



The Seminarian

Academic Year 1952-53 Lancaster, Pa. March 16, 1953

THE SENIORS' LAST MILE

-Leslie Mike-

The day of reckoning draws near for the seniors and many a hair may turn gray before the theses are finally completed, approved, and typed. A few years ago the mention of the word thesis would have brought a "devil may care" smile to a senior's face; but today, the mention of that word brings forth an expression solemn and white. Judgment draws near; no longer can incompleting work be moved into the next term.

Let us take a look at a few of the "honorable" seniors and see what special field of interest is taking up all their time. Dick Shellenberger is writing on THE PATRIARCHS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. He has carefully compiled a list of all the places that the New Testament writers have made use of the patriarchs. At this stage of Shellenberger's work, Abraham appears to be the central figure in three distinct associations. First, Abraham as the father of all the faithful; Abraham as the father of the Hebrew race; and third, Abraham in a specific relationship with God through the covenant. He now plans to make a careful study of these categories.

Derl Troutman, although living next door to Dick in the dormitory, is far from him in his field of interest. Derl is spending most of his time trying to discover the factors behind DISCONTINUED CHURCHES of our denomination. He began his work by sending questionnaires to former pastors of discontinued churches, about 65% of the questionnaires have been returned. This is a good response. Derl reports that some interesting facts have already appeared in his research. These churches, for instance, were mainly country churches, and they did not have weekly services. He points out, however, that many other factors still lie buried in his material.

(Further sketches of senior theses will appear in the next issue of The Seminarian. Editor.)

CHOIR SPREADS GOODWILL

+ WILBUR STELL +

No one could have gone thru such a week of fellowship without gaining knowledge and insight into what makes seminarians and congregations tick!

The choir trip began in the misty hours of Sunday morn on the 22nd of February, 1953. At the wheel of the modernized Conestoga wagon and puddle-jumper was the ever jovial Roy Lefever, our favorite driver. By 8:55, even Derl Troutman was ready to go. The cream and blue-colored public conveyance actually (and this is the gospel truth!) left five minutes ahead of time. The tour was to cover seven concerts in Pennsylvania and one in Maryland--and that we did! The schedule for each day was as follows: The choir was to leave for the next stop at 10 a.m. But neither choir members nor hosts could part on such a cold fact as 10 a.m., consequently the bus pulled out around 10:30. Dinner was eaten at some roadside beanery near the town of our destination. By 1:30 p.m. our bags, clothes, and choir gowns were strewn around the church and the members had scattered for sight seeing or Marilyn Monroe in her latest movie.

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AGUR BEN JAKEH

"Surely I am too stupid to be a man. I have not the understanding of a man." - Proverbs.

(There will be no AGUR column in this issue! -ED.)

A CLINICAL YEAR IN NATIONAL MISSIONS

-C. R. Trout-

Packed into twelve short months was a rich experience of mine which, I feel, will determine a large measure of my future witness for Jesus Christ in His Church. It all happened when Edward L. Schlingman, Director of Camps and Conferences of the E.R. Church, informed me that a Mission church in Cincinnati, Ohio was in need of help. Desiring to serve the church as an understudy of an ordained pastor before graduating from Seminary, I jumped at the chance.

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A CLINICAL YEAR (CONTINUED)

In September of 1951 my wife and I resided in the Parish House of First Reformed Church in "One Town City of the Midwest." And we lived for one whole year in this multi-club area of Cincinnati, observing first-hand the numberless problems of crowded, tenement urban life.

A splendid opportunity presented itself in the West End of Cincinnati, when I discovered that an interracial church, just around the corner from our own church, was eager to cooperate and help us in any way possible. Seven years ago this merged Presbyterian - Episcopal Church made the decision to give the invitation to the darker brothers as well as to the white. Rev. Maurice MacCracken, the pastor of the interracial church, proved to be a wonderful counsellor and friend to our mission church in a community where 90% of the population is negro and 10% white.

The Board of National Missions sent me to this church primarily to do a job in the immediate community. The pastor expended much of his time and energy calling on the members who had moved out of the congested area. Therefore, it was my privilege to work all week with the children and young people of the community in the various club groups. Also, many interesting experiences in pastoral calling could be related, if we had space for them.

As I now look back over my year out in the practical field of the ministry, I see for myself three values of the clinical year. The first two are of lesser and the last of paramount significance.

