



SOCIETY REPORT

November 2009

SBL

From the Executive Director

November 10, 2009

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Looking back over my years of SBL involvement and ahead to my retirement from the SBL staff in July 2010, I am struck by many feelings and thoughts, but one overshadows all the rest; you have been my strength over these years of being a volunteer and an SBL staff member. Peter Drucker says, "Developing yourself begins by serving, by striving toward an idea outside yourself—not by leading." You have in so many ways helped me serve by bringing ideas forward that we could develop together.

We have responded by making sure that we had a publication program that was not only sound from an intellectual perspective but firmly grounded in an economic model that would sustain itself. We have responded to the need to develop an annual meeting that was not only deep but also broad. After all, biblical studies resides in a wide humanistic environment of give and take. We have built an international presence with our annual international meeting and not only served our existing international membership but brought in new voices. We have restored programs for the professional development of members, including the offering of seminars to help scholars not only write but also get published. We have begun to address the needs of the wider public by specific programs that reach public school audiences. Our publications in partnership with HarperCollins and many others have opened up an enormous resource for all who are interested in sound, creative biblical scholarship. We have with renewed vigor focused on the next generation of scholars who can continue to build our mission.

The call for an individual or an organization is not to be perfect or infallible. It is to match need and opportunity on the outside with competence and strength on the inside (Drucker). We need to do better what we do well. However, we can never forget that small steps make a big step possible. The discernment to know when to forget, as it were, about improving and to focus on change is critical. Fortunately, we have been able to change in the midst of success rather than when we were in trouble.

I am grateful for your leadership over all of these years of service.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent".

Kent Harold Richards
Executive Director
Professor of Old Testament

Inside

The Year in Review	2
Publications	2
<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>	2
<i>Review of Biblical Literature</i>	2
ICI	2
New and Recent Titles	3
Congresses	4
Boston	4
Rome	4
2009 SBL Regional Meetings	4
2009 Travel Grant Recipients	5
Professions	5
Regional Scholars Program	5
SBL Fonts	5
Public Initiatives	6
NEH Grant	6
Bible Electives in Public Schools	6
Social Media	6
Membership Demographics	7
People	8
Administration	8
Editors and Editorial Boards	9
Annual Meeting Program Unit Chairs.	10
International Meeting Program Unit	
Chairs	16
Staff	17
Finances	18
SBL International Memberships	19
2009 Donors	20

SERVICE TO MEMBERS

The Society of Biblical Literature has had a long run of successes, as evidenced by our growing membership, our expanding congresses, our adoption of innovative publication strategies, and our reaffirmation of our efforts to address the professional needs of members. All of this is done in a context of remembering that the bottom line is, in the end, **service to members**.

There are financial bottom lines as well. Adapting to new global economies, including those whose voices have been unheard or even silenced, requires a commitment to careful financial investment and expenditures. Resources are always limited, so devising alternatives for decision making and building in options to deal with mistakes is essential. Thankfully, we have made few mistakes.

We have been guided by the ability to adapt, to anticipate, and to emphasize agreement rather than disagreement. These characteristics as well as our core values have guided our **service to members**. In these difficult economic times, this has led us to respond in two ways. First, we have reviewed every expenditure and cut nearly \$100,000 from our budget even as prices for supplies and services continue to rise. For example, we have cut the organization's contribution to the TIAA/CREF retirement of each employee from 10 to 8 percent. Second, we have also decided to institute a modest increase in member dues. Together these two measures will enable us to continue serving members as effectively as possible.

You can also help by bringing a new member into SBL. If you reside outside the U.S., consider giving a membership to a young colleague in your own country or someplace where salaries for a year amount to what you make in a month. We can provide names of people in those countries, if you are interested. If you reside in the U.S., we ask that you make a tax-deductible contribution. Remember, your dues account for less than a third of the revenues needed to run all of the SBL-sponsored programs.

Service to members is a focus that we all must have as we present a paper, argue a position, exemplify strong teaching, or participate on a committee. Service is communication, and even dissent can be a means of developing respect and better communication. If you tell us what you need, we can together review the alternatives and devise strategies needed to respond to the desired goal. We can continue to build successes if we serve each other as we launch into our 130th year of service.

