

THE SEMINARIAN

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AGAIN PIONEERS

Some time ago, the Executive Secretary of the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church wrote a book by this title. The substance of the book was a series of life stories of pioneers on the frontiers of the church. Not all these frontiers are at the growing edge of the church such as in Africa, Ecuador, or Honduras. Some of these frontiers are in the interstitial areas of the cities, the growing edges of the suburban fringes, the backwoods areas of rural America and in some instances the settled, and seemingly overworked, areas of the church.

Five years ago, the Town and Country Committee of Mercersburg Synod attempted to work out a solution to a difficult problem in their synod. Until they were through they had called in the Synodical Committee on National Missions and the Town and Country Committee of the denomination.

The situation needing help was a five church charge which had been vacant for most of the preceding 5 years. The five churches resisted any attempt to separate them into smaller groups so that they might be attractive to a minister who wanted to do more than preach the services and marry and bury when he was called upon. On the advice of some of the men who knew the area in which these congregations were located and who knew the congregations an attempt was made to withdraw first from one and then from another area and in that way lighten the load of a new pastor. The whole charge resented this in a way almost as greatly as the church for which it was suggested that discontinuance would be a good idea.

In an attempt to solve the problem the "East Berlin Project" was born. The plan was to have the charge call a pastor in the regular fashion and pay him the minimum salary of the Synod. His ministry was to be augmented by a student assistant from the Seminary in Lancaster. This student would work in the parish each Saturday and Sunday during the nine school months and would work full-time during the three summer months. This student assistant was to be paid jointly by the Board of National Missions of the Church and by the Mercersburg Synod.

It took two years to complete

this blue-print and achieve enough congregational willingness to try this new idea. In 1949 the Board challenged the Rev. Mr. Alton Leister to come to the charge as the regular pastor. Mr. Leister was peculiarly qualified for this task. On leaving Seminary he served a charge of one church. He left this charge to serve a three-church charge. That Scriptural, "You have been faithful over a few things, I will make you master over many things." Mr. Leister came to the churches in November, 1949.

This was the year of the beginning of the Rural Professorship at the Seminary in Lancaster. That office had been established with the thought that half the time of the incumbent would be spent in the Seminary in classroom work and student guidance according to the accepted pattern of a professor, and the other half of the time would be spent in extension work. This was the first job in extension.

The first student to accept the challenge was the Rev. Mr. William Anderman. He served his apprenticeship so well that he joyfully accepted a call to a four-church charge as a student pastor during his Senior year and has continued as the regularly called pastor of that charge.

Last year Morgan Haney served in this capacity and this year Elmer Weissner is the student assistant. It has been the policy to select a student at the end of his Junior year to be the assistant. He then serves during the Middle school year and the summer following. This process helps to make the assistantship a continuing thing without such division of loyalties as can grow in a charge with two persons serving it. Some one from this Jr. class will be a possible candidate for the job.

In this time, several major accomplishments have been achieved. There is a service of worship in each congregation each Sunday. The first Sunday on which the Holy Communion was served in all churches in the same day, the people almost wept for joy, even as in the early history of the Church in this country a congregation wept at the sight of three ministers in their pulpit at once.

The planning for the parish and for the pastor's program is done

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through a joint consistory which meets quarterly. Local consistories meet only to transact such business as is purely a local congregational matter.

An addition was built to the parsonage for a church office and an assistant's apartment. Improvements were made to the buildings. Youth work has been organized in the parish. Choirs have been given a new sense of urgency and unity. The Women's Guild meets several times each year as a charge-wide Guild.

Much of what can be done is in an embryo stage. It will depend on the continuing imagination of those who are concerned with the East Berlin Parish.

Giants in the church are those who have an active imagination, unceasing energy and an indomitable desire to make the kingdom of God more real to the persons who live on this earth.

A.C.Bartholomew

A TIMELY ITEM EDITOR SEMINARIAN SIR:

"This past week I had an interesting conversation with a rather successful pastor about a timely item in church affairs. He said, "I still haven't been able to lick this perennial thorn in the side of worship services and other church functions. You know what it is," he went on. "People absenting themselves from worship, Sunday School, congregational meetings, youth fellowships, committee meetings, without mentioning special programs, such as lectures and panel discussions. What are you going to do when only half and more often hardly one-fourth of your congregation participates?"

