



THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF THE EVANGELICAL & REFORMED CHURCH

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Christmas Meditation

THE NAMING OF JESUS

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21. "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS." Luke 1:31.

The name given to the child born to Mary was a name neither new nor unfamiliar to the Jewish people. To us it may seem that a name for a unique child should be unique. Is it the influence of modern advertising on us, that we like new and different names? The unusual draws our attention, but we ignore the commonplace. To Joseph and Mary the familiar name was not a drawback: "He called his name JESUS."

Yeshua', or Yehoshua', the Hebrew forms of the name, reveal its derivation from the verb, yasha', "To deliver, save." In Joseph's dream the angel revealed that the salvation of the Jewish people depended on the child. The promise corresponded to the statement of the angel Gabriel to Mary: "He shall be great, and shall be called Son of the Highest, and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David." This made the familiar name something very special. In the Matthew account it is also coupled with the Immanuel prophecy of Isaiah. Salvation, therefore, in the person of a newborn child meant that God was with His people in a new way!

To the Jews the name Jesus in its Hebrew and Greek forms was connected primarily with three great men of their history, men of whom they were rightly proud. The first of these men was Joshua, the son of Nun, successor to Moses. Led by this Joshua, the people conquered the land promised to them at the time of their redemption from the shackles of Egyptian domination. It was the consummation of their deliverance by a military leader whose very name signified deliverance. Understanding this background, we can realize why it was the Jew hope to find in the new Joshua (Jesus) the man whose might would free them from Roman tyranny. But the warfare led by "the captain of their salvation" (Hebrews 2:10) was one directed against enemies greater and more to be opposed than even the hated Romans. "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Ephesians 6:12).

The second well-known Joshua was the high priest who shared in the leadership with Zerubbabel of the first group of Jews returning from exile. Under Joshua's leadership the second temple was begun, with the encouragement of the prophets Haggai and Zechariah. Zechariah looked upon Joshua the son of Josedech as a fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophecy of the BRANCH (5:7). So as far back as the fifth century B.C. the name was given Messianic meaning. The son of Josedech could not fill the role of the Messiah-priest, but another with his name became our Great High Priest.

The third famous bearer of the name was Jesus ben Sirach who in 132 B.C. translated and expanded his grandfather's Wisdom of Sirach into the Greek Ecclesiasticus. It is a book much like the Biblical book of Proverbs. Jesus ben Sirach, honored as a man of wisdom, carried on the name of which Paul later said, "Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." (I Corinthians 1:30).

It was a common name, but infinitely richer in meaning than any unique name. "His name was called JESUS."

Dr. Scorza

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The Christmas observance of the HOLY COMMUNION will be held on Wednesday night, December 5th at 7:30. Dr. Bartholomew will bring the meditation and Dr. Gable will be the liturgist. The offering will be devoted to the benevolence budget.

The December business meeting of the Faculty will be held Wednesday afternoon.

The orientation for Winter Term courses will be held on Thursday-Friday, December 6-7 according to a schedule which has been posted and distributed. There will be one hour for each course, except those of Dr. Vassady who will be out of town on those days. The hour will be used for a preview of the course, bibliographical suggestions and other introductory preparations.

The long Christmas Recess begins at 12:15, Friday, December 7th and ends with the close of New Year's Day, Tuesday, January 1, i.e. Winter Term classes resume following the orientation days, December 6 and 7, on the morning of Wednesday, January 2, 1957.

The last "paid for" meal for Seminarians in the Refectory will be Friday noon, December 7th. Seminarians who wish to continue eating there for another week (the Refectory will not close till Friday, the 14th) can get that week's board for \$10 or individual meals at the prices stated in the Hand-book. The dormitory will be open during the Christmas recess.

The Faculty extends to all students and their families a sincere wish for
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS SEASON!

The Schaff Prize in Church History

In December, 1891, a prize in Church History was endowed in the sum of \$2000, one-half being contributed by Dr. Philip Schaff and the remainder by other friends of the institution. Since that time, 65 years ago, the proceeds of this fund have been used to provide an award of \$100 to the Senior who writes the best essay on a topic in Church History, previously assigned by the faculty.

