The 2010 Minneapolis Meeting: A Time to Hear New Voices and See New Visions

by Kimberly Ervin Alexander,
1st Vice-President and 2010 Program Chair

Very shortly after being elected Second Vice-President of the Society in 2008, I had an idea about what I wanted the 2010 meeting to look like and what I wanted members to take away from that meeting. At that time in my own professional (and spiritual life), I was musing on how Pentecostals, people who are open to the move of the Spirit, have seemingly tended toward the same kind of rigidity in our approach to scholarship as we have in our worship. This is not true, of course, in every area of Pentecostal scholarship, and is certainly not true in the majority of the Pentecostal world with regard to its spirituality. My conviction is that Pentecostal scholarship should reflect the openness to the leading of the Spirit (and the corresponding discernment) that is a hallmark of Pentecostal spirituality.

In light of this, the 39th Annual Meeting of the Society will convene March 4–6, 2010, at North Central University (http://www.northcentral.edu) in Minneapolis, Minnesota, centered on the theme: “New Voices, New Visions: The Future and Hope of Pentecostal Theology.”

The meeting will begin with various symposia, presentations, dialogues and round table discussions on Thursday morning, March 4, all located in the Minneapolis Radisson Plaza Hotel. The official opening Plenary Session on Thursday evening will be on the North Central University Campus in the Trask Sanctuary. This session, a worship service, will feature a sermon/presentation “New Voices, New Visions: The Promise of the Father to a (Grand)Parent’s Cry” by long-time SPS member and Old Testament scholar, Rickie D. Moore. The NCU Chorale will provide special music, and worship through song will be led by Elder Billy Steele, founder of the Sounds of Blackness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Appointment

From Allan Anderson: “The School of Philosophy, Theology and Religion in the College of Arts and Law at the University of Birmingham is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Andrew Davies, currently Vice Principal of Mattersey Hall College (a theological college validated by Bangor University) and previously at the University of Sheffield, as senior lecturer in Intercultural Theology and Pentecostal Studies, with effect from 1 January 2010. Dr Davies’ specialties include biblical hermeneutics, in particular cultural-critical readings of the Hebrew Bible, and Pentecostal Studies. His latest research is on how the Bible has been interpreted through music. He will work in the Centre for Pentecostal and Charismatic Studies, a research centre of the School.”

Event


Publications

The Journal of Pentecostal Theology, edited by John Christopher Thomas and Lee Roy Martin, is pleased to announce a lower rate for individual subscriptions. The subscription is now reduced from $60 per year to $34 per year for two issues. Subscriptions are available online at http://bit.ly/JPTcut.
OBITUARY

Howard M. Ervin, 1915–2009
by Daniel Isgrigg, with Mark E. Roberts

Dr. Howard M. Ervin, Emeritus Professor of Old Testament at Oral Roberts University, died August, 12, 2009, in Tulsa. Raised in eastern Pennsylvania, Ervin was graduated from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he met and married Marta Vaskis, the Asia Institute, and New Brunswick Theological Seminary, culminating in earning the Th.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1962. He pastored three Baptist churches in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. In 1960, while serving at the third, Ervin experienced Pentecost personally at a Full Gospel Businessmen’s Fellowship International Meeting in Florida, after receiving prayer with hands laid on him by Pentecostal David du Plessis and charismatic Episcopalian Dennis Bennett. In 1966 Ervin accepted Oral Roberts’ invitation to join the faculty of Oral Roberts University, where he served continuously in various faculty and administrative roles until he retired in 2006. Of these, he loved teaching Hebrew, Old Testament, and Pneumatology the most. Ervin was a member of SPS and resolute equally in his adherence to a Pentecostal view of Spirit baptism (although he remained an American Baptist and never joined a Pentecostal church) and in his ecumenicity, expressed in part through his lengthy participation in Pentecostal–Roman Catholic dialogue.

Ervin’s scholarship melded with the effects of his Spirit baptism, producing two classics of Pentecostal scholarship: These Are Not Drunken as Ye Suppose (1968) defends the classical Pentecostal view of Spirit baptism; and Conversion, Initiation and Baptism in the Holy Spirit (1984) critiques James D.G. Dunn’s Baptism in the Holy Spirit (1970). These are seen by many (e.g., tffps.org/top10.htm), along with his four other books, as seminal in developing distinctly Pentecostal biblical-theological scholarship. Colleagues honored Ervin on his sixty-fifth birthday with the Festschrift Essays on Apostolic Themes (1985). It characterizes Ervin thus:

Howard carries a formidable dignity and weight of biblical scholarship illumined by a life in the Spirit with a genuine love and pastoral concern for people. . . . Howard has always maintained a close fidelity to contextual scientific exegesis and thus has been able to [contribute] to sane and solid biblical explanations of the spiritual gifts.

Catholics particularly respond to his quiet and effective ministry. Yet he is Catholic in the larger sense: [in] his concern for the whole church, in his genuine grief at her disunity, and in his efforts to reconcile the three great branches of Christendom. (xii)

Preceded in death by his wife Marta, Ervin is survived by daughters Gretchen, Deborah, and Judith, and their families. His memory lives at ORU through the Howard M. Ervin Preaching Lab and the Ervin Special Collection, held in ORU’s Holy Spirit Research Center, but more so through the thousands of students, ministry partners, and colleagues he influenced.


SPS Member Elected to Lead the UPCI
by Robin Johnston

On October 1, 2009, the 86th General Conference of the United Pentecostal Church International elected David K. Bernard to serve as general superintendent. This marks possibly the first time an SPS member has been elevated to the highest office of a major Pentecostal denomination.

Bernard is founder and pastor of New Life Pentecostal Church of Austin, Texas, district superintendent of the South Texas District, and the president of the Urshan Graduate School of Theology, the official seminary of the UPCI.

Bernard holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Texas and is currently completing a ThD from the University of South Africa. He has been an active member of the Society of Pentecostal Studies since 1989 and recently served as the co-chair of the six-year Oneness-Trinitarian dialogue commissioned by the Society to foster a better understanding between two theological streams within Pentecostalism.

Bernard is a prolific author whose substantial corpus has helped to define what it means to be a Oneness Pentecostal. His book The Oneness of God serves as an articulate introduction to a Oneness understanding of God both to those inside and outside the Oneness movement.

The United Pentecostal Church International was formed through a merger of the Pentecostal Church Incorporated and the Pentecostal Assemblies of the Jesus Christ in 1945 and is a leading Oneness organization. It is home to forty thousand credentialed ministers around the world and has a constituency of several million members. Bernard is the sixth general superintendent of the organization, whose international headquarters is located in Hazelwood, Missouri.
On both Friday and Saturday mornings, members and attendees will have the opportunity for a time of prayer and devotion in the Trask Small Chapel. Throughout these two days and evenings, in Parallel Sessions on the NCU campus, members will present from their current work in over 100 papers slotted into tracks organized by the Society’s ten Interest Groups.

Plenary Sessions (some occurring at NCU, others at the Radisson) will allow us to hear new voices and visions and to see possible directions into the future: Margaret Poloma, long-time member and recipient of the Society’s Lifetime Achievement Award, and Matthew Lee will explore the integration of social science and Pentecostal theology in their session, “Harvesting New Fields of Study: Lessons from Research on Godly Love.” First Nations scholar Terry LeBlanc will examine spirituality provocatively, from the perspective of ancient traditions.

A voice from outside Pentecostalism, that of Emergent Church leader and scholar Tony Jones, will be heard on Friday evening. Jones is a Princeton doctoral fellow in Practical Theology, a well-published author, and a Twin Cities resident. Cheryl Bridges Johns, past SPS president, will respond from a Pentecostal perspective, and this dialogue will continue over lunch on Saturday. President Estrelda Alexander’s address Saturday morning will explore Pentecostalism and liberation from the perspective of an African-American Pentecostal woman scholar.

The meeting will close with a lively discussion of emerging Pentecostal theologies, as Frank Macchia will lead a dialogue-interview with Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen during the Saturday-evening banquet.

I hope that the conversations that begin at this 39th Annual Meeting, the first meeting of the second decade of the century, will continue beyond Minneapolis and into the next era of Pentecostal scholarship.
Minutes from the 2009 Business Meeting

38th Annual Meeting, March 27, 2009, at Eugene Bible College

Call to Order: Amos Yong, President, called the meeting to order at 4:30 and led the Society in prayer.

Appointment of Parliamentarian: The President announced the appointment Abraham Ruelas, of Patten University, as Parliamentarian.

Minutes: Minutes of the 2008 meeting were approved as distributed.

Second Vice President: The Nominating Committee brought three nominations for second vice president: Jeffrey Gros, Arlene Sanchez-Walsh, Frederick Ware. Nominations were closed. A second ballot was needed, selecting from Jeffrey Gros and Arlene Sanchez-Walsh. Arlene Sanchez-Walsh was elected by majority of ballots cast on the second ballot.

Financial Report: Dan Neary, briefly highlighted the draft financial summary.

Membership Report: Dan Neary highlighted the membership report that was distributed. The chair entertained a motion to authorize the membership committee to act on the Society’s behalf in regard to membership at the next meeting of the membership committee. The motion passed.

Pneuma Report: Frank Macchia gave a report highlighting the upcoming issue.

2010 Meeting: Glen Menzies and Kim Alexander brought a report regarding planning for the 2010 meeting at North Central University in Minneapolis, March 4-6, 2010.

2011 Meeting: Amos Yong announced that the 2011 meeting is tentatively scheduled to meet March 10-12 in Memphis.

Executive Committee Activities

- Amos Yong announced the process to elect a new Executive Director for 2011. The Executive Committee will serve as Search Committee, commencing immediately. Members may submit nominations, inquiries or letters of interest to the Executive Committee through the Immediate Past President. The Executive Committee will work in concert with the Nominating Committee to bring a candidate to the membership for election in 2010 for a term to begin 2011.

- David Roebuck announced the new editors of Pneuma: Amos Yong and Dale Coulter, beginning 2010, for a five-year term.

Interfaith Relations Commission: Tony Richie highlighted his written report regarding this work.

Student Paper Presentations: Amos Yong brought a recommendation to amend the Constitutions and Bylaws on behalf of the Executive Committee.

That “Article III: Membership; Section 2: Categories; Item 3” be amended to allow student members to present papers at annual meetings by adding “and to present papers” as indicated in italics below.

“Student membership: Students currently enrolled in institutions of higher learning shall be eligible to join the Society as student members. Student members shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the Society and to present papers. Upon completion of their studies student members may apply for associate membership or full membership.”

The motion passed.

Membership Requirement for Meeting Participants: Amos Yong brought a recommendation to amend the Constitution and Bylaws on behalf of the Executive Committee.

To recommend the addition of the following to “Article V: Meetings; Section 1: Annual Meeting” (as item 2).

All program participants must be members of the Society during the year of their participation with the exception of guests invited by the program and arrangements committee chairperson.

Glen Menzies offered an amendment so that the item would read:

All program participants must be members of the Society during the year of their participation with the exception of guests invited by a member of the program and arrangements committee.

The amended motion passed.

Election to Standing Committees:

- Editorial Committee: Katy Attanasi
- Library and Research: Alan Anderson
- Membership: Michael L. Dusing, Lisa M. Long

Special Interest Groups: Amos Yong brought a recommendation to amend the Constitution and Bylaws on behalf of the Executive Committee.

That “Article IV: Organization; Section 3: Special Interest Groups; Item 1” be amended (as indicated in italics) so that the item will read:

A special interest group may be formed when at least five percent of the full members of the Society submit a petition to the executive committee requesting recognition, such recognition being reviewed on each change of chair in a group. The executive committee may grant formal recognition unless it feels that this is not in the best interests of the Society.

The motion passed.

Annual Dues Increase: Amos Yong brought on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Whereas SPS last increased dues in January 2004; and
Whereas inflation has increased the costs of operating the Society; and
Whereas since 2004 Brill has incrementally increased their charges per member for Pneuma from $20 per volume to $30 per volume (effective January 2010) with the option of a 5 percent increase per year;
We therefore recommend an increase in membership dues to $60 for Full and Associate members and $35 for Student and Retired members effective January 2010.

The motion passed.

Pneuma: The Society welcomed Regine Reincke (Brill) to the meeting. She highlighted:

- Back issues of *Pneuma* are being accessed online
- Institutional renewals appear to be holding strong (144)
- *Pneuma* will be included in Brill’s theological publications marketing campaign

**Frequency of Pneuma:** Amos Yong brought on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Whereas there is an increasing production of Pentecostal and Charismatic scholarship; and

Whereas growth in the Society for Pentecostal Studies has provided an increasing number of scholars desiring a place to publish their research; and

Whereas an increase in the publication frequency of *Pneuma* may potentially attract new members to the Society; and

Whereas an increase in the number of issues of *Pneuma* will provide an increased presence for the Society in the academic world;

We therefore recommend an increase in the publication of *Pneuma* from two to three issues per volume with an accompanying increase in membership dues to $70 for Full and Associate members and $40 for Student and Retired members effective January 2010.

The motion passed.

Adjournment: President Yong adjourned the meeting at 5:40.

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**Recent Periodical Articles Pertinent to Pentecostal-Charismatic Studies**

Compiled by Samson Varughese

(For future issues, please submit pertinent periodical citations to the editors at editorspsnews@gmail.com)

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**Africa**


- **Parsitau, Damaris Seleina.** “Keep Holy Distance and Abstain till He Comes”: Interrogating a Pentecostal Church’s Engagements with HIV/AIDS and the Youth in Kenya.” *Africa Today* 56, no. 1 (Fall 2009): 45–64.

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**African-American**


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**Asia**


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**Biblical Studies**


- **Net, Marius.** “The Second Coming of Christ as the Golden Key to Unlock the Book of Daniel: An Analysis of a Pentecostal Interpretation of the Dream in Daniel 2.” *In Die Skriflig* 42, no. 3


Biography


Ecumenism


Europe


Glossolalia


Great Britain


Hispanic American


History


Latin America & the Caribbean


Mission


Pentecostal Praxis


Park, Moonkyung. “A narrative of my passion: discovering spiritual gifts through a journey of physical illness.” Journal of Pastoral Care and Psychology.
Pentecostalism (General)

Oceanía

Philosophy

Religion and Science

Social Sciences

Theological and Historical Roots

Theology
Duffy, Stephen J. “Genes, original sin and the human proclivity to evil.” Horizons 32, no. 2 (Fall 2005): 210–234.
Yong, Amos. “Natural laws and divine intervention: what difference does being Pentecostal or Charistmatic make?” Zygon 43, no. 4
Recent Books Pertinent to Pentecostal-Charismatic Studies

Compiled by Samson Varughese, with Darrin J. Rodgers
(For future issues, please submit pertinent book citations to the editors at editorspsnews@gmail.com)

Africa


African-American


Bonner, William L. Black History from a Christian, Scriptural and Achievement Perspective (Gainesville, FL: Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc., 2009), 140 p.


McKinney, George D. (Editor); Owens, William (Editor). COGIC: What It Has Meant to Me (iTouch Publishers, 2008), 84 p.


Asia


Biblical Studies


Biography


Droegers, André (Editor); Van der Laan, Cornelis (Editor); Van Laar, W. (Editor). *Glossolalia*. (Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 2009), 87 p.


**Great Britain**


**Higher Education**


**History**


Batty, Dave; Campbell, Ethan. *Teen Challenge: 50 Years of Miracles* (Springfield, MO: Teen Challenge USA, 2008), 199 p.

Bednarowski, Mary F. (Author, Editor). *Twentieth-Century Global
Oceania


Pentecostal Praxis


Strom, Andrew. True and False Revival (Revival School, 2008), 131 p.


Pentecostalism (General)


Theology


Dissertations and Theses Pertinent to Pentecostal-Charismatic Studies, 2003–2009

Selected from UMI’s ProQuest Dissertation & Theses Database, with Additional Titles Supplied by Society Members

Compiled by Robert Sivigny

(For future issues, please submit pertinent dissertation and thesis citations to the editors at editorspsnews@gmail.com)

Africa


African-American


Asia


Australasia and Pacific Islands

Biblical Studies


Miller, David. “Luke’s Conception of Prophets Considered in the


Biography


Ecumenism


Europe


Glossolalia


Great Britain


Healing


Higher Education


Hispanic American


History


Latin America & the Caribbean


Premack, Laura. “‘The Holy Rollers are Invading Our Territory’: Southern Baptist Missionaries and the Early Years of Pentecostalism


### Mission


### Pentecostal Praxis


**Pyles, Melanie.** “In This World but Not of This World: Pentecostal Churchgoers Negotiate the Spiritual, Political, and Financial Aspects of Contemporary Life in Orange County.” MA thesis, California State University, Fullerton, 2008.


**Slack, Rozario L.** “A Model of Pastoral Care for Personal Integration, Incorporation, and Assimilation of New Members into the Pentecostal Church.” DMin diss., Atlanta University, 2003.


### Pentecostalism (General)

**Cotner, Richard.** “Pentecost and Its Discontents.” PhD diss.,
Religion and Science


Social Sciences


Theological and Historical Roots


Women