As our conversation proceeded, we found that this was an old story, because most all groups suffer from this ailment. We then proposed that it must be human nature which makes people that way. Or maybe they can't be expected to participate when there is a conflict of loyalties inside. Still we could not agree! Are we to blame human nature? Could human nature be the bearer of all these profound rationalizations and excuses of "why I need to be somewhere else and can't attend that affair"?

However we began to see some light and a possible solution to our problem. Rather than blame human nature per se, why not say that the undisciplined and uneducated nature of man is selfish. Selfish in the sense that it doesn't want to accept corporate responsibility which is called for in attending meetings and programs of churches or any group. Consequently, the

individual through the "logic of rationalization concludes that his time is too valuable and his interests are too important to be interrupted. His obligation to the group is relegated to third or fourth place. Then the final, "clinching" arguments most often used are: "I won't miss much," or "They'll get by without me."

Then I told my pastor friend, "Seminarians haven't disciplined nor educated their nature yet either. Although they should be learning good, wholesome habits, human nature, or selfishness, is getting the best of most of them. For example, when an Interseminary conference is held and two hours of Classes and a chapel period is given over to the conference, the seminarians' 'logical' mind concludes that that is license for their weekend pass to begin at ten o'clock. The same situation is repeated during annual convocations when only one-fourth of the student is present at lectures. Even the coincidence of having five required classes the first two hours before a lectures series doesn't increase student attendance."

All this reminds one of the seemingly uninstructed and naive seminarian who thoughtfully said: "Do for others what you would have them do for you." But to this the "instructed and more astute" seminarian retort: "No, that's not right. You should say, "Others should do for me as I say, but not as I do for others!" For when you're out in the ministry you will expect your congregation to attend worship services, meetings, and talks which you conduct. If they don't," this "astute" seminarian continues, "then you'll certainly have to tell them how selfish they are."

Oh, I wonder if these "astute and instructed" victims of human nature know how foolish they are.

Yours faithfully,
Simeon E. Quella

Simeon:

We doubt it. -Ed.

HOME, SWEET HOME

It is ridiculous to have to write this article. It makes us appear disorderly and irresponsible, and we hope that students for the Christian ministry are not guilty. However, we all need to be reminded occasionally of the necessity of keeping our house clean and in order.

The first thing which any visitor sees when he enters the dorm is the mail box on the first floor. He assumes that it is indicative of the appearance of the rest of the dorm, and we regret to say that this is generally true.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

By letter I wish to bring to the attention of the entire student body a decision which I feel was effected by the opinion and bias of one, two, or three seminarians, at the most.

The Association of Seminary Women at their last meeting on November 5 decided, after hearing a "tiny minority report," to curtail indefinitely their project to give Christmas gifts to the orphans at Bethany Orphanage. Oh yes, there are a few dollars in the fund and that will be used to buy some gifts to meet their obligations. But the fund would not have even these few dollars if the women would not have felt this was a worthy project and that the means for raising the fund was not "objectionable."

This minority report seemed to indicate that the men in the dorm did not like the idea of being coerced into buying cookies once every two weeks. Furthermore, the report held that since seminarians are poor, it was not fair to charge such high prices for cookies. The women accepted the report and there by decided not to "hurt" the feelings of the seminarians.

I wonder whose feelings were hurt through the cookie sales? Some one may have felt hurt if he parted with a dime as a contribution toward the project and at the same time bought six cookies.

If the women don't vote to reinstate the cookie sale as a means of securing funds for their project, then I recommend that the women contact each seminary student for a pledge or an immediate contribution. However, I would rather see the cookie sale return. Then if there are any who feel "gipped" paying a nickel for two or three cookies, they should have no pangs of conscience when others part with a nickel or a dime. Finally, the cookie sales were not conducted to gain the favor of one or two people. The women had higher goals than this, but now they seem to have been discouraged.

Sincerely yours,
Gus Molnar

HOME, SWEET HOME

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At this point every reader is probably thinking of the poor job of the student janitors, who are paid to keep the building clean. But let us first consider whether it is all their fault. Who pushes aside the ash trays and grinds cigarettes butts underfoot? Who takes the newspapers to the bathrooms and

leaves them lying on the floor? The janitors spend over 30 hours each week cleaning, but that is not nearly enough time to compete with those of us who cannot find an ash tray or a waste basket.

The Dorm Council would appreciate students' suggestions for, and cooperation in improving the appearance of our home.

Our mothers are not here to see that we keep things clean and in order, so let's live like men.

-bds.

