

School of Religion
Faculty Publications and Presentations

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Memorials 2003

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MEMORIALS

ROBERT BERNARD ASHER

Robert Bernard Asher was born in Chicago, IL, on June 15, 1941, the oldest of three children born to Sam Asher and Edwina Deuschle. Robert's father was Jewish and his mother was Gentile. At age nine, Robert's parents divorced and he moved with his father to Burbank, CA. There, Robert's step-mother sent him to a Protestant church where he received Christ as savior. Later, when Robert was sixteen, his father died, and Robert returned to Chicago and lived with his Jewish aunt and uncle.

Robert enlisted in the Air Force and while in Sunnyvale, CA met Linda Louise Parker in 1964. They were married on May 15, 1965 at the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. Robert and Linn then moved to Stillwater, OK where Bob obtained his B.S. degree in 1969, his M.S. in 1971, and his Ph.D. in 1974, all from Oklahoma State University, and all in Electrical Engineering. Three daughters were born during their stay in Oklahoma: Christina Dawn, Kimberly Diane, and Heidi Darlene.

Robert worked for twenty years at the Sandia National Laboratory in Albuquerque, NM, and had more than fifty journal and conference publications in engineering. He was very active for the Lord, served as an elder in several churches, director of adult Christian education, taught Sunday School classes, and filled pulpits. He served part-time as academic Dean and Professor of Old Testament at Albuquerque Bible College from 1991-1999, and as associate professor of Old Testament and Semitics at Trinity Southwestern University from 1995 until his death. Robert was a visionary and the resident theologian at his church. He loved to read, study, and research. He had a sensitive heart, was an encourager, helpful, and creative. He delivered a paper at our society's Nashville meeting in 2000, and had an article on Isaiah 35 published in the *Chafer Theological Journal*. Robert had been a member of the Evangelical Theological Society for twelve years.

Robert died at work of a massive heart attack on Monday, February 25, 2002. He lived 61 years, 8 months, and 10 days. Hundreds of persons from the Sandia Laboratory attended Robert's funeral at the Hoffmantown Baptist Church. Robert is buried in the Sunset Memorial Park, Albuquerque, NM.

Left to mourn his passing are his wife Linn; daughter Christina and her husband Craig Buchanan with their sons Ryan, Bret, and Shane; daughter Kimberly; daughter Heidi and her husband Stephen Giebel, all of Albuquerque; brother Don and his wife Donna of Valparaiso, IN; and sister Diana of Chicago.

REUBEN MENNO BAERG

Reuben Menno Baerg was the third of five sons born to Frank and Elizabeth Baerg. The boys had an older sister. Born April 28, 1914, in Waldheim, Saskatchewan, Canada, Reuben moved in the third grade when his father took a teaching position in Hepburn, SK. Reuben came to know Christ at an early age, and by eighteen was singled out in the Mennonite Brethren Church as a "Helper in the Word." After some education at Bethany Bible Institute in Hepburn, graduation from Saskatchewan Teachers College and Winnipeg University with a B.A. in 1937, and earning his Th.B. degree in 1942 from Northwestern Schools in St. Paul, Reuben was ordained in Hepburn.

Reuben taught part-time at Mennonite Brethren Bible College during the mid-1940's, and for a year at Tabor College where he achieved another B.A. in 1948. The rest of his education came at Northwestern Schools with his B.D. in 1948, his Th.M. in 1950, and his Th.D. in 1952. He pastored the Strasburg Baptist Church, the Auberry Community Church, and the Buhler Mennonite Brethren Church in Kansas before moving to California. He served as dean and professor of NT Theology and Greek at Pacific Bible Institute from 1948-53, then for nine years as professor, dean, and later president of Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Fresno. He authored many articles, conducted evangelistic meetings, served on denominational boards, and was moderator of his denomination. He traveled to Panama and Japan where he taught courses.

