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Most prominently, we offer thanks to our Lord for the ways in which He has blessed the formation, growth, and influence of ATS. A brief review is appropriate.

GROWTH

ATS has enjoyed phenomenal membership growth in a short time, starting with a handful of interested parties in 1988. This rapid growth may lead to possible constitutional changes relative to organizational structure in order to implement a wider distribution of responsibility in a volunteer organization.

BROAD-BASED MEMBERSHIP

Some questions have been raised relative to the broad-based membership policy of ATS, which includes professionals in disciplines other than theology, as well as interested laity. It became apparent early in the organizational meetings that in order for an Adventist theological society to be truly Adventist it should have a broad base. The responsibility for the theological enterprise in the Seventh-day Adventist Church is not the prerogative of profes-
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CHAPTERS

Currently chapters have been organized and are engaged in local activities, and I want to express my greetings to the members and leaders of each chapter. It is the fervent prayer of the general officers of ATS that the Lord will mightily bless the activities of these chapters as they conscientiously represent the ideals of ATS in affirming our faithfulness to the Seventh-day Adventist Church (Constitution and Bylaws, p. 4). The establishment of local chapters is encouraged, and interested parties may write for information and guidelines governing the organization and structure of such chapters.

PUBLICATIONS

Since its inception ATS has viewed the production and distribution of theological literature as a major endeavor. Here again the Society has been blessed by the Lord with phenomenal growth and development within four short years. The production of theological literature has developed providentially along four lines: the twice yearly publication of the Journal of the Adventist Theological Society (JATS), as well as ATS Occasional Papers, ATS Monographs, and the ATS Dissertation Series. See the tear-out order form for these publications at the back of this issue of JATS.

INVITATION TO DIALOG

The formation of the Adventist Theological Society, and its publications, constitute an invitation to dialog. Volume 1 of Adventist Theological Society Occasional Papers (ATSOP 1), Issues in Revelation and Inspiration, is a dialogical response to the vital issue of biblical authority for Seventh-day Adventists and other Christians. Furthermore, ATS meetings, with the exception of business sessions, are open to all with opportunity for dialog.

RECENT MEETINGS

The 1992 annual convention convened in Chan Hall, Loma Linda Academy, Loma Linda, California in April with Salvation as the theme. Attendance was phenomenal, the spirit of oneness and praise outstanding, and the presentations inspiring. Papers and addresses given at that meeting constitute the major contents of this and the next volume of JATS.

The 1992 Scholars Meeting will assemble in the Airport Hilton, San Francisco, California, November 19-20, followed by an ATS rally at the Pleasant Hills Church on Sabbath, November 21. The theme will be Seventh-day Adventist Lifestyle.

FUTURE

Where does the Adventist Theological Society go from here? The Society and its leadership must aggressively continue the momentum generated during the past four years with respect to: (1) Continued membership growth. It is not outside the realm of possibility for ATS to double its membership in 1993. May I encourage every member to function as a recruiter, inviting friends and acquaintances to attend general and chapter meetings. A nice gift to friends would be copies of JATS and other publications. (2) Broadening the international nature of the Society by establishing additional chapters around the world. (3) Continuing to produce and publish high quality, cutting-edge theological literature that will make a positive contribution to the message and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Pray that the Lord will employ ATS as one instrument in sparking a Spirit-inspired, Spirit-filled, Spirit-empowered revival of Adventist Christianity. Maranatha!

Yours, in the service of the Master,

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Gerhard E. Hasel

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ATS is now well known around the globe on all levels of the Church and beyond. The Lord has blessed the continuing humble efforts of all officers and trustees, each of whom serve on a fully volunteer basis without any remuneration, the presenters of papers, the counselors and all the others who have been such dedicated supporters of ATS. Highlights of ATS were the international conventions held in Keene, Texas, and in Loma Linda, California, in 1991 and 1992 respectively. Hundreds of people from all ranks of church life, General Conference, union conference, local conference leaders, ordained pastors and interns, educational, medical, and legal professionals, and huge numbers of interested lay members of our Church attended these international conventions. The next one will be held April 15-18, 1993, on the campus of Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan. In the meantime the so-called Scholars' Meeting will be held in San Francisco, California, at the Airport Hilton (in conjunction with other professional meetings) on November 19-20, 1992. Everyone is invited to attend all of these meetings. Time and again it is said that the superb fellowship and the spiritual uplift based on the solidity of the presentations made is second to none, revealing the genuine Adventist spirit at its best.

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ATS with His divine blessings and that whatever is done will be
done to the glory of God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sincerely yours,
Gerhard F. Hasel

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**SALVATION AND FORGIVENESS**

By Richard M. Davidson
Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary
Andrews University

**Introduction**

Today is Easter Friday (April 17, 1992). It is also one of those
day occasions when Easter Friday in our Gregorian calendar coin-
cides with the eve of Passover, the 14th day of Nisan in the Hebrew
calendar. On this day, almost 2,000 years ago, in fact, at this very
time of day (about the 9th hour, 3 p.m.), Jesus, hanging upon
Golgotha’s cross, cried out, “It is finished! Father, into your hands
I commit my spirit.” At this time, on this day, in A.D. 31, the
antitypical Paschal lamb died.

The evening before, on Maundy Thursday, in the upper room,
Jesus explained in advance the meaning of His death. “And he took
a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying,
‘Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the [new] covenant,
which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins’” (Matt
26:28).

When the blood flowed from the Saviour’s riven side, the new
covenant was formally ratified. And the essence of the new covenant
promise, according to Jesus (alluding to Jeremiah 31), is the for-
giveness of sins. Salvation and forgiveness is at the heart of what
happened at the Cross.

**English Terminology.** When we speak of forgiveness, we
could just as well be using any of several virtually-synonymous
biblical terms: forgiveness, pardon, remission, or justification” (or
closely related terms: reconciliation, covering, atonement, and pro-
pitiation). In an intriguing reference, E. G. White uses the three