



THE SEMINARIAN

LANCASTER
'EOLIGICAL SEMIN'

VOLUME XXVII

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LIBRARY

NUMBER 11

SEMINARIANS NEEDED FOR PHASE I OF CONVOCATION

We need at least 27 seminarians for work with faculty members in a series of meetings exploring MINISTRY IN THE 80's. This is Phase I of our 1976 Convocation.

On January 11 from 2:30 until 8:00 pastors and laypersons will gather in nine regions to give in-put on how the churches look at ministry in the 80's. A big portion of these meetings will be small group discussions developing understandings of the needs of the church in the next decade, the characteristics and skills which will be needed in pastors and how theological education can respond to these needs.

Seminarians will receive their expenses for participation. But even more you will have a chance to be right up front in a grassroots discussion of the church in which you will be beginning your ministry. You may very well learn things that will be helpful to you personally in the rest of your time in school and in shaping your early ministry, not to mention the placement process. Participation is not only for UCC's.

A training session for all leaders, faculty and seminarians, will be held on Monday, January 5, at 3:30 p.m. in the Hafer Center. All details will be laid out at that time. If you'd like to be part of the 1976 Convocation, Phase I, contact Charlie Hull or Paul Irion before leaving for the holidays.

Paul Irion

GET TOGETHER NEW YEARS EVE AT THE TRACYS

The Tracys are having a get together Dec. 31 at 8P.M. Bring your own refreshments. No reservations needed. 527 W. James

The Tracys!

FARWELL TO SISTER VARKEY

The seminarians would like to give a special farwell to Sister Varkey. She has given so much for us to think about in the last year. Sister Varkey's address is: Thankamma Varkey

Perumthuruthil House
Chettuthodu 686508
Kottayam Kerala
South India.

LETTER TO LUCY

Dear Lucy,

Here it is again, Christmas time, and I can't stand all this holiday spirit that I'm supposed to show to people I really don't like.. just because my Sunday School teacher says it has to go with Christmas. It's as phoney as my part in the Christmas program; I can't memorize it I hate it! They aren't my words or my feelings, but my teacher says learn it because everyone expects me to have something nice to say like the other kids! That's fake, Lucy, like the candles and the trees and stars and carols and cards and all the other stuff that's supposed to make Christmas something special. What's this Christmas Spirit all about? What's in it for me?

Charlie Brown.

Dear Charlie Brown,

Christmas is the season when you pretend to be happy and full of good cheer for everyone pretends to love each other. SO PRETEND CHARLIE BROWN!!! PRETEND!!! Everything will be all right.

MERRY CHRISTMAS,
LUCY



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
NEW YEAR FROM DOUG + NANCY

In the dialogue Euthyphro by Plato, Socrates asks a question that has yet to be satisfactorily dealt with in modern theology.

"The point which I first wish to understand is whether the pious or holy is beloved of the gods because it is holy, or holy because it is beloved of the gods?"

The distinction is a two-edged sword:

- a) If one holds that good is good because God says it is, the natural question is will good cease to be good when God changes his mind? This leaves us with a whimsical God who could act with utter disregard for His creatures and His own standards of goodness.
- b) If one believes good is the will of God because it is good, postulating an abstract concept of goodness to which God Himself must conform as did Plato's God-concept, you are left without an omnipotent God, for He has requirements laid upon Him by the natural laws of reality.

Christian thinking has stood solidly behind proposition a, declaring God to be gloriously whimsical and utterly without regard for morality, fairness, or physical science. The poverty of this logic is supported by resort to God's sovereign Will, as though any deplorable act is OK as long as God does it. (See the whole book of Joshua; pick your own proof-text.)

Alternative b terrifies theologians, for it means God is not all-powerful, asserting that there are eternal standards to which even God--especially God--must conform. But the autocratic God-concept came about in an era that knew government at best when practiced by a benevolent despot. In those predemocratic times the best a person could hope for would be justice (getting what he deserved). Mercy would be that rare instance when the despot suspended the principles of justice and gave the person what he did not deserve: pardon, reward, vindication. Is it any wonder that Christian thinking has dwelled on just this kind of images, born as it was in the days of authoritarianism unknown to us today?

What God-concept might we achieve if the democratic model were placed in our cosmology and metaphysics instead of the benevolent despot? A democratic ruler cannot dispense special favors to some and withhold the same from others, lest the cry "Favoritism!" ring out from his constituents.

"But this is absurd! God is not elected," you say? True, but God alone of all beings is

The sign up for Doc Englert's Preaching from the Old Testament course to be given in the Spring! The time has been moved to Friday afternoon from 1:30 to 4:30 so as to remove the conflict with the John course offered by Dr. Bartholomew.

