

## REPORTS RELATING TO THE FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

The 54th annual meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society was held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, November 20–22, 2002, with the third highest attendance on record—1688, behind only the 1689 in 2000, and the 1850 in 2001. The spacious Regal-Constellation Hotel near the airport provided the setting. Participating publishers offered generous discounts on their books and other products from more than sixty-five booths in a large exhibit area.

The program theme, “Evangelical Christianity and Other Religions,” was explored in six plenary sessions, and by many of the several hundred individual papers. Participants came from all over North America, South America, Europe, Asia, 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. Nearly twenty study groups also met as part of the overall program.

President-elect David Howard, Jr. served as program chairman and put together a superb array of plenary speakers. On Wednesday afternoon, Harold A. Netland of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School addressed the society on “Biblical Faith and Other Religions Today: Religious Pluralism and the Question of Truth.” That evening, nearly 800 persons gathered in the Constellation Ballroom for the fellowship banquet. After a delicious meal, ETS President Millard Erickson, of George W. Truett Theological Seminary and Baylor University, challenged our members with his resourceful lecture on “Evangelical Theological Scholarship in the Twenty-First Century.” His address appears in this issue of *JETS*.

On Thursday afternoon attendees first heard Daniel Block of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary speak on “Biblical Faith and Other Religions in Old Testament Theology.” This was followed by Wheaton College’s Greg A. Beale who lectured on “Biblical Faith and Other Religions in New Testament Theology.”

The fourth and fifth plenary sessions were held on Thursday evening featuring invited guests Richard Plantinga of Calvin College and Tite Tienou of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. “Biblical Faith and Other Religions in Church History” was Plantinga’s topic, while Tienou delivered a lecture on “Biblical Faith and Other Religions Today: Traditional Folk Expression.” Both speakers were stimulating as well as informative.

The sixth and final plenary address was delivered by invited guest J. Dudley Woodberry of Fuller Theological Seminary, who was just returning from Afghanistan. His topic, “Biblical Faith and Other Religions Today: Islam” was informed by his many years of service to Christ as a missionary in Islamic countries.

As many as twenty parallel sessions ran concurrently on such disciplines as Old Testament, New Testament, biblical, historical and systematic theology, archaeology, philosophy, hermeneutics, missions, evangelism, and world religions. Parallel programs were also conducted by the Evangelical Philosophical Society, the Near East Archaeological Society, and the Adventist Theological Society. Tables and a display 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 Millard Erickson at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, November 20. He then introduced president-elect David Howard, Jr., who gave a brief devotional from Ezra 7:1-10 and led in prayer. It was moved, seconded, and carried (MSC) to adopt the docket, that is the program for the meeting 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

	Total	Full	Assoc.	Student
Active Membership 11-15-01	3474	1751	688	1035
New Members (2002)	606	156	110	340
Members Reactivated	34	20	8	6
Members Dropped	(497)	(108)	(98)	(291)
Failed to pay 2002	437	84	89	264
Dropped per request	12	7	3	2
Bad addresses	42	11	6	25
Deceased	8	8	0	0
Total Membership 11-20-02	3617	1819	708	1090

**FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES**  
**AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE**  
**YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2002 AND SEPTEMBER 30, 2001**

<b>REVENUES</b>	2002	2001
Dues and Subs	\$ 118,375	\$ 112,064
Annual Meeting	125,117	113,149
Interest on Savings	14,308	14,394
Miscellaneous Income	<u>23,699</u>	<u>29,026</u>
	<u>\$ 281,499</u>	<u>\$ 268,633</u>
 <b>EXPENSES</b>		
Journal ( <i>JETS</i> )	\$ 62,385	\$ 54,917
Monograph	0	0
Accounting	1,725	675
Annual Meeting	41,115	51,552
Newsletter	1,408	1,450
Office and General	8,979	9,914
Office Equipment	2,204	1,263
Postage	18,389	15,246
Regional	5,000	4,000
Secretarial Help	9,047	8,365
Directory	6,508	5,715
Web Site	160	3,449
Stipends	<u>62,848</u>	<u>55,465</u>
	<u>\$ 219,768</u>	<u>\$ 213,011</u>
 <b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN</b>		
<b>UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>	\$ 61,731	\$ 55,622
 <b>NET ASSETS</b> , beginning of year	\$ <u>340,800</u>	\$ <u>285,178</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b> , end of year	\$ <u>402,531</u>	\$ <u>340,800</u>

