



THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF THE EVAN. AND REFORMED CHURCH

The Seminarian

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From our Southern Correspondent:

December 21, 1956

"Greetings from Barranquilla, Colombia! The temperature is about 85 degrees--not exactly what we think of as "Christmas weather." Yet there are signs of Christmas here, as there have been in every country we have visited thus far: Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela. We will be here in Barranquilla until Sunday, December 23rd, spend Christmas in Panama, and then return back to the states through Central America and Mexico. Already there is much to share with you.

"One of the subjects with which we are concerning ourselves during the days of our Consultation here in Barranquilla is the responsibility of youth in the witness of the church. We do not expect to resolve the question; much will be left unsaid. The question has become a perplexing one for the ten of us as we have traveled from country to country. Two experiences may help to make clear our concern.

"Our first step outside the United States was at Havana, Cuba. We were housed in the Methodist Student Center just off the University of Havana campus. (A building, by the way, which would have put many of our U. S. Student Centers to shame.) The University had been closed some several days earlier because of student uprisings on other parts of the island. There was a constant fear and tension in the air. A police car, with three policemen across the street from the Center kept a steady eye on everything that was happening during our two-day visit. Their presence became all too obvious the first night. We had an evening meeting scheduled with a small group of the university students who had not yet returned to their homes, despite the cancelled classes. During the course of the meeting some of us happened to look out the window to discover a policeman armed with a submachine gun staring right back in at us. Exciting? Yes. But surely alarming as well. All over Havana--all over Cuba--there are signs and pictures of Batista--the Dictator. One is aware always that this is his country. He has made progress in reform and he expects to continue his rule! Alert youth are aware of the dangers in any dictatorship.

"This, then, is the question: What is the role of these Christian youth in this revolutionary situation which now exists in Havana? Surely the implications must be clear!

"Consider another experience. From Cuba we flew to the island of Haiti. We witnessed quite a contrast. From the plane we were transferred to a small, box-like bus and taken on a nine-hour (one way) trip into the hills and mountains. Our travel was mostly over dirt roads that were obviously used only by trucks and by an occasional bus. We went up and down such steep mountain slopes and executed such sharp hair-pin curves that as of this writing many of us have still not fully recovered from the experience. But more than the method of travel, we shall always remember the sights: hoards and hoards of people lining either side of the road, overburdened donkeys being forced out of the path of the bus, clumps of eight by ten thatched roof huts, naked children looking half-starved. We remember the filth, the smell, the down-right poverty which we just aren't used to and which is so hard for us to see. These are sights and memories which we shall never forget. These are sights and memories which leave us with a rather crude picture of Haiti.

"But we met and talked with some Christian young people in Haiti. And the question again comes to mind: What is the role or the responsibility of Christian youth in facing this situation in Haiti? How is it possible to reach people and to change lives under these con-

ditions? How can youth witness under such circumstances?

"These are two quite different situations. But there is a basic question involved in both. And the question is one which we face as Christian youth in our 'free' and 'prosperous' America. Our responsibility in the witness of the church within our own country seems such a simple task when we think in terms of Havana or Port-au-Prince, in terms of Cuba or Haiti. A final question: What is our response to such a relatively simple task?

"There will be much more to share together in January."

--Barry

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D E A N

O Happy New Year and a successful new term!

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S We are glad to note that Stan Altröck has been enabled to return to school for the winter term, but sorry to report that Joe Heiney has had to drop out for that term, due to an operation to which he must submit in the next week or two.

Rev. William Baur together with his wife, Joyce, sister of William Derstine, and their two lively youngsters, Freddie and Mark, have taken up residence in the Missionary Home, President and New Streets, for the duration of their furlough from the mission field in Honduras. Mr. Baur will audit several courses in the Seminary.

Mrs. Dunn and the Dean are deeply appreciative of the inquiries and communications of sympathy, received during the illness of Mrs. Dunn's mother, "Grandma Robb," and after her death on December 15th. She had been a member of the family most of the time for more than 30 years.

Middlers, remember the Faculty party for Middlers Wednesday night, January 16, at 8 o'clock in the refectory. Wives and "best girls" are included in the invitation.

Students having "incompletes" on fall term work are reminded that Friday, January 11th, is the end of the five weeks grace period, after which the mark for the course will be an "F" if the work has not been completed.

Seniors! Statements of Belief for the Board of Visitors are due Wednesday, January 9th.

Dr. Togasaken, Chairman of the Trustees of the International Christian University in Tokyo and one of the outstanding Christian leaders of Japan, will be our chapel speaker on Friday morning, January 11th.

Dr. Sayres has assured other members of the faculty that it is not necessary for students participating in the conduct of chapel or practice preaching services to leave classes before the end of the hour; i. e., that necessary preparation should be made previously. On the other hand, professors are expected to close their class sessions on time.

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Engagements

Two more good men made tentative arrangements for giving up their freedom over the recent holidays.

Middler Robert N. Paden became engaged to Lois Ann Harkins of Tiffin, Ohio. Lois is a Senior at Catawba College. An August wedding is planned.

Stacy I. Weaver, Junior, became engaged to Evelyn L. Blake of Spring Valley Road, Lancaster. Evelyn is a Senior at nearby Millersville S. T. C. August 17 is the tentative date for the wedding.

We extend our best wishes to both these men, and their betrothed, hoping that the future will bring much happiness.

Special-----Choir News-----Special

Winter weather and Seminary Choir concerts go hand in hand, and by the looks of that snowy stuff on the ground this morning, I would venture to say that it is concert time once again. It isn't that choir members prefer snow for their concerts; it's just that it makes for such nice conversation on their trips, especially for our Southern friends. Rabbit Myers talked for two weeks about the "Blizzard" we encountered last year in Tiffin and points East. He'll have a lot to tell Carolyn when we invade Niagara Falls this March 11th. Bring your boots, fellows--it's getting deep.