This course is an absolute necessity for me since I've heard so many people speak of its value reaching into the future, but it is in jeopardy of not being given because it only has four registrants. Sign up for it by making a change in your registration with Nancy Norris--it won't cost you a cent in registration fees Saturday evening on the fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost many years from now you will be glad you did!

--Tom Schreck

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. LECTURES

On Saturday, January 24, 1976, The Christian Ministries Institute will sponsor these lectures. The theme will be Liberation: Black Perspectives. The lecturers will be Dr. S. Gandy, Professor of Religion and Personality, Howard University, Dr. J. Forbes Director of Ed., Inter-met Seminary, the preacher of the day will be the Rev. O.T. Jones, Bishop of Pa., Church of God in Christ Respondents will be Professor R. Duke and Dr. F. Ringer of LTS; and Mrs. I. Gogley, PHD, and Fr. Paul Washington, Philadelphia. Lectures will begin at 10 AM in Hafer Center.

Come one! Come all!

Nate Baxter

Allen Kroehler, Director CMI

HERETIC....

in relationship to all things equally. Does this not call for Him to be Fair, and does not the democratic model express that understanding better than the authoritarian?

The qualitative God--He who is good because it is good to be good--is for me a vast improvement over the quantitative God-concept that asserts the establishment of goodness by God's fiat. A God bound to eternal standards is not all-powerful, true. But a God who acts whimsically is not all-loving. Which would you rather worship? God-Yahweh the destroyer of Jericho or the Abba-Father of Jesus?

--Tom Schreck

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Faculty, seminarians, and spouses who want to participate in a Week of Personal and Communal Discernment at the Jesuit Center for Spiritual growth January 11-17, should register your interest with Edna Hafer by noon on Friday, December 19th. Six spaces have been reserved for LTS participants. Funding is available to cover most of the cost of \$100. Each person is asked to pay the \$25 registration fee. The Seminary will pay the balance. The programs begin at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday evening, January 11 and conclude on Saturday at noon, January 17. The program is similar to the one designed for us in September. This one is open to the public, and its participants will share the experience with a predominately Roman Catholic group. A brochure describing the program is available. Please register your interest immediately.

James D. Glasse

CHAPEL SERVICES

Chapel Services during January are scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday - 1:00 - 1:20 p.m.

Mike Iski

CHRISTMAS DROP-IN

Lulu and Mary Ruth invite you to their drop-in for carols, cookies, and Christmas cheer Thursday evening, December 18, from 7-9 p.m. in Nevin Hall. Please feel free to bring families and friends. Hope to see you!

Lulu Kellogg and Mary Ruth Allis

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT

A local businessman is seeking a clean-living (no smoking nor drinking) married couple without children for domestic work, yard work, and chauffeuring. The couple is expected to live in an apartment on the grounds which is completely furnished (second floor, private entrance, livingroom, kitchenette, large bedroom, air-conditioned). The husband must have a car for chauffeuring purposes and will be responsible for yard work, too. The wife is expected to prepare meals and clean. References must be provided. If interested, please contact Mary Ruth Allis in the ODC Office for more details.

The definition of "clean living" couple wanted by local businessman:
The definition for "clean living" was a quote from the businessman, not ODC.

Lyman Farrar

UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN

LTS will be "featured" by the United Church of Christ through its Sunday Bulletin Service on February 1, 1976. The message on the back of the Bulletin that Sunday will be about LTS. We may have some requests for speakers on that particular Sunday. If you would be willing to accept a speaking engagement on February 1, please let Dorothy Book or Mary Ruth Allis know. Thanks.

Lyman Farrar

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Continued)

BLUE CROSS-BLUE SHIELD INSURANCE PROGRAM

Attention: Seminarians included in the Blue Cross-Blue Shield Insurance Program.

There is a new state law concerning coverage of newborn children. A statement from Blue Cross-Blue Shield concerning this matter is posted on the bulletin board in the Hub.

Lyman Farrar

FACULTY MEETING

The January Faculty Meeting will be held on Wednesday afternoon, January 7, 1976 at 3:00 p.m. All materials for the faculty packet must be in the Office of Dean at noon on Monday, January 5th. The packets will be placed in the faculty boxes sometime on Tuesday, January 6th.

Dean Bricker

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE LIBRARIAN

Library Hours

Saturday, December 20 - Closed

Monday, December 22 - 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 23 - 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Closed for Christmas Recess, December 24th thru January 4th

The 16mm movie projector and the film slide projector have been returned to the library. However the Sony reel-to-reel tape recorder has not been returned. If anyone knows of its whereabouts, please let us know.

George H. Bricker

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The Executive Cabinet wishes everyone at the Seminary a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Executive Cabinet