

## T H E   S E M I N A R I A N

---

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED)  
Volume VIII   \*   Academic Year   1958-59   \*   January 16, 1959   \*   Number 6

---

### J A P A N E S E   S E M I N A R I E S

The United Church of Christ in Japan is the largest Protestant denomination in Japan at the present time. It is made up of seven or eight former denominations which were at work in Japan and which are now interrelated in the Interboard Committee for Christian Work in Japan. The number is not uncertain, but it depends on whether you think the merger of the Evangelical and Reformed church and the Congregational churches has taken place. It has not really in the field so the denominations are sometimes counted as 8 and sometimes as 7.

These denominations each had theological seminaries at one time or another. The seminary which was related to the schools at Sendai which were begun by the early Reformed Missionaries before part of a merger with a Presbyterian, a Methodist, a Baptist, and a Dutch Reformed Seminary to become Tokyo Union Theological Seminary from which Naitosan was graduated. This is the largest Seminary of the several in the United Church. The Congregational Christian Churches have long been related to Doshisha University in Kyoto. The school of religion continues to work there.

The Seminary which was begun by the Evangelical and United Brethren church has an interesting program. Most of the students in this seminary have full time jobs at which they work during the day. They attend classes at night. They take a longer time to do the same amount of work, but in this way they can support themselves while in school. The standard course for Theological training is 6 years beyond High School. Tokyo Union is a college and seminary combined. Students at Doshisha and Kansei usually spend their first two years in the general College work and then the next four in the Department of Religion. Biblical Seminary (EUB) students often have had some training in other professions and enter in a kind of advanced status.

The newest seminary is the National Christian Rural Service and Training Center. This is the school with which we worked most closely. It is on the campus of this school that we lived. It will take more than this article to describe the work there. This school, however, is unique in that it is a creature of the United Church of Christ in Japan and not one brought into the merger by a denomination.

The seminaries are all located in the Tokyo-Osaka area. We had the pleasure of visiting all of them except the Biblical Seminary. That was a slip on our part which we noticed too late to rectify. The students would compare to all ours here except that they seem to be a little more in earnest about their work. The church is not the established, respected institution it is here and they are aware of that as they study to take their place in it. The curricula are almost devoid of subjects in the practical fields and some of the Japanese leaders see the need and are working to change the situation.

It is too bad that we do not have students with as much command of Japanese as many of their students have of English so that some of our students could take a year in a Japanese Seminary as theirs do in coming here.

- Dr. Bartholomew

### B O O K S T O R E   C O O P E R A T I V E

The Bookstore Cooperative will hold its annual meeting Wednesday evening, January 28, in conjunction with the Society of Inquiry meeting. During this meeting the manager will present his annual financial report, a new manager and assistant manager will be elected and minor changes in the constitution will be proposed. Plan to take an active part in this important business meeting.

## T H E   D E A N ' S   C O R N E R

( We are happy to report that Dr. Gable is recuperating splendidly after undergoing an operation over the Christmas vacation. We are especially delighted to welcome him aboard as acting dean of the Seminary and as author of The Dean's Corner for this paper. - - Ed.)

It is good to have three visiting faculty members on our campus during the Winter Term. The Rev. R. Howard Paine, pastor of St. Paul's Church, Manheim, is back again teaching History and Principles of Worship. Dr. G. Wayne Glick, Professor of Religion at F & M, and Dr. Theodore L. Trost, Jr., pastor of St. Peter's Church, Lancaster, are teaching Church History courses, CH 30 and CH 33, respectively.

While visiting professors and an acting dean hold the academic "fort", the honest-to-goodness dean is deep in history. He is one of seven men who have been commissioned to write the history of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Dr. Dunn is writing about the Reformed Church in the east from the beginning of the Synod in 1793 to the General Synod in 1863, and from that time to the E & R merger in 1934. At the holiday meeting of the Historical Commission, he accepted the further assignment of doing the basic editorial work of putting the separate statements together into one document. Our good wishes to Dr. Dunn as he does this work, so near to us, yet so far away!

Plans for the new dormitory apartments are nearing completion. It is hoped to break ground about March 1. The effect of this development on the 1959-60 schedule will be one item for discussion in the "pow wow" on January 28.

The Faculty admissions committee reported on Friday the acceptance of the first eight students for next year. Applications and supporting materials come in daily, and additional acceptances will likely be approved on the publication date of this issue of The Seminarian. Looks like a good class for next year in both B.D. and M.R.E. programs.

Our prayers and good wishes go to Jim Slapinski who is scheduled for surgery, January 16. His address for a short while will be Pottstown Hospital, Charlotte Street, Pottstown, Pa.

