

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

The 51st annual meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society was held in Danvers, Massachusetts, November 17–19, 1999. It was the largest meeting the society has ever held with a total registration of 1344. The lovely Sheraton Ferncroft Resort was our headquarters. The exhibit rooms held more than fifty booths, and participating publishers offered generous discounts in making their books and other products available.

The program theme of “Eschatology” was explored during five plenary sessions and by many of the more than two hundred individual papers. Participants from fifteen countries came to fellowship, exchange ideas, critique one another and to keep up with the most recent scholarship in their disciplines. Seventeen study groups also met as part of the overall program.

President-Elect John Sailhamer served as program chairman and put together a superb array of speakers starting with Walter Kaiser’s “The Kingdom of God in Old Testament Theology” on Wednesday afternoon.

The Wednesday evening fellowship banquet featured a delicious meal served to 610 in the grand ballroom, followed by Wayne Grudem’s presidential address. He spoke on “Do We Act like We Really Believe That ‘The Bible Alone, and the Bible in Its Entirety, Is the Word of God Written?’” The full text of his message appears at the front of this issue.

On Thursday afternoon, two additional plenary sessions were held. Bruce Waltke’s topic was “The Kingdom of God in Biblical Theology,” and then Millard Erickson spoke on “The Kingdom of God in Systematic Theology.” A time of spirited questions and repartee followed both presentations. In the evening session, John MacArthur, Jr. challenged a large crowd with a very practical address on “The Kingdom of God in the Pastoral Ministry.” Darrell Bock rounded out the plenary sessions on Friday morning as he highlighted parts of his paper on “The Kingdom of God in New Testament Theology.” Each plenary speaker has been a member of our society for an average of thirty years.

Parallel sessions were conducted on the conference theme as well as other disciplines such as Old and New Testament, theology, philosophy, archaeology, and much more. Parallel programs were conducted by the Evangelical Philosophical Society, the Near East Archaeological Society and the Adventist Theological Society. This year, a large comfortable lounge room was set aside for members to display resumes, for institutions to advertise available positions, and where informal interviews could take place.

During the first business session, held on Wednesday at 12:30 p.m., president Wayne Grudem welcomed the conferees, and John Sailhamer, president-elect, gave a brief devotional. Following the adoption of the agenda, James Borland, secretary-treasurer, presented the membership and financial reports:

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Active Membership 11-20-98	Total	Full	Assoc.	Student
New Members	2539	1512	577	450
Members Reactivated	431	144	101	186
Members Dropped	83	56	19	8
Failed to pay 1999	(182)	(76)	(48)	(58)
Dropped per request	160	66	42	52
Bad addresses	3	1	1	1
Deceased	15	6	4	5
	4	3	1	0
Total Membership 11-23-99	2871	1636	649	586

FINANCIAL REPORT

**EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE**

YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 1999 AND SEPTEMBER 30, 1998

REVENUES	1999	1998
Dues and Subs	\$73,918.02	\$64,496.98
Annual Meeting	90,170.00	78,447.00
Interest on Savings	12,934.32	11,895.99
Miscellaneous Income	<u>14,375.15</u>	<u>5,111.18</u>
	<u>\$191,397.49</u>	<u>\$159,951.15</u>
EXPENSES		
Journal (<i>JETS</i>)	\$52,800.15	\$52,478.67
Monograph	2,000.00	0.00
Accounting	600.00	600.00
Annual Meeting	36,034.66	20,698.28
Newsletter	1,100.00	910.00
Office and General	9,023.46	6,679.83
Office Equipment	3,136.84	2,339.58
Postage	10,580.91	7,595.56
Regional	3,000.00	3,000.00
Secretarial Help	8,348.54	7,336.79
Web Site	300.00	0.00
Stipends	<u>38,375.00</u>	<u>28,500.00</u>
	<u>\$169,914.87</u>	<u>\$130,138.71</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	21,482.62	29,812.44
NET ASSETS , beginning of year	<u>\$227,392.78</u>	<u>\$197,580.34</u>
NET ASSETS , end of year	<u>\$248,875.40</u>	<u>\$227,392.78</u>

It was moved, seconded and carried (MSC) to accept these reports and to commend the secretary-treasurer for his work.

The secretary-treasurer moved (for the executive committee) to amend the society's by-law #2 by raising the dues from \$20 to \$30 per annum, of which \$25 (instead of \$18) is for a subscription to the *Journal*; and to slightly amend the wording of by-law #4 to say that \$13 of the \$15 student membership dues "are for a discounted subscription to," instead of "will be to support the publication of" the *Journal*. The rationale was that the \$20 dues rate had remained in effect since March, 1990, an entire decade, during which time the *Journal* has been increased from 144 to 160, then to 176, and now to 192 pages. Expenses now equal about \$30. The motion passed unanimously.

