

the



Halloween
Issue

Seminarian

Volume XXXII October 29, 1980 Issue 4

REFLECTIONS ON WHOLENESS

Do you remember that 'world hunger Communion service' held on Thursday, October 16th? With Beth Nordbeck and Don Freeman as Conductors?

Yes, and yes; the whole of the service had galvanized my thousand and one thoughts into writing.

Busy, normal people: the world is here. Can you hear it wailing, crying, whispering? Listen: the world is here -- don't you hear it, praying and sighing and groaning for wholeness? An arduous, tiresome, difficult journey towards wholeness.

God, who gives us strength of body, make us whole.

Wholeness of persons: well being of individuals. The cry for bodily health and spiritual strength is echoed from person to person, from patient to doctor; it goes out from a soul to its pastor. We busy, 'normal' people: WE ARE SICK. We yearn to experience wholeness in our innermost being; in health and prosperity, we continue to feel un-well, un-fulfilled or half-filled.

There is a hollowness in our pretended well-being: our spirits cry out for the well being of the whole human family.

We pride ourselves, with our traditional Communal ideology, our single unit family, our extended family.

The Alcoholics, other addicts in our midst: -where are their relatives? Who is their father? Who is their mother?

We cry for the wholeness of humanity, but the liturgy of brokenness is without end, rich and poor, Africa and Asia, Latin America and North America, Black and White, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic, Methodist and Anglican, Hansa and Yoruba (North and South of Nigeria) and hosts of others.

We are parts of each other, we yearn to be folded into the fulness of life - together.

Life together with the outcast, the prisoner, the refugees, the abandoned child, the handicapped, the aging etc. Our wholeness is intertwined with their hurt, working with Christ to heal the hurt, seeing and feeling the suffering of others, standing alongside them. Their loss of dignity is not their loss: It is the loss of our human dignity, we busy, 'normal' people.

The person next to you: with a different language, and Culture; with a different skin or hair color - it is God's diversity making an unbroken rainbow Circle - our covenant of peace with God, encircling the whole of humanity.

Christians have to re-enact the miracle of Good Friday: the torn veil, the broken walls, the bridge over the chasm, the broken wall of hostility between the Jew and the Gentile.

The wall between the Sacred and Secular? There is no wall, there is only God at work in the whole.

(continued on page 3)

GAY PERSPECTIVE

A vacuum exists between gay persons and the church. Probably brought about by false images, lack of knowledge and a failure to dialog. Gay people keep closed and to themselves, not sharing. There is a fear of rejection, discrimination and "loving" oppression.

This is an opportunity to explore our feelings as gay persons living here and now. It is a chance to share openly who we are to you who minister to and with us. Hopefully this will be a dialog with regularity. Your input and interest is desired.

I wish to share with you my impressions of a book entitled Homosexuality: A Symbolic Confusion by Ruth Tiffany Barnhouse. Ruth (there is a feeling I know her) is an Anglican. She attempts to express a genuine, loving concern for gay people. I feel she has deceived us and proclaimed a message of despair.

Ruth relies heavily on her impression that scientific research and studies are value-free and objective. She states, "theologians overstepped their bounds and encroached on the proper territory of science". There is a division between "What is", science, and "What ought to be", theology. Dialog should occur between the two by "what is" is "where its at".

Dissecting her chapters would provide a great deal of self satisfaction. Limited research is provided in this book for the historical, anthropological, biological, sociological and political aspects of gay life. Ruth's problem lies with C.A. Tripp's book The Homosexual Matrix. She writes him off as being non-objective because he is gay.

She states that researchers are more valuable than talking with gay persons themselves. Her assumption of value-free science shines forth. This permits her to isolate three areas in the psychodynamics of male homosexuals which lend itself to this life style.

(cont.)

I have unsatisfied dependency needs. I have not resolved my need to dominate. I hate women. Lesbians are not totally excluded, although Ruth has very little research to go on. She feels women who are homosexual have a masculinity complex. They want to be men. I feel somehow that there is a pre-made purpose for my existence in which I must fit.

