

## THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING

Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in downtown Dallas, Texas, hosted the thirty-fifth annual meeting of the Society. The meeting was held December 15-17, 1983, and had the theme "Preaching and Biblical Exegesis." This theme attracted numerous members because 310 registered and more than 400 persons at times attended plenary sessions.

The first plenary session featured W. A. Criswell, longtime pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dallas. "Relationship Between Preaching and Exegesis" was the topic of James Boice and Ray Stedman in the second plenary session. And a panel discussion on "Man in the Pulpit and the Pew Speak to Scholars in Their Studies" marked the third plenary session. Program chairman W. Haddon Robinson presented an excellent schedule of parallel sessions on preaching, OT, NT and theology subjects as well as topics of the Near Eastern Archaeological Society and the Evangelical Philosophical Society. Louis Goldberg delivered his presidential address: "Preaching with Power the Word 'Correctly Handled' to Transform Man and His World."

During the first business meeting the secretary-treasurer noted the volume of mail that arrives at and leaves the ETS office in Jackson, Mississippi. Beside personal letters, he sent to the membership in 1983 the *ETS News Letter*, the presidential letter, the program chairman's request for papers, the 1983 program, the request for annual dues, the 1984 *News Letter*, and input for the ad hoc committee.

The secretary-treasurer presented the membership report and the financial report.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

		Full	Assoc.	Student
Active membership 12/1/82	1589	927	263	399
New members 1983	222	96	39	87
Members dropped or promoted	(113)	21	53	(187)
Total membership 12/1/83	1698	1044	355	299

## FINANCIAL REPORT

EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
COMPARATIVE SCHEDULES OF CASH RECEIPTS AND  
DISBURSEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 1983  
AND NOVEMBER 30, 1982

	1983	1982
CASH in banks December 1	\$ 36,631.54	\$ 22,752.28
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>		
Dues and subscriptions	26,970.71	24,384.64
Sale of books and <i>Journals</i>	797.50	1,149.75
Annual meeting	1,573.41	3,612.00
Interest on savings	2,694.74	3,804.37
Miscellaneous income	393.71	914.96
	<u>32,430.07</u>	<u>33,865.72</u>
<b>TOTAL FOR WHICH TO ACCOUNT</b>	<u>\$ 69,061.61</u>	<u>\$ 56,618.00</u>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>		
<i>JETS</i>	\$ 21,515.11	\$ 7,500.17
Salaries	2,812.50	2,952.75
Office supplies	2,294.85	3,053.98
Annual meeting	674.58	1,183.68
Stipends	3,000.00	2,700.00
Postage	942.64	1,291.62
Regional expense	725.00	700.00
Ad hoc meetings	808.16	-0-
<i>News Letter</i>	722.01	-0-
Audit	110.00	95.00
Miscellaneous	-0-	509.26
	<u>33,604.85</u>	<u>19,986.46</u>
CASH in banks November 30	<u>35,456.76</u>	<u>36,631.54</u>
<b>TOTAL FOR WHICH ACCOUNTED</b>	<u>\$ 69,061.61</u>	<u>\$ 56,618.00</u>
<b>BALANCES CLASSIFIED BY DEPOSITORY:</b>		
Deposit Guaranty Bank—checking	\$ 2,848.99	\$ 2,718.51
Deposit Guaranty Bank—silver savings account	2,043.76	4,913.03
Deposit Guaranty Bank—money market certificate	<u>30,564.01</u>	<u>29,000.00</u>
CASH in banks November 30	<u>\$ 35,456.76</u>	<u>\$ 36,631.54</u>

In the second business meeting the following officers were elected for 1984:

President—W. Haddon Robinson  
 President-Elect—Richard V. Pierard  
 Vice-President—Gleason L. Archer, Jr.  
 Vacancy on Executive Committee—Louis Goldberg  
 Vacancy on Editorial Committee—Donald Tinder  
 Vacancies on Membership Committee—Daniel Mitchell  
 and Eugene Merrill

The Society adopted the report of the Resolutions Committee:

1. Be it resolved that warm expressions of thanks be extended to Chancellor W. A. Criswell, President Paige Patterson, and Vice Presidents Leo Bradley and Richard Land of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies for hosting this thirty-fifth meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society.

