



WESLEYAN THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A FELLOWSHIP OF WESLEYAN ARMINIAN SCHOLARS

ESTABLISHED IN 1965

Annual Meeting, Kankakee, 11/85

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To the members of the WTS:

This constitutes my report covering my service as promotional secretary for the year 1984/85. By the constitution the work of the promotional secretary has two major foci: service on the program/executive committee of the society and the ongoing promotional work as deemed appropriate and necessary.

I fulfilled the former part of this assignment by attendance at the various executive committee meetings after our sessions in Atlanta and at the annual meeting of the Christian Holiness Association in Oklahoma City--and in these meetings fully participated in the planning of the program for this meeting in Kankakee.

Other promotional work has proceeded on several fronts:

(1) For the last several years (with the exception of last year) I have managed to get a report of our meetings in the TSF BULLETIN. This seems to be the major source that I have located that is willing to consider reporting on meetings like ours. I have a commitment from the TSF BULLETIN to carry a report of this meeting.

(2) I have carried WTS materials to and made presentations at other meetings where such seemed relevant. I do this, for example, at annual meetings of the John Wesley Theological Institute near Chicago. There is a great deal of interest in our society in the JWTI, and I expect that our journal will in the future carry ads for the JWTI.

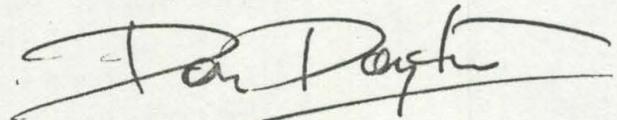
(3) As a result of our decision of two years ago to send liaison representatives to the Faith and Order Commission of the National Council of Churches of Christ I have been able to join David Cubie in representing the WTS at COFO. I have now officially attended meetings in New York, Washington, Atlanta, and Boston, where I have been a part of the Apostolic Faith group looking at the Nicene Creed as a possible basis for a common

Christian confession. As a result of this work I was invited to attend a dialogue with Latin American theologians in Austin, Texas, and very recently to present a paper on pneumatology in the holiness movement as a part of a consultation on pneumatology held last week at Holy Cross. This will be published as a part of the proceedings in the theological journal of the Greek Orthodox tradition. As a result of this and other contacts I have been invited to prepare an article for ECUMENICAL TRENDS introducing the holiness tradition to the broader church. This work also led to an invitation to be a consultant at the WCC COFO meetings last August in Stavanger, Norway, where I was able to represent informally the WTS in a number of broader conversations about the role of the holiness movement in the broader church world. Emilio Castro, the newly elected executive of the WCC has made it a point of his clear agenda to give attention to such issues. It was quite exciting to be drawn into these conversations.

(4) I have had other similar opportunities open up in unexpected ways. Shortly after last years' meeting I chaired a special anniversary session of the American Academy of Religion devoted to "Ecumenism and the Evangelical Traditions" that featured David Cubie along with recent presidents of the Evangelical Theological Society and the Society for Pentecostal Studies. I have just gotten word from Eerdmans that they have accepted these papers for a book that I will edit for them. Similarly I have been involved in the proposing and planning of a consultation at the Ecumenical Institute in Colledgeville Minnesota in which representatives of the evangelical, holiness and pentecostal movements meant together in June to talk for a week about the relationships between these movements and their role in the larger ecclesiastical world. David Cubie, Paul Bassett, and Mel Dieter participated in this consultation--which will be followed up again next summer with another such meeting.

I am quite excited by such developments, and especially the way in which the Wesleyan Theological Society and the holiness movement in general is finally being recognized as a distinct strand in the larger ecclesiastical world. It has been advantageous to me in such contacts to hold an office on the executive committee of the WTS, but I am becoming increasingly sensitive about the ambiguities in my long tenure in this office. I shall leave it up to the wisdom of the society as to whether I should be continued in this office, and will understand if it should seem that another should take over the duties that I have tried to fulfill over the last now more than a decade. I thank the society for the opportunities that I have had to serve it in a variety of capacities.

Respectfully submitted,



Donald W. Dayton
Promotional Secretary