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

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JETS 50/1 (March 2007) 211-16

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

The 58th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society had the largest attendance on record with 2,447 persons registered. The meetings were held at the Washington Hilton Hotel, 1919 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. Participating publishers offered generous discounts on their books and other products from one hundred booths in a large carpeted hall. The program theme, "Christians in the Public Square," 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

President-Elect Francis Beckwith served as program chairman and put together a superb array of plenary speakers. On Wednesday afternoon Barry Hankins, Professor of History and Church-State Studies and Director of the Ph.D. program in history at Baylor University, addressed the society on "Francis Schaeffer, Evangelical Politics, and the Changing Landscape of Church-State Studies." Dr. Hankins has written several books focusing on Protestant Fundamentalism and Evangelicalism and has a forthcoming biography of the late Francis A. Schaeffer (P & R). Later that evening, Jay Budziszewski, Professor of Government and Philosophy at the University of Texas at Austin since 1981, addressed the Society on "True Tolerance and the Failure of Liberal Neutrality." Dr. Budziszewski's book *Evangelicals in the Public Square* was published in 2006 (IVP), and he has written extensively on tolerance, conscience, and natural law.

On Thursday afternoon attendees heard Hugh Hewitt explore "God-Blogging: Christians in the New Public Square." Dr. Hewitt, an honors graduate of Harvard College and the University of Michigan Law School, served for nearly six years in the Reagan Administration as Assistant Counsel in the White House and Special Assistant to the Attorney General of the United States. Currently Professor of Law at the Chapman University School of Law in Orange, CA, Hugh Hewitt also hosts a nationally syndicated radio show. One of his most recent works is *Blog: Understanding the Information Reformation That's Changing Your World* (2005, Thomas Nelson).

The fourth and final plenary was delivered on Friday morning by Marine Colonel Keith J. Pavlischek, a Fellow at the Center for Public Justice. Holding the Th.M. from Westminster Seminary and a Ph.D. in Religion, Ethics, and Society from the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Pavlischek is a veteran of the Gulf War and also served a nine-month tour of duty in Iraq in 2005. He is currently assigned to Headquarters Marine Corps and spoke on "Just War and the War on Terrorism: Reflections of a Scholar and a Marine."

As many as thirty-five parallel sessions ran concurrently on such disciplines as Old Testament, New Testament, 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 President Edwin Yamauchi at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 15. He introduced ETS Vice-President Hassell Bullock of Wheaton College, who gave a brief devotional about how one's public life is either authenticated or pronounced disingenuous by one's private life. It was moved, seconded, and carried (MSC) to adopt the agenda, that is, the meeting program which had been printed and distributed to all members previously. The Secretary-Treasurer James Borland then presented both the membership and financial reports.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

| Active Membership | Total | Full | Assoc. | Student |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|--------|---------|
| 11-18-05 | 4069 | 2151 | 781 | 1131 |
| New Members (2006) | 660 | 118 | 85 | 457 |
| Members Reactivated | 115 | 57 | 23 | 35 |
| Members Changed Status | 97 | 34 | (125) | |
| Members Dropped | (630) | (213) | (130) | (287) |
| Failed to pay 2006 dues | 578 | 191 | 123 | 264 |
| Dropped per request | 9 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| Bad addresses | 36 | 13 | 1 | 22 |
| Deceased | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| Total Membership 11-18-06 | 4214 | 2210 | 793 | 1211 |

FINANCIAL REPORT
EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2006 AND SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

| REVENUES | 2006 | 2005 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Dues and Subscriptions | \$ 126,006 | \$ 125,787 |
| Annual Meeting | 180,869 | 182,621 |
| Interest on Savings | 21,026 | 13,060 |
| Miscellaneous Income | <u>35,316</u> | <u>28,778</u> |
| | <u>\$ 363,217</u> | <u>\$ 350,246</u> |
| | | |
| EXPENSES | | |
| Journal (<i>JETS</i>) | \$ 71,860 | \$ 69,050 |
| Accounting | 2,450 | 2,250 |
| Annual Meeting | 59,553 | 59,797 |
| Newsletter | 1,990 | 1,825 |
| Monograph | 1,328 | 0 |
| Directory | 7,068 | 6,427 |
| Office and General | 13,287 | 13,753 |
| Postage | 19,770 | 14,315 |
| Regional | 12,000 | 10,000 |
| Secretarial Help | 15,322 | 11,917 |
| Stipends | <u>89,900</u> | <u>87,150</u> |
| | <u>\$ 294,528</u> | <u>\$ 276,484</u> |
| | | |
| INCREASE (DECREASE) IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS | \$ 68,689 | \$ 73,762 |
| | | |
| NET ASSETS , beginning of year | \$ <u>586,341</u> | \$ <u>512,579</u> |
| NET ASSETS , end of year | \$ <u>655,030</u> | \$ <u>586,341</u> |

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

Greg Beale announced that the Society would be moving toward a re-organized Annual Meeting in 2008, incorporating a new program-unit model, whereby most of the papers read would fall under the purview of program units organized by discipline and led by a chairperson and a steering committee, rather than one Society-wide Program Chair. Details will be forthcoming in a mailing to the Society in 2007 and posted on the ETS website.