Reuben was married to Annie Ethel Friesen in Hepburn, SK, and she was his faithful wife and companion until her death on January 1, 1977 in Dinuba, CA, where Reuben was near the conclusion of a twelve year pastorate at the Dinuba Mennonite Brethren Church. They had no children. On August 27, 1978, he married Emma Lepp, who had served as a missionary in India from 1946-1978. They had known each other earlier as young people growing up in Saskatchewan. They were married at the Dalmeny M. B. Church in Dalmeny Town, SK. Reuben then pastored the Central M. B. Church in Saskatoon for six years before retiring in 1984. Reuben Baerg passed into the presence of the Lord he loved and served on Sunday, October 21, 2001, at the Saskatoon City Hospital, and is buried in the Dalmeny M. B. Community Church cemetery. Reuben lived 87 years, 5 months, and 23 days. He had been a member of the Evangelical Theological Society since 1951, for more than fifty years, and loved its fellowship.

Left to mourn Reuben's passing are his wife Emma of Saskatoon; his brothers Wilfred and wife Margaret of Ottawa, ON, and Art and wife Rosella of Steinbach, MB; an adopted sister Sally Braun of Saskatoon; and numerous nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, and grand-nephews.

LOUIS GOLDBERG

Louis Goldberg was born January 28, 1923 in Los Angeles, CA, into an orthodox Jewish home, the son of Nathan and Minnie Goldberg. He met his future wife, Claire Berman, also from an Orthodox Jewish home, while at

Roosevelt High School in Los Angeles. Louis was a trainer in the U.S. Army for several years while pursuing his Bachelor's in Engineering from the University of Southern California which he received early in 1944. Still in the army, Louis and Claire were married near Newark, NJ, on July 14, 1944. After his army years, Louis began work at Automatic Electric in Chicago. Gus Graziano, a member of the Moody Memorial Church, worked with Louis and was a persistent witness to him for the Lord Jesus Christ. After six months of Gus's witness, Louis received Christ in 1948. Two months later, Claire was saved, and sometime later, Louis's brother, Daniel, also came to Christ.

The Goldbergs lived in Oaklawn and attended the Oaklawn Bible Church led by pastor Bach. Louis was also ordained in that church.

Louis obtained his theological education with a Bachelor of Divinity from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Chicago in 1953, and a Th.M. degree from the same institution in 1961. His Th.D. degree was earned several years later from Grace Theological Seminary, Winona Lake, IN. Louis pastored the Maranatha Baptist Church in Chicago for six years and the Dairy Dale Baptist Church of Cedar Rapids, IA, for three years.

Beginning in 1962, Louis taught at Temple Baptist Theological Seminary in Chattanooga, TN for three years, while also pastoring one of the "chapels." He then taught at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago from 1965 until he retired in 1993. Claire, a great children's worker, always a soul-winner, and a great helper to Louis died in 1991, and is buried in Chicago.

In 1994, Louis became Scholar in Residence for Jews for Jesus, and lived at their New York City headquarters at 109 E. 31st St. He continued this work until his health began to fail in 2000, at which time he went to live with his daughter, Stephanie Anderson, in Charlotte, NC.

Louis carried on an extensive work in Israel, beginning in 1968, when the Israeli government asked him to come, tour, and write articles about the land and the people. From that time, until 2000, Louis spent every summer but one in Israel. He became an itinerant pastor to hundreds of Messianic Jewish congregations, and spoke on the same topic in a plenary session at the 52nd Annual Meeting of the ETS in Nashville. Some of Louis Goldberg's published writings were: *Our Jewish Friends* (Moody); *Leviticus* (study guide commentary, Zondervan); *Ecclesiastes* (study guide commentary, Zondervan); *Turbulence Over the Middle East* (Loizeaux); *Are There Two Ways of Atonement?* (Lederer); *Fire on the Mountain: Past Revivals, Present Revivals, and the Coming Return of Israel* (Lederer); *Counterpoints: Two Views on Messianic Movements* (Zondervan, forthcoming); as well as many chapters in symposia and dictionary articles. Louis helped translate both the NIV and the NKJV.

Louis Goldberg had been a member of the Evangelical Theological Society for forty-one years. He served as president of the society in 1983, often presented papers, and rarely ever missed an annual meeting. He died of pneumonia on Wednesday, October 23, at the home of his daughter Stephanie in Charlotte, NC. His funeral was held at Emmanuel Bible Church in Berwyn, IL, and he is buried beside his wife, Claire. He lived 79 years, 9 months,

and 26 days. Left to mourn are his daughter Stephanie Anderson and her children, Elasheva and Aaron Arie Anderson of Charlotte; and his brother Daniel Goldberg.

