedias, commentaries, journals and *Festschriften*. Smick also participated in Bible translation projects. For ten years he worked on the NIV and also contributed to the *International Children's Bible* and *The Holy Bible, An American Translation*. At the time of his death he was working on the book of Psalms for the NICOT series.

Smick was president of the Evangelical Theological Society in 1988 and served on its executive committee for many years. He was on the advisory

board of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew and was a fellow of the Institute for Biblical Research.

Elmer B. Smick passed into the presence of Christ on December 7, 1994, and is survived by his wife, Jane; four married children, Peter Smick, Karen Gray, Theodore Smick and Rebecca Smick McIntire; and eleven grandchildren. He was the 144th person to become a member of the Evangelical Theological Society and was a member for over forty-three years.