In two separate motions, it was MSC to accept the membership and the financial reports. The financial report had previously been audited by Geoffrey R. Mather, CPA.

Six members were then nominated for the three slots to serve on the nominating committee along with the two most recent past presidents. It was MSC to close the nominations and to vote for three persons each. The three selected to serve were Scott Hafemann, Gerry Breshears, and Peter Davids, along with John Sailhamer and Darrell Bock.

Elected to serve by acclamation on the resolutions committee were Gregg Allison, Robert Thomas, and Woodrow Walton.

President Erickson then recognized Roger Nicole who challenged the teaching and/or writings of Clark Pinnock and John Sanders as being incompatible with the doctrinal basis of the society. He moved, and it was seconded, that the issue be referred to the executive committee of the society to determine and evaluate whether their teachings or writings are incompatible with such doctrinal basis, as per Article IV, Section 4 of the ETS Constitution. It was then MSC to call a special business session for Thursday evening from 9:15–10:15 p.m. to allow for discussion of the motion and to vote on whether to refer such to the executive committee. A majority vote is required for referral.

The special business session was called to order on Thursday evening by president Erickson at 9:19 p.m. About 800 persons were present, but the two center sections were reserved for full members of the society, who alone can discuss and vote on society business. A microphone was set in one aisle for those who chose to speak in favor of the motion for referral, and a second microphone was set in another aisle for those who would speak against the motion. Each one's comments were not to exceed two minutes. Nearly forty members commented publicly before the time expired and the votes were taken. The motion to refer Clark Pinnock was 171 AYE, and 137 NO; or, 55.5% in favor, and 44.5% against. The motion to refer John Sanders was 166 AYE, and 143 NO; or, 53.7% in favor, and 46.3% against. The executive committee will convene to consider the merits of this challenge, hearing both the accusations and the defense from the parties so involved, and report their conclusions to the society for possible action at the next annual meeting.

At the Friday morning business session, President Erickson called the meeting to order at 7:45 a.m. Greg Beale read from Isaiah 6:1–12, gave a brief devotional, then led in prayer.

Gerry Breshears gave the report of the nominations committee, that the following persons be elected:

President—David Howard, Jr.

President-Elect—Greg Beale

Vice-President—Craig Blaising

Secretary-Treasurer—James Borland

Journal Editor—Andreas Köstenberger

Vacancy on the Executive Committee—Millard Erickson

Vacancies on the Membership Committee—Simon Kistemaker and  
Roger Martin

Vacancy on the Editorial Committee—David Howard, Jr.

Program Committee—Win Corduan

It was MSC to elect the above slate of officers.

James Borland, Secretary-Treasurer, then gave brief reports of the regional ETS meetings, their themes, locations, and officers selected for the coming year. He then read memorials for members who had passed into the presence of the Lord during the past year.

Andreas Köstenberger, editor of *JETS*, reported on the journal. Only about 25% of submitted articles are selected for publication through the refereeing process; about 4300 copies of each issue are printed for members and subscribers; and the journal has a backlog of about six months of articles awaiting publication.