Ruth doesn't use the old injunctions of procreation. She certainly abhors sex for just pleasure. Then what is sex for? Ruth answers this with her understanding that sex is symbolic.

Great! I can relate to that. Except, she defines this symbol only in a Male-Female context. This is the way we humans become complete. Confusion arises here. Ruth refers to animus and anima within this process of completion (jung, you know). There is a difference, Ruth, between male-female and masculinity and femininity.

Immaturity is a focal point for her. That being any person who talks or identifies him or herself in a sexual way. Supporting this view, an Episcopal seminary professor in New York State, "to my mind no one should announce their sexual identity until they are well over thirty and then do so, if they must, very quietly.". Fantasize if you will the implications of this statement.

Responsibility in my changing from gay to straight is vital in her understanding of maturity. Somehow she relates this to the fall and "original sin". I received the impression that being gay was part of "original sin". Alas, a list develops of those persons who have not matured: divorced persons, alcoholics, drug users, persons who are not faithful, people driven to rage, and of course homosexuals.

Is Ruth Barnhouse the Wizard of Oz for gay people? Or does she hide behind a mask of distance magnanimously proclaiming that gay should change. But if they can't

(cont. p. 3)

RACISM, SEXISM GROUP

The group met for the second time on Friday, October 24, using as a basis for discussion "Where are we" the first in a series of 7 studies in the UCC Resource Packet for Leaders. In an attempt to get at the question, where are we in the group in relation to the problems of racism and sexism, we shared experiences, fears, and hopes and found that two strong currents run through the group - one of optimism, patience and faith - how can we fail when we know that God is working through us to reach others, and one of pessimism and frustration - how can we deal with the problem when the 'New Racism' of today's society denies the very existence of racism and accepts no responsibility for it.

We agreed, however, that our group was taking the necessary first step in getting at the problems of racism and sexism by providing an outlet for our frustrations and hopes as well as support and encouragement to carry on.

Some special concerns surfaced during our meeting - the problem of the anti-Judaism thrust in the Christian message; the subtle racism of ethnic bias; sexism in which males are the victims; discrimination against blacks in Lancaster, especially in employment and the influence and power of the media in perpetuating racist and sexist stereotypes.

The Wednesday night and Friday morning group sessions this week will use Study II in the UCC Packet "the Connections" as a kick-off for discussion. This material is on reserve in the library under "Racism". All interested persons are invited to come and share.

Denise Dombrowski Hopkins
Scribe, Racism & Sexism Group

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S JUMBLE....

FAITH ROMANS SURGEON, CLERGY
What the renegade KKK member got caught in: "A CROSS-FIRE"

RELATIONS ON WHOLENESS (from p.1)

Heal the sores on the feet.

Salvage the disintegrated personality.

Bind the person back into the whole. For without that one, we do not have a whole: even if there are ninety nine: without that one we do not have a whole.

God who gives us strength of body make us whole.

So long, friends, I recoiled back into my shell viewing the world with tears.

Segun Okubadejo

GY PERSPECTIVE (from page 2)

to become celibate. And then again if that doesn't work, love someone.

Like the Wizard, Ruth is a fake until discovered. She grants that we who are gay can achieve emotional satisfaction within our life-style. We just can't reach her goal of completion. Our immaturity is defined in our journey of "coming out".

We, who are gay, are part of the sexual creation. We affirm the symbolic nature of our encounter with one another. We experience a completion within that encounter.

Yes, I am confused. Not because I'm gay but because an individual like Ruth proclaims an understanding in love which leads others to destruction and despair.

Barry Lacey

Religious Word Jumble

TEBARY

O _ _ O _ _

THRAW

O _ _ _ _

PLEEMT

- O _ _ _ O

AVENEH

O _ _ _ _ _

What was King DAVID'S
Favorite Drink?