Publications

Since the 2008 Annual Meeting, the SBL has published twenty-seven new volumes, along with two Brown Judaic Studies volumes and seven paperback reprints of original Brill titles (see the list below). Among many high points during the past year, several deserve special mention. First, the three series established just last year each published one or more volumes: Ramsay MacMullen, *The Second Church: Popular Christianity A.D. 200–400* (WGRWSup); Mark K. George, *Israel's Tabernacle as Social Space* (AIL); A. Joseph Everson and Hyun Chul Paul Kim, eds., *The Desert Will Bloom: Poetic Visions of Isaiah* (AIL); Scott B. Noegel and Gary A. Rendsburg, *Solomon's Vineyard: Literary and Linguistic Studies in the Song of Songs* (AIL); David A. Bernat, *Sign of the Covenant: Circumcision in the Priestly Traditions* (AIL); Delbert Burkett, *Rethinking the Gospel Sources, Volume 2: The Unity and Plurality of Q* (ECL); and Paul N. Anderson, Felix Just, S.J., and Tom Thatcher, eds., *John, Jesus, and History, Volume 2: The Dehistoricization of John and Aspects of Historicity in the Fourth Gospel* (ECL). Second, in the face of a challenging economic situation, book sales remained healthy. Although SBL book sales revenue was down .25 percent from fiscal year 2008, this compares quite favorably with comparable academic presses, which experienced an average decline of 10 percent. Third, publications staff, working with various SBL members, initiated work on a number of cooperative projects, including the creation of an online Bible dictionary, the development of a multivolume companion to the Bible, and a thorough revision of the *HarperCollins Bible Dictionary*.

JOURNAL OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE

During 2009, *JBL* offered 800+ pages of biblical scholarship, spread across four issues distributed both in print and online. Specifically, *JBL* published fifty-one full-length articles and critical notes, an increase of seven articles and notes over 2008's record output. Articles engaged a variety of topics across and beyond the biblical canon from varying ideological and methodological perspectives. That *JBL* continues to be regarded as the flagship journal of the field is demonstrated not only by its stable and strong subscription numbers but also by the interest it generates among potential authors. For example, *JBL* received 190 submissions during the last twelve months, a 35 percent increase over the prior year's submissions figure. Under the leadership of Editor James C. VanderKam and the thirty-four members of the editorial

board, *JBL* anticipates ongoing growth and excellence in the months and years to come.

REVIEW OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE

The *Review of Biblical Literature* (www.bookreviews.org) continues to foster biblical scholarship as the SBL's most widely distributed print or online publication—as well as the premier source of biblical studies book reviews in the world. Each and every day, 1,360 different visitors access one or more pages at *RBL*, which adds up to nearly half a million unique visits each year. In addition, *RBL*'s weekly newsletters are distributed to over 9,300 SBL members and nonmember subscribers around the globe. Since the beginning of 2009, these newsletters have announced over 530 new reviews of books across the breadth of biblical studies and its cognate disciplines. This year also saw the creation of a new *RBL* feature, the *RBL* blog (rblnewsletter.blogspot.com), where all *RBL* reviews are announced (and can be forwarded to RSS readers) and authors, reviewers, and other interested parties are invited to comment on individual books or reviews. Finally, *RBL* is pleased to offer volume 11 of its annual print edition, which makes available in print form the 162 most important reviews published between May 2008 and May 2009. With 5,533 reviews published and freely available online and many more to come, *RBL* looks forward to its continued role as a key contributor to biblical studies scholarship around the world.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION INITIATIVE

In just two short years, the International Cooperation Initiative has already accomplished many of its original goals. The Online Book program, which provides PDF files of SBL and BJS volumes to students and scholars in countries with low GDPs, now numbers close to two hundred. In addition, SBL works independently with the Theological Book Network to distribute overstocks to libraries in underresourced countries. Open access, online publishing has become a reality through the Ancient Near East Monographs series, and a second online series, International Voices in Biblical Studies, will have its web portal up and running early in 2010. The series editors have acquired manuscripts by conventional means and hope to have publications online soon after the web portal is operational. Further, the number of scholars participating in the ICI Teaching Collaboration is growing steadily. This initiative provides a means for conversation, teaching, and mentoring between scholars and students worldwide. SBL also offers reduced membership dues for those in ICI-qualifying countries, which has led to noteworthy

growth in SBL membership in those areas. Communication among those interested in the ICI is of prime importance, since this is a global effort. Monthly e-newsletters are sent to those wishing to join the listserv, face-to-face meetings take place whenever possible, and the SBL website carries an ICI page that has links to the various projects sponsored through the initiative. Becoming involved in ICI is easy to do and is facilitated by information on the website. As ICI becomes recognized as a part of the SBL culture, we hope that more members will designate their gifts to the Society Fund for advancing these initiatives. Such gifts help fund the Online Books project as well as sponsor SBL memberships for those in countries with a low GDP. Thanks are offered to the many SBL members who have donated their time, talent, and resources to make the ICI successful.

NEW AND RECENT TITLES FROM SBL PUBLICATIONS

- ◆ Randall C. Bailey, Tat-Siong Benny Liew, Fernando F. Segovia, eds., *They Were All Together in One Place? Toward Minority Biblical Criticism* (SemeiaSt)
- ◆ Mark Andrew Brighton, *The Sicarii in Josephus's Judean War: Rhetorical Analysis and Historical Observations* (EJL)
- ◆ Ramsay MacMullen, *The Second Church: Popular Christianity A.D. 200–400* (WGRWSup)
- ◆ Harry A. Hoffner Jr., *Letters from the Hittite Kingdom* (WAW)
- ◆ David G. Rice and John E. Stambaugh, *Sources for the Study of Greek Religion*, corrected edition (RBS)
- ◆ Delbert Burkett, *Rethinking the Gospel Sources*, Volume 2: *The Unity and Plurality of Q* (ECL)
- ◆ Mark K. George, *Israel's Tabernacle as Social Space* (AIL)
- ◆ Jerome Murphy-O'Connor, *Becoming Human Together: The Pastoral Anthropology of St. Paul* (3rd ed.)
- ◆ John T. Fitzgerald, Fika J. Van Rensburg, Herrie F. Van Rooy, eds., *Animosity, The Bible, and Us: Some European, North American, and South African Perspectives* (GPBS)
- ◆ David G. Burke, ed., *Translation That Openeth the Window: Reflections on the History and Legacy of the King James Bible* (BSNA)
- ◆ A. Joseph Everson and Hyun Chul Paul Kim, eds., *The Desert Will Bloom: Poetic Visions of Isaiah* (AIL)
- ◆ Ilaria Ramelli; David Konstan, trans., *Hierocles the Stoic: Elements of Ethics, Fragments, and Excerpts* (WGRW)
- ◆ Alejandro F. Botta and Pablo R. Andinach, eds., *The Bible and the Hermeneutics of Liberation* (SemeiaSt)
- ◆ Robert K. Ritner, *The Libyan Anarchy: Inscriptions from Egypt's Third Intermediate Period* (WAW)
- ◆ David T. Runia and Gregory E. Sterling, eds., *The Studia*

Philonica Annual: Studies in Hellenistic Judaism, Volume XXI (StPhilA)

- ◆ David A. Bernat, *Sign of the Covenant: Circumcision in the Priestly Traditions* (AIL)
- ◆ John M. Dillon and Wolfgang Polleichtner, *Iamblichus: Letters* (WGRW)
- ◆ Jan G. van der Watt, ed., *Review of Biblical Literature*, 2009 (RBL)
- ◆ Scott B. Noegel and Gary A. Rendsburg, *Solomon's Vineyard: Literary and Linguistic Studies in the Song of Songs* (AIL)
- ◆ Paul N. Anderson, Felix Just, S.J., and Tom Thatcher, eds., *John, Jesus, and History*, Volume 2: *The Dehistoricization of John and Aspects of Historicity in the Fourth Gospel* (ECL)
- ◆ Henning Graf Reventlow, *History of Biblical Interpretation 1: From the Old Testament to Origen* (RBS)
- ◆ Henning Graf Reventlow, *History of Biblical Interpretation 2: From Late Antiquity to the End of the Middle Ages* (RBS)
- ◆ Joel M. LeMon and Kent Harold Richards, eds., *Method Matters: Essays on the Interpretation of the Hebrew Bible in Honor of David L. Petersen* (RBS)
- ◆ W. Benjamin Henry, *Philodemus, On Death* (WGRW)
- ◆ Samuel Thomas, *The Mysteries of Qumran: Secrecy and Esoteric Knowledge in Second Temple Judaism and in the Dead Sea Scrolls* (EJL)
- ◆ Cheryl Kirk-Duggan and Tina Pippin, *Mother Goose, Mother Jones, Mommy Dearest* (SemeiaSt)
- ◆ Nancy Calvert-Koyzis and Heather Weir, eds., *Strangely Familiar: ProtoFeminist Interpretations of Patriarchal Biblical Texts*

BROWN JUDAIC STUDIES

- ◆ Jonathan Zvi Kaplan, *Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea? French Jewry and the Problem of Church and State*
- ◆ Michele Levine, *Nahmanides on Genesis: The Art of Biblical Portraiture*

BRILL REPRINTS

- ◆ Hennie J. Marsman, *Women in Ugarit and Israel: Their Social and Religious Position in the Context of the Ancient Near East*
- ◆ Hindy Najman, *Seconding Sinai: The Development of Mosaic Discourse in Second Temple Judaism*
- ◆ Maxine L. Grossman, *Reading for History in the Damascus Document: A Methodological Study*
- ◆ Stanley E. Porter, ed., *The Pauline Canon*

The Year in Review

- ◆ Stanley E. Porter, ed., *Paul and His Opponents*
- ◆ Emanuel Tov, *Scribal Practices and Approaches Reflected in the Texts Found in the Judean Desert*
- ◆ E. Earle Ellis, *The Making of the New Testament Documents*

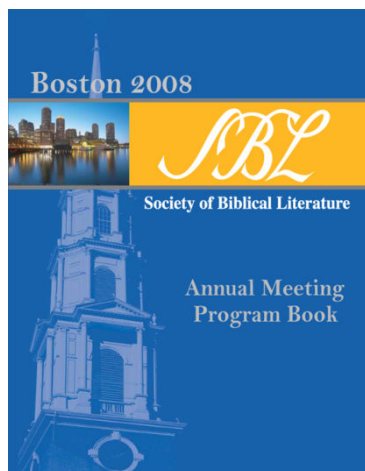
Congresses

The Society's meetings bring together scholars from around the world to foster biblical scholarship by showcasing the latest in biblical/religious/theological research, fostering collegial contacts, advancing research, and highlighting a wide range of professional issues. Here are highlights of our most recent Annual and International Meetings.

BOSTON – NOVEMBER 21-25, 2008

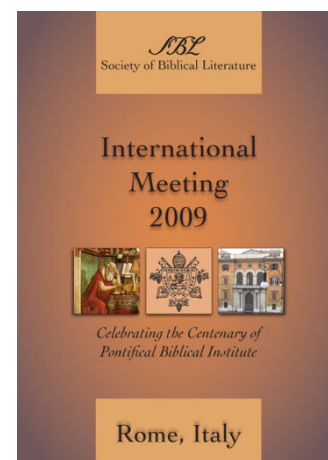
Our first independent Annual Meeting in Boston was an overwhelming success. All registration categories exceeded expectations, and there were more papers and sessions in Boston than we have ever scheduled. Boston had 15 percent more papers and 22 percent more sessions than San Diego, figures that mark a 72 percent increase in number of papers on the program and a 93 percent growth in number of sessions since 2004. Twenty-one Affiliates organized sessions in Boston, and eighty-five Exhibitors offered their books, digital, and other resources for biblical studies and benefited from the high draw of attendees to our Exhibit Hall. Feedback from our exhibitors showed that a majority of them believed that the exposure and sales from Boston were as good if not better than they had been in the past.

Such statistics confirm the feedback from attendees: the SBL Annual Meeting is highly-esteemed and continues to advance critical scholarship. Indeed, the program is growing in depth and breadth in a range of disciplines, including archaeology, classics, comparative studies, ethics, history of interpretation, and theology. Recent program unit additions focus on cognitive linguistics, political theory, myth theory, interdisciplinary work on ancient economies, and service-learning. The Society's mission to "foster biblical scholarship" remains enduringly relevant.



Rome – June 30-July 4, 2009

The 2009 International Meeting in Rome, Italy was also a notable success with 515 participants and over 750 attendees. Participants from forty-six countries shared and debated in appreciable collegial fashion, as the meeting marked the centenary celebration of the Pontifical Biblical Institute, our host. Rome was a fantastic meeting city and one that attendees were glad to see. Two special items added to our program were a lecture tour provided by the Bible and Visual Culture program unit of Early Christian sarcophagi in the Museo Pio Cristiano and a day trip to Ostia Antica Archaeological Park. Both of these tours had overwhelming responses and received fantastic feedback from the participants. The history and splendor of this ancient city certainly provided a unique forum for international scholars to gather and grow.



2010 SBL REGIONAL MEETINGS

CENTRAL STATES – March 21–22, St. Louis Marriott West, St. Louis, Missouri

EASTERN GREAT LAKES – April 8–9, TBD, near Akron, Ohio

MID ATLANTIC – March 10–11, Hyatt Regency Hotel, New Brunswick, New Jersey

MIDWEST – February 12–14, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana

NEW ENGLAND – April 16, Andover-Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, Massachusetts

PACIFIC COAST – March 13–15, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona

PACIFIC NORTHWEST – May 7–9, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia

ROCKY MOUNTAINS-GREAT PLAINS – April 9–10, Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska

SOUTHEASTERN – March 5–7, Atlanta Marriott Century Center, Atlanta, Georgia

SOUTHWESTERN – March 12–14, Marriott Hotel DFW, North Dallas, Texas

UPPER MIDWEST – April 9–10, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota

TRAVEL GRANTS FOR 2009 ANNUAL MEETING – NEW ORLEANS

The SBL Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession is pleased to announce the 2009 Travel Grant award recipient:

Akintunde Dorcas Olubanke (Ph.D.) teaches New Testament Studies/Gender Studies in the Department of Religious Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, with research interest in biblical studies, gender, and HIV and AIDS in Africa. She was the Anglophone Coordinator of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians between 2002 and 2005. She is currently on a project team researching Primal Religion as the Substructure of Christianity headed by Prof. Andrew Walls and, until his death, the late Prof. Kwame Bediako.