KENNETH SEALER KANTZER

Kenneth Sealer Kantzer was born on March 29, 1917, to Edwin and Clara Sealer Kantzer in Detroit, MI, but the family later moved to Ashland, OH. Kenneth was baptized as an infant in the Lutheran Church, and even though his parents had been saved under Billy Sunday's ministry, Kenneth rejected his early Christian upbringing and his parents' faith, entering Ashland College (OH) as an atheist. However, early in his college career Kenneth came to a firm faith in Christ, and fellowshipped with the League of Evangelical Students. He was graduated from Ashland College with an A.B. degree in 1938, then obtained his M.A. degree in modern history from Ohio State University in 1939, planning to teach history in high school.

Instead, however, Kenneth's life took a different turn. After his marriage to Ruth Forbes in 1939, he began theological studies at Faith Theological Seminary in Wilmington, DE, earning the Bachelor of Divinity in 1942 and the S.T.M. degree one year later.

In 1950 he received his Ph.D. from Harvard University. His thesis was on John Calvin. After teaching part-time at The King's College and at Gordon Divinity School, he became assistant professor of philosophy and theology at Wheaton College, where he remained from 1946–1963. When he joined the Evangelical Theological Society as a charter member on February 25, 1950, in the space on the application given for literary publications, Kenneth wrote, "none worth mentioning." In later years he amply corrected that appraisal.

From 1963–78, Kenneth was dean of his denomination's seminary, and had the name of the school changed to Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He helped assemble an outstanding faculty, and worked diligently for them to be able to write and be productive in their fields. He became the fourth editor of *Christianity Today* from 1977–82, then served as president of Trinity College for two years, then as chancellor from 1984–92. He was also professor of biblical and systematic theology from 1984–94, and director of the Ph.D. program at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School between 1986–90. Since 1994, Kenneth was professor emeritus and took care of his helpmeet, Ruth. He was a board member for The Evangelical Alliance Mission, Columbia International University, and other enterprises.

A charter member of the Evangelical Theological Society, Kenneth served as president in 1968. He was a member for more than fifty-two years. Kenneth passed into glory from this life on June 20, 2002 in Victoria, BC, Canada. His memorial service was held at North Suburban Evangelical Free Church in New Jersey on July 10. He lived 85 years, 2 months, and 22 days.

Left to mourn his absence were his wife Ruth, who then also went to be with the Lord on August 2, 2002; his daughter Mary Ruth and her husband Loren Wilkinson of Galiano Island, British Columbia; his son Dick Kantzer and his wife Huaiching, of Pennington, NJ; a sister, Ruth Marie Kantzer of Dayton, TN; and five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

JOHN ROBERT MITCHELL

John Robert Mitchell was born in Norristown, PA, on November 24, 1949, the first of three sons, to John and Rose Collins Mitchell. John received Christ as his personal savior in his late teens, the result of a witnessing friend at Calvary Baptist Church of Lansdale, PA. In that same church John met and married Margaret Rosenberger. Dr. E. Robert Jordan performed the ceremony on August 1, 1970.

John received his B.A. degree from Pillsbury Baptist Bible College in 1970, and his M.Div. degree from Central Baptist Theological Seminary of Minneapolis in 1973. John pursued additional graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania from 1973–76 in the Department of Religious Thought. His Ph.D. work was in Cuneiform Languages and Literature in the department of Near Eastern Studies at Johns Hopkins University. His dissertation was on the ownership and transfer of temple offices in the Old Babylonian period. John was an expert in ancient cuneiform and contributed to *Adoption in Old Babylonia Nippur and the Archive of Mannum-mesu-lissur* by Elizabeth C. Stone and David I. Owen, published by Eisenbrauns in 1991.

John was a member of the Evangelical Theological Society for twenty-one years, and was a frequent participant in the Near East Archaeological Society and in the eastern regional meetings of ETS. John also pastored two churches, Berea Baptist Church of Glen Burnie, MD, where he had served for eighteen years, and the Orangeville Community Church of Baltimore, MD, where he ministered for eight years. He also had a graphic design business, Erasmus Compositor, as well as a website, dubsar.com, which featured the Sumerian language and culture.