Some topics which have been suggested and used in the past are:

- 1931 - "The Episcopate and Apostolic Succession"
- 1943 - "Denominationalism in America: Roots and Fruits"
- 1949 - "The Church in Russia: Its History and (Probable) Present Status"
- 1951 - "Similarities and Contrasts in the Origins and Growth of the 'E' and 'R' Churches"

As you can readily see, there has been a variety in the choice of topics. The one chosen for this year, 1957, is:

"The Eastern Christian Churches: Orthodox, Nestorian, Coptic, etc. (History and Present Status)"

Some of the churches included in this topic are: The Eastern Orthodox Church (18 different National Churches), The Nestorian Church, the Monophysite Churches (e.g.- Coptic, Ethiopian), and the Armenian Church.

In this essay the student should touch upon these points: Origin, Development, and Present Status.

Any Seniors interested in writing on this topic should contact Dr. Dunn for assistance in Bibliography, Outline, etc.

-Don C. Markham

From Our Foreign Correspondent:

Swiss University Life

The academic procedures and atmosphere are so different over here that one is forcibly impressed by the contrasts. The University here has an ultra-modern building with fine amphitheatre type lecture halls. The corridors are fully 30-40 feet wide. The student dining-room and lounge-reading room are equally impressive and new.

The classes are scheduled on the hour but only the novice Americans were there the first day on time. About 14 minutes after the hour, the Swiss students file in and promptly at 15 minutes after, the Professor appears, to be greeted by the sound of the students' knuckles on the desks. The lectures are called "vorlesungen" and they are exactly that: readings. The Professors are closely confined to their manuscripts and, of course, no questions or discussion is allowed to interrupt. Shortly after the bell at the end of the hour, the Professor breaks off the lecture, to be greeted again by the rapping of knuckles.

I had remembered this feature of European academic life from Germany. I asked whether another of the Continental customs had come here, namely, that of shuffling the feet to express disapproval (of a student's coming in late, or a Professor's long reading assignment or telling a "Corny" joke). They said it was customary here too, but the Swiss students, being more polite, used it less. If this were true in Lancaster (shuffling the feet for "Corny" jokes), think what the O.T. classes of mine would be like! (Ed. Note: AMEN!!!)

One very prominent feature of American life is absent here: the place of athletics, inter-collegiate, inter-mural, etc. There was a brief announcement that there are 2 evenings a week when athletic-minded students can engage in basketball or "turn athletic" (a form of gymnastics). I gather that few avail themselves of this.

The seminar sessions are quite different from the regular lectures. Here the students are expected to recite and regular assignments of papers are made. For example, in Hebrew Exegesis of the Prophets, one student is assigned each week to keep a close stenographic record of the session's results and findings.

The first five minutes of the next week's class are spent hearing this resume read. Then two students each week are assigned to the leading commentaries, two books to each. Then during the class whenever a knotty problem arises, the Prof. turns to one of these 2 students and asks, "What does Dubinsay on this point?" or "Sellin" or "Volz" etc. It is especially difficult for Americans in these seminaries because we have to translate from Hebrew to German.

I found certain differences from German University life as I remembered it from 20-odd years ago. For one thing, we notice very little political excitement, even though we are going through the Hungarian and Egyptian crises right now. This may be due to the traditional Swiss neutrality, or it may be that our years, 1932-33 (Pre- and Post-Hitler) were exceptionally excitable in Germany.

The students had their first demonstration since 1941. At that time it was to protest the closing of Norwegian Universities under Nazi pressure. This time it was to show their solidarity with the Hungarian students. Of course, the Swiss Red Cross is getting full support of individual students as far as blood donations, money, and work as aides are concerned.

Karl Barth, of course, is what you are all interested in. I have a 2-hour English Colloquium with him, to which our wives are invited. It meets at the Bunderholz Restaurant near his home, 8 to 10 P.M. on alternate Tuesdays. There were about 30 present the first night, including 2 Professors from the Theological Seminary in Zurich sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention. The first two volumes of Barth's book that have appeared in English are the basis of the discussions. A student is assigned a chapter to review. It takes 20 minutes or so for his presentation. The rest of the time is spent in questions and answers. Barth's English is good but halting.

