

NEWS RELEASE

The Society for Pentecostal Studies recently held its first annual meeting on November 5-6, 1971 in Des Moines, Iowa on the campus of Open Bible College. Presided over by President William W. Menzies of Evangel College, the Society heard papers read on the Conference Theme of "Higher Education Within the Pentecostal Perspective." Among the innovations suggested was one for the creation of "mini-seminaries" consisting of accredited liberal arts junior colleges with the traditional three-year Bible College superimposed on top offering both B.A. and M.A. degrees in theology and Biblical studies.

Among the resolutions offered was a proposal to publish an authoritative book of essays by leading pentecostal scholars. Serious consideration was also given to the publication of a Journal relating to pentecostal studies.

A highlight of the meeting was the announcement by Catholic spokesman Killian McDonnell, O.S.B., and Pentecostal spokesman David Duplessis of a forthcoming dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and the Pentecostals. Members of the Society were urged to participate in this scholarly exchange which will initially last for five years.

The one-year-old Society reported 200 members in over 35 nations. Served by the group are 20 Pentecostal Colleges and Bible schools. Although the officers and most of the full members were from the major American Pentecostal denominations, others including non-Pentecostals, neo-Pentecostals and Charismatics may participate as associate members.

The Society was invited to meet in 1972 on the campus of Oklahoma City Southwestern College. Elected to serve as president for the coming year was Hollis Gause, Chairman of the Religion Division of Lee College in Cleveland, Tennessee. Other officers elected were: Russell Spittler, President-elect; Vinson Synan, Secretary; Don Bryan, Treasurer.