On September 12, 2002, John had just taught his classes at Villa Julie College in Stevenson, MD, where he was adjunct professor of Religions and Old Testament. He had a sudden heart attack and immediately passed into glory. He lived 52 years, 9 months, and 19 days. John is buried at the Kirkridge Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church cemetery in Manchester, MD. Left to mourn his passing are his wife, Margaret of Baltimore, MD; his brother, Larry of Harleysville, PA, with his two children, Jenny and Jonathan; his brother Thomas; two nieces, Amanda and Lauren of Hatfield, PA; and one grand-niece, Haley. John and Margaret had no children.

JOHN FLIPSE WALVOORD

John Flipse Walvoord was born on May 1, 1910 in Sheboygan, WI, to John Garrett and Mary Flipse Walvoord. John's father was superintendent of schools in Sheboygan, but the family later moved to Racine in 1925. That year young John came to know Christ. Though reared a Presbyterian, and having memorized the catechisms and attended the church his father started in Cedar Grove, WI, John did not cast his soul upon Christ for his eternal salvation until he heard Dr. William McCarroll at the Cicero Bible Church explain what salvation really was. He finished high school in Racine.

John was graduated from Wheaton College with a B.A. degree in 1931, then earned his Th.B. and Th.M. degrees from Dallas Theological Seminary

in 1934. During the summers, John served as a missionary in western Nebraska, conducting vacation Bible schools and preaching. In 1934, John began pastoring the Rosen Heights Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth. This part-time ministry continued until 1950.

In 1935, John began an association with Dallas Theological Seminary that would last until his death in 2002. He served as registrar for the school, and began teaching systematic theology as an assistant professor. One year later, John received his Th.D. from the seminary, followed by an M.A. in 1945 from Texas Christian University. In 1952, John was named president of the seminary and editor of *Bibliotheca Sacra*, both of which positions he held until 1986 when he became Chancellor. He served on the board of Dallas Theological Seminary from 1940–86. Dr. Walvoord was honored with a D.D. from Wheaton College and a Litt.D. from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr. Walvoord married Geraldine Dolores Lundgren on June 28, 1939 in her parents' home in Geneva, IL. They had four sons, John Edward, James Randall, Timothy Peter, and Paul David.

John was a charter member of the Evangelical Theological Society, and served as president in 1954. For twelve years he also served on the revision committee for the *New Scofield Reference Bible*. His published works included thirty-some books, hundreds of articles, and contributions to many reference works. Some of his books were: *The Holy Spirit*, *The Rapture Question*, *The Millennial Kingdom*, *Jesus Christ Our Lord*, *The Blessed Hope and the Tribulation*, *The Church in Prophecy*, *Israel in Prophecy*, *The Nations in Prophecy*, *The Return of the Lord*, *Daniel*, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, *The Thessalonian Epistles*, *To Live is Christ* (Philippians), *Major Bible Themes* (with L. S. Chafer), *Armageddon: Oil and the Middle East Crisis* (with son John E. Walvoord), and *Prophecy in the New Millennium*.

John passed from this life and into glory with Christ on December 20, 2002 at the age of 92 years, 7 months, and 20 days. Left to mourn his passing are his wife of sixty-three years, Geraldine Walvoord of Dallas; and his sons John of Richardson, TX; Paul of Denton, TX; James of Manchaca, TX; daughter-in-law Jane of Dallas; and two granddaughters, Currin and Allison of Dallas.

WALTER WESTON WESSEL

Walter Weston Wessel was born in Los Angeles, CA, on August 17, 1921, to Otto and Emma Holmfeld Wessel, the fifth of six children. Walter trusted Christ for his eternal salvation as a junior age boy in an evangelistic meeting. He was reared in a Baptist home, and his grandfather was a preacher.

Walter graduated from Manual Arts High School in Los Angeles. His higher education consisted of a Th.B. degree from the Bible Institute of Los Angeles in 1944, followed by a B.A., and an M.A., from University of California, Los Angeles in 1946 and 1950 respectively, then a Ph.D. from Edinburgh University in 1953. Walter taught at Biola in downtown Los Angeles in 1950–51; at Western Conservative Baptist Theological Seminary in Portland, OR, from 1952–54; at North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Fall,

SD, from 1955–61; and at Bethel College and Seminary in St. Paul, MN, from 1961–79, where he served as acting dean of the seminary for a time. He then served at Bethel West in San Diego for about fifteen years before retiring in 1992.