Professions

REGIONS

Throughout the academic year, the regions coordinate lectures and conferences that keep the regions active and up-to-date in the latest biblical research and teaching. These meetings provide an intimate setting for scholarly exchange.

REGIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The eleven regions identify exemplary new scholars, particularly women and underrepresented minorities, for consideration and selection as one of the Society's Regional Scholars. A maximum of six regional scholars are selected each year and given stipends to cover a portion of the cost of attending the Annual Meeting. This year's regional scholars are Jeremy M. Hutton and William M. Wright IV.

Jeremy M. Hutton is assistant professor of Old Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary. He received his A.M. and



Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University and his B.A. from the University of Notre Dame. His doctoral dissertation, "The Transjordanian Palimpsest: The Overwritten Texts of Personal Exile in the Deuteronomistic History," took an interdisciplinary approach to the symbolic geography of Transjordan and the Jordan River

in the Deuteronomistic History, using concepts and models from anthropological, sociological, and philosophical thought. It is currently in preparation for publication in the BZAW series. Hutton's research interests include the symbolic geography of Transjordan and the Jordan River in the Old and New Testaments, Israelite prophets and the institution of prophecy, anthropological and sociological approaches in biblical interpretation, and the formation and structure of the Deuteronomistic History, especially the books of Samuel. He teaches courses in Biblical Hebrew, prophetic literature, the exegesis of Amos and the Minor Prophets, and historical Hebrew grammar.

William M. Wright IV is a biblical scholar and theologian. His area of specialization is the New Testament and the Gospel according to John in particular. His research interests include the use of Greco-Roman compositional rhetoric in the Gospel literature, the reception of the Old Testament in the New, and the history of interpretation as a resource for contemporary exegesis and the-



ology in light of Catholic Ressourcement theology. He is the author of *Rhetoric and Theology: Figural Reading of John 9* (de Gruyter, 2009) and the co-author (with Fr. Francis Martin) of *The Gospel of John volume in the Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture Series* (Baker Academic, forthcoming). His articles have appeared in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*, *The Thomist*, and *Nova et Vetera*.

SBL Fonts

The year 2009 has seen a number of important developments in the SBL Font series. The SBL Hebrew font, which has now been available for several years, has received a number of minor updates and continues to be a popular download from the SBL website. In March, SBL released the second font in the series, SBL Greek, designed by John Hudson of Tiro Typeworks. SBL Greek is a brand new, fully-featured Unicode font that has been greeted with great enthusiasm and has already seen wide-spread adoption. SBL Fonts has not been limited, however, to the distribution of the font files. SBL provides support to members seeking assistance installing and using the fonts via email. Beyond email support, the SBL Font Forum, now being graciously hosted by FontLab, is a vibrant community where those with an interest in fonts

have the ability to connect with each other, SBL staff, and the fonts' designer. Of course, all of these developments have been made possible partly by the support of the members of the SBL Font Foundation. The Font Foundation has grown this year, and the latest list of Foundation members is available on the SBL website. All interested in further information about SBL Fonts are encouraged to visit the Biblical Fonts section of the SBL website, as this is the best place to receive the most up-to-date information about all matters related to SBL Fonts.

Public Initiatives for 2009–2010

NEH GRANT

In September of 2009 SBL received a \$40,000 planning grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to develop a website for the general public titled "The World of the Bible: Exploring People, Places, and Passages." The NEH review panel was enthusiastic about the project. We will have our first advisory board meeting at the 2009 annual meeting in New Orleans, where we will discuss the general framework of the site and select key topics from which to develop a prototype. SBL will apply for an implementation grant from NEH in August 2010, and will seek additional funding.

BIBLE ELECTIVES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In June and August of 2009 SBL offered two four-day training workshops for high school teachers on teaching the Bible. The first took place at Emory University's Michael C. Carlos Museum in Atlanta. The second took place at the University of Texas in Austin.

SBL members Joel LeMon and Brent Strawn taught the course at Emory. In Texas, Steve Friesen organized the workshop, which was taught by Mike White and Kent Richards. About twenty-five public and private school teachers attended each session. The response overall has been positive.

