



WESLEYAN THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A FELLOWSHIP OF WESLEYAN ARMINIAN SCHOLARS

ESTABLISHED IN 1965

3 November 1978

To The Members of the WTS, Greetings!

It is my pleasure to bring to the society this report of my work as promotional secretary of the Wesleyan Theological Society during the 1977-78 term of office. Duties of the office are primarily two: (1) service on the executive committee, including the function of assisting in the program planning, and (2) promotion of the society, its membership, the sales of its journal, the annual meeting, and so forth.

The first of these tasks, that of participation in the work of the executive committee and program planning, was fulfilled by attendance at meetings of the executive committee after last year's annual meeting and at the annual convention of the Christian Holiness Association, as well as by the completion of other tasks assigned to me by the executive committee as a part of its broader work.

The wider task of promotion was fulfilled by such efforts as

(1) personal promotion of membership among friends and acquaintances.

(2) sale of journals and promotion of membership, personally and by public announcement, at appropriate gatherings of pastors and scholars.

(3) a special campaign of promotion of last year's journal especially printed to approximate a book in hope that reviews and wider distribution might be possible. It is generally too early for reviews to appear, but we have already gotten mention in a recent book issue of CHRISTIANITY TODAY.

(4) efforts to promote the society generally through the denominational periodicals of the CHA constituency. After last year's meeting Roger Schoenhals, editor of the Free Methodist LIGHT AND LIFE magazine, prepared an excellent essay on the society and its values for his denominational magazine for preachers. Following this lead, John Knight and I used this essay to approach the editor of THE PREACHER'S MAGAZINE, a quarterly that serves a number of CHA denominations. We expect soon some sort of essay in that journal.

(5) a press release announcing this meeting, sent out as soon as the program was complete, though probably too late for some deadlines. This was sent to all CHA and related denominational journals, to general religious magazines carrying news, and to the religious news services. I do not see all these magazines, but

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announcements have appeared in at least the CHA Newsletter and the CONVENTION HERALD. This is better success than was had through a comparable effort last year, but far from what could be achieved through additional efforts and earlier program planning.

(6) A report on last year's meeting prepared for CHRISTIANITY TODAY. For the record here, and especially in view of the response to that report, it may be well to note that the report submitted was drastically cut to emphasize issues of concern to the magazine and that the sections that elicited response were rewritten by the news editor after additional research. We do have a commitment from CHRISTIANITY TODAY to print another report this year and a variation of that will be submitted to the religious news services.

(7) distribution of promotional packets to encourage student attendance at the annual meeting, primarily through the offices of the secretary-treasurer. In addition I sent packets of programs and personal notes to Methodist and other non-CHA seminaries, to scholars not belonging to the society but with a special interest in the questions being considered, to persons in touch with other student populations, and so forth. While many of these contacts did not produce results for this meeting, I believe that seeds have been sown to be reaped in future years.

(8) and, finally, an effort to promote the society by reference to it whenever possible in other publications and contexts. Most significant of these will be an extended discussion of the society and its work in a forthcoming article in the CHRISTIAN CENTURY.

Much remains to be done. Faculty persons could greatly assist the society by promotion of the society among students and pastors as they teach and speak in workshops, churches, camps, etc. We need to develop a general promotional brochure that can be distributed apart from our journal and annual meeting program. An expansion of our publication program would provide greater visibility both within and without our own circles and help to make participation in the WTS a sine qua non of responsible theological leadership in our movement. The executive committee and any occupant of this office would, I am sure, welcome any suggestions.

It has been a pleasure to serve the society during these last few years. I sense that we are entering an age of greater theological maturity in the holiness circles and that great years lie ahead for our work. Such a situation permits enthusiastic promotion with integrity.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald W. Dayton
Promotional Secretary