He wrote commentaries on Mark (Zondervan, 1984) and the Epistle of James. He was NT Editor of the *NIV Study Bible* (Zondervan, 1985), as well as NT Editor for the *New International Reader's Version*. Walter was a U.S. Army Reserve chaplain, and rose to the rank of Colonel. He taught chaplain's schools, took students to the Holy Land on study trips, and loved gardening.

Walter was married on June 22, 1945, in Los Angeles, to Helen Strain, whom he met as a student at Biola. They had six children, and Helen preceded Walter in death. Walter's second marriage was to Annette (Brown) Hamm, whom he met at College Avenue Baptist Church where he taught Sunday School. They were married on June 1, 1991 in the backyard of Annette's daughter, Beth Gallion. Walter had by-pass surgeries in 1985 and again in the mid-1990s. He died April 21, 2002 at home in San Diego after five weeks in the hospital. Walter is buried at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery in Point Loma, CA. He lived 80 years, 7 months, and 4 days.

Left to mourn Walter's death are his wife Annette of San Diego; his daughter Margaret and her husband Jim Wilke of New Brighton, MN, and their children Joel and Laura; his daughter Sharyl and her husband Dan Adams of Chesterfield, VA, and their children David, Beth, and Ginnie; his daughter Deborah and her husband Manolo Abascal of El Paso, TX, and their children Timothy, Amy, and Debbie Joy; his daughter Dorothy and her husband Bert Bliss of Cambridge, MN, and their children Brenda, Belinda, and Buffy; his son Daniel and his wife Martha of Seattle, WA, and their children Judah and Angella; his son Donald and his wife Deanne of Stillwater, MN; and his stepchildren Thomas Hamm, Mark Hamm, and Beth Gallion.

HERBERT MARTIN WOLF

Herbert Martin Wolf was born on July 15, 1938 in Springfield, MA, to Gottfried and Melanie Wolf. He was their only son, but had an older sister, Irmgard. Herbert was saved at the age of five in a Child Evangelism class. He met his future wife, Clara Podkoryrow, in the high school youth group of Grace Baptist Church in Springfield. Clara and her parents escaped from Russia in 1943, traveled on foot for two years, landed in Germany, and then made their way to the USA in 1951.

Herb graduated from Wheaton College in 1960, then began his studies for the Th.M. degree at Dallas Theological Seminary. On August 12, 1961, Herbert and Clara were married at Grace Baptist Church in Springfield, with Dr. David Nettleton officiating. Upon graduation from Dallas Theological Seminary, Herbert began his M.A. and Ph.D. work at Brandeis University, finishing in 1967. That same year, he was hired to teach Old Testament at Wheaton College.

Much of Herbert's time was spent in Bible translation. He worked on the NIV and also the NASB, traveling to Spain, Greece, Switzerland, England,

and Scotland with the teams. Dr. Wolf also led three trips to the Holy Land. Herbert contributed articles on fifty words in the *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* and articles that appear in the *Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary*, *Bibliotheca Sacra*, and the *Journal of Biblical Literature*. He wrote *Interpreting Isaiah*, *An Introduction to the Pentateuch*, and “Judges” in the *Expositor’s Bible Commentary*. He also wrote *Haggai and Malachi: Rededication and Renewal*.

Besides his long tenure at Wheaton College (1967–2002), Herbert taught a Sunday School class at the Wheaton Bible Church for decades. Dr. Wolf had been a member of the Evangelical Theological Society for more than thirty-five years. Herb died at home on October 18, 2002, after a bout with leukemia. His life spanned 64 years, 3 months, and 3 days.

Left to mourn Herb’s absence are his wife Clara of Wheaton; his son David and wife Jill of Santa Barbara, CA, along with their children Tanner, Lauren, Bailey, and Payton; his daughter Larissa and her husband Peter VanVleet of Indianapolis, IN, with their children Abigail, Tyler, and Scott; his son Philip with his wife Melanie and their children Barret and Maggie of High Point, NC; and his sister Irmgard Heath of Florida.