INTERSEMINARY CONFERENCE

On Friday, Nov. 9, our seminary was host for the Philadelphia Area Conference of the Interseminary Movement. Ninety-five men and women from twelve seminaries were registered. The theme, "Jesus Christ is Lord" was divided into three parts.

Prof. William E. Rowers, of the Eastern Baptist Seminary, spoke on "Jesus Christ is Lord of the Individual", reminding us that the times require "decisive living" on the part of every Christian.

President-emeritus George Richards gave the second address on the subject, "Jesus Christ is Lord of the Church". He pointed out that it is only as we come closer to Christ through unconditional surrender to him in the Church, that we come together more fully in the Church.

Each of these addresses was followed by small discussion groups in various dorm rooms.

In the evening, Prof. Harry A. De Wire, of the Evangelical School of Theology in Reading, spoke on "Jesus Christ is Lord of Society." "Love brings us together", he said, "healing the broken relationships which exist among different groups in society". After a question period, the conference was brought to a close with a worship service led by Dr. Sayres, on the theme, "Jesus Christ is Lord of All."

WAR AND THE CHRISTIAN CONSCIENCE

The Program Committee of the Society of Inquiry has announced that a discussion is planned for Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 7:30 P.M. The topic will be "War and the Christian Conscience." Two speakers will lead the discussion. They will be: Professor Robert Mickey of Franklin and Marshall, who will speak for the Christian non-pacifist, and Charles Walker, Regional Secretary of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, who will speak for the Christian pacifist. Tentative plans are being made for small discussion

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groups to meet on Mon. night for preliminary discussion of the subject. The combined meeting with the speakers will be held in the Alumni Hall.

Frank Snider

THE WOMEN REPORT

With the election of officers and the planning of the year's schedule, the Seminary Women have begun what promises to be a full and interesting program for 1951-52.

Tentatively on the agenda are discussions on such topics as community counselling, parental guidance, "What's Expected of a Minister's Wife from a Minister's Point of View", the Women's Guild Packet; and the annual picnic in May.

The girls have also launched an enthusiastic program of special projects. For Christmas, they are planning to send gifts to the sixteen teen-age girls in one of the cottages at the Bethany Orphan's Home. Also they plan to help at the Heart Haven, in Lancaster, by reading to the boys and girls and doing whatever else they can to cheer them. It looks like a good year!

R.C.S.

Dr. HARNER'S SUCCESSOR ELECTED

A joint meeting of the Board of Visitors and the Board of Trustees on Wednesday, November 14 unanimously elected Rev. Lee J. Gable to the post of Professor of the Department of Christian Education. The Rev. Mr. Gable will fill the vacancy on the Faculty which was caused by the untimely death of Dr. Harner last summer.

After graduation from the Theological Seminary in 1931 he served as pastor for eight years in the Dallastown Evangelical and Reformed Church. At present he is executive secretary of Leadership Training and Church Administration of the National Council of Churches in Chicago.

Rev. Gable is married to the former Miss Anna Mary Hinkle who was teacher in the local schools. They have two children. These new members of the Seminary family will not move into the house across the street until the latter part of the summer. Dr. Charles D. Spotts, head of the Department of Religion at F&M will continue to teach all courses in the Christian Education Department for the remainder of the year. We can indeed feel quite fortunate in the reclaiming of a 'lost son' to the E&R Church. Rev. Gable will bring with him the ecumenical spirit which is so important in this time. We wish to say 'thanks' to the

Boards for their rapid work in the choosing of the new Professor, and extend a hearty 'welcome' to the entire Gable family.

THE SWANDER LECTURES

(Rather than try to report on the recent lectures by Dr. Bela Vasady, The Seminarian here presents a summary of ideas, for a convenient review by its readers in attendance.)

Professor-elect Vasady began his first lecture before a sparse audience of Seventy-five scattered visitors and seminarians at 9:10 A.M. on Tuesday. The title of the lecture was: "Beyond Pessimism and Optimism".

"What is my personal mission on earth?" is what Dr. Vassady believes every Christian must ask himself, Calvin notwithstanding. In replying to this, all can become ecumenical Christians.

"This new outlook has begun to grip Europeans," said the speaker. He then surveyed past disappointments of optimists and current forms of optimism. A hopeful sign today is man's despair in himself, and submission to God as a result. A new view of the Lord is giving man a better perspective of himself. (Another hopeful sign was the crowd growing by this time.)