The SBL taskforce on Bible electives will meet in November to discuss the next steps, including future teacher trainings and classroom resource development.

This year we also launched a monthly, online e-pub called *Teaching the Bible*, for high school teachers of Bible electives and their students. See a sample issue at http://www.sbl-site.org/assets/media/TBv1_i3.htm.

Social Media

As new technologies continue to emerge from social networking (Facebook, Twitter, and more community-based technologies) to virtualization and Cloud computing, SBL's technology department finds itself presented with many opportunities. We want to identify which technologies we should engage in and at the same time make choices that have minimal impact on the budget. Recently, the SBL technology department has been researching social media tools to determine what benefits these technologies may provide to SBL members. We have looked at LISTSERV, Forums, LinkedIn, Second Life, YouTube, iTunes University, MySpace, Facebook, Wikis, Twitter, Blogs, and Google Wave. The technology staff wants to identify which of these technologies can help improve communication within the Society. In addition, we are looking at how social networking can help us promote SBL resources, increase our branding, reinforce our partnerships, introduce SBL to potential donors and expand our reach.

One recent result of our review of these technologies was to recognize the Bibliobloggers, an informal group of over three hundred people who blog about the Bible, as an affiliate. We look forward to many discussions on electronic tools and how they impact research, publishing, and scholarship in general.

In the coming months we will be surveying the membership in an attempt to find out which of these technologies, if any, our members are already using as a way to connect with colleagues, as aids in their research, and as enhancements to teaching.

Future Annual Meetings

2010 ♦ Atlanta, GA, Nov 19–23
2011 ♦ San Francisco, CA, Nov 18–22

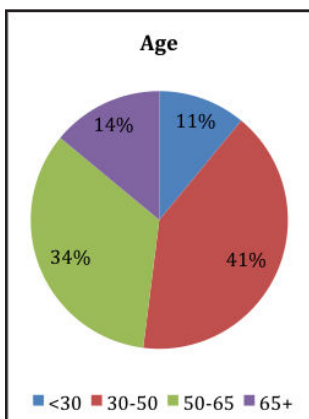
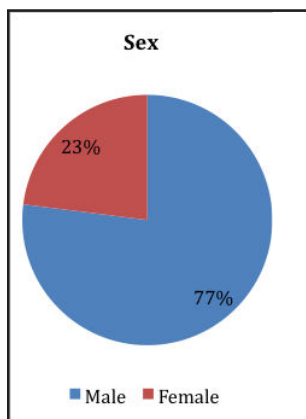
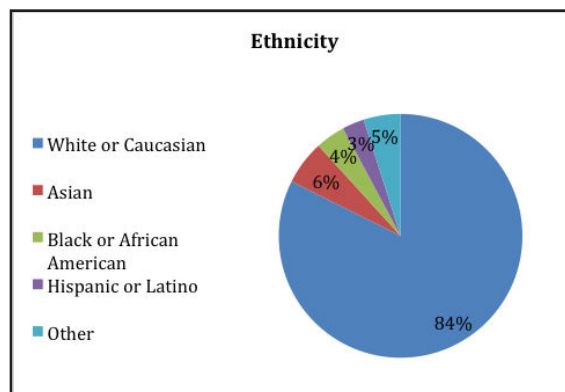
Future International Meetings

2010 ♦ Tartu, Estonia
2011 ♦ London, England

Membership Demographics and Totals

In an effort better to understand our membership and the field of biblical studies, we have begun collecting demographic and other data from our members. So far, nearly 50 percent of our members have provided this information by filling out the Optional Profile on the website; these numbers represent the data collected thus far. We hope this demographic information will be useful to our members. The greater the participation in providing the data, the greater value there is in the results. If you are a member and have not yet filled in this information, we urge you to do so.

After reaching an all-time high in 2008, our membership numbers have returned to the levels reported in 2007. The economy has forced many to make tough decisions and we, like many other organizations, have seen a decline in memberships and revenue across the board. Yet our current membership of 8500 remains among the largest the Society has ever had. We are continuing to focus our energies on providing strong programs, meetings, publications, and services for our members. We trust that our membership will reflect the integrity and strength of these endeavors.



Member Quotes

GENERAL

"It is our prayer that the SBL will continue to be a positive force for promoting and enriching the world wide study and understanding of the Biblical texts." - member in Kenya

"SBL has been an important part of my professional and personal life for many years."

"It is my privilege to be a member of the Society of Biblical Literature." - member in Croatia

"Thank you all for all your hard work!"

RBL

"I really appreciate the weekly book reviews."

ICI

"I wholeheartedly agree with SBL's efforts to open the society in the widest possible way."