Five members were then nominated for three slots to serve on the nominating committee along with the two most recent ETS past presidents, Craig Blaising and Greg Beale. It was MSC to close the nominations and to vote for three persons each. The three selected to serve were Wayne Grudem, William Craig, and Wayne House. Elected to serve by acclamation to the resolutions committee were Dennis Jowers and George Joseph Gatis.

On Thursday evening ETS President Edwin Yamauchi of Miami University spoke on "Scripture as Talisman, Specimen, and Dragoman." Nearly 1,300 members were in attendance to enjoy the tasty meal and the fine presentation.

The final business session was called to order on Friday morning at 8:00 a.m. by ETS President Ed Yamauchi, who called on ETS Vice-President Hassell Bullock for a brief devotional followed by prayer. James Borland, ETS Secretary-Treasurer, mentioned that full reports of the ETS regional meetings would appear in the January Newsletter. He then 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, pointing out that nearly every issue of *JETS* is now accessible at our website, www.ETSJETS.org. The editor thanked the Executive Committee, the referees, the book review editors, the typesetter and staff, his editorial assistant, and our authors and reviewers for their support, encouragement, wise counsel, expertise, and overall outstanding work. More pages of articles and book reviews were published during 2006 than in any previous year. During 2007, Volume 50, the golden anniversary volume of *JETS*, is scheduled for publication. This will include a special anniversary volume.

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

On this day, Nov. 17, 2006, the members of the Evangelical Theological Society resolve:

First, to thank the management and staff of the Hilton Washington for the use of their splendid facilities, for their assistance in staging the Society's 2006 convention, and for the gracious manner in which they have served the convention's attendees;

Second, to thank President-Elect Francis Beckwith for his assembly of this year's sterling program;

Third, to thank President Edwin Yamauchi, the other members of the Executive Committee, and especially the volunteers who have assisted with registration and recording, for their contributions to the convention;

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

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

Sixth, to thank the presenters of papers at this convention, the officers of the Society, regional as well as national, 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 of worshipping him according to the dictates of our conscience and proclaiming the truth about his Son Jesus, not only in private, but also in the public square.

The motion carried by voice vote.

The nominations committee chairman, Wayne House, moved the report of the nominations committee, that the following persons be elected:

President, Francis J. Beckwith
 President-Elect, C. Hassell Bullock
 Vice President, Bruce A. Ware
 Secretary-Treasurer, James A. Borland
 Vacancy on the Executive Committee, Edwin Yamauchi
 Vacancies on the Membership Committee, Frank Thielman and Gregg Allison
 Vacancy on the Editorial Committee, Greg Beale

The motion carried to elect the above slate of officers.

Paper ballots were distributed for the vote on a new Society By-Law:

"For the purpose of advising members regarding the intent and meaning of the reference to biblical inerrancy in the ETS Doctrinal Basis, the Society refers members to the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy (1978). The case for biblical inerrancy rests on the absolute trustworthiness of God and Scripture's testimony to itself. A proper understanding of inerrancy takes into account the language, genres, and intent of Scripture. We reject approaches to Scripture that deny that biblical truth claims are grounded in reality."

The motion was adopted 172-17, a margin of 91% for, to 9% against.

The leadership of ETS was then transferred from Edwin Yamauchi to incoming President Frank Beckwith and the business meeting was adjourned at 8:25 a.m.

Scheduled Future Annual Meetings are:

- 2007 "TEACHING THEM TO OBEY" Nov. 14-16, San Diego, CA
- 2008 "TEXT AND CANON" Nov. 19-21, Providence, RI
- 2009 "PERSONAL AND SOCIAL ETHICS" Nov. 18-20,
New Orleans, LA
- 2010 TBA Nov. 17-19, Atlanta, GA

I encourage each member to join us November 14–16, 2006 (Wed.–Fri.) at the Town and Country Resort & Convention Center, 500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108. Single Rooms are \$134 per night; Double, \$154. We have 750 rooms on Tuesday and 850 rooms on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Rooms may be secured at 1-800-77-ATLAS, requesting these group rates for the Evangelical Theological Society.

JAMES A. BORLAND