In his second of the Swander lectures, Dr. Bela Vasady laid bare both Activism and Quietism as two forms of escape. "The only remedy for both kinds of escapism is in hearing Christ and responding to him."

The ecumenical Christian is and moves beyond nationalism and denominationalism. Yet he is not an "international" because that, too is a temporal position. An ecumenician "may not align himself with a revolution or a status quo for the Church itself is a perpetual revolution."

Everything God really brings about must point beyond itself," concluded the lecturer. The World Council must thus point upward, yet neither may cut loose from its mooring. It may not confine itself to its leaders. Each lay worshipper must see his own role in this greatest world movement. Ecumenical Christianity must "penetrate all dividing curtains creatively....and courageously."

Dale Heckman

The Seminary basketball team has completed its practice sessions with the Chrispus Attucks. The team has won the final two games of the series. As reported before the boys dropped the first game by one point 40-41. However, the last two games saw a marked improvement in the teamwork. This can be seen in the two victories that they have chalked up. The score of the second tilt was 64-61 and the score of the final game was 54-50. With the completion of this series of games with the Attucks the team seems to be headed for a successful season in the college inter-mural basketball league.

In the past two games Glen Rader Nels Wenner, and Herb Zeigler have been the major contributors to the scoring column, having supplied 54 of the 64 points in the first game and 35 of the 54 points in the second game. If these boys can continue to hit the hoop with regularity the Angels are going to be very difficult to defeat.

It was also noticed that quite a few of the boys have a great deal of basketball know how. They have handled the ball well on offense, and on occasion have cleared the boards in a masterful fashion. This has, so to speak, settled all of the boys down quite a bit.

Credit should also be given to the opponents. The Attucks have played very good basketball in all of the games. Each game has been a close battle as can be seen by the scores. A number of their boys were very consistent with shots from near the center of the court. This helped them to keep abreast of the Seminarisians. In general they had excellent teamwork, which attests to their extensive practice.

Thus far the team has employed the zone defense. In the third game it looked as though the boys were beginning to get the feel of working the zone to its best advantage. It is under the defensive basket that the Seminarisians have the greatest possibility for improvement. With tall boys such as Glen and Bill Rader, Mel Palmer, John Frantz, and others learning to take advantage of their height this problem should disappear.

With the season due to get under way with our return to the Seminary following the Thanksgiving vacation we want to call your attention, again to the support of the team. Although the boys are playing for the recreation that is derived from it, they also like to win. Here all of us can join in by attending the games. Our support will help them to put close games into the "won" instead of the "lost" column.

C.E.S.

The football season at T.S. is officially over, and our attention shifts to the winter sports scene, where the blood will flow indoors during the coming months. A last look at football shows that the five-game schedule was marred by two rain cancellations. Three games were played, all won by team one by scores of 19-0, 6-0, and 19-13. The games were hotly contested and at the same time achieved the goal of sportsmanship and provided exercise for those with bulging waistlines.

Ahead of us lie three sports on the Seminary program of recreation. These are open to all Seminary men and women. The first of these is ping-pong. The tournament has already begun, but there is still time for last minute entries. You can still enter the tournament. Fourteen players have entered and the "ladder" has been posted in the basement of the Dorm near the two tables. The first five are those from last year's team; the other names are arranged alphabetically to begin the tournament. Players are reminded of the simple rules which have been posted on the Dorm bulletin board. The ping-pong tournament will continue until Christmas vacation. The first six players on the "ladder" at that time will constitute the Seminary team and will compete in matches with teams from the College. If there are any questions about the tournament see Bob Titus or Norm Bucher.

The second activity is bowling. Bowling will begin the first Tuesday after the Christmas vacation and continue for six weeks. There will be four teams, one from each floor in the Dorm and the Faculty Team. There is always spirited competition both for team honors and for individual scoring honors. Reports from undercover agents say the student body contains many good bowlers, and we anticipate a fine season. "The Faculty needs a pin boy," said Dr. Englert, "anyone interested please consult the Dean about revision of grades for the coming term." It's all in fun. A sheet will be posted on the bulletin board. All those who wish to bowl please sign their names.

The third activity will also begin after the Christmas vacation. That is dart baseball. The dartboard in the gym is ready, and from the sounds which are coming from downstairs, I judge several boys are loosening up their arms. A sheet will be posted for dart baseball similar to the one for bowling. There will be an announcement about dart baseball later. Let's get out and have fun!

N.R.B.