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The Rev. Dr. Tore Meistad

(1942–2000)

S T Kimbrough, Jr.

Dr. Tore Meistad was born July 8, 1942, in Trondheim, Norway, and at the time of his death was Associate Professor of Religion at the Institute of Theology and Philosophy of Agder University College in Kristiansand, Norway. Dr. Meistad was a graduate of the University of Bergen and received the M.Div. degree from The United Methodist Theological Seminary in Gothenburg, Sweden. He was awarded the Ph.D. Degree by The University of Trondheim in Norway (1989). His dissertation was entitled “To Be a Christian in the World: Martin Luther’s and John Wesley’s Interpretation of the Sermon on the Mount.” It was later published in the series, *Pietist and Wesleyan Studies*, vol. 10, with the title *Martin Luther and John Wesley on the Sermon on the Mount* (Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 1999).

Meistad was an ordained minister of The United Methodist Church in Norway where he served in diverse capacities as pastor, administrator, director of The National Institute of Alcohol and Drug Research (Oslo), and professor of theology and religion. He held memberships in a number of scholarly societies: Wesleyan Theological Society, American Academy of Religion, Kettil Bruun Society for Social and Epidemiological Research on Alcohol, Luther-Gesellschaft, e.V., The Charles Wesley Society. In recent years Dr. Meistad had also been a guest lecturer at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC.

He was a much-sought-after speaker which is attested by the long list of guest lectures he delivered throughout his career as pastor and teacher. Meistad had a long-standing interest in the theology of John and Charles Wesley and recently had intensified his research and writing in this area. He was particularly interested in the theology of the Wesleys in its eighteenth century context: its theological, ideological, and cultural roots, particularly in relationship to the Byzantine tradition, as well as its significance for contemporary theology, mission, social, and political life. This interest is clearly indicated in his article in this issue of *Proceedings of The Charles Wesley Society*.

At the time of his death Dr. Meistad was serving as a member of the Board of Directors of The Charles Wesley Society and chaired its section on theology. His extensive bibliography of published works indicates the broad range of his interest and expertise. His gifts as a teacher, pastor, writer, thinker, and friend will be sorely missed. We thank God for his innumerable contributions to scholarship, the life and witness of the church, to the study of Methodism and its theology, and to the lives of all who knew him and have yet to know him through his valuable bibliography. In this volume Meistad brings together the finest work yet written on Charles Wesley’s concept of mission. He had hoped to expand this article into

a major work on Charles Wesley's theology. Wesley scholarship, however, will remain greatly enriched by this pioneering work. We celebrate his life with words he treasured:

Rejoice in glorious hope!
Jesus the Judge shall come,
and take his servants up
to their eternal home.
We soon shall hear th'archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!

Charles Wesley