Two experimental schools will be held at the Seminary next summer, each with enrollment limited to fifty. One will offer graduate courses for pastors, with Dr. Vassady serving as dean (June 16 to July 17). Already 38 ministers are enrolled. The other will be a School of Lay Theology, with Dr. Gable as dean. The printed brochure announcing this school has just been mailed. The initial response to both of these projects has been excellent.

Keep these coming events in mind: Monday Assembly speaker, January 19, Missionary George Snyder; Wednesday, January 28, 7:00, in the Lounge, Seminary "pow wow". Thursday, January 29, Churchmen's Brotherhood executive, Ken Kohler on campus.

## B A S K E T B A L L   T E A M S   W I N

Four games have been played since the long Christmas rest and the results have been very satisfying. Although Team #2 lost its first game to City #6 25-81, Team #1 continued its winning streak by defeating Dietz #2 - 46-25. Team #1 again squashed its opponents, City #8, by a score of 43-22. The luckless "Rinky Dinks", better known as Team #2, finally won their first game on Tuesday night by a . . . . . forfeit. City #5 was the victim.

- Ernie Racz

R U B Y     I N     L O N D O N

Following are excerpts taken from a letter which Ruby Navaratnasingam sent to Dr. Gable January 2:

"I am in London now with my cousin and his family. . . Most of the passengers on the boat were Germans and French returning home from the States. We had a pleasant trip although it was terribly cold out on the deck. On the 23rd, 24th, we had very stormy weather, and most passengers were sick. I kept fairly well all along the trip, but like the rest I felt somewhat ill on the 23rd and 24th. Christmas on the ship is a unique experience. The whole ship was beautifully decorated with colored bulbs. There was a beautiful Christmas tree and Santa Claus was present for all the children on the ship. We had a real Christmas dinner so that we were made to get the true Christmas feeling. On Christmas eve my cabin mates and I had a little party in the cabin. There was a girl from Germany, a lady from France and a Hungarian lady, sharing the cabin with me. We each had a gift for the other three, and we sang a few carols which we could all sing. We had carols in French, and German and Hungarian.

My cabin mates were very friendly. Three of us were Protestants, except the lady from France. On Christmas day we had a short service in the lounge. It was so wonderful to me to share this spirit of Christmas with French, Germans, English, Irish, Americans, Scots, Hungarians, Australians and Indians. This is an experience I will always remember and Christmas was so meaningful to me.

On the 26th of December we reached Eire where we docked for six hours. Everything was so green and lovely there. On the 27th we reached France at the port of Le Havre. We stayed here for about 6 hours so that again I had a little glimpse at France. We reached Southampton at 7:30 that night and by the time I reached London by the Boat Train it was 10 o'clock. My cousin had come to meet me at the Waterloo Station, so I am now with them.

Last night I went to see the Big Ben strike twelve. There were crowds there waiting for it to strike 12. At the stroke of the 12 o'clock hour everyone kissed their friends or shook hands with their friends and wished them a bright and prosperous new year. On the 30th I had to go to the British Council of Churches. I will be teaching Scripture for some of the classes and will be observing the schools. I hope to be there until March. Then I will leave for Ceylon.

Leave my best wishes to the Seminary Family.

Yours sincerely,

Ruby

B L E S S E D     E V E N T S

To Dr. and Mrs. Paul J. Achtemeier, a daughter, Marie Louise, on January 10 at 1 A.M. She is reputed to resemble her father.

Cynthia Clara Tornallyay arrived January 2 at the General Hospital. She weighs 7 pounds and behaves perfectly, Martin reported.

Rev. & Mrs. Ralph Geiman, class of '58, announce the birth of a son, Eldon Samuel, who was born on December 3. All are doing fine at Landisburg.

On November 24 a daughter was born to Rev. and Mrs. H. Ronald Whitebred, class of '58. Alison Kay is residing with her parents in Lensdale where her father is the assistant minister to the St. John's congregation.

## Blessed Events - Continued

Stanley Wagner took another step toward the altar when he became engaged to Miss Lynda B. Miller on December 24. The bride-to-be is from Hamburg, Pa. and is currently studying at Kutztown State Teacher's College.

Your Editor must confess that he, too, has lost his courting freedom, since plighting his troth to Miss Phyllis P. Ruth on November 24. The "happy" bride-to-be hails from Thomasville, Pa. and is presently employed as a receptionist at the S. Morgan Smith Co., York.

Two former Seminarians were united in marriage on December 27, 1958. They were Merle U. Fox, graduate of '58, and Alice B. Oglie, a member of last year's Junior class. The wedding took place at Casebeer Lutheran Church, Sipesville, Pa. Rev. Mr. Fox has recently been installed as pastor of the Rimersburg Charge.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES ARE EXTENDED TO ALL THESE HAPPY FOLKS.

### R E T T I G     S P E A K S     O N     F A I T H     H E A L I N G

Dr. Richard Rettig, pastor of St. Peter's E & R Church, Pittsburgh, reported on his ministry of faith healing at the second Vital Issues meeting, January 7.

His talk was filled with illustrations from his experiences. Dr. Rettig, who came to the seminary with high recommendations from denominational offices, compared and contrasted his ministry with others engaged in the same work.

While he holds great respect for certain modern writers in the field, he primarily grounded his practice on Biblical texts.

Comments on his lecture have been varied, but it may be said that his talk generally was well received, as many indicated it to be the most healthy approach they had heard on the subject.

Dr. Rettig gave a number of books on faith healing to the Seminary library.

- Sam Fisher

### B O W L I N G   S E A S O N   O P E N S

The first series of games in the 1959 Seminary Bowling League were rolled on Friday, January 9, on the lanes at Rocky Springs. The day provided an auspicious beginning for several of the teams, once they arrived at the alleys -- several of them, for some reason, seem to have taken an odd route to get there -- and at the conclusion of their efforts, the Third Floor had scored four points, Out-of-Dorm #1 and Second Floor had three each, Faculty and First Floor each had one point, and the score of Out-of-Dorm #2 is better left unsaid.

The high team average was 139.8, by Out-of-Dorm #1, with Faculty's 131.1 in runner-up position. Cal Wolfgang was the day's high man, bowling a 180 single and a fine 499 series.

The bowling will continue every Friday afternoon, beginning at 1:45.

		<u>Games</u>	<u>Pins</u>	<u>Average</u>
Individual Records:	1. Calvin Wolfgang	3	499	166.3
	2. Don Kelly	3	481	160.3
	3. Rev. James Bright	3	465	155.0
	4. Rev. Bishop	3	451	150.3
	5. George Bach	3	432	144.0

"J.B." BY ARCHIBALD MACLEISH

"J.B." is a moving drama in verse. It is in the direct tradition of Eliot's Murder in the Cathedral, Wilder's Our Town, and the verse plays of William Butler Yeats. It's greatness as a work of art and its power as a drama will remain unquestioned. What is in dispute is the exact relation which "J.B." bears to the Book of Job. Samuel Terrien elucidates this relationship in a review which is accessible in the current issue of The Christian Century.

I think that Terrien would agree that the greatest similarity consists in the question asked by J.B. and Job as to the origin or source of evil in the world. "J.B."s' author gives Nichles, who plays the part of Satan this mocking speech:

"If God is God He is not good,  
If God is good He is not God:  
Take the even, take the odd -

"J.B." raises the question within the specific context of our age - the play is related by action and in its dialogue to man's contemporary situation. The question as raised in Job is eternal.

Terrien raises a question about the ending of the play. It seems to be more related to a triumph of human love than to the sublime resignation - after struggle - of the Biblical Job. The drama ends on a sort of "Brave New World" note with an optimism born of the renewal of physical and human love.

MacLeish avoids monotony by a wide variety of verse forms and patterns. The table scene, with J.B., Sarah, and the children is rich in interesting rhymes and sprightly dialogue. MacLeish is at his poorest in the scenes with the Comforters which contrast with the dialogue of the group of women outside the ruin.

"J.B." is now on Broadway with a cast which include Raymond Massey and Christopher Plummer. The reviews, not written by theological scholars, have been excellent.

- George Hazen

C A P A C I T Y    C R O W D    A T    C H R I S T M A S    B A N Q U E T

The annual Christmas banquet, which is sponsored by the Social Life Commission under the direction of Carroll Luckenbaugh, was held in the Refectory on December 11. The event was preceded by an informal social hour during which punch and cookies were served. Immediately following the turkey dinner, the program began with the singing of familiar carols under the leadership of Calvin Wolfgang. Music was furnished by Paul Reed at the electric organ, which was donated for the occasion by Troup Music House.

The main event of the evening was the Christmas sermon by Rev. Beatrice McConnell, the wife of our Professor of Sacred Music. Mrs. McConnell must be commended with high praise and thanks for her inspiring message which reached the hearts of those present.

Dean Dunn then dedicated the offering of \$80.45 for Nazareth Orphan's Home at Rockwell, N.C. The evening closed with a tableau, "The Gift of Christmas", which was under the supervision of Ruthanne Kelshner. This banquet certainly is the caliber of events that we need and it makes one eagerly look forward to many more such activities.

- Willard Rabert