

Office of the Secretary
P. O. Box 122
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VOLUME I, NUMBER I

THE SPS NEWSLETTER

At long last we are able to send out the first of what we hope will be a long line of newsletters which will be useful to all the members and friends of the Society for Pentecostal Studies. Due to a lack of funds, the first issues will be in mimeographed form. As we become more affluent, perhaps we will be able to publish a more dignified paper. The purpose of the Newsletter will be to inform the membership of the Society of developments within the group and of matters of mutual interest outside the membership. As far as funds permit, we will send copies to non-members who wish to subscribe to all the literature of the society. Thus our mailing list will be more extensive than our membership list.

We request information from our readers that would be proper to print in the Newsletter. We hope that this project can serve as an informal forum for all those interested in Pentecostal scholarship. We shall be happy to make announcements of special projects, research opportunities, workshops, and other pertinent information that would be helpful to individual members or to the educational institutions served by the society. Please send any items to the National Secretary, Vinson Synan, whose address appears above. Plans are for the Newsletter to appear quarterly.

"SCHOLARS IN DALLAS"

A dream became a reality on November 6, 1970 when the organizational session of this group was held in the French Room of the Adolphus Hotel in Dallas, Texas. Although the planning committee had thought in terms of about 25 to 50 persons, all expectations were exceeded when a room-filling total of 139 appeared. Seated at the head table were such notables as Percy Brewster, Thomas Zimmerman, Charles Conn, and R. O. Corvin. These men represented the great interest that the leaders of the World Pentecostal Conference took in the new group.

The main speech of the session was delivered by Dr. Klaud Kendrick, who pointed out several important areas of research for Pentecostal scholars. Kendrick is chairman of the History Department at Texas Wesleyan University. Acting as master of ceremonies for the meeting was Dr. Horace Ward, Dean of Students at Lee College. Dr. William Menzies, chairman of the ad hoc committee which arranged the dinner, worked efficiently in carrying out the many details of the meeting. Also contributing to the success of the group were James Montgomery and Warren McPherson, agents for the World Pentecostal Conference. After the dinner, Dr. Vinson Synan conducted the organizational session which resulted in an expanded international society. At the close, 108 persons joined as charter members. It was decided that all who join before the next annual meeting would also be considered charter members.

NEWS RELEASE

(The following article may be used as a news release by anyone who wishes to further publicize the society. It contains most of the pertinent information concerning the Dallas meeting.-Ed.)

On November 6, 1970, an international society for the purpose of studying the Pentecostal movement was organized in Dallas, Texas, in connection with the 9th Pentecostal World Conference. An ad hoc committee, composed of three young Ph.D.s, Dr. Horace Ward of Lee College, Dr. William Menzies of Evangel College, and Dr. Vinson Synan of Emmanuel College, prepared the program and carried out the organization of the new body.

This new organization grew out of a research trip taken by Dr. Vinson Synan in the summer of 1969 which took him to the archives of several Pentecostal denominations. In each place he found a strong desire for an interdenominational society of Pentecostal scholars. The ad hoc committee was formed as a result of contacts made on this trip, and Dr. William Menzies of Springfield, Missouri, was named Chairman.

At the Dallas banquet which initiated the new society were 139 persons from throughout the United States and several foreign countries. The society was formally organized with 108 charter members. The name of the new organization is "The Society for Pentecostal Studies." Plans are for an annual meeting in which scholarly papers will be read and for an annual Journal which will carry articles from many disciplines relating to the world Pentecostal movement.

The overall purpose of this new society is "to offer Pentecostal scholarship in all academic disciplines as a spiritual service to the Kingdom of God." Also listed as specific objectives were: "to recognize and publicize the work of Pentecostal scholars, to serve Pentecostal graduate students in non-Pentecostal schools, to serve Pentecostal ministers and leaders with opportunities for continuing education and resource materials, and to serve the church world by providing an authoritative interpretation of the Pentecostal movement." In the first meeting, the scope of the society was increased to include members from the worldwide Pentecostal community. Many nations of the world are now represented in the membership list.

Officers elected to lead the new society were: President, Dr. William Menzies (Chairman of the Department of Biblical Studies, Evangel College, Springfield, Missouri); Vice-President, Dr. Hollis Gause (Chairman of the School of Religion, Lee College, Cleveland, Tennessee); Secretary, Dr. Vinson Synan (Chairman of the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Emmanuel College, Franklin Springs, Georgia); Treasurer, Reverend Edward Wood (President of Eugene Bible College, Eugene, Oregon). The next national meeting of the society will be in November, 1971, in Des Moines, Iowa in connection with the annual meeting of the Pentecostal Fellowship of North America.

Membership in the society is open to any person who wishes to study the world Pentecostal movement and who can subscribe to the PFNA Statement of Faith. Any others who desire may be listed as a subscriber and receive all the Newsletters and publications of the society. Membership is on the following levels: Full members--persons who hold earned graduate degrees; Associate members--persons without graduate degrees but otherwise qualified for membership (such as school teachers, administrators, etc); and Student members--students currently enrolled in institutions of higher learning.

Annual fees will be: Full members--\$5; Associate members--\$3; Student members--\$2; Subscribers--\$3.

DECISIONS OF THE DALLAS MEETING

At the organizational meeting of the society many far-reaching decisions were made concerning the nature of the organization and its first year of operation. Since so many persons were present from many nations, it was early decided that the society would be an international organization with provision for regional meetings where feasible. The constitution offered by the ad hoc committee was adopted as a provisional constitution for the first year with the understanding that the officers would make changes for a permanent document in November. The new constitution will be sent to the members at least 30 days before the annual meeting. After a discussion about the best place for the annual meeting, it was decided to meet in connection with the PFNA Convention in Des Moines, Iowa, on November 5-6, 1971. The possibility of future meetings on college campuses was favorably discussed.

DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

In view of the high first-year costs of the organization, the officers asked the editor to request those interested in the SPS to give a special contribution. Perhaps there are those who would give for this cause because of a particular interest in promoting Pentecostal scholarship. Any contributions will be tax-deductible and should be sent to: Rev. Edward Wood, Eugene Bible College, 1231 Olive Street, Eugene, Oregon 97401.

BREAKFAST MEETING FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

On November 7, 1970, a group of college administrators and teachers met in Dallas, Texas, to exchange information about international study programs in the various Pentecostal colleges and Bible schools. The guiding light of the session was Dr. J. Robert Ashcroft, President of Evangel College. Of the several schools which have such programs, Evangel College and Lee College seem to have done the most in developing credit courses in this area. For further information please write to: President J. Robert Ashcroft, Evangel College, Springfield, Mo., 65803; or Dr. Donald Aultman, Lee College, Cleveland, TN, 37311.

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Memphis, Tennessee, was the scene of the first meeting of the executive officers of the SPS on January 23, 1971. Hospitality was offered by the Rev. Leburne Dryden and members of the Christian Heritage Pentecostal Holiness Church. Membership as of February stands at some 130.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

Enclosed you will find an application blank for membership in the SPS. If you joined in Dallas but failed to fill in the information, please fill it out for our record files. If you know of a prospective member, please encourage him to make application. Send all checks and applications to Edward Wood who is chairman of the membership committee as well as treasurer. His address appears above.