MEMORIALS

Edward F. Fuchs

Born in Cranford, New Jersey, on September 22, 1920, Edward Fuchs was raised in the Episcopal Church. At the age of 27 he was converted and felt the call to prepare himself for the gospel ministry. He attended Shelton College, where he received the B. A. degree. At Dallas Theological Seminary he was awarded the Th. M. degree. He was given the opportunity to study at the Institute of Holy Land Studies in Jerusalem. He also attended the University of Uppsala in Sweden.

After his seminary training he accepted a pastoral call to the Old Bridge Baptist Church, where he served from 1955 to 1960. Upon further training Fuchs moved to Sweden, where he became a missionary pastor. In due time he saw the need for an evangelical seminary to train men for the gospel ministry in Scandinavia. In 1977 he opened the Uppsala Biblical-Theological Seminary. He became the president of the faculty and served as an instructor in dogmatic theology. He laid the foundation for this seminary and saw its initial growth and development until death intervened. At the age of 60, while on a fund-raising mission in the United States, Edward Fuchs entered his eternal home. He was married to the former Ulla Sundqvist.

Edwin H. Palmer

Edwin H. Palmer was born on June 29, 1922. His early education in New England was capped by graduation from Harvard in 1944.

His country was at war, so after graduation from the university he entered the military and served his country with distinction as a marine corps officer in the Pacific theater during 1944-46. His engagements with the enemy included the desperate fighting associated with Okinawa.

Following his years in the marines, Palmer returned to his studies, first at Westminster Theological Seminary where he received the Th. B. in 1949 and then at the Free University in Amsterdam, which granted him the Doctorate in Theology in 1953.

Also in 1953 he was ordained to the ministry by the Christian Reformed Church and entered the pastorate at the Spring Lake Christian Reformed Church in Michigan. Four years later he became pastor of the Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church. From that pastorate he was called to Westminster Seminary as instructor in systematic theology. But the pastorate lured him from this teaching ministry in 1964 when he was invited to shepherd one of the largest Christian Reformed Churches in the United States, the Grandville Avenue Church in Grand Rapids.

In addition to articles that appeared from time to time, mainly in the Christian Reformed periodicals The Outlook and The Banner, Palmer produced two books: The Five Points of Calvinism in 1972 and Person and Ministry of the Holy Spirit: The Traditional Calvinist Perspective in 1974.
The spirit of a crusader moved in this man of God. His ardor for implementing what he perceived as a righteous cause made him very active in the Citizens for Educational Freedom and the Right-to-Life movement.

When in 1968 the Committee on Bible Translation that had been established to produce a translation of the Bible in contemporary English sought an executive secretary to lead the project, the name of Edwin H. Palmer headed the list, and the committee was delighted with Palmer’s acceptance of what proved to be an intensely arduous task. Palmer was equal to the challenge. He led the more than one hundred evangelical scholars to the completion of the translation of The Holy Bible: The New International Version, sponsored by the New York International Bible Society.

In recognition of his contribution to the spread of the gospel Houghton College conferred an honorary doctorate on Palmer in 1977.

He continued as executive secretary of the Committee on Bible Translation after the translation’s publication, overseeing various interests relative to the NIV. In addition he was made general editor of the NIV Study Bible under the auspices of the Zondervan Corporation. He was not to see this project brought to its completion. He died of heart arrest on September 16, 1980, and went to “be with Christ, which is better by far.”

Edwin H. Palmer had been a member of ETS since 1956. The evangelical world has lost a most stalwart warrior.

Robert Strong

Robert Strong, aged 74, died on June 17, 1980, in Pensacola, Florida, after a long and distinguished career as a pastor, preacher of the gospel and seminary professor. He was born on June 13, 1906, in Chicago, Illinois, moving to California after his high-school years. He graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1930 with the A. B. degree and with Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi honors. He studied at the University of Southern California from 1930-1932, receiving the A. M. and Th. M. degrees. He received the Th. B. degree from Westminster Theological Seminary in 1934 and the S. T. D. degree from Temple University in 1938.

Strong married Roberta Kirkpatrick of Long Beach, California, on May 27, 1933. Their children are Patricia Strong Barrett of Augusta, Georgia, and James Walter Strong of Atlanta. In addition to his widow and children, Strong is survived by a brother, William T. Strong, Forest Falls, California; a sister, Mrs. Laura Kathrine Hodges, Downey, California; and seven grandchildren.

Ordained in the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., Strong was a minister in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church from 1936 to 1949, when he was received into the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. He served as pastor of Calvary Presbyterian Church, Willow Grove, Pennsylvania; First Presbyterian Church, Augusta, Georgia; and Trinity Presbyterian Church, Montgomery, Alabama. Upon his retirement from the pastorate of Trinity Church, Strong became professor of homiletics at Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, Mississippi, serving in that capacity from 1973 to 1978. Upon his completion of this ministry the Strengths retired to Pensacola, Florida. At the time of his death, Strong had just begun a term of service as interim supply at the McIlwain Memorial Presbyterian Church of Pensacola. Mrs. Strong continues to reside in Pensacola.
Strong was a model Christian scholar, possessed of a keen mind that he used well. He read widely and had varied interests, one of them being the relation of Christianity, the Bible and science. He was a highly gifted preacher who loved to preach, and people loved to hear him preach. Several series of his sermons have been published in book form. He enjoyed greatly the opportunity to participate in the equipping of young men for the gospel ministry.

Robert Strong was faithful in the courts of the Church, serving effectively on various committees and agencies of the Presbyterian Church. He was a man of many gifts who used those gifts well in service to our Lord.

Merrill F. Unger

Merrill F. Unger, a member of ETS and staunch defender of Biblical inerrancy, died on October 14, 1980, at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. Unger taught OT at Dallas Theological Seminary for twenty years. He was also a popular speaker and author, having written twenty-six books. His best-known works include Archeology and the Old Testament, Introductory Guide to the Old Testament, Unger's Bible Dictionary and Unger's Bible Handbook. ETS and the evangelical world will miss him greatly.

He is survived by his wife Pearl, a son Clark, and a daughter Shelley. His life and ministry for the Lord will long be remembered.