"A _ _ _ _ _"

REFLECTIONS ON A SIGNIFICANT TRIP
TO THE BIG APPLE

On Wednesday, October 22, I went on a Methodist Board of Social Concerns Trip to New York City. My son, David, age 11 accompanied me. Locations visited were the United Methodist offices directly across from the United Nations, the United Nations and the Statue of Liberty. Of course, the trip would not have been complete without an hour in traffic jams on Broadway. I share David's reflections, written at 11:00 p.m. that night after arriving back in Lancaster.

"Children's problems never cease.
They learn prosperity and pray
for peace.

International troubles come
and go,

But the next generation will
have the final blow."

David M. Tillotson

Unique and significant for me besides the above, was the reported statement of Ronald Reagan's briefing team to organizations concerned with United Nations activities, "NATO has twice the power of the Warsaw Pact countries." What would it do to the election if Mr. Reagan were to say that on national TV prior to November 4?

Also enlightening was to hear Rev. Robert McClean, Director of the United Methodist Office for the United Nations say he listens by short-wave radio to the BBC to find out what really happened at the United Nations.

What a contrast to all of the above with the words of the Statue of Liberty, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free,...". Must this be ancient history? Can we not find new ways to share affluent North American prosperity? A new vision based on an old and timeless vision of love?

Can't David's vision be changed to hope and not despair?

Gail Mogel Tillotson

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In last week's Seminarian there was a letter from Gail Tillotson, I wish to respond to that letter and the events around it. First I must state that I am a white North American male, and thus have often been labeled an oppressor. Yet I have been oppressed in many ways in my life and now still feel oppressed.

My area of concern is how we look at and use tradition. I feel it is very wrong to change the working in hymns and liturgy, as well as scripture, just for the sake of inclusive language. I am very much in favor of using new hymns and liturgy that are inclusive in their language, I feel this is the way to approach our worship here and in our churches.

I am very involved in my own liberation and try to keep aware of where others are in their journeys toward liberation. In my studies I have come across the book Liberation Preaching by Justo and Catherine Gonzalez and feel their view on tradition is well put. I feel they ask us to re-look at tradition, how it is used and why it is tradition. They are also suggesting that there is much we can learn from tradition. They do not advocate the scrapping of tradition, nor the changing of it, but a new look at our traditions and how we can best use them. Tradition must not be a stumbling block for us, to go to either extreme (only using it or not using it at all) is letting tradition get in our way.

It is my hope that in our lives here and away from here, that we can try and be supporters of others and not oppressors.

Jeff Dick

THE SEMINARIAN

Contributions to the Seminarian are what keeps this paper afloat. They must be signed and in my box BY MONDAY. Thank you.

Don Mason, ed.

WIN BIG PRIZES!!!!

That's right folks you could receive a special telegram, addressed to you, informing you that you have a big prize. Big depends on how big you are, it could be a small prize. Many of you have been talking about the red t-shirts that a few people have, and wanting one of your own. Well here is your chance. That's right you could be the proud owner of an LTS t-shirt. Isn't that exciting? In answer to your prayers a t-shirt contest is here-with announced. We, some students who like t-shirts, are looking to you, members of the LTS community, to help design the New and Improved LTS t-shirt. So get out your pen and thoughtful, bizarre or witty phrases and put them on paper. Submit your entry to me, Jeff Dick, by Nov. 4 (Election Day and My Birthday). The winning entry will be chosen on Wed. the 5th of November. The winner will receive one t-shirt in their size, big or small. Enter now... Be a winner!

Jeff Dick

L.T.S. ORPHAN

Yes, I am an orphan, so is my sister. We are sitting here, just waiting to be adopted by some loving student. We are toilet trained, require feeding once or twice a week and just a little love and attention. If you want to adopt us please inform our foster parent, Jeffrey S. Dick. He has been good to us, but must give us up. We will miss him, but look forward to meeting our new parent. Here is your chance to perform a great service, we do not discriminate against sex, age or race. Please love us before we are put on the street.