The costs of tuition, etc. are less than most American Seminaries but more than most American Colleges. The rates are 8 Swiss Francs a semester hour. That is, approximately \$2 an hour. The students from America usually spend 2 to 3 years here in getting their Th. D. . Most of the Theol. Profs. allow them to write their theses in English, which is quite a break, I should say. Getting a book out of the University Library is a wearisome process - you write out a card, deposit it at the desk and wait 2-3 hours for it! We usually call back for it next day.

Yours,
Donald Englert

Another Good Man Goes

During the Thanksgiving Recess, Senior Jin Bright took a step in the direction of an existential predicament. As the old expression goes, he has one foot in the grave and the other on a banana peel. Jin became engaged to Miss Sarah Rogers of Jeffersonville, who is a sophomore at Dickinson. Our best wishes are extended to both of them.

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Drama Details

The Chancel Players will present their first production, "The Hour Glass," on Thursday and Friday nights, January 10th and 11th. The play, by William Butler Yeats, is a modern, verse morality play. It tells the story of a teacher who has changed a whole countryside by his belief that only the material world exists. Early in the play, the teacher is confronted by the messenger of the spiritual world and warned that he will die unless he finds someone who still believes in God. His search and its outcome makes the play an exciting one.

The play will be performed in the Chapel, beginning at 8:15 Thursday night and Friday night, January 10th and 11th.

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The Staff of the "SEMINARIAN" wishes to extend to all members of the Seminary Family and their friends a spiritually fruitful Christmas season and a prosperous New Year.

CHRISTMAS BANQUET

Jim Gold will be the Master of Ceremonies at the annual Christmas Banquet to be held in our Refectory on Thursday, December 6th, beginning at 5:30 o'clock. The theme for this affair will be "Christmas in Music." Many Seminarians have offered their talents to present some of our beautiful Christmas music. Light and serious music, instrumental and vocal, as well as group participation will be part of the evening's program.

Each person is asked to bring a gift of approximately a dollar value. Our gifts this year will go to two of the chronic wards of the Warnerville State Hospital. Most of these patients would otherwise have no Christmas. The ward personnel will distribute the gifts on Christmas morning. What should you bring? The hospital suggests that Ward "G", where there are about seventy male patients, we could give such things as wash cloths, soap, tooth paste, and peppermint candy. For Ward "H", a woman's ward, we could give such things as hand cream, face powder, or hand lotion. Please attach a note with your gift as to what is in it so that it will get to the proper ward.

Earle Christman, our chef, has informed us that he is going "all out" for this affair. Confidentially, we learned that the menu will include ????. Students who normally eat in the dining hall have paid for their meal. But the rest of the Seminary Family and all guests will be asked to pay \$1.25.

Let's make this affair even bigger than it was last year. See you at the banquet.

KERN EVENTS

While the majority of the seminary family is dreaming of a "White Christmas" and even the southerners among us will be shivering a bit through the coming vacation, one of our number will be basking in the sunlight of the tropics.

Barry Kern, former Youth Associate for the denomination and for two years president of the National Council of the Youth Fellowship, has been selected by the United Christian Youth Movement as one of ten U.S. delegates to an Inter-American Consultation to be held in Maramquilla, Columbia, South America, December 20-23. The UCYM delegates will meet with leaders of Protestant youth movements from many Central and South American countries to share youth work experiences and to discuss various social problems which are current in the Americas.

The theme for the consultation is "Christian Youth Facing Social Problems." Discussion areas of special concern to the youth from the United States are the race problem and the witness of youth in church and public life. Latin American delegates will present the problems of religious freedom, democratic society, and the status of Indians. Barry has been asked to present U.S. viewpoints on religious freedom.

The consultation, a new venture in Inter-American cooperation, will follow the Fourth Congress and Assembly of Latin American Evangelical Youth (ULAJE) which is scheduled for December 10-20 in Maramquilla. The U.S. delegation will attend the closing sessions of this conference.