2. Be it resolved that we express deep appreciation to all those at the Criswell Center who have assisted in handling the local arrangements for this meeting, as well as for the cooperative spirit and interest of the entire faculty, staff and student body.

3. Be it resolved that we express our heartfelt gratitude to President Louis Goldberg for his insightful leadership of the Society during this past year.

4. Be it resolved that we declare deep appreciation to Program Chairman Haddon Robinson for his labor of love developing the program for this meeting, reflected in the spectrum of presentations of this challenging and practical theme, as well as to Nancy Hardin, his assistant at Denver Seminary.

5. Be it resolved that we express our continuing gratitude to Secretary-Treasurer Simon Kistemaker, *Journal* Editor Ronald Youngblood, Book Review Editors Donald Carson and William Luck, *News Letter* Editor Bruce Demarest, and the other officers for their excellent work this past year.

6. Be it resolved that we commend the Evangelical Philosophical Society and the Near East Archaeological Society for their quality collateral programs.

7. Be it further resolved that, in view of the critical issues and opportunities discussed in these meetings with regard to preaching and Biblical exegesis, we continue with all diligence our study, proclamation and application of God's inerrant Word in order to address the needs of the Church and the world in a spirit of Christian love and concern.

President Louis Goldberg announced the places, times and themes for the forthcoming annual meetings:

1. The thirty-sixth annual meeting will be held in Chicago, Illinois, on December 11-13, 1984. The theme is "Evangelicals: Heritage and Rediscovery," featuring Church history.

2. The thirty-seventh meeting has the theme "Man and Woman in Biblical and Theological Perspective." The place and time are Anaheim, California, November 20-22, 1985.

3. "Evangelicals and Spirituality" is the theme for the thirty-eighth meeting slated for Atlanta, Georgia, on November 20-22, 1986.

4. The theme for the fortieth anniversary meeting is "Evangelical Scholarship and Cross-Cultural Communication."

The following motions were considered:

1. William Luck, chairman of the the ad hoc committee on critical methodologies, presented three proposals.

a. The first proposal was moved and supported:

That the executive committee of the ETS appoint a special committee comprised of representatives of the founding fathers still with us, of NT and OT scholars, and of theologians in the Society, for the purpose of considering and proposing (if appropriate) to the Society, in writing before the next annual (1984) meeting, an amendment to the Constitution or its By-Laws that will as carefully as possible interpret the meaning of the symbol so that the membership may subscribe with knowledge and integrity and so that the Society can know how its view of inerrancy relates to "critical methodologies," including a statement defining what "critical methodologies" are understood to mean.

The motion was defeated.

b. The second proposal presented by motion:

That the Society in its 1983 annual meeting adopt as an interim interpretation of its doctrinal statement both "Chicago Statements" of the International Council on Biblical Inerrancy.

Also this motion was defeated.

c. The third proposal was read to the members of the Society. At the next annual meeting the Society will vote on this proposal:

That the Society shall adopt as guidelines, with respect to the process by which membership in-good-standing of a dues-paying and subscribing member may be reconsidered, Robert's Rules of Order, Sec. 75 of Article XIII, "Legal Rights of Assemblies and Trial of Their Members" (inserted either after Article IV, Section 4, as a part of that section, or as a By-Law). The section reads:

Trial of Members of Societies. Every deliberative assembly, having the right to purify its own body, must therefore have the right to investigate the character of its members. it can require any of them to testify in the case, under pain of expulsion if they refuse.

When the charge is against the member's character, it is usually referred to a committee of investigation of discipline, or to some standing committee, to report upon. Some societies have standing committees whose duty it is to report cases for discipline whenever any are known to them.