The Soda and Candy Machines
In the Parish Resource Center

STAFF

Staff for this week's issue was Me, Donald L. Mason. Judy helped me staple them together.

OPEN HOUSE

Today, Wednesday October 29, 1980, there will be a drop-in Open House at

535 North Pine St.
between
2:30 - 6:30pm
honoring
Dale Greene.

Dale will be leaving us shortly after the 29th for her new position in ministry in Old Greenwich Connecticut. Please come by and celebrate with Dale. Bring with you a word or a wish to be placed on a card for Dale to take with her.

Gail, Bill and David
Tillotson
535 North Pine Street.

AN ENGAGEMENT IS ANNOUNCED

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur DePigrapa, 922 School Lane Drive, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Sue DePigrapa to Herman Neutics, son of Oscar and Wilhelmina Neutics of Smerna, Delaware. Miss DePigrapa and Mr. Neutics are members of the Lancaster Theological Seminary Community. A June wedding is planned.

John Dalles

MORT'S SPEWS: IT DOESN'T PAY TO BE A PITTSBURGH FAN.....

Pity the Pittsburghian. A proud Pennsylvanian morose and mystified as the fickle flame of sports superiority has dwindled and now dwells in Philadelphia. Sad, soon sorry song sung of woeful injuries injustices and incomprehensible instances of futility and failure. Who ever thought the Steelers would be playing five-hundred football half way through the season. Who ever thought in July and August that the Pirates would miss the playoffs by five games? The unthinkable has happened. Mike, John, I'm just glad it was my Browns that did it this week. DLM

EXPEDITIONS RECRUIT STUDENTS FOR
SCIENCE AND ADVENTURE

Have you ever wanted to sail the South Pacific, climb mountains in Alaska, study wildlife in Africa, dig for pre-historic humans in India, or trace the route of Marco Polo through China?

Expedition Research, Inc., a placement service for adventurers and explorers, is now accepting applications from college students, photographers, scuba divers, mountain climbers, archaeologists, ocean sailors, scientists, and other explorers who want to be placed on various scientific and exploratory expeditions worldwide.

Over 250 expeditions have approached ERI for team members. These projects range from archaeological excavations to Himalayan mountaineering, from oceanographic surveys and cave exploration to scientific investigations on all six continents. Some expeditions award salaries, commissions and royalties to team members; others require cost sharing. Expeditions last from several days to several months. College credit and scholarships are often available.

Students either undergraduate or graduate, are in demand. They gain experience by working with professors and scientists involved in their field of study. Requests to ERI for members to join expeditions often are received weekly.

ERI members receive monthly issues of EXPLORATION, a newsletter which lists expedition opportunities and summer and career opportunities in the outdoors. ERI members are offered positions with scientific institutions, research vessels, etc. Registrants also receive resume forms which are placed on file to fill urgent requests.

Students may register by sending \$15 to Expedition Research Inc.

P.O. Box 467R

Cathedral and Franklin sts.

Annapolis Maryland 21404

or write for further information.

MY MIND IS WHERE YOU ARE

The days are long and lonely
when I'm away from you.
I wish that I were near you
the whole day through.
The work a day world is boring
so my mind drifts very far.
I find I drift over the miles until
my mind is where you are.

The mindless chitter-chatter
of co-workers makes me laugh, . .
they use their shallow minds
only to about one-half.
They talk of devastation in their
lives -- a broken jar.
My mind is never on them,
My mind is where you are.

Oh, how I wish that I could stay
by your side each and every day.
I think I would be happy then,
to be with only you, my man.
You are my love, my reason to live,
my life to you I want to give.
Come stay with me till life will end
and be my life, my love, my friend

The hours of the day pass slowly
as the sun drifts across the sky.
Sometimes I feel so empty,
I feel that I could cry.
This emptiness inside me
Makes me search both near and far
Until my mind is with you,
my life is where you are.

Lou Ann Earnst