The president then moved (for the executive committee, composed of the president, president-elect, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, journal editor, and the four immediate past presidents—all listed just inside the back cover of each issue of *JETS*) to amend our society's by-law #5 which concerns the election of the nominating committee. The executive committee recommended the proposed change to strengthen the continuity of the nominating process and to give a measure of guidance to the nominating committee. The amendment specified that the nominating committee should consist of "the two most recent former presidents and three members," instead of five members in general. The proposal also added, "This committee shall consider that the officers of the ETS should be members who wholeheartedly support the purposes and doctrinal basis of the society, who have been regularly involved in ETS activities, and who are recognized for their contributions to evangelical scholarship." After brief debate, the motion passed 71 to 10 as ascertained by the tellers' count of raised hands.

Six members were then nominated for the three slots to serve on the nominating committee along with the two most recent past presidents. By a show of hands, the tellers determined the three top vote-getters to be Robert Reymond, Kurt Richardson, and James Bjornstad. The other three nominees, A. J. Conyers, Shawn Madden, and David Shepherd, were by acclamation chosen to serve as the resolutions committee.

In the second business session, held on Friday, November 20, president Grudem called the meeting to order at 7:45 a.m. Darrell Bock gave a brief devotional from Luke's Gospel. James Borland delivered reports on the spring meetings of the various ETS sections, noting the times and places of their meetings, themes, some of the speakers, the officers elected, and the time and place of their next meeting. He also gave a brief necrology for the members he knew of who had passed away since our last meeting, read Scripture, and led in prayer.

Andreas Köstenberger, editor of *JETS*, gave his first annual report on the journal. He noted that the journal was increased in size from 176 to 192 pages, that a backlog of review articles was being published, that each issue came out as scheduled, that a formal board of referees was established, and that Gregg Allison had been selected as book review editor for theology.

A. J. Conyers, chairman of the resolutions committee, read and then moved the adoption of the following resolution:

“In the 51st Annual session of the Evangelical Theological Society meeting in Danvers, Massachusetts from 17–19 November in the year of our Lord 1999,

Whereas the program for this year’s session was well conceived and effectively presented by John H. Sailhamer, and

Whereas the President, Wayne A. Grudem, the Secretary-Treasurer, James Borland, the Editor of *JETS*, Andreas Köstenberger, and the other Officers of the Evangelical Theological Society have well and faithfully served the needs of the Society and the professional development of the membership, and

Whereas the registration workers and recording teams have with great patience, godly endurance, and a kindly spirit graciously served their assignments, and

Whereas the Staff, management, and employees of the Sheraton Ferncroft Resort have kindly, expertly, and superbly provided professional conference services to the 51st Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society,

Therefore, let it be resolved that the heartfelt thanks and appreciation of the Evangelical Theological Society be extended to those mentioned above in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Given this day, 19 November in the year of our Lord, 1999.

This motion was passed without dissent.

During this second business session the following officers were elected for 2000:

President—John H. Sailhamer
 President-Elect—Darrell L. Bock
 Vice-President—Millard J. Erickson
 Secretary-Treasurer—James A. Borland
 Journal Editor—Andreas Köstenberger
 Vacancy on Executive Committee—Wayne A. Grudem
 Vacancies on Membership Committee—Robert Reymond
 and Kurt Richardson

Russ Bush proposed a new by-law, and it was MSC to refer it to the executive committee for possible consideration next year. There being no other business to come before the society, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 a.m.

The dates, places, and themes for future annual meetings are:

- 2000 “ISRAEL: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE”: November 15–17 (Wed.–Fri.), Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN
- 2001 “DEFINING EVANGELICALISM’S BOUNDARIES”: November 14–16, 2001 (Wed.–Fri.), The Broadmoor, Colorado Springs, CO
- 2002 “EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANITY AND OTHER RELIGIONS” (Toronto, ON)
- 2003 “JESUS” (Atlanta, GA)

Our Society added more than 500 new and reactivated members in 1999. We anticipate continued growth and effectiveness in our scholarly presentations and discussions in the years ahead. I encourage each member to join us next November 15–17 (Wed.–Fri.) at the Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN as we consider the theme, “Israel: Past, Present and Future.” Hotel rooms are \$115 per night for singles; \$135 for doubles. Rooms at this rate may be secured until October 16 at 615-883-2211. We have 500 rooms for Tuesday, and 650 for Wednesday and Thursday nights, and 200 for Friday evening.

JAMES A. BORLAND