In either case, the committee investigates the matter and reports to the society. This report need not go into details, but should contain its recommendations as to what action the society should take, and should usually close with resolutions covering the case, so that there is no need for any one to offer any additional resolutions upon it. The ordinary resolutions, where the member is recommended to be expelled, are (1) to fix the time to which the society shall adjourn; and (2) to instruct the clerk to cite the member to appear before the society at this adjourned meeting to show cause why he should not be expelled, upon the following charges which should then be given.

After charges are preferred against a member, and the assembly has ordered that he be cited to appear for trial, he is theoretically under arrest, and is deprived of all the rights of membership until his case is disposed of. Without his consent no member should be tried at the same meeting at which the charges are preferred, excepting when the charges relate to something done at that meeting.

The clerk should send the accused a written notice to appear before the society at

the time appointed, and should at the same time furnish him with a copy of the charges. A failure to obey the summons is generally cause enough for summary expulsion.

At the appointed meeting what may be called the trial takes place. Frequently the only evidence required against the member is the report of the committee. After it has been read and any additional evidence offered that the committee may see fit to introduce, the accused should be allowed to make an explanation and introduce witnesses, if he so desires. Either party should be allowed to cross-examine the other's witnesses and introduce rebutting testimony. When the evidence is all in, the accused should retire from the room, and the society deliberate upon the question, and finally act by a vote upon the question of expulsion, or other punishment proposed. No member should be expelled by less than a two-thirds\* vote, a quorum voting. The vote should be by ballot, except by general consent. The members of the committee preferring the charges vote the same as other members.

In acting upon the case, it must be borne in mind that there is a vast distinction between the evidence necessary to convict in a civil court and that required to convict in an ordinary society or ecclesiastical body. A notorious pickpocket could not even be arrested, much less convicted by a civil court, simply on the ground of being commonly known as a pickpocket; while such evidence would convict and expel him from any ordinary society.

The moral conviction of the truth of the charge is all that is necessary in an ecclesiastical or other deliberative body to find the accused guilty of the charges.

If the trial is liable to be long and troublesome, or of a very delicate nature, the member is frequently cited to appear before a committee, instead of the society, for trial. In this case the committee reports to the society the result of its trial of the case, with resolutions covering the punishment which it recommends the society to adopt. When the committee's report is read, the accused should be permitted to make his statement of the case, the committee being allowed to reply. The accused then retires from the room, and the society acts upon the resolutions submitted by the committee. The members of the committee should vote upon the case the same as other members.

If the accused wishes counsel at his trial, it is usual to allow it, provided the counsel is a member of the society in good standing. Should the counsel be guilty of improper conduct during the trial, the society can refuse to hear him, and can also punish him.

\*The U.S. Constitution [Art. I, Sec. 5] provides that each House of Congress may, "with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a member."

2. George W. Knight presented a supported motion that "ETS go on record as rejecting any position that states that either Matthew or any other Scripture writer materially altered and embellished historical tradition or departed from the actual events." The motion was adopted.

3. Roger Nicole introduced a supported motion that "the Evangelical Theological Society officially request Dr. Robert Gundry to submit his resignation from membership in this Society, unless he acknowledges that he has erred in his detraction from the historical trustworthiness of the gospel of Matthew in his recent commentary." The motion was adopted.

4. A motion was made and supported that the Executive Committee establish the mechanism to continue the momentum to build a bridge between academics and pastoral interests. The motion was adopted.

At a brief memorial service the Society rendered tribute to deceased members Valdis Mezezers and Frank E. Gaebelein. Words of thanks were addressed to William F. Luck for his years of service as book review editor and to Louis Goldberg for his leadership as president.

The Society has expressed its concern for doctrinal integrity throughout its history. In recent years members of the Society have debated the issue of critical methodologies in interpreting Scripture. They have measured and evaluated these methodologies by their commitment to the Society's doctrinal basis. Differences of opinion may result in severance and sadness, but unity and harmony come through the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Simon J. Kistemaker