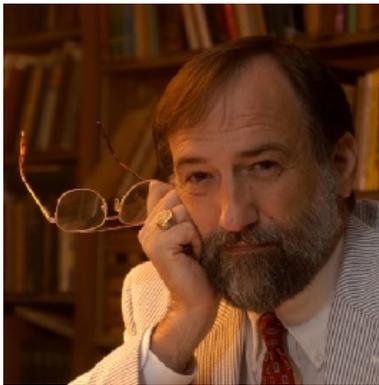


A PROFILE OF TRANSFORMATION



Name: Hal Poe

Hometown: Greenville, SC

Profession: Theologian and Baptist Minister

ASA Affiliation: Fellow, Past Executive Council Member

Hobbies: Writing, Rare Book Collecting, Gardening, History

Favorite Pro Sports Team: The Ravens

When did you first discover The American Scientific Affiliation (ASA)?

I first learned of the American Scientific Affiliation when Jimmy Davis, professor of chemistry at Union University, and I won a Templeton Science and Religion Course Award in 1998. The award made us eligible for an ASA / Templeton Lectureship Award which allowed us to bring four major speakers to our campus in support of our work.

How has your personal and spiritual life been changed because of your involvement with ASA?

At first, I knew the ASA through the quarterly journal, *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith (PSCF)* and through the newsletter. These two publications made me aware of the work that other confessing Christians were doing in the area of science and religion in terms of their scholarly work and personal activities. In many ways, it made me aware of the vast number of people who had common faith and interest even if they had a variety of perspectives, which made the title of the journal all the more meaningful. My membership in ASA was valuable to me in those days on the strength of the publications alone. It was not until the ASA meeting at Calvin College that I finally had an opportunity to attend an annual meeting and present a paper. I met a number of people at that first meeting who went out of their way to make me feel welcome and with whom I have

developed a strong friendship over the years. I have found the fellowship of the annual meetings to be of particular value in encouraging me and providing me with a growing network of friends I can call on.

What is the tangible evidence of the growth you've experienced?

The ASA annual meeting and *PSCF* have provided me with a forum to test my ideas in the form of papers and articles and to receive critical responses that help me improve my work. These papers and articles have then formed a core part of several books that I have written over the past fifteen years. The table talk at ASA annual meetings plays an even greater role in sparking ideas and generating imaginative insights in the context of a glorious stream of conversation that flows throughout the week together.

How long have you been a member/donor and what has ASA meant to you?

I must have joined ASA around 2000. After seeing several issues of *PSCF*, I realized that ASA is an organization that I needed to join and support. I encourage my friends in the sciences to join, and when I find a theologian who has an interest in science, I invite them to join as well.

What do our friends and financial partners need to know about how ASA is making a difference?

ASA is of particular importance for Christian scientists working in a secular context in which they may feel isolated and where they are discouraged from discussing their discipline from the perspective that faith provides. The ASA provides a fellowship of support that is of heightened importance for the young scientist just starting a career, and over the years it provides a company of friends one can call on.