Barry left Allentown by plane on Saturday bound for a briefing session in Miami. His itinerary from there includes stops in Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela before the conference in Columbia. Youth leaders in each of these countries are preparing tours for the group. Of special interest to UCYM members will be the stop in Puerto Rico where aid has been given by young people in the United States through World Youth Projects.

After the conference, the U.S. delegation will spend Christmas in Panama before splitting up for separate trips to mission fields and other points of interest. Barry will visit Nicaragua and then spend three days in our Honduran mission stations in and around San Pedro Sula. The group will re-assemble in Guatemala and spend a short time in Mexico before returning to the United States early in January.

When asked for proof of his proficiency in Spanish and for any remarks of farewell which he might have for the student body, Barry's profound reply was: "Adios."

May our prayers go with Barry as we share in the honor which has come to a fellow-student, the seminary, and the entire denomination in his selection as a representative of U.S. youth at this important conference.

Seminary Team Defeats Meyran Hall

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The Seminary basketball season opened last week with two games. The "B" Team played Marshall Hall on Tuesday evening. Before the game had been in progress very long, Marshall Hall racked up quite a few points. The situation did not improve and the "B" Team was beaten, 43-20.

On Friday evening, the Seminary "A" Team, which is composed of our best players, had a game with Meyran Hall. Unfortunately, three of our best players--Welsh, Aregood, and Gockley--were unable to be present. At the end of the first quarter, we were two baskets behind. After the third quarter, Meyran Hall was still out front by several points. It was not until we were well into the last quarter of the game that the tide began to turn. It was a combination of Bayler's foul shots, Schoup's lay-ups, and two long shots by Bawel that really did the trick. The final score was 39-32 in favor of the Seminary.

This term's Bridge Tournament came to an end last week. The Fitzs and Oliphant-Rabert had each lost one match. The Fitzs won this last and all-important match. Congratulations!

The Bowling Tournament is all set to begin. The first game will be rolled on Thursday, January 3, at 2:15 P. M. A more detailed notice has been posted on the bulletin board in Richards Hall. It is hoped that all interested seminarians will read it and sign up. And don't be discouraged; Dr. Englert won't be bowling for the Faculty this year, so maybe the Elders will taste defeat this time. It will be appreciated if those interested will sign up as soon as possible.

Don Ely

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Benevolent Budget Briefs

This afternoon, during Assembly period, will be the second of our two Advent offerings. On Wednesday evening, at our Communion service, we will have the opportunity of giving our fourth regular offering of the year. Our first Communion offering fell short of what we had hoped for, though the first Advent offering exceeded expectations. No official figure is available for last week's offering, because it was mixed in with the Practice Preaching offering. At any rate, we are about even in our drive for the Benevolent Budget. At the end of the week, we hope that we will be \$90.00 closer to our goal. While it is true that seven regular offerings have been scheduled for the period of time between January 1 and May 31, we must not slack up on our giving at this point. The time to give is now.

A special offering has been scheduled for Monday, January 14. It will be sent to help Hungarian students, who are facing so bravely the Russian threat to their education and to their very lives. Please keep this date in mind.

Donald Ely,
Finance Commission Chairman

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Announcement

The Association of Seminary Women will hold its next meeting on Monday, December 10, at 7:30 P. M., in the Fellowship Hall at St. Peter's E. & R. Church. All wives, husbands, and children of the Seminary Family are invited to attend this meeting.

As part of its Christmas observance, the Association will again wrap presents for the Family and Children's Service, who will use them for the benefit of the foster children under its guidance. Everyone is asked to bring wrapping materials--paper, tags, Scotch tape, ribbon, and scissors.

In addition to the wrapping party, a Christmas playlet, "The Christian Life," will be presented by the worship committee. It will portray the true meaning of Christmas. Parts will be taken by Edith Grimes, Libby Rohrbaugh, and Joyce Kline.

Ann Schoup, pianist, will accompany the group in the singing of Christmas carols. Refreshments and a fellowship hour will complete the evening.