Speaking of March is a reminder to all members that there will be several Tuesday night concerts in February before the tour. Zion E. & R. Church in Pottstown is in for a treat (we hope) on Feb. 12, and Zwingli Church in Souderton, Feb. 26. Feb 5 and 19 are still being considered by some churches in the area and it is likely that these dates will be filled soon. The tour begins on Sunday morning, March 10, and we will return late Friday night, the 15th. After the tour we will be singing in Boyertown April 2, and in Jacobus, April 9. March 26 is still under consideration by a church; however, Dick Fehnel in Cavetown, Maryland, will jump at the opportunity if the other church doesn't.

That's the schedule, fellows--and now for some much needed work. It is important that we give every minute called for to rehearsal time. That means attending every Tuesday rehearsal promptly at 1:15. Many of us have gotten into the habit of walking in from 10 to 15 minutes late. Let's be there on time! Tomorrow, Jan. 8, the photographer will be present to take our picture for news releases and publicity. All members are urged to wear white shirts, dark ties, dark pants, and black shoes. Please bring your robes. Remember, we are not only singing concerts, but also advertizing the Seminary, so try to look your best, please.

Just one other item for today. It has been rumored that all trips will be made by chartered plane this year, due to the fact of our Assistant Manager's dislike for other means of transportation. This is a false rumor; according to our adviser, Dr. Sayres, Barry will have to ride the buss--like it or not.

---Joe Clem,
Manager

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To All Who Eat in the Refectory

If you are planning to eat the weekend meals or any of the meals between Friday breakfast and Sunday supper, please mark it on one of the blue slips which will be passed around on Thursday evening. If you are not present on Thursday evening either mark a slip ahead of time or ask someone to mark it for you. If you are planning to have guests for the weekend please mark for them also. This will help the chef plan the meals so that everyone will have the same food.

Again this year, the same method of having grace as was familiar last year will be incorporated. For the breakfast and noon meals, the marker on the table will denote the person responsible for grace. For the evening meals, with the exception of Sunday, a certain person will be assigned to have grace by his class president. One week it will be Seniors, then Middlers, and then Juniors. Each week the class president will post a list of those having grace for that week on the bulletin board and that person will be responsible for his day. If you have the grace for a particular evening and cannot be present, then it will be your duty to see that someone will take care of it for you.

One more thing--if you will pass your tickets to the end of the table at the center aisle, it will avoid a lot of confusion and many times embarrassment.

Thank you for your cooperation.

---Rabbit

OUT-OF-DORMS AHEAD IN BOWLING

S P O R T S

The Out-of-Dorms team took all four points from Team Six as this year's Seminary Bowling season got under way last Thursday afternoon. Runners up are Faculty and Second Floor. These two teams beat First Floor and Third Floor, respectively, three out of four points. Four bowlers averaged over 150.0. They are as follows: Russ Heintzelman, 161.3; Bill Keeler, 158.0; Don Ely, 157.3; and George Rankin, 156.3. The following players averaged between 145.0 and 135.0: Jim Bright, Fred Irwin, Hal Schoup, and Bob Welsh. Russ Heintzelman has high game with 202. This coming Thursday afternoon will be the second of six Thursday afternoons when we will bowl. Consult the bulletin board in Richards Hall for more details.

On Friday evening at 7:30 Seminary Basketball Team # 1 played the Vets on the F. & M. court. Coach Westcoat intimated before the game that the Vets had a good team, second only to ours. We were in front by one basket at the end of the half. In the third quarter the luck was with the Vets and by the time the last quarter was half gone, we were trailing 41-27. The Seminary team fought back, however, and when the final whistle blew, the Vets had edged us out by only two baskets. The score was 43-39. Bawel and Gockley scored the most points. There will be another game next week; see you there!

Don Ely

Please do not forget the special offering for Hungarian students on Monday afternoon, January 14. While this offering is not connected with our regular benevolent budget, it is certainly for a worthy cause. Please give generously.

After weeks of painful and diligent toil, Rembrandt has completed the chart which illustrates the income for this year's benevolent budget, as passed by the October Society meeting, and where the Society expects it to come from. Although one or two of our offerings have fallen short of what we anticipated, it is good to be able to report that we are running a little bit ahead of our budget. Let's keep up the good work. (P. S. Who is Rembrandt?)

On Thursday and Friday evenings the first production of the Chancel Players will be unveiled. William Butler Yeats' modern morality play, "The Hour Glass," will be presented in Santee Chapel. Performance time is 8:15 on both nights, January 10th and 11th. The cast is as follows:

A Wise Man--Robert Allen
Budget, his wife--Mrs. Arlene Studer
Teigue, a Fool--Richard Merrick
Angel--Robert Bayler
First Pupil--Donald Stats
Second Pupil--Robert Gast
Third Pupil--Ann Schoup
Fourth Pupil--David Koch

Dr. Moss' children will be the guest artists, appearing as the children of the Wise Man and Budget in the final scene. Thursday night's performance is especially for the Seminary Family. Friday night the play will be open to the public.

Several students have shown an interest in forming a chess club here at the Seminary. Dr. Scorza has offered to be adviser to such an organization if enough enthusiasm can be found among the Seminary Family. Possible activities include a tournament among ourselves and matches against other seminaries or colleges. If you are interested, contact Dr. Scorza.

Wally Bieber announced early this morning that it has recently become impossible to see the parking lines in the oval. Therefore, he has made a request that all able-bodied men assemble at the mail desk promptly at 5:00 P. M. dressed in old clothes ready for work. Paint (black) and brushes will be supplied.