(1) The clinical year provides the opportunity of learning many things about the church and about pastoral duties, before one must officiate as the executive of a particular church. One year of experience does not guarantee a smooth future ministry; but, I am inclined to believe, that a few things can be learned as an understudy which can help to make one's ministry more effective from the very beginning.

(2) A full year away from academic life is good, too. Four years of college and two of seminary call for a "breather." More and more students from Eden Theological Seminary are taking the clinical work between their middler and senior years. I must say that my interest in the classroom now is much greater than in my first two years at seminary. I attribute much of that

EXTRA! EXTRA!

MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGION
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

(Inter-Seminary Shindig)

Colgate-Rochester Divinity School
April 16, 17, 18

Main Speaker: (tentative) H. G. Romrighausen, Professor at Princeton Seminary.

Theme: Cooperation on the Local (Parish) Level.

Worship!! Discussion!! Free Time!!

Orientation meeting to be held in immediate future.

Deadline for registration March 27.

to the fact that I had a chance to find a new perspective.

(3) And finally the clinical year has helped me to know where I am going. By this I mean that I had the unusual opportunity of looking at the church objectively; for I was not subjectively involved in making decisions as was the pastor. For example, an understudy can more objectively see where the church is making compromises with the secular world which should have been avoided; he is not organically and emotionally involved, as is the pastor.

That the majority of the Protestant churches in America are compromising with secularism in the problem of brotherhood cannot be debated. (The city of Cincinnati has a good example of the compromising church.) In this area we as Christ's followers have no right to compromise and, more practically, do not need to compromise. In the area of brotherhood the church can become truly the church even while contributing much toward world peace by "self-identification with Christ" in a program of suffering love. But our faith must become stronger, a series of genuine surrender to the will of God must occur, and then like a Daniel, a Stephen, a Paul, or a Kagawa our witness for Christ will bear fruit. "Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost..." (Lk. 14:27-28). I make a plea that each soldier of Jesus Christ may do his part in bringing in the day of brotherhood, yes, even in the church!

SET FOR FUN - MARCH 26

Sara Weirich

Yes, it should be quite a night! At least from the the hall buzz sessions I've heard on the third floor March 26th seems to be a marked date. No one will want to miss the big game of the year---the basketball contest between the fairer sex and the up and coming clergymen here in the Seminary Family. There I go again, patting my self on the shoulder by assuming that the game will be a contest. Well, go ahead and doubt me if you will, But I do believe that we girls will be able to hold our own in the coming fray. I'll be willing to bake a cake for the masculine courtsters if at least 3 of their number keep from crossing the mid-floor stripe before the game is over. (That's the way it is in girls' rules; only half the floor, and it sure makes some happy dribblers look silly.)

We'll make it about 7:00 PM in the F&M Gym. I hear that the fellows are going to astound the audience with something new in the way of basketball uniforms. As for the girls, they'll try to up a six-man team on the floor that will be a match for any male sextette.

The faculty? They'll be there too trying to serve the dizzy dribblers, keep the timing orderly, and the cheering unbiased. Proceeds will go toward the reconditioning of flabby muscles; the profits will be added to the sum already donated for the equipping of the dormitory gym.

If you like to laugh, come on over and see the game. The players will be selling tickets in advance. Cokes and candy will be on sale at the gym.

SEMINARY WOMEN

After a short Lenten worship and business meeting the Association of Seminary Women heard a discussion on role-playing by Professor Gable at their meeting on Monday evening in the dormitory lounge. After describing the various types and uses of role-playing Mr. Gable had a number of those present give a demonstration.

WOO UNTO YOU---

A wager and a hasty tally led to the following statistics: The sea of matrimony has claimed a total of 48 current Sem. students--14 juniors, 13 middlers, 17 seniors, and 4 M.R.E.'s. And June ain't here yet!

DEAN - O - GRAMS

The Faculty took action at the March meeting, limiting to the first two weeks of each term the period during which changes in registration can be made.

The Spring Term opened Monday, March 2nd with the following registration: Seniors, 31; Middlers, 28; Juniors, 34; M.R.E., 4; Specials, 3. ...Total, 100.

New Students: Messers Robert Barroll and Albert J. Brinker, mentioned in last SEMINARIAN and Rev. Donald Deaves, Methodist pastor at Glen Moore, Pa. Who was enrolled in the year 1944.

We were glad to welcome back Horace Sills of the Senior class after seven weeks absence due to an operation and Leslie Barnes from California where he spent three weeks with his father, who was very seriously ill.

Faculty Committee on Housing for next school year: Meck, Englert, and Bartholomew.

