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### ARE MINISTERS NECESSARY?

There is ground for some healthy self-examination in the likelihood that the Communist regime in China may not regard religion and the religious ministry as being in itself a worthy contribution to the common good. We cannot be sure at this stage precisely what the Chinese policy is to be. But there is at least the possibility that our Christian missionaries may have to work at some "productive" occupations such as farming, medicine, or the teaching of secular subjects, and bear their Christian witness on the side, as it were. In the same manner, a Chinese national who is wholeheartedly committed to the Christian cause may find himself in the position of having to teach or conduct agricultural research, and witness to his faith primarily by the quality of his life and work only incidentally through occasional verbal testimony.

This whole way of viewing things may come as something of a shock to us. We are accustomed to a quite different evaluation of religion in America, even by those who do not profess any deep personal religious allegiance. The minister is generally accorded a place of honor in community life. He is still given preferential treatment on railroads. And in the recent emergency of the Second World War both ministers and ministerial students were granted occupational deferment along with doctors, agricultural workers, and others whose vocational service was regarded as essential to the national well-being.

Which viewpoint is more nearly correct? Are ministers strictly necessary? Can we meet with farmers, mechanics, coal-miners, and salesmen without a sense of inferiority? Are we entitled to feel that our business is just as essential as theirs? Or must we regard ourselves as parasites, living off the labors of others, and making no sufficient contribution to the general good to justify our professional existence? The answer depends, first, on the inherent worth of the Christian faith itself; and second, on our own faithfulness.

On the former point there can be no reservations in our minds. We must believe that our Christian faith is fundamentally essential to the welfare of both individuals and society, or we would not be in the Christian ministry or looking forward to it. Personal character, home life, sound industry, true learning, clean politics, national integrity, and world peace - all of

these can rest secure only upon a Christian foundation.

On the latter point we do well to examine our own souls and our own lives. We ask and receive from society an exemption, so to speak, from making any direct contribution whatsoever to the national store of material goods. We raise no food, manufacture no products, perform no tangible services to mankind. Within the realm of the intangible, are we so earnest in our purpose and so diligent in our efforts that neither we nor anyone else can question our worth to mankind?

It is a good query to face at the end of an academic year, or at any other time.

Dr. Harner

### FINAL THANKS!

We of the retiring executive committee of the Society of Inquiry take this final chance to thank and sing the praises of the unsung heroes, the uncompensated committeemen, who have given so much time and unselfish devotion to doing their jobs so efficiently and quietly during this past year. The Seminary Family has had an unusually fine year of "real followship", thanks largely to these hard-working committees--with special bouquets to the chairmen. We certainly did appreciate their talented sincere service. May their reward be great in heaven!

They include Merv and Paul Gerhart, Schmid and Gyorke on Program; Masters, Wentz, Delp, Tubright, Haney and Moyer on Worship; Kim and Feather on Lounge; Mark, Glatfelter, Palmer, Muthard, Haas, Masters, Kim, Abernethy, Groff and Gyorke on The Seminarian; Sigler, Palmer and Sink on Publicity; Latz, Papenmeier and Trout on Recreation; and Dann, Whitney and Gerhart on Interseminary.

Executive Committee,  
Society of Inquiry

### CALENDAR FOR COMMENCEMENT

- 9:15 - Meeting of the Historical Society.
- 10:30 - Meeting of the Alumni Association.
- 11:30 - Commencement Service.
- 1:00 - Luncheon

### IMPORTANT ADVANCE DATES

- 18 September (Monday) - Registration of new students.
- 19 September (Tuesday) - Beginning of fall term.

## THE STAFF

Editor-in-chief:  
Dave Mark

News:  
Bob Haas, ed.  
Dick Masters  
Joe Kim

Features:  
Dick Glatfelter, ed.  
Mel Palmer  
Ruthie Muthard

Sports:  
Dick Abernethy, ed.

Technicians:  
Ray Groff  
Joe Gyorke

Faculty advisor:  
Dr. O. S. Frantz

## AS I SEE IT . . .

The clever author of the book of Ecclesiastes has this particularly valuable bit of wisdom for us: "Do not say: 'Why were the former days better than these?' For it was not out of wisdom that you asked this." This expresses much the same idea that one of the old favorite sermon illustrations employs, pointing out the error made by the driver who wrecked his car by looking in the rear view mirror and not seeing what lay in the road ahead of him. The only thing it is expedient to do facing backwards is rowing.

We are now engaged in celebrating the commencement that marks the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of our Seminary. We might well be justified in looking backward, both to our years in the Seminary and to the history of our school, but our theme must be drawn from the commencement, not the historical perspective. Commencement means "beginning", and this must be our way of thinking at this time. We must ever look ahead.

