



Society of Biblical Literature

Fostering biblical scholarship since 1880

Society Report

November 2007



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Features

The Year in Review	1
Looking to 2008	1
<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>	4
<i>Review of Biblical Literature</i>	5
New and Recent Titles	5
Vienna Retrospective.....	7
Regional Scholars	8
Travel Grant Recipients.....	9
Professional Development Programs .	9
College & University Partnerships ...	11
SBL 2007 Donors.....	12
FY2006–2007 Audit.....	14
From the Membership	15
Future Directions	16
International Cooperation Initiative	16
Auckland 2008	17
Website Redesign.....	18
Budget for 2007–2008.....	19
People.....	20
Administrative Committees	20
Editors and Editorial Boards	21
Key Transitions	22
Annual Meeting Program Unit Chairs.	23
SBL Staff	28
From the Executive Director.....	27

IMAGINE:

Looking around the Corner to 2008

It is hard to imagine a Society of Biblical Literature without the website, the *Review of Biblical Literature*, the joint HarperCollins publications, an employment information service, an International Meeting, strong committees that urge greater participation from underrepresented and women scholars, or a vast array of book series. However, as many of you will know, these products have not always been a part of SBL.

Fifteen years ago, some of us would not have been able to think of SBL without a joint publishing and membership services venture with the American Academy of Religion and several other organizations. Yet we have a stronger publications program than at any time in the history of SBL, as evidenced by our associate membership in the Association of American University Presses. We have brought membership and subscription services into our operation directly, and that service has consistently received strong praise for accuracy and responsiveness.

At the 2002 SBL Annual Meeting, many of us would not have thought that the American Academy of Religion would not be present at the 2008 SBL Annual Meeting. The AAR decision, announced to us without consultation in April 2003, has been responded to by every SBL administrative committee, programmatic initiative, and staff. In fact, when AAR asked in 2005 to meet independently at the same time in San Francisco, a city we had already contracted with for 2011, we responded positively. We will work to make that meeting a success by any measure, just as we are working to have successful meetings in 2008, 2009, and 2010.

When one cannot imagine and then work with that imagination in concrete ways to respond to change, there is little hope. As we look around the corner to 2008, there will be many new opportunities for SBL to demonstrate once again that we are capable of providing effective publications, congresses, technological initiatives, and professional development programs to better address the needs of our members and our disparate audiences.

Religious Leaders

In 2008, we will continue our series of lectures and workshops for religious leaders. We began these at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, where we began with the theme “Engaging the Bible in the Contemporary Discussions of Marriage.” SBL leaders discussed the biblical resources regarding the contentious debates in American life surrounding marriage. The type of questions asked and answered were: How do we use the Bible to assist in discerning the biblical perspectives on marriage? Can the Bible only serve to divide people, or can it serve a role in pursuing a line of ennobling civil discourse?

At Wesley Theological Seminary we continued with the theme “Engaging the Bible—Politics, Media, Human Rights, and Family.” The questions addressed included: How is the Bible being used in political discourse? How do various media use the Gospels?

We concluded with a set of sessions at Emory University and the Michael C. Carlos Museum around “Engaging the Bible through the Museum.” Here we asked and answered questions such as: What can archaeology tell us about Jesus’ world? How can we use ancient artifacts to assist congregations in visualizing the world of the Bible? What do ancient African images have to do with understanding the Bible?

These sessions so graciously supported by the Louisville Institute will be continued in 2008. If your institution or any that you know of are interested in these types of programs, please contact us. Also, look for the dates and locations of these religious leadership conferences in your city.

Teaching the Bible in Public Education

The Council named a working group to respond to some of the new demands for teaching the Bible in public education. That task force, along with SBL staff, is working to develop resources for high school teachers. We have had the advantage of already publishing a variety of teaching tools. Our two *Teaching the Bible* volumes (see the new publications for the most recent of these volumes) as well as the HarperCollins volumes and our Resources and Writings series have prepared us well to move into this new market of secondary school teaching tools.

We have also begun to create partnerships with organiza-

tions that deal with the first amendment issues that are so integral to the teaching of sacred texts in public education. Council joined a wide range of organizations by endorsing *The Bible and Public Education—A First Amendment Guide* (<http://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/BibleGuide.pdf>).

Refining and Expanding our Publications

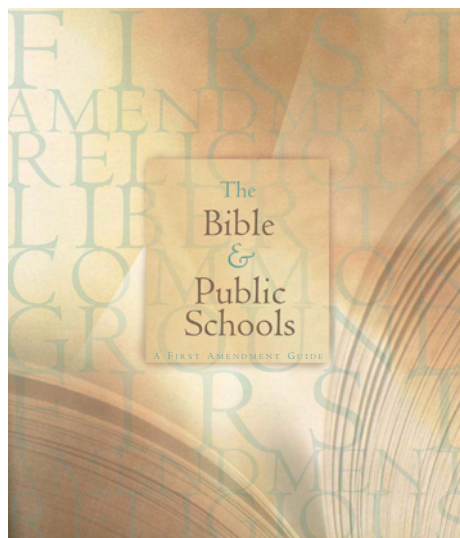
The success of the SBL publications program comes from two strategies: (1) a constant review and evaluation of the way we are publishing; (2) the establishment of partnerships that serve the needs of both the SBL and the partnering entity.

The recent decision to provide digital access to *JBL* emerged from the review and evaluation strategy. The decision to move all book reviews to *Review of Biblical Literature* (www.bookreviews.org) came about from that process as well. The Editorial Director, publications staff, and Research and Publications Committee are currently reviewing the way our book series are organized. The goal is to encourage potential authors to easily identify places they would like to see their books published. In addition, we need to make certain that purchasers, especially libraries and resellers, can easily identify what constitutes a series. Our most successful series, measured in several ways, are those that are content based. So series such as *Writings from the Ancient World* and *Writings from the Greco-Roman World* are easily

spotted, whereas the series that are “genre” based, such as the dissertation series *Academia Biblica*, have a tendency to be less successful. Of course, there are many dynamics that influence the success of a series. In any case, we will continue to evaluate and review what we are doing in publications.

Our publications have also kept up to the rapidly changing publication technologies. By knowing where and how the production processes are advancing, we can make every effort to provide our purchasers with an outstanding product at the lowest possible cost. This goal is an important one in an increasingly competitive market.

The second strategy that we have employed is that of forming partnerships that provide advantages to both SBL and the partner. The arrangements made over thirty years ago with HarperCollins was one of the first such partnerships. The publication of the *Harper’s Bible Dictionary* in



1985 (now called the *HarperCollins Bible Dictionary*) was a product our publications program could not have created by itself. The publishing agreement with Brill is another example of arriving at a creative new way for SBL and Brill to work together. Now we have extended this arrangement by our publication of select Brill titles in paperback.

An arrangement in late 2006 with Sheffield Phoenix Press (SPP) established a new partnership. Volumes published by Sheffield Phoenix Press are readily accessible to SBL customers, since SBL is functioning as SPP's exclusive North American distributor. As a result of this arrangement, North American customers have more options for securing SPP titles than ever before; in addition, members are able to order or purchase SPP books through a favorite bookseller, and scholars and students are able to purchase any SPP title directly from the SBL at the same price as from SPP. Because the SBL maintains an inventory of all SPP titles, buyers no longer face the added costs and frequent delays of overseas shipping. In addition, since the SBL represents SPP titles at various North American meetings, attendees are able to examine (and purchase) SPP books much more regularly and frequently than has been the case in the past. SPP also represents SBL books at various U.K. and European conferences, which makes SBL titles more accessible to our colleagues overseas.

Members and all those interested in SBL publications will see new partnerships and the results of careful review and evaluation. Sneaking in one more comment, notice the bold, striking new covers on our books. The covers are matched by the striking contents found inside.

Congresses

No SBL program has required us to imagine more clearly, more seriously, or more precisely than our annual meetings in North America. From the moment that SBL was told that the American Academy of Religion would not be meeting at the same time and place as we were meeting, we have relied upon our values to drive every decision. That includes the decision to agree to meet again together in 2011 when they asked if that was agreeable to us.

We could not assume that nothing would change between the time we were told of the decision through to the planning of AM 2011. Therefore, we have put in place a series of new strategies.

First, we are scheduling meetings in cities that members have always indicated are preferred, such as Boston, New Orleans, Atlanta, San Francisco (we signed contracts before AAR asked to meet at the same time and place), Chicago,

and now Baltimore (2013). These cities also provide rates and other financial factors that will make it possible for us to plan meetings at costs as low as, if not lower, than in the past.

Second, we have reviewed the primary drivers that make our meetings successful. They include the opportunity to meet colleagues who teach and do research across the study of antiquity, archaeology, religion, theology, ethics, ancient Near East, and comparative studies across humanities scholarship. So we have been and are working very hard to make sure that the related and affiliated organizations continue to meet with us. Our Program Committee has expanded the program units so that colleagues who have wanted to share ideas with SBL members can have that opportunity. The exhibit hall has always been a place where our members buy books and meet colleagues. We have been working with the publishers and software companies to let them know the importance of their exhibiting. We have adapted our staff to include a new person who understands the needs of exhibitors and who has been working in the exhibiting business for a dozen years.

Third, we know the importance of career services for higher education institutions and people looking for employment. Therefore, we have committed ourselves to having a better mechanism for employer and potential employees to come together. This can only happen through a more effective and efficient online service and the implementation of better ways for potential employees to let an employer know about their backgrounds and skills and for employers to have a place of record for advertising positions in their institutions.

Finally, we have reviewed all of the operational procedures for the meeting, from proposing and reviewing papers to registering and booking hotels. We have developed and regularly refine an online system for the paper proposal and review process. We have reduced the cost of registration and housing by bringing these operations in-house. Yes, we have expended (namely, capitalized) funds to develop these operations, just as we did when we brought membership and subscriptions in-house several years ago. We tested the registration and housing system at our Vienna 2007 meeting, and it worked beautifully for over 800 registrants. The fact that we have been involved in the development of congresses for twenty-five years with our international meeting has served us well in looking toward the future of our congresses.

Values

The long-standing values that have guided the Society of Biblical Literature will permit us to retain our strength and stability. Those values are enduring despite the changes that we have seen and will see in the coming years.

Responsiveness to change	Communication
Efficiency	Scholarly integrity
Inclusiveness	Tolerance
Collegiality	Leadership
Commitment	Collaboration
Productivity	Accountability

International Community of Scholars

From early in the life of SBL, leaders have looked around the corner. The establishment of the American Schools of Oriental Research, the energy of key leaders in SBL to assist in the foundation of the new AAR, and even a modest role now in working together with an organization that was founded in opposition to SBL, the Evangelical Theological Society, has demonstrated the capacity of an evolving organization to imagine.

From the beginning of the twentieth century SBL demonstrated the ability to imagine an international organization. Some international colleagues became members, and then SBL recognized the importance of this connection and developed a category of honorary member, a category we no longer need because of the 2,000 international members. Today we not only meet regularly outside North America but have leaders in key positions from outside North America. From our founding with seven people in a small New England study to a global effort to learn from others and to share our resources, this has become our hallmark.

In our second century we have learned that services for members is essential, but, most importantly, we have come to understand the power of building an international community of scholars. This community is extended through the virtual world, concrete face-to-face meetings, and print media.

What vision of 2020 will enable us to imagine things we have not yet come to expect of ourselves?

A Change in the *Journal of Biblical Literature*

The Editor of the *JBL*, James VanderKam, announced, with the full support of the Research and Publications Committee and Bob Buller, Editorial Director of SBL, that the *JBL* will no

longer have a book review section. The *Review of Biblical Literature* will now be the book review organ of the SBL. Reasons for this decision include the following.

1. The *RBL* provides wider and swifter coverage of books published. *JBL* has typically included 50 to 60 reviews per year, while *RBL* publishes from 450 to 500 per year. *RBL* is able to make reviews accessible almost immediately upon reception of them, while there is a lengthy delay in print publication.

2. There has been a significant overlap between the reviews published in *JBL* and *RBL*. Roughly half of the reviews recently published in *JBL* were commissioned by *RBL* editors and published within *RBL* before their publication in *JBL*.

3. There is a shared pool of reviewers: Approximately 85 percent of all *JBL* reviews were written by scholars already writing reviews for *RBL*, so that *JBL* reviews have not expanded or altered the reviewer pool in a significant way.

In light of these considerations, it appears to be a wiser use of the limited number of pages available in the *JBL* to devote all of them to articles. Eliminating reviews from *JBL* will also end the duplication in reviews presently existing.

The availability of more space for articles should also reduce the amount of time that elapses between the acceptance of an essay and its publication.

Enhancing *JBL* Access

Early in 2007 SBL members began having enhanced online access to the *Journal of Biblical Literature*.

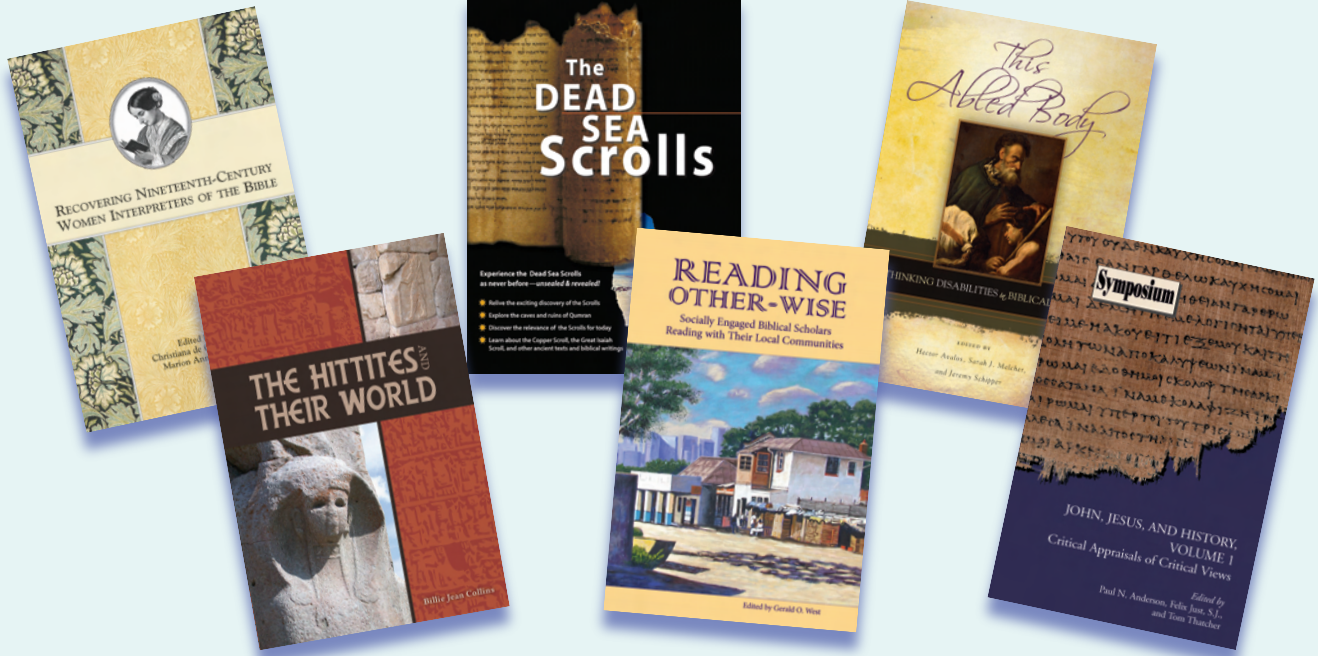
Now, through MetaPress, the world's largest scholarly content host, members will be able to enjoy significant enhancements, such as

- full-text searching of all *JBL* issues beginning with *JBL* 120 (2001);
- automated table of contents and downloadable pdfs; and
- a personalized home page where members can save searches, manage saved items, set automatic email alerts, and more.

Members and non-members alike with institutional affiliation may also continue to access *JBL* through a variety of aggregates, including the ATLA Religion Database (from 1960), EbscoHost (from 1973), Literature Online (from 1999), and ProQuest (from 1997). In addition, all issues of *JBL* are archived through JSTOR, and members may access these archives either through their institutions or by logging on to the SBL site.

Although all SBL members now have free access to *JBL* via MetaPress, we encourage members to recommend that their

New Titles from SBL Fall 2007



institutions also subscribe to *JBL* online, so that everyone, professor and student alike, can freely access the latest and best of biblical scholarship. Institutions and individual nonmembers may also access *JBL* online by subscription. For information on how to subscribe, visit our website at <http://jbl.metapress.com/>.

Review of Biblical Literature

So far this year, 414 reviews have been published in the *Review of Biblical Literature* (*RBL*), with a total of 3,747 total reviews published to date. This year's print edition of *RBL* (vol. 9) promises to be the best ever, with 184 individual reviews and featuring the major review essays: "Orality and Biblical Studies: A Review Essay," Werner H. Kelber, Rice University, Houston, Texas (pp. 1–24), and "Israel's History and the History of Israel," by Mario Liverani, reviewed by Nadav Na'aman, Tel Aviv University, Ramat Aviv, Israel. *RBL* remains not only the SBL's most widely distributed online publication but also the premier source of biblical studies book reviews in the world.

New and Recent Titles from SBL Publications

- ◆ Mark Roncace and Patrick Gray, editors, *Teaching the Bible through Popular Culture and the Arts* (SBLRBS 53)
- ◆ Israel Finkelstein and Amihai Mazar, *The Quest for the Historical Israel: Debating Archaeology and the History of Early Israel* (SBLABS 17)
- ◆ Elizabeth Froom, *Biographical Texts from Ramessid Egypt* (SBLWAW 26)
- ◆ Rowan A. Greer and Margaret M. Mitchell, *The "Belly-Myther" of Endor, Interpretations of 1 Kingdoms 28 in the Early Church* (SBLWGRW 16)
- ◆ Christiana de Groot and Marion Ann Taylor, editors, *Recovering Nineteenth-Century Women Interpreters of the Bible* (SBLSymp 38)
- ◆ John Paul Heil, *Ephesians: Empowerment to Walk in Love for the Unity of All in Christ* (SBLSBL 13)
- ◆ Albert Eichhorn, *The Lord's Supper in the New Testament*, translated by Jeffrey Cayzer (SBLHBS 1)

SBL's Top Ten Best-Selling Titles of 2007

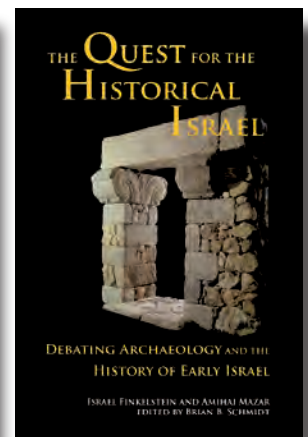
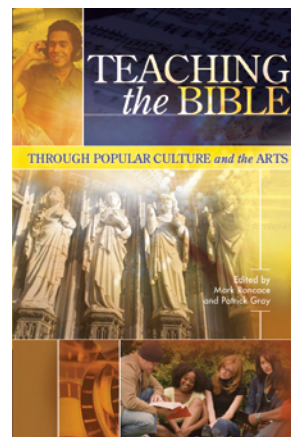
- 1 *Ancient Egyptian Pyramid Texts*, James P. Allen
 - 2 *An Introduction to Aramaic*, 2nd edition, Frederick E. Greenspahn
 - 3 *Building Your Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary*, George M. Landes
 - 4 *Biblical Peoples and Ethnicity*, Ann E. Killebrew
 - 5 *Texts from the Pyramid Age*, Nigel C. Strudwick
 - 6 *Reading Other-wise: Socially Engaged Scholars Reading with their Local Communities*, Gerald O. West, editor
 - 7 *Teaching the Bible: Practical Strategies for Classroom Instruction*, Mark Roncace and Patrick Gray, editors
 - 8 *Law Collections from Mesopotamia and Asia Minor*, 2nd edition, Martha T. Roth
 - 9 *The Quest for the Historical Israel: Debating Archaeology and the History of Early Israel*, Israel Finkelstein and Amihai Mazar
 - 10 *Prophets and Prophecy in the Ancient Near East*, Martti Nissinen
- ◆ Walter Dietrich, *The Early Monarchy in Israel: The Tenth Century B.C.E.*, translated by Joachim Vette (Biblical Encyclopedia 3)
 - ◆ Billie Jean Collins, *The Hittites and Their World* (SBLABS 7)
 - ◆ Richard J. Clifford, *Wisdom Literature in Mesopotamia and Israel* (SBLSymp 36)
 - ◆ William Sanger Campbell, *The "We" Passages in the Acts of the Apostles: The Narrator as Narrative Character* (SBL SBL 14)
 - ◆ Mark J. Boda, Daniel K. Falk, Rodney A. Werline, editors, *Seeking the Favor of God, Volume 2, The Development of Penitential Prayer in Second Temple Judaism* (SBLEJL 22)
 - ◆ Carleen R. Mandolfo, *Daughter Zion Talks Back to the Prophets: A Dialogic Theology of the Book of Lamentations* (SBLSem 58)
 - ◆ Phillip Sigal, *The Halakhah of Jesus of Nazareth according to the Gospel of Matthew* (SBL SBL 18)
 - ◆ Roland Boer, editor, *Bakhtin and Genre Theory in Biblical Studies* (SBLSem 63)
 - ◆ Gerald O. West, editor, *Reading Other-wise, Socially Engaged Biblical Scholars Reading with Their Local Communities* (Semeia Studies 62)
 - ◆ Philip Amidon, *Philostorgius: Church History* (SBLWGRW 23)
 - ◆ Hector Avalos, Sarah J. Melcher, and Jeremy Schipper, editors, *This Aabled Body: Rethinking Disabilities in Biblical Studies* (SBLSem 55)
 - ◆ Bradford B. Blaine Jr., *Peter in the Gospel of John: The Making of an Authentic Disciple* (AcBib 27)
 - ◆ Paul Anderson, Felix Just, and Tom Thatcher, editors, *John, Jesus, and History*, Vol. 1 (SBLSymp 44)
 - ◆ David T. Runia, Gregory E. Sterling, editors, *Studia Philonica Annual, XIX, 2007* (Studia Philonica Annual 19)
 - ◆ Jan van der Watt, editor, *RBL 9* (2007 edition)
 - ◆ *The Dead Sea Scrolls*

Brown Judaic Studies

- ◆ F. Rachel Magdalene, *On the Scales of Righteousness: Neo-Babylonian Trial Law and the Book of Job* (BJS 348)
- ◆ Yitzhak Berger, *The Commentary of Rabbi David Kimhi to Chronicles: A Translation with Introduction and Supercommentary* (BJS 345)

Paperback reprints of Brill titles

- ◆ John Kessler, *The Book of Haggai: Prophecy and Society in Early Persian Yehud*
- ◆ Stanley E. Porter and Jacqueline C. R. de Roo, *The Concept of the Covenant in the Second Temple Period*
- ◆ Raymond de Hoop, *Genesis 49 in Its Literary and Historical Context*
- ◆ John H. Pilch, *Social Scientific Models for Interpreting the Bible: Essays by the Context Group in Honor of Bruce J. Malina*
- ◆ Richard Bauckham, *The Fate of the Dead: Studies on the Jewish and Christian Apocalypses*
- ◆ Carol A. Newsom, *The Self as Symbolic Space: Constructing Identity and Community at Qumran*



Vienna Retrospective

In July 2007, the Society of Biblical Literature held their largest ever International Meeting in Vienna, Austria. We were joined by the European Association of Biblical Studies. Here are some of the most significant highlights of our meeting.

There were 192 sessions with 775 participants, compared to 109 sessions with 423 participants in 2006. That is a 76 percent increase in sessions and an 83 percent increase in participants over 2006.

Eighty-nine percent of registrants presided or presented at the meeting. There were two

new continuing program unit sessions, Mind, Society, and Tradition and Biblical Greek Language and Linguistics.

Registrations totaled 812, not including cancellations. This represents a 30 percent increase over the 2006 meeting in Edinburgh, our previous high. Twenty-nine percent of registrants were from the United States, 15 percent from Germany, 11 percent from United Kingdom, 7 percent from Austria, and the remainder from nearly 40 other countries. Registrations over the web continue to outnumber other methods by over 70 percent.

Our advertising numbers increased this year from fifteen to eighteen, an increase of 20 percent.

Thanks to our Platinum Sponsor, Baylor University Press.

Join us next year in Auckland, New Zealand (July 6–11, 2008)!



SBL 2007 Regional Scholars

Central States Regional Scholar

Eric F. Mason is Associate Professor of Biblical Studies at Judson University, Elgin, Illinois, and teaches in the areas of New Testament and Second Temple Judaism. He holds a Ph.D. in Christianity and Judaism in Antiquity from the University of Notre Dame, an M.Div. from Beeson Divinity School, Samford University, and a B.A. from Union University. Mason was selected as a Regional Scholar by the Central States Region for his paper titled “Melchizedek in Hebrews and the Dead Sea Scrolls,” and he will present a revised version of the paper at the 2007 Annual Meeting. His monograph on priestly messianism in the Epistle to the Hebrews and Second Temple Jewish literature will be published by Brill, and he is co-editing a Festschrift that will appear in 2008. He is an associate editor for the journal *Henoch: Studies in Judaism and Christianity from Second Temple to Late Antiquity*.

Eastern Great Lakes Regional Scholar

Lee A. Johnson is an Associate Professor of New Testament at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio. She graduated with a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from the University of St. Michael's College in the Toronto School of Theology, where she was also taught courses in New Testament and Greek. She has published articles in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* and *Biblical Theology Review* and has contributed to the ESCJ series by Wilfred Laurier Press on Religious Rivalries and the Struggle for Success in Caesarea Maritima. She is a member of the Context Group and is completing an article on the relationship between pneumatic gifts and the authority of women in the Pauline communities, using a cross-cultural comparison between glossolalic women in modern worship communities and the women at Corinth. She is also currently completing a manuscript entitled “The Epistolary Apostle: Paul's Response to the Challenge of the Corinthian Congregation.” Lee presented “An Examination of Funk's Apostolic Parousia in the Corinthian Correspondence: The Impact of the Epistolary Apostle” at the SBL Eastern Great Lakes regional meeting in March 2006.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Scholar

Jeremy Schipper (Ph.D., Princeton Theological Seminary, 2005) is a Lecturer in Hebrew Bible at Temple University in Philadelphia. Before coming to Temple, he taught for two years at Siena College near Albany, New York. His research has focused on the Former Prophets as well as disability in the Hebrew Bible and cognate literature. It has appeared in

JBL, *JSOT*, *VT*, and *CBQ*. He is the author of *Disability Studies and the Hebrew Bible* (T&T Clark, 2006) and the co-editor with Hector Avalos and Sarah Melcher of *This Abled Body: Rethinking Disabilities in Biblical Studies* (Society of Biblical Literature, 2007). Schipper serves as the co-chair with Rachel Magdalene of the Disability Studies and Healthcare in the Bible and Near East SBL program unit. He received the Regional Scholars Award for a paper subsequently published under the title, “Did David Overinterpret Nathan's Parable in 2 Samuel 12:1–6?” (*JBL* 126 [2007]: 381–89). Portions of this paper will appear in his next book, which is tentatively titled “*Proverbs of Ashes: Conflict and Parables in the Hebrew Bible*.” This book will examine the relationship between parables, genre, and conflict in the Hebrew Bible.

Pacific Northwest Regional Scholar

Michael Heiser earned an M.A. in Ancient History from the University of Pennsylvania (major fields: Syria-Palestine and Egyptology) and the M.A. and Ph.D. in Hebrew and Semitic Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His dissertation was entitled “The Divine Council in Late Canonical and Noncanonical Second Temple Jewish Literature.” The dissertation sought to demonstrate the acceptance of divine plurality in Judaism into the Common Era and the Canaanite/Israelite roots of first-century Jewish monotheism's notion of two powers in heaven. Mike's paper submitted for consideration as a regional scholar was entitled “Are Yahweh and El Distinct Deities in Deut 32:8–9 and Psalm 82?” The paper was read at the 2006 Society of Biblical Literature's Pacific Northwest regional meeting and was subsequently published online in the scholarly journal *HIPHIL*. Mike is currently the Academic Editor for Logos Bible Software. He is responsible for targeting and evaluating potential data projects for scholarly products dealing with primary texts related to the languages of the Bible and the ancient Near East, overseeing scholars who are participating in team data projects for Logos, and creating content for the Logos platform. Before coming to Logos, Mike taught on the undergraduate level for twelve years.

Southeastern Region Regional Scholar

Susan E. Hylan is Mellon Assistant Professor of New Testament at Vanderbilt University. She has a Ph.D. from Emory University and an M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary. The author of two books on the Gospel of John, her current research focuses on characterization in the Gospel. Susan presented a paper entitled “Metaphor and Ethics in Revelation” at the Southeastern regional meeting (SEC-SOR).

2007 Travel Grant Recipients

Mercy Itohan Idumwonyi, Nigeria, is currently Assistant Lecturer in Religion with a specialization in Old Testament studies at the University of Benin in Benin City, Nigeria. She received her B.A. (1998) and M.A. (2002) in Religious Studies from the University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria. Her professional experience includes work as a research fellow for the Centre for Democracy & Development in Benin City and a year as Senior Program Officer for the African Women Empowerment Guild, also in Benin City.

Micheline Kamba Kasongo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, is currently a Ph.D. student in Theology at the University of Kwa-Zulu-Natal (UKZN) in South Africa. She holds the equivalent of a B.A. in Theology from l'Université Protestante Au Congo (UPC) and both an M.A. in Theology and an M.A. in Education from UPC. She has served as a consultant for the Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network of Central Africa and as consultant for Women's Justice and Peace Commission of the WCC. In February 2006 she was elected WCC Central Committee member.

Siang-Nuan Leong, Singapore, has been a Ph.D. student in New Testament at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, since 2005. She holds a B.A. from the University of Singapore, a postgraduate diploma from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, and both a Master of Divinity and a Master of Theology from Singapore Bible College. She has worked as a secondary school teacher and has taught a short-term intensive course in the Myanmar Christian Preachers Training Centre. She translated the *Letter to Titus for the Chinese New Version Bible* (2006).

Program Committee Travel Grant Awardees

Jacob Cherian, Southern Asia Bible College, Bangalore, India, "Paul, Poverty, and 'Equality': A Plutocritical Reading of 2 Corinthians 8:1-15": Paul and Politics Group (S19-27)

Ernest M. Ezegou, Spiritan International School of Theology, Nigeria, "The Politics of Bible Translation in Nigeria: A Case of the Igbo Catholic Bible": African Biblical Hermeneutics Section (S17-3); "Out of Egypt I Have Called My Son': Matthew's Infancy Narrative in Afrocentric Perspective": Contextual Biblical Interpretation Consultation (S18-9); Panelist, Contextual Biblical Interpretation Consultation (S18-112)

Alexey Lyavdansky, Russian State University for the Humanities, "Politeness Strategies in Biblical Hebrew Directive Utterances": Bible Translation Section (S17-55)

Vasile Mihoc, Theological School Sibiu, "St. Paul and the Jews in John Chrysostom's Commentary on Romans 9-11": Joint Session: Bible in the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox Traditions Consultation/Romans through History and Cultures Group (S19-82)

Stelian Tofana, Babes Bolayi University, "The Interdependency between Destiny and Humankind and Creation according to Romans 8:18-23: An Orthodox-Patristic Perspective": Joint Session: Bible in the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox Traditions Consultation/Romans through History and Cultures Group (S19-82)

Professional Development Programs

SBL continues to develop program for the professional development of members. Here are the annual meeting sessions.

Writer's Workshop (S16-62)

11/16/2007, 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Room: 22 - CC

John Kutsko, Abingdon Press, Presiding

Patrick Alexander, Pennsylvania State University Press, Presiding

Preparing for Ph.D. Work (S17-50)

11/17/2007, 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Room: Santa Rosa - MM

Sponsored by the Student Advisory Group

Nancy L. Declaisse-Walford, McAfee School of Theology, Mercer University, Presiding

Earning a Ph.D. in Germany (S17-85)

11/17/2007, 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM

Room: Emma A - GH

Sponsored by the Student Advisory Group

Hermann Spieckermann, Faculty of Theology, Göttingen, Presiding

Earning a Ph.D. in Canada (S17-86)

11/17/2007, 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Room: Cardiff - MM

Theme: Hosted by the Student Advisory Group

Terence Donaldson, Wycliffe College, Presiding

Society Report

The Tenure Book(s): How to Strategize Your Publications to Increase Your Chances of Tenure and Promotion (S18-141)

11/18/2007, 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Room: 24 C - CC

Theme: Sponsored by *Publishers' Weekly*

Jana Riess, *Publishers' Weekly*, Presiding

Lauren Winner, Duke University Divinity School, Panelist

David Weaver-Zercher, Messiah College, Panelist

Julie Byrne, Hofstra University, Panelist

Henry Carrigan, Northwestern University Press, Panelist

Sharmila Sen, Harvard University Press, Panelist

The Biblical Scholar as...: Careers Outside the Classroom (S19-85)

11/19/2007, 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Room: 30 E - CC

Alice Hunt, Associate Dean, The Divinity School, Vanderbilt University, Panelist

George I. Paganelis, Curator, Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection California State University, Sacramento Library, Panelist

John Kutsko, Acquisitions Editor, Abingdon Press, Panelist

Fostering the Next Generation of Racial-Ethnic Scholars (S17-33)

11/17/2007, 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Room: Columbia 2 - MM

Theme: A Mini-Recruitment Conference hosted by the Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee

Welcome by Matthew Collins, Society of Biblical Literature "Introduction to the Profession"

Cheryl Anderson, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Panelist

Orlando Espin, University of San Diego, Panelist

"Introduction to Doctoral Studies"

Leticia Guardiola-Sáenz, Drew University, Panelist

Discussion (15 min)

Jeffrey Kuan, Pacific School of Religion, Panelist

"Introduction to the Annual Meeting"

Brian Blount, Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Panelist

Discussion (25 min)

2008 SBL Regional Meetings

Pacific Northwest Region

May 2-4

George Fox University
Newberg, Oregon

Upper Midwest Region

March 28-29

Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN

New England Region

TBA

Rocky Mountains - Great Plains Region

March 28-29, 2008

Denver, CO

Eastern Great Lakes Region

April 3-4

Mohican Resort and Conference Center,
Perrysville, Ohio

Midwest Region

February 15-17

Olivet Nazarene University
Bourbonnais, IL

Mid-Atlantic Region

March 27-28

Hyatt Regency
New Brunswick, NJ

Pacific Coast Region

March 30-31, 2008

Fuller Theological Seminary

Central States

March 30-31

St. Louis

Southeastern Region

March 7-9, 2008

Marriott Century Center
Atlanta, Georgia

Southwestern Region

March 14-16, 2008

Marriott Hotel, Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas

College and University Partnerships

To increase cooperation among universities and colleges and support faculty in a wider range of higher education institutions, SBL has become an affiliate of several organizations.

- ◆ Council of Independent Colleges (CIC)
- ◆ Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U)
- ◆ American College Personnel Association (ACPA)
- ◆ American Association of University Presses (AAUP)

These relationships give us access to the programs and conferences that are organized and held by these organizations. We will be completing a study of the number of our members who are associated with the higher-education institutions in these groups.

Advocating for the Humanities

Capitol Advocacy at the 2006 Annual Meeting



At the 2006 Annual Meeting, on November 20, SBL members met with Congressional staff in small delegations on Capitol Hill to encourage federal funding for humanities-related projects. Scholars who have participated in such meetings in the past invariably find them worthwhile, an exercise in the democratic process.

The National Endowment for the Humanities and other government programs have underwritten many projects by individual biblical scholars, as well as SBL publication programs (Writings from the Ancient World).



2007 Society Fund Gifts to the Society Were Received . . .

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In Memory Of

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The Society encourages gifts of any amount in honor or memory of friends and colleagues.

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 828,142	\$ 911,936
Marketable securities	1,071,139	951,262
Accounts receivable	69,083	61,038
Pledges receivable, net	8,874	31,598
Prepaid expenses and other assets	76,532	119,485
Book inventories, net of valuation reserve	39,483	43,804
Books in production	13,143	8,178
Furniture and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	21,328	21,278
Net share of Luce Center assets	<u>2,172,456</u>	<u>2,165,066</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>4,300,180</u>	<u>\$ 4,313,645</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 172,255	\$ 153,450
Deferred revenue		
Memberships and subscriptions	403,015	398,078
Annual meetings	450,315	468,650
International meeting	83,334	83,380
Other	<u>1,406</u>	<u>2,557</u>
Total Liabilities	1,110,325	1,106,115
Net Assets		
Unrestricted net assets	2,726,459	2,784,176
Temporarily restricted net assets	213,396	173,354
Permanently restricted net assets	<u>250,000</u>	<u>250,000</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>3,189,855</u>	<u>3,207,530</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>4,300,180</u>	<u>\$ 4,313,645</u>

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets

Revenues and gains		
Congresses	\$ 972,480	\$ 767,160
Membership and fee income	423,601	385,459
Book sales	425,022	357,067
Subscriptions	374,409	334,107
Investment income	235,559	143,512
Marketing	198,213	172,583
Royalties	72,864	91,545
Contributions	48,221	52,248
Other	-	7,319
Grant income	-	48,750
Rental income, net	23,435	33,571
Openings	77,649	43,982
Net assets released from restriction	<u>22,723</u>	<u>36,758</u>
Total Unrestricted Revenues and Gains	2,874,176	2,474,061
Expenses		
Program expenses		
Publications	906,500	778,769
Congresses	1,257,443	962,082
Membership	106,472	154,195
Professions	111,739	71,427
Regions	58,387	57,989
Research and technology	<u>216,392</u>	<u>223,881</u>
Total Program Expenses	2,656,933	2,248,343
Development and fundraising	115,292	127,616
General and administration	<u>159,668</u>	<u>181,914</u>
Total Expenses	2,931,893	2,557,873
Increase (Decrease) in Unrestricted Net Assets	(57,717)	(83,812)
Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets		
Investment income and change in market value	62,765	25,036
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>(22,723)</u>	<u>(36,758)</u>
Increase (Decrease) Temp. Restricted Net Assets	40,042	(11,722)
Change in Net Assets	(17,675)	(95,534)
Net Assets at Beginning of the Year	<u>3,207,530</u>	<u>3,303,064</u>
Net Assets at End of the Year	<u>\$ 3,189,844</u>	<u>\$ 3,207,530</u>

FY2006–2007 Audit

Report of Independent Auditors

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of the Society of Biblical Literature (the "Society") as of June 30, 2007 and 2006, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Society's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and the significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society of Biblical Literature as of June 30, 2007 and 2006, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Atlanta, Georgia
October 5, 2007

Boston 2008



Society of Biblical Literature



Annual Meeting
November 21–25, 2008

Member Comments

I hope that in this busy time you will not mind if I take advantage of this opportunity to affirm that you and your colleagues do a fantastic job in managing the SBL and its activities. The many time-consuming responsibilities that come with running a section year after year are made much easier by the enviable efficiency of the SBL management.

Allen Kerkeslager

Dear Colleague, in the name of my colleagues from the Budapest session I want to express our thanks for the invitation to participate on the SBL Meeting in Vienna. It had been a great opportunity to present our work and to be in communication with colleagues from all over the world. A special thanks has to be said for the financial support. It was very generous and helpful. Would you please transmit our thanks and greetings to the members of the board, too. With best wishes,

Jutta Hausmann

Lutheran Theological University, Budapest

I have just come home from Vienna. I attended many sessions and enjoyed the conference. Thank you very much for financial help, accommodation and all your arrangements.

Henryk Jankowski

Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

Total Number of SBL Members

2007	8,524
2006	7,814
2005	7,092

The mission of the Society of Biblical Literature, to foster biblical scholarship, is accomplished through seven strategic goals:

- ◆ Offer members opportunities for mutual support, intellectual growth, and professional development as teachers and scholars
- ◆ Organize congresses for scholarly exchange
- ◆ Facilitate broad and open discussion from a variety of perspectives
- ◆ Encourage study of biblical literature and its cultural contexts
- ◆ Collaborate with educational institutions and other appropriate organizations to support biblical scholarship and teaching
- ◆ Develop resources for diverse audiences, including students, religious communities, and the general public.
- ◆ Publish biblical scholarship

International Cooperation Initiative

The initial contour of an initiative to become more responsive to the needs of our international constituents is being developed. After a couple years of conversation with international colleagues, culminating in a meeting at the 2007 Vienna International Meeting, Ehud Ben Zvi has drawn together the following strategies. Leigh Andersen is the staff person working directly with the group, since many of the items are related to publication issues.

1) SBL will provide free electronic access to selected SBL publications to scholars and students in countries whose Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita is substantially lower than the average of the GDP per capita of the USA and the European Union.. SBL Publications staff will oversee the selection of material that is commensurate with the international needs. A computer system that will allow identification by geographical IP address will be in place by very early in 2008 (in final testing now).

2) The SBL will establish a new series to electronically publish scholarly work originating in the developing world. The series is tentatively called “Voices from [Africa, South America, Eastern Europe, Eastern Asia, South Pacific]” depending on the source of the work. Works in this series will be accepted in English and/or the native language of the author. This series can be in place in time to publish papers from international meetings in New Zealand and Korea. Collections of papers from the meetings envisaged in (7) below may be included in this series.

3) SBL is identifying local groups (publishers, libraries, consortia of institutions or academic societies) to facilitate local print production of SBL books, including volumes in the series “Voices from . . .”.

4) JSTOR currently provides free access to universities in Africa. SBL is working with JSTOR to encourage similar pro-

grams in other under-resourced areas of the globe by the end of 2008.

5) SBL is investigating the establishment of databases that can be accessed through the SBL web site and will facilitate faculty cooperation, including exchange and co-supervision among scholars and institutions in different parts of the world. SBL technology department is currently researching ways in which this can be achieved. The goal is to develop the databases shortly after mid-2008.

6) SBL is providing and will expand support for existing or emerging national and regional scholarly associations or groups in countries whose GDP per capita is substantially lower than the average of the GDP per capita of the USA and the European Union. SBL's expertise for planning scholarly meetings has been and will be shared with these associations and groups. SBL will act as a consultant and not provide funds for these meetings.

7) Publicize national and inter-regional (e.g., Western-African, Caribbean, Andean) meetings of the societies or groups mentioned above on the SBL website. There is currently a calendar on which meetings are posted; a monthly synopsis of global meeting opportunities can be provided on the SBL Forum that would encourage worldwide participation. The addition of this feature is being incorporated into the web site redesign that is almost operational.

8) Authors of papers presented in these meetings, as well as those from the SBL Annual and International Meetings, will be encouraged to make them available on the SBL web site. The posting of papers will begin with the 2007 Annual Meeting.

9) SBL complimentary memberships will be extended as financially feasible to those in developing countries. SBL complimentary memberships may be able to be provided to those who join the local organizations. The framework for managing parts of the strategy is in place and needs to be enhanced over the next twelve months. ◆



HUMANITIES ADVOCACY DAY March 3–4, 2008

Humanities Advocacy Day (HAD), the ninth annual meeting in Washington, DC, will be held on Monday, March 3, at George Washington University and Tuesday, March, on Capitol Hill.

Humanities Advocacy Day is organized by the National Humanities Alliance to promote federal support for scholarly research, education, public programs and preservation in the humanities. The event provides an important opportunity for advocates to communicate the public value of the humanities to policymakers in Washington, DC. Next year's advocacy day is again being held in conjunction with the Annual Membership Meeting of the Alliance as part of the second National Humanities Alliance Conference.

SBL will again be one of the co-sponsors, along with many of the American Council of Learned Societies. If you wish to participate, please contact Professor Joel LeMon, jmlemon@emory.edu. ◆

Auckland Program Partners

American Academy of Religion
 Association for Theological Education in South East Asia
 Australian Association of Jewish Studies
 Australian Association for Religious Education
 Australian Association for the Study of Religions
 Australian Catholic Biblical Association
 Australian Catholic Theological Association
 Aotearoa New Zealand Association for Biblical Studies
 Australian and New Zealand Association of Theological Schools
 Australia New Zealand Society for Theological Studies
 Association of Practical Theologians of Oceania
 Bible and Critical Theory Journal
 Catholic Biblical Association
 Fellowship of Biblical Studies
 Globalization for the Common Good Initiative
 New Zealand Association of Theological Schools
 Religious History Association of Aotearoa New Zealand
 Society of Asian Biblical Studies
 South Pacific Association of Theological Schools
 Women Scholars of Religion and Theology

Future Annual Meetings

2007 ◆ San Diego, CA, Nov 17–20
 2008 ◆ Boston, MA, Nov 21–25
 2009 ◆ New Orleans, LA, Nov 20–24
 2010 ◆ Atlanta, GA, Nov 19–23
 2011 ◆ San Francisco, CA, Nov 18–22
 2012 ◆ Chicago, IL, Nov 16–20
 2013 ◆ Baltimore, MD, Nov 22–26

The screenshot displays the SBL website homepage. At the top right, there are navigation links: ABOUT SBL, JOIN SBL, DONATE TO SBL, CONTACT SBL, and HELP. Below these is a search bar with the text "SEARCH SBL" and a "SEARCH" button. The main header features the SBL logo and the text "SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE" with a sub-header: "The Society of Biblical Literature was founded in 1880 to foster biblical scholarship." On the left side, there is a vertical menu with buttons for: SBL HOME, PUBLICATIONS, MEETINGS & EVENTS, EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES, MEMBERSHIP, and CAREER CENTER. Below this menu is a "SBL MEMBER #" section with a text input field, a "LOGIN" button, and links for "Forgot your Member #?", "Join SBL >>", and "Join SBL >>". The main content area is dominated by a large image of a modern city skyline with the text "2007 SBL Annual Meeting San Diego, California November 17-20". Below the image is a "MEETINGS & EVENTS" section with a "WELCOME TO THE 2007 SBL ANNUAL MEETING" sub-section, listing the location as San Diego, California, and dates as November 17-20. It includes links for "Online Program Book", "Registration and Housing", "Annual Meeting News and Updates", and "Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibition Tour". To the right of the main content is a "PUBLICATIONS" section with "NEW FROM SBL PUBLICATIONS" and two featured books: "THE QUEST FOR THE HISTORICAL ISRAEL: Debating Archaeology and the History of Early Israel" and "TEACHING THE BIBLE THROUGH POPULAR CULTURE AND THE ARTS". Below this is a "PUBLICATIONS NEWS" section with links for "SBL MEMBERS ANNUAL MEETING BOOK SALE >>", "Changes in SBL Publications >>", and "International Cooperative Initiative >>". At the bottom right is an "SBL FORUM" section with a link for "See our new look and additional features! >>".

SBL Website Redesign

SBL has had three major site redesigns (in 2000, 2001, and 2003) since launching the first independent SBL website in 1999. The proliferation of society projects and initiatives, growth in publications and meetings, as well as technological advances all prompted the realignment of our web presence.

In an effort to make navigation as intuitive as possible, several major changes were utilized in the 2007 design.

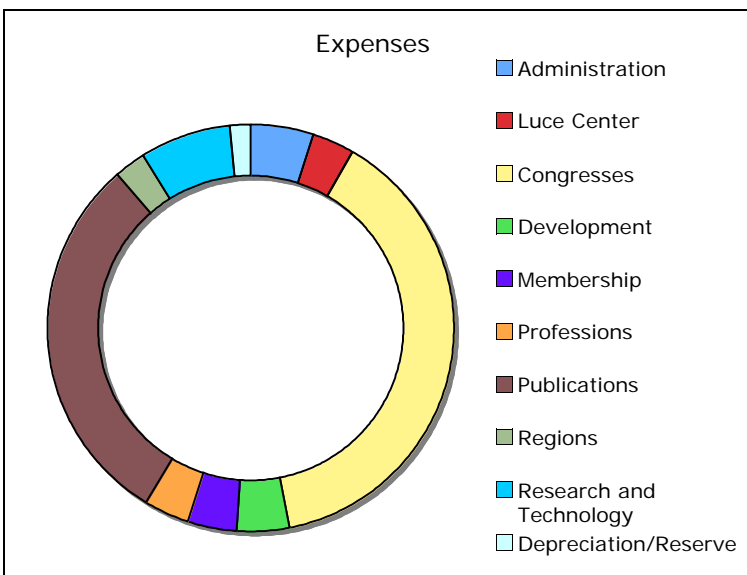
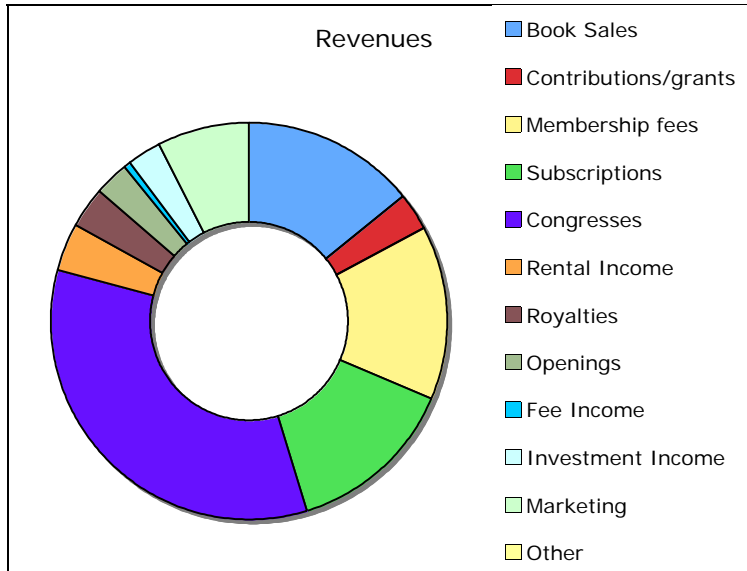
The site is broken up into the major functions of the Society: publications, meetings and events, membership, career services, and educational resources. Each of these sections has a home page where the staff and volunteers who work in these areas can feature different projects and members can accomplish their online tasks as efficiently as possible.

The inclusion of more images serves to break up the heavy text base of the site. Content boxes will make it easier to feature content “bites.” Utilities at the top and bottom of the page offer an alternative navigational tool, and an effort has been made to ensure that there are always several ways to get to any information.

This redesign also optimizes search engine recognition of the content on the site. We are utilizing the Google Search Appliance for the first time. We are very pleased with the increased accuracy of the search function. The search is set up to search the SBL website, the bookstore, and the *Review of Biblical Literature* website.

The SBL technology team continues to work together to make the SBL website a useful and elegant tool for SBL members as well as a portal site for those people interested in the critical study of the Bible to find resources and information.

Thanks to Missy Colee, Lauren Hightower, Chris O’Connor, Tim Kromer, Chris Hooker, Sharon Johnson, and Samantha Spitzner, who have all contributed unique talents to the project. Enjoy using our new site and let us know what you think.



2007–2008 Budget	
Revenues	
Book Sales	\$ 425,000
Contributions/grants	90,000
Membership fees	415,000
Subscriptions	420,000
Congresses	1,010,000
Rental Income	115,000
Royalties	100,000
Openings	80,000
Fee Income	15,000
Investment Income	85,000
Marketing	220,000
Other	<u>1,000</u>
Total Revenues	\$ 2,976,000
Expenses	
Administration	\$ 152,000
Luce Center	100,000
Congresses	1,146,000
Development	123,000
Membership	117,000
Professions	103,000
Publications	900,000
Regions	67,000
Research and Technology	218,000
Depreciation/Reserve	<u>50,000</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 2,976,000

Slight Revenue and Expense Increase Projected for 2007–2008 Budget

The 2007–2008 operating budget reflects a small percentage of increase over the final 2006–2007 audited revenues and expenses. Included in the expenses are very modest increases for staff salaries, an across the board percentage increase for supplies, a print newsletter, and some much needed assistance in accounting for human resources. We have projected stable revenues in book sales and slight increases in membership and subscription revenues. The capitalization of expenses for bringing meeting registration in-house is reflected in this budget expense. The Finance Committee and Executive Director review monthly and quarterly financial reports to track the relationship of the budget to actual figures. Accounting has developed a much more detailed budget process that should assist with more precise monitoring.

Membership revenues still account for less than 20 percent of the total budget, so it is very important to make the case for contributions to the Society Fund each year. The Development Committee will be drawing up a new case statement for Council to review during calendar year 2008. This case statement will set out the significant needs of the Society for the next one, five, and ten years.

Administrative Committees

Council

The Council consists of fourteen members of the Society and the Executive Director. This board approves general policies and program initiatives.

Joel B. Green, Fuller Theological Seminary, Chair • Katharine Doob Sakenfeld, Princeton Theological Seminary, President • Loveday C. A. Alexander, University of Sheffield • Bruce C. Birch, Wesley Theological Seminary • Brian K. Blount, Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education • Kristin De Troyer, Claremont School of Theology • Pamela Eisenbaum, Iliff School of Theology • John T. Fitzgerald, University of Miami • Jeffrey K. Kuan, Pacific School of Religion • Kathleen M. O'Connor, Columbia Theological Seminary • Kent Harold Richards, Society of Biblical Literature • Fernando F. Segovia, Vanderbilt University • James C. VanderKam, University of Notre Dame • L. Michael White, University of Texas at Austin

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee nominates the President, Vice-President, and Council members for election by the Society. It oversees all other appointment and nominations.

Bruce C. Birch, Wesley Theological Seminary • Jodi Magness, University of North Carolina • Carolyn Osiek, Texas Christian University • Fernando F. Segovia, Vanderbilt University

Development Committee

The Society Fund is the major activity of the Development Committee. It also reviews and recommends fundraising activities for the Society.

Donald Dale Walker, University of Wyoming, Chair • Harold W. Attridge, Yale University • Pamela Eisenbaum, Iliff School of Theology • L. Michael White, University of Texas at Austin

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee advises the Executive Director in preparing the annual budget for recommendation to the Council and oversees the societal investments.

Harold W. Attridge, Yale University, Chair • Paul J. Achtemeier, Union Theological Seminary, Richmond (Emeritus) • Eldon Jay Epp, Case Western Reserve University (Emeritus) • Joel B. Green, Fuller Theological Seminary

Program Committee

The Program Committee approves program units and program unit chairs, evaluates the Annual Meeting program, and recommends strategic directions for the growth and improvement of the program.

Brian K. Blount, Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Chair • Robin Jensen, Vanderbilt University • Karen L. King, Harvard University • Francisco Lozada Jr., Texas Christian University • Halvor Moxnes, University of Oslo • Margaret S. Odell, St. Olaf College

Research and Publications Committee

The Research and Publications Committee works with the Editorial Director, reviews publishing activities, recommends policies, and approves editors and editorial boards.

Benjamin G. Wright III, Lehigh University, Chair • Ellen Aitken, McGill University • Kristin De Troyer, Claremont School of Theology • Steven L. McKenzie, Rhodes College • Adele Reinhartz, University of Ottawa • James C. VanderKam, University of Notre Dame

Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession

The Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession works in areas of mentoring and networking, opening the Society to greater participation by women, and calling attention to the ways in which the Society speaks to and about women through its various activities.

Risa Levitt Kohn, San Diego State University, Chair • Jennifer Bird, Vanderbilt University • Barbara E. Bowe, Catholic Theological Union • Nancy Bowen, Earlham School of Religion • Claudia Camp, Texas Christian University • Nyasha Junior, Princeton Theological Seminary • Heather A. McKay, Edge Hill College • Jane S. Webster, Barton College

Committee on Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession

The Committee on Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities encourages the participation of minorities in all areas of biblical studies through mentoring, networking, and other forms of support.

Jeffrey Kuan, Pacific School of Religion, Chair • Cheryl B. Anderson, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary • Gay Byron, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School • Mary F. Foskett, Wake Forest University • Leticia Guardiola-Sáenz, Drew University • Joseph F. Scrivner, Samford University

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The Committee of Regional Coordinators consists of liaisons from the eleven regions in North America. Coordinators oversee regional activities and award Regional Scholar grants.

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KEY TRANSITIONS - THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS

Each year SBL has a number of volunteers who end their terms, having served three to six years. As the organization has expanded programs and grown in numbers, no year goes by without significant changes in the makeup of our committees, program unit chairs, editors, and others serving the organization in one way or another. Each year we write words of appreciation to department chairs, deans, and presidents for their willingness to support their faculty when they serve SBL. We never take enough time to express gratitude for colleagues who serve on behalf of all of us. They do this despite the heavy demands of their academic posts.

Take the time to thank a colleague whom you know has served SBL in any one of the many capacities we fill each year.

Three volunteers who have held key positions end their terms on December 31, 2007. Brian Blount has served as both chair of the Program Committee and a member of Council. Brian has made significant contributions to the evolution of the importance of Council as the policy-setting group of the Society. Brian has also served as the chair of the Program Committee. Chair of that committee is a key role and has been critical to expanding participation at our Annual and International Meetings. Margaret Odell is also ending her term on the especially important Program Committee. She has brought an important voice from those who teach in the many liberal arts colleges. Thanks to both of them for giving of their time to advance the work of all of us.

Vincent Wimbush is ending his four-year term as representative to the American Council of Learned Societies. ACLS stipulates the term of this position as four years. The Society is grateful to Vincent for having taken this leadership. During his tenure he made several presentations to the ACLS which took additional time from his schedule. Thanks for your service.

Finally, thanks to all of you who are ending terms as an editor or program unit chair or committee member. You have set an example for others to step up and serve. Contact sblexec@sbl-site.org if you wish to serve.

Annual Meeting Program Unit Chairs

Poster Session

Audrey West, Lutheran School of Theology
at Chicago
Dexter Callender, University of Miami

Sections

Academic Teaching and Biblical Studies
Charles Miller, University of North Dakota
Arthur Walker-Jones, University of
Winnipeg

African Biblical Hermeneutics
Musa Dube, University of Botswana
Valerie Bridgeman-Davis, Memphis
Theological Seminary

African-American Biblical Hermeneutics
Thomas Slater, McAfee School of Theology,
Mercer University

*Ancient Fiction and Early Christian and Jewish
Narrative*
Judith Perkins, Saint Joseph College
Jo-Ann Brant, Goshen College
Ruben Dupertuis, Trinity University

Aramaic Studies
Christian Brady, Tulane University

*Archaeological Excavations and Discoveries:
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Elizabeth Bloch-Smith, Saint Joseph's
University

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Steven Friesen, University of Texas at Austin
James Walters, Boston University

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Steven Holloway, American Theological
Library Association

Bakhtin and the Biblical Imagination
Barbara Green, Dominican School of
Philosophy and Theology
Keith Bodner, Atlantic Baptist University

Bible and American Popular Culture
Linda Schearing, Gonzaga University

Bible and Cultural Studies
Erin Runions, Pomona College

Bible and Visual Art
Elizabeth Struthers Malbon, Virginia
Polytechnic Institute and State University
Heidi Hornik, Baylor University

Bible in Ancient and Modern Media
Holly Hearon, Christian Theological
Seminary
Richard Swanson, Augustana College

Bible Translation

L. de Regt, United Bible Societies

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Seminary
John Darr, Boston College

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Cynthia Westfall, McMaster Divinity
College
Stanley Porter, McMaster Divinity College

Biblical Hebrew Poetry
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LeAnn Snow Flesher, American Baptist
Seminary of the West

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Text*
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University
Tammi Schneider, Claremont Graduate
University

Biblical Law
Richard Averbeck, Trinity Evangelical
Divinity School

Biblical Lexicography
James Aitken, University of Cambridge

Book of Acts
Thomas Phillips, Point Loma Nazarene
University
F. Scott Spencer, Baptist Theological
Seminary at Richmond

Book of Psalms
Rolf Jacobson, Luther Seminary

Book of the Twelve Prophets
Barry Jones, Campbell University

Christian Apocrypha
Ann Graham Brock, Iliff School of Theology

Christian Theology and the Bible
Kathryn Greene-McCreight, St. John's
Episcopal Church

Chronicles-Ezra-Nehemiah
Christine Mitchell, St. Andrew's College

Computer-Assisted Research
Keith Reeves, Azusa Pacific University

Construction of Christian Identities
Edmondo Lupieri, University of Udine
Mauro Pesce, University of Bologna

Deuteronomistic History
Marc Brettler, Brandeis University

Didache in Context
Jonathan Draper, University of KwaZulu-
Natal

*Disability Studies and Healthcare in the Bible
and Near East*
F. Rachel Magdalene, Augustana College
Jeremy Schipper, Temple University

Disputed Paulines
Jerry Sumney, Lexington Theological

Seminary

Early Jewish and Christian Mysticism
Kevin Sullivan, Illinois Wesleyan University

Early Jewish Christian Relations
Andrew Jacobs, University of California-
Riverside
Lynn Cohick, Wheaton College

Ecological Hermeneutics
Norman Habel, Flinders University
Peter Trudinger, Parkin-Wesley College

Egyptology and Ancient Israel
Carolyn Higginbotham, Christian
Theological Seminary

Feminist Hermeneutics of the Bible
Joseph Kozar, University of Dayton
Angela Bauer-Levesque, Episcopal Divinity
School

Formation of Luke-Acts
Thomas Brodie, Dominican Biblical Centre,
Limerick
Paul Elbert, Church of God Theological
Seminary

Greco-Roman Religions
Nancy Evans, Wheaton College

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Aaron Burke, University of California-Los
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Daniel Fleming, New York University

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Ideological Criticism
Janet Ross, McMaster University

Israelite Prophetic Literature
Terence Fretheim, Luther Seminary
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Israelite Religion in Its West Asian Environment
Beth Nakhai, University of Arizona

*Jesus Traditions, Gospels, and Negotiating the
Roman Imperial World*
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Christian University
William Herzog, Andover Newton
Theological School

Johannine Literature

Colleen Conway, Seton Hall University
Turid Seim, University of Oslo

John's Apocalypse and Cultural Contexts Ancient and Modern

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Jean-Pierre Ruiz, Saint John's University

Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew

Barry Bandstra, Hope College

Matthew

Dorothy Jean Weaver, Eastern Mennonite Seminary
Joel Willitts, North Park University

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Rivka Ulmer, Bucknell University
Lieve Teugels, New Providence, New Jersey

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New Testament Textual Criticism

Kim Haines-Eitzen, Cornell University

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Alexandra Brown, Washington and Lee University

Pentateuch

Thomas Dozeman, United Theological Seminary
Konrad Schmid, University of Zurich

Pseudepigrapha

John Reeves, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Psychology and Biblical Studies

Dereck Daschke, Truman State University

Q

Joseph Verheyden, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
Paul Foster, University of Edinburgh

Qumran

Moshe Bernstein, Yeshiva University
Maxine Grossman, University of Maryland, College Park

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Brannon Wheeler, United States Naval Academy
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Ken Stone, Chicago Theological Seminary

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L. Gregory Bloomquist, Saint Paul University

Scripture in Early Judaism and Christianity

Esther Menn, Lutheran School of Theology

at Chicago

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David Odell-Scott, Kent State University
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Russell Fuller, University of San Diego

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Paul Joyce, University of Oxford

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Tamar Kamionkowski, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College
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Laura Nasrallah, Harvard University

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Brad Kelle, Point Loma Nazarene University

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Richard Clifford, Weston Jesuit School of Theology

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Mary Shields, Trinity Lutheran Seminary
Mary Beavis, St. Thomas More College

Women in the Biblical World

Mary Shields, Trinity Lutheran Seminary
Mary Beavis, St. Thomas More College

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University

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Hemma Kronsteiner, University of Vienna
 Rami Langer, University of Vienna
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 James Alfred Loader, University of Vienna
Bible and Visual Culture
 J. Cheryl Exum, University of Sheffield
 Martin O’Kane, University of Wales
Bible as a Book of Education
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 Katja Eichler, University of Vienna
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 Werner Boote, Vienna
 Friedrich Schipper, University of Vienna
Bible, War, and the Military
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 Won W. Lee, Calvin College
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 Armin Lange, University of Vienna
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*Hebrew of Hebrews (Philippians 3:5): The
 Apostle Paul and the Interpretation of Scripture
 in Early Judaism*
 Markus Tiwald, University of Vienna
Hellenistic Greek Language and Linguistics
 Albert L. Lukaszewski, University of St.

Andrews
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Language and Linguistics
 Meir Lubetski, City University of New York,
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Methods in New Testament Studies
 Matthew S. Collins, Society of Biblical
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 Approaches*
 Michael Weigl, Catholic University of
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 Theology*
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 East*
 Gebhard Selz, University of Vienna
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 and Texts*
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Rabbinic Interpretation
 Gunter Stemberger, University of Vienna
*Reception of Biblical Protagonists in Ancient
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 Matthias Weigold, University of Vienna

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 Gene L. Green, Wheaton College
 Ronald J. Sim, Nairobi Evangelical Graduate
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Synoptic Gospels
 Glenna S. Jackson, Otterbein College
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 Todd C. Penner, Austin College
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 Tova Forti, Ben Gurion University of the
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*Working with Biblical Manuscripts (Textual
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 David J. Trobisch, Bangor Theological
 Seminary
 Tommy Wasserman, Lund University

Seminars

Bethsaida Excavations Project
 Rami Arav, University of Nebraska at
 Omaha
Biblical Characters in the Three Traditions
 Mishael Maswari Caspi, Bates College
Graduate Biblical Studies: Ethos and Discipline
 Kent Harold Richards, Society of Biblical
 Literature
 Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, Harvard
 University
*Pericope: Scripture as Written and Read in
 Antiquity*
 Raymond de Hoop, Theological Seminary
 I. S. Kijne
 Stanley E. Porter, McMaster Divinity
 College
Syriac Lexicography
 Terry C. Falla, University of Melbourne

Consultations

Biblical Scholarship and Disabilities
 Anke Dorman, University of Groningen
 F. Rachel Magdalene, Augustana College

Workshops

Text Criticism Workshop on Samuel and Kings
 Anneli Aejmelaeus, Universität Göttingen
Workshop on the Use of Masoretic Accents
 Raymond de Hoop, Theological Seminary
 I. S. Kijne

9 November 2007

Colleagues and Friends,

The Society of Biblical Literature's ability to respond positively to change yet continue to find stability and strength is remarkable. All of our accomplishments emerge from our membership. We have over 600 active volunteers leading our program areas. This does not include the hundreds of authors and colleagues who share their research and teaching, nor does it count the many members who come to our meetings and return to their settings to share what they have learned with students, peers, and the public.

Since our founding in 1880 we have grown in stature and numbers. We have held high the standard of academic excellence through peer reviewed publications and program units. We have not been content with mediocrity. We have searched for new ways to include more colleagues from around the world to join us. We have encouraged new generations of scholars by listening to their ideas.

The Society Report 2007 will bear witness to the accomplishments of this past year and look toward the future.

Thanks to the members who have shown great productivity, commitment, collegiality, and collaboration.

With appreciation,

Kent Harold Richards
Executive Director
Professor of Old Testament

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