Next regular Faculty meeting, Friday, March 27th instead of the regular time, April 3rd (Good Friday).

SENIORS! How's progress on those B.D. theses? Time's a-speeding! MIDLERS! Chosen your thesis subject yet?

EASTER RECESS will begin Wednesday, April 1st at 12:10 and continue until 8 a.m. Tuesday, April 7th.

A CHALLENGE - "CHOOSE TO LIVE!"

One of the most significant programs to be taken up by educational institutions in these post-war years has been the exchange of students amongst the various nations of the world. Though, at first glance, this type of program may seem too insignificant to be of any world-wide worth, those who have observed changed attitudes and actions as a result of this program can speak for its real value. This is true in both directions, i.e. young persons from other countries in the USA, and young people from America in the various other countries.

Believing that the Theological Seminary has a responsibility in this direction, the Middler Class again has voted to support a program to raise funds for next academic year. Then we again shall

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Recently the following words by Thomas Paine challenged my thinking:

"It is impossible to calculate the moral mischief, if I may so express it, that mental lying has produced in society. When a man has so far corrupted and prostituted the chastity of his mind, as to subscribe his professional belief to things he does not believe he has prepared himself for the commission of every other crime. He takes up the trade of a priest for the sake of gain, and in order to qualify himself for that trade, he begins with a perjury."

However radical that statement may be, I must wonder whether other Seminarians, like myself, feel the guilty edge of its accusation. For, both privately and in public, I sometimes discover myself saying NOT what I believe but rather what some say I OUGHT TO believe. Likewise I unthinkingly accept and expound what another man believes, before experience has digested it and inner certainty has made it mine.

In a time of testing, no man would suffer long for a faith which was not his own. And in the face of world-wide purges, trials, smears and public pressures no one can foresee what tests his own faith will need to undergo. Beside all that, people need only the kind of spiritual help that is based on real conviction.

DMH

To the Editor: March 12, '53

The scene in some of the class rooms during recent examinations was certainly discouraging to most students present. Apparently a small minority of the student body think that the only moral code is that "anything is all right as long as you can get away with it". Certainly cheating on any test...is inexcusable. ...in most colleges it is sufficient cause for immediate dismissal.

We...are consecrated to uphold Christian ethics and morals, and yet we apparently have not acquired enough self-control to be honest with ourselves and with the professors. And, incidentally, what about using last year's tests to know what the questions will be this year? Is that honesty?

(A Junior)

A PRAYER FOR SEMINARIANS (#2 in series by faculty members)

Our Father in Heaven, we thank Thee for the summons to become heralds of Christ. Look upon this community of students and teachers with Thy favor, we beseech Thee. Deliver us from slothfulness and grant that we may order our lives according to Thy will. Save us from barren scholarship and blind faith. May our faith be informed by knowledge and our learning be infused with faith.

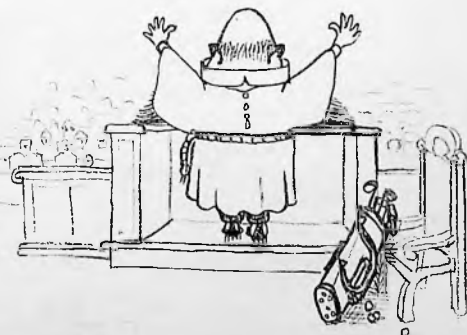
As we prepare to serve as priests at Thine altar, grant that we may first offer ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to Thee. As we look forward to serving as pastors of Thy flock, grant that we may submit ourselves to the care and keeping of the Great Shepherd of the sheep. Above all, help us to see our ministry in terms of service to Thee and Thy children. We pray in the name of him who came not to be served but to serve, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

ACTA NON VERBA, Kirkegaard Style:

"All have great moments. They see themselves in the magic mirror of possibility which hope holds before them while the wish flatters them. But they swiftly forget this sight in the daily round of things. Or perhaps they talk enthusiastic words, for 'the tongue is a little member and boasteth great things.' But talk takes the name of enthusiasm in vain by proclaiming loudly from the housetop what it should work out in silence."

One of Ken Sell's doctors was overheard to sigh: "The appendix was bad enough, but what a table of contents!"



B.

CELL GROUPS IN ACTION

--Lawrence Rezzesh--

One of the encouraging devotional aspects at the Seminary this year has been the formation of cell groups among the student body. All who participate in them attest to their consecrated meaning to the life of both the group and the individual.

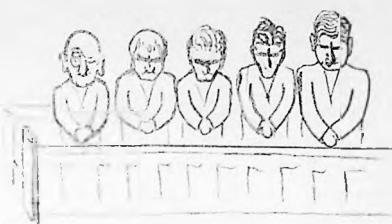
One group is composed primarily of married couples who meet weekly at "Foote Hall". At present they have thirteen members. In the beginning of the year they discussed topics of common concern, in a general way. Since Christmas they have tried to let the Bible speak to them in discussing such things as Christian love, Christian use of time, etc. Mrs. Kenneth Sell said, "We try to find out, as best we can, what the Bible says to us about the subject and then relate the findings to our present experience and situation."

A second group is composed of four seniors, two middlers, and one special student. They meet weekly for one hour in Richards Hall. A leader takes over the opening devotions, whereupon they go into a chapter by chapter study of the Epistle to the Romans. They aim for exegesis and personal experience and testimony. The last ten minutes is spent in silent and spoken prayers, closing with the Lord's Prayer.

The third cell group is made up of nine juniors who felt the need for a closer fellowship among students. They seek this fellowship in Bible study and prayer. In the beginning of the year they met weekly in the basement beneath the chapel. There they made use of the piano for hymn-sings. A student was chosen to lead each meeting in prayer and Bible discussion. A detailed discussion was carried on by a verse by verse analysis of the Sermon on the Mount. Recently the procedure has been changed to meet the need for variety: they now meet in the various members' rooms or apartments, discussing the favorite or most meaningful Bible passage as chosen by the leader.

This evidences that all three of the groups are finding that Bible study has contemporary vitality and meaning. Another healthy sign is the interest the faculty has shown in this movement. All three cell groups have had faculty members attend and share in this experience. This spontaneous growth of the cell groups and the support given them by the faculty indicates, in part,

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"...AND NOW MAY ..."

WE PROMISE YOU

The Faculty's Book list for Sem. Grads will appear in the next issue of The Seminarian. This is a short list of titles to which the faculty members would give top priority on a pastor's purchase list.

CHOIR SPREADS GOODWILL (CONT.)

At approximately 4:30 all returned for a short rehearsal where Frank McConnell pleaded for us to watch his directing and not the ornaments in the congregation. At 5:30 supper was served, and now an interesting misadventure comes to light. Evidently most church meal-planners feel that ham is the best food to make people sing, because at seven suppers we had ham. True, there must be some ham in all public performances! With supper finished, the choir boys settled down to quiet curps and changing clothes for the concert--off came the sport shirts, loud ties, and broad shoulders. The concert began at 7:30 and lasted about an hour and a quarter, so that by 9 the choir members had met their hosts and were off for the rest of the evening.

There were several episodes in which choir members and host stayed up until 1 or 2 a.m. discussing the problems which faced Christianity. Many of the hosts were grateful for the witness which many of the fellows gave for our Lord.

At Latrobe, the group was shown thru a steel mill and was able to see how the steel was made, processed, and tested for quality. The Mceller Organ works at Lagerstown, Maryland, also came under the scrutinizing eyes of the choir.

Living together as we did, one could not help but feel bonds of Christian love surrounding us. The cell prayer groups which sprang up spontaneously during the latter part of the trip were indicative of the spiritual tone of the trip. It's hard to pin down anything further, but this we know: a certain thrill entered our lives when Jesus was asked to come among us.

CELL GROUPS (Continued)

the spirit of the Seminary. This spirit carried on during the choir tour.

On three consecutive evenings, most of the choir members met quietly in groups. Together they found themselves a potent task force. They found the power and purpose of their mission. Significantly, on these evenings, the concerts were generally superior. The spirit of Christian fellowship realized in these cells is intense and intimate.

(This article was written with the aid of Mrs. Kenneth Sell and Mr. Ted Hass.)

A CHALLENGE-"CHOOSE TO LIVE"(Cont.)

have a foreign student or campus to study, live and fellowship with us.

As all Seminaryians have noted, the Lenten offerings shall be directed to this program. But many have been somewhat hesitant about accepting the little milk boxes on the dining hall tables. Yes, they too are a part of this over-all program. It was the feeling of a number of students that during this Lenten season others might wish to share their offerings in this manner.

In the near future, the Middler class will sponsor a banquet and an evening of entertainment (to be supplied by the banqueters!). The proceeds will go toward the Foreign Student Fund. Though on first sight this may appear small, real strides in international good will and brotherhood are made because "others" such as we have chosen to be consequential Christians! (RD)