Gregg Allison, chair of the resolutions committee, presented the following seven-part resolution, each part of which was MSC:

“Having convened on Thursday, November 21, 2002, the resolutions committee unanimously approves and proposed the following resolution. On this day, November 21, 2002, the Evangelical Theological Society resolves,

First, to thank the Regal Constellation Hotel of Toronto, Canada, for the fine facilities, hospitality, and support of our program;

Second, to thank the overseeing committee of this national conference, especially the leadership of Millard Erickson, president, and David Howard, president-elect, for the stimulating program; Jim Borland for service as Secretary-Treasurer, and Andreas Köstenberger, editor of *JETS*;

Third, to thank the executive committee of the Evangelical Theological Society for its seven-plus hour meeting to wrestle with significant biblical, theological, and administrative issues facing our Society;

Fourth, to thank our membership and guests for their thoughtful contributions in the papers and responses;

Fifth, to thank and honor Roger Nicole for his courage to address our Society on behalf of its founding members and to ask for clarity on two current situations for which he and they have deep concerns;

Sixth, to thank and honor the members of our Society for their orderly discussion and voting at the special business meeting Thursday night, November 21, 2002.

In the spirit of this year’s conference theme—“Evangelical Christianity and Other Religions”—we, as the Evangelical Theological Society, resolve to grow in our understanding of and engagement with other religions both to embrace with love and compassion the inherently religious peoples of our world and to bear witness with urgency and insight to the atoning death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ,

-who is the Savior of everyone, especially of those who believe (1 Tim 4:10)

-who is the one and only mediator, “who gave himself as a ransom for all” (1 Tim 2:6)

-and who said, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you, And behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matt 28:18–20).

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:25 a.m.

**Scheduled Future Annual Meetings are:**

- 2003 “JESUS” Nov. 19–21, Atlanta GA (Downtown Hilton Atlanta)
- 2004 “WHAT IS TRUTH?” Nov. 17–19, San Antonio, TX
- 2005 “PERSONAL AND SOCIAL ETHICS” Nov. 16–18,  
Philadelphia, PA
- 2006 “CHRISTIANS IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE” Nov. 15–17,  
Washington, DC
- 2007 “TEACHING THEM TO OBEY” Nov. 14–16, San Diego, CA

During 2002, our Society grew to a record 3,617 members. 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 19–21 (Wed.–Fri.) at the downtown **Hilton Atlanta**, 255 Courtland St., NE. The theme is “Jesus.” Hotel rooms are \$105 per night for Singles; \$121 for Double/Twins; \$131 for Triple; and \$141 for Quad on the first 24 floors. The Towers are above and the same rooms are \$145, \$165, \$171, and \$181 respectively. Rooms at these rates may be secured until October 19 at 800-HILTONS, or at [www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com). We contracted for 650 rooms for Tuesday, 750 for Wednesday and Thursday nights, and 100 for Friday evening.

JAMES A. BORLAND

## JETS REPORT

It is my privilege as *JETS* editor to submit the following report for 2002 to the ETS executive committee and membership.

Overall, 2002 was a fairly uneventful year for the *Journal*. Contributions continued to come in at a steady pace, and the board of referees and selected outside experts worked well in evaluating articles.

The March, June, September, and December issues were produced on time. The 2002 volume contained a total of twenty-nine articles and one hundred and sixty-one book reviews in just under eight hundred pages.

The June issue in particular was very well received. Many appreciated the interaction on open theism and the accompanying set of articles on this topic. One thousand additional copies of this issue were printed for classroom use and distribution to interested individuals and institutions.

One new development was the appointment of Joel F. Williams of Columbia International University as Book Review Editor (New Testament). Joel assumed his new post in March and has proven to be a valuable addition to our editorial staff.

At the annual meeting David Howard, Jr., submitted his resignation as Book Review Editor (Old Testament) effective June 30, 2003. David is to be commended for his nine years of faithful and distinguished service. A search for a successor is currently underway.

In conclusion, I count it a privilege to serve as *JETS* editor. Thank you very much for your confidence and support. Please continue to remember our *Journal* in scholarly work. I will be pleased to consider your quality material for publication.

ANDREAS J. KÖSTENBERGER