"I applaud these efforts [ICI membership rates], together with what you are doing for easier access to scholarship on the internet."

"Thank you for this good news [ICI membership rates]. This is, indeed, a great help for many scholars in these parts of the world. And this will enable many more memberships from this part of the world." - member in Romania

"I'm grateful to the Society for this offer as well as the open access publication of Society monographs. Money is extremely tight here, so anything that the Society does to facilitate scholarship is very much appreciated." - member in India

"I believe such initiatives will really help scholars from South Asia to be part of SBL."

"I wrote some months back from India expressing our appreciation for the international cooperative initiative. The availability of reputable works in the field of biblical studies for those studying in places like India is quite a blessing and we are thankful. . . . Once again, my appreciation for what you all are doing for those of us in other parts of the world." - from India

"We are so grateful for all your kindness and the supplies of the books and thank you so so much."
- from Kenya

Administration

The work of the Society is guided by its Council and is administered through SBL's professional staff and key volunteers who serve on various committees.

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

- Loveday C. A. Alexander
- Cheryl B. Anderson
- Bruce C. Birch
- David J. A. Clines
- Kristin De Troyer
- Joel B. Green
- Jeffrey K. Kuan
- Francisco Lozada
- Kathleen M. O'Connor
- Adele Reinhartz
- Kent Harold Richards, *ex officio*
- Fernando F. Segovia
- John Strong
- L. Michael White
- Vincent L. Wimbush

The Nominating Committee nominates the President, Vice-President, and Council members for election by the Society, and members of standing committees and other representatives for election by Council.

- J. Cheryl Exum
- Fernando F. Segovia
- John Strong
- James C. Walters

The Development Committee reviews and supports fundraising activities for the Society. Most recently this committee led the SBL's highly successful 125th Anniversary Campaign. The Society Fund, the annual campaign, is an essential part of the revenue stream for all programs.

- Pamela Eisenbaum
- Tom Gillespie
- David Tiede
- Donald Dale Walker
- L. Michael White

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
- Brian Blount
- Joel B. Green
- Katharine Doob Sakenfeld

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.

- Robin Jensen
- Jeffrey K. Kuan
- Francisco Lozada Jr.
- Jodi Magness
- Halvor Moxnes
- Laura Nasrallah
- Kathleen M. O'Connor

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

- Ellen B. Aitken
- Kristin De Troyer
- James Nogalski
- Adele Reinhartz
- James C. VanderKam
- Benjamin G. Wright III

The Status of Women in the Profession Committee 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.

- Jennifer Bird
- Barbara E. Bowe
- Nancy R. Bowen
- Claudia V. Camp
- Deborah A. Green
- Nyasha Junior
- Risa Levitt Kohn
- Molly Zahn

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

- Cheryl B. Anderson
- Michael Joseph Brown
- Gay L. Byron
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 2008–2009

FY2009

	2009	2008
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 906,455	\$ 1,052,820
Marketable securities	680,924	949,724
Accounts receivable	64,722	58,716
Pledges receivable, net	400	8,175
Prepaid expenses and other assets	27,691	41,752
Book inventories, net of valuation reserve	40,265	48,955
Furniture and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	42,277	14,099
Net share of Luce Center assets	<u>1,986,856</u>	<u>2,078,951</u>
Total Assets	\$ 3,749,590	\$ 4,253,192
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 205,597	\$ 200,728
Deferred revenue		
Memberships and subscriptions	419,955	404,338
Annual meetings	596,353	622,181
International meeting	88,145	56,208
Other	<u>31,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Liabilities	1,341,050	1,283,455
Net Assets		
Unrestricted net assets	2,001,937	2,529,803
Temporarily restricted net assets	123,453	189,934
Permanently restricted net assets	<u>283,150</u>	<u>250,000</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>2,408,540</u>	<u>2,969,737</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 3,749,590	\$ 4,253,192

The summarized financial information at left was derived from the Society's audited financial statements. The independent auditors' report by Smith & Howard PC, dated August 21, 2009 expressed an unqualified (clean) opinion on those financial statements.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets

Revenues and gains		
Congresses	\$ 980,035	\$ 990,500
Membership and fee income	464,720	456,532
Book sales	396,836	384,754
Subscriptions	375,304	385,342
Investment income	(318,845)	46,086
Marketing	131,708	181,587
Royalties	77,979	73,449
Contributions	97,711	85,213
Other	2,381	4,575
Rental income (loss), net	(1,534)	(2,200)
Career center	33,868	83,945
Loss on disposal of property & equipment	<u>(13,013)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Revenues and Gains	2,227,150	2,689,783
Expenses		
Program expenses		
Publications	934,881	889,420
Congresses	1,001,092	1,167,674
Membership	132,095	119,924
Professions	261,518	144,739
Regions	87,160	64,693
Research and technology	<u>121,418</u>	<u>208,877</u>
Total Program Expenses	2,538,164	2,595,327
Development and fundraising	116,741	153,151
General and administration	<u>133,442</u>	<u>161,423</u>
Total Expenses	<u>2,788,347</u>	<u>2,909,901</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	(561,197)	(220,118)
Net Assets at Beginning of the Year	<u>2,969,737</u>	<u>3,189,855</u>
Net Assets at End of the Year	\$ 2,408,540	\$ 2,969,737

2009–2010 Budget

Revenues

Draw Down	\$ 45,000
Administration	45,000
Congresses	1,001,700
Development	65,000
Membership	606,000
Professions	38,000
Publications	938,163
Regions	0
Technology	0
Total Revenue	\$ 2,738,863

Expenses

Exec Dir Search	\$ 25,000
Administration	125,164
Congresses	855,450
Development	135,868
Membership	170,039
Professions	193,068
Publications	958,439
Regions	80,738
Technology	165,097
Font Expense	30,000
Total Expense	\$ 2,738,863

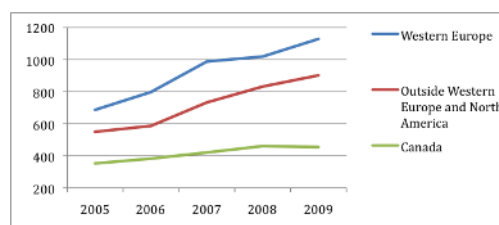
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	0
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The 2009–2010 operating budget reflects careful analysis of the downturn in the economy and how it might impact the Society's cash flow. Staff salaries were not increased, employer contributions to the employee retirement plan were cut by 2 percent, and careful analysis of expenses related to program areas was followed by a paring down of related expenses to help insure the Society remains fiscally sound in these challenging financial times. Point of interest: please note that last year's budget listed a one-time font expense of \$60,000 of which we have so far incurred \$30,000; \$30,000 is remaining and shown on this year's budget. We are all hopeful that the economy will turn around and we will be able to go back to business as usual in fiscal 2010–2011.

SBL Membership Increases Internationally

Ever since the first SBL gathering in New York in 1880, the majority of SBL's members have resided in the United States; even today, 70 percent of our members list a U.S. address as their primary place of residence. In recent years, however, we have seen steady growth in SBL's international membership, with the total number of non-U.S. members increasing by more than 50 percent since 2005.

Some of the increase in SBL's international membership can be attributed to the location of international meetings. For example, the 2008 meeting in New Zealand contributed to a nearly 60 percent increase in the number of members from the Pacific region between the years 2007 and 2008. We anticipate (and hope for) continued growth in SBL's membership worldwide.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION INITIATIVE

In an attempt to respond to the needs of scholars in developing countries who struggle to pay SBL's membership rates, in July 2008, we began offering reduced membership rates through the International Cooperation Initiative. Through this initiative, residents in countries with a GDP that is significantly lower than the U.S. or European Union may join SBL for \$15 (\$10 for students). Since the inception of these reduced prices, we have seen a 20 percent growth in membership levels from qualifying countries, with the most significant increases in the regions of Eastern Europe (51 percent) and Africa (30 percent).

Those members from qualifying countries who can afford to pay SBL's regular membership rates have continued to do so; in fact, of our current members who qualify, more than 80 percent have chosen to pay the regular membership rates.

Since July 2008, ninety-four scholars have benefited from these reduced rates; of this number, thirty-four had never been a member of SBL and eleven had not been a member for several years. It is our goal to increase the visibility of this initiative as a whole and the reduced membership rates in particular so that more scholars from developing countries will have the opportunity to join SBL.

2009 Donors

Gifts to the Society of Biblical Literature support a greater outreach to our members and the wider public. Now more than ever, our programs expand the reach of scholarship and our ability to engage colleagues around the world. Support to the International Cooperation Initiative has increased the number of online books available to scholars in developing countries. Our international colleagues now have the opportunity to study and mentor through the Teaching Collaboration Program. Our Teaching the Bible in Public Education Initiative gives public school teachers the tools needed when making decisions about appropriate curriculum. Your gifts also encourage creativity and excellence in biblical studies through the Paul J. Achtemeier Award Scholarship Fund and the David Noel Freedman Award Scholarship Fund. We sincerely appreciate your commitment and support to SBL and its many programs. We make every effort to increase excellence in fostering biblical scholarship and your gifts turn our ideas into a reality. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to the SBL.

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