Viewing the matter objectively, we find three very good reasons for keeping our faces ahead:

(1) The most obvious is that we can thus see much more clearly where we are going. The streetcar passenger who rides backward has little or no idea of what scene will next unfold itself beside the window.

(2) Furthermore, we often find that those who look back lose all contact with reality. If we live in the golden days of our childhood we never become real adults. Our world is still the childhood world of our dreams.

(3) The practice of looking ahead presents much more positive results than facing the road over which we have already traveled. We are not concerned then with the conquests of the past but with the victories yet to be

won. The past cannot be altered, but the future lies waiting for us to shape it.

The most common result of looking behind us is stunted growth. The impact of the evolutionary theory upon our civilization has tended to cause us to think of everything in terms of growth. The things that interfere with normal growth are the curse of life.

This idea of the evil of looking backward is as old as literature itself. Our Old Testament records the story of God's displeasure with Lot's wife for her backward glance. Greek mythology records the fate of Eurydice when Orpheus looked backward on the return from Hades. The great age of this theme might indicate that what we discuss here is a fundamental problem of Mankind.

We have labeled as lamentable anything that can be described as a negative approach. Therefore, we cannot justify our insistence on not looking backward if we do not honestly desire to look forward, create upon the basis of our rich past experience, and lead full, useful lives in the future. With this positive approach, the future will present a brighter picture for us to contemplate.

Dave Mark

## "P - P - F"

A farewell to a departing Senior class is an essential tradition with any institution, but the warmth and sincerity with which the farewell is voiced by student or by student publication may vary.

Each of next year's seniors and middlers wish a real "fare-well" in the literal sense of that word to the elder members of our Seminary family who are about to embark upon greater familial responsibilities, their own, of course, but also that portion of the fellowship of believers who will comprise the congregational families.

It was the occasion of the last examination for the semester in N.T.22 on Friday morning that prompted in me (I didn't say that!) what perhaps is a better-than-stock way of voicing customary sentiment.

Dr. Frantz's prompting question was "Be able to discuss at length John's use and view of the Church." Part of the answer is the unusual idea of the Church as existing not only in the present but also in both the past and future, hence the name of this article which, despite the letters P - P - F, has nothing to do with the governmental alphabet.

Our Seniors of the class of 1950 have now reached both an end and a new beginning. They have worked for long hours, weeks, months and years in ord-

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P. P. F.  
(Cont'd from p. 2)

or to adequately prepare themselves for a gigantic task, the most important in the world. They are now ready and, in their readiness, will leave the Seminary as part of the past, a past that nonetheless will live in them and in their work for all of their days. Their past in study will make for them a bright future.

In conclusion, fellow students and future associates of 1950, we of '51 and '52 refuse to say goodbye. Let's just say farewell until we meet again ---either upon your return visits to the Seminary or the field of our chosen work. You are truly deserving of the honor and worthy of the responsibilities about to begin for you. Know of the high esteem in which we hold your friendship and may God bless you and the work you undertake in behalf of our Mother Church.

Bob Heas

#### SENIOR REFLECTIONS (by a Senior)...

The New Testament records that a thousand years with the Lord are as one day; and we sing in the Christian Church, "A thousand years in thy sight are like an evening gone." As a class we can say that our stay of three years at the Seminary was but as a day. We find our period of training and corporate life to have been very short, yet pleasantly rich. We look forward, however, to commencement, the beginning of a greater period of training, experience, and service.

Students of the Seminary sometimes feel that the training for the workers in the Lord's vineyard is deficient at places. This thought is quite natural for students of any educational institution. But as we look back over our years here we cannot help notice how we have been assisted to grow in wisdom and understanding. We came to these halls with many questions in our minds. Oh, yes, you may preclude, we leave with many questions! It is true---we do. But many of these questions in our minds are a result of greater understanding and wider knowledge. Our training has opened to us new horizons. Many of our questions cannot be answered but by experience which lies ahead of us.

As we look back upon ourselves we not only see how we have changed, but also we see that our class has much to be remembered for. As individuals we are very much different one from the other. But we see in this characteristic the ability to serve varying needs. We see, too, that we are much alike in the desire to serve. While in the Seminary, we have seen many changes for the better---including the renovation of the buildings and the improved schedule. As a class we were

partly responsible for these. We are glad, not merely because we were able to make and see improvements, but because we yearn to see the fruits of these changes in an improved ministry in the near future.

Our sojourn in the Seminary halls has been mixed with gladness and woe. But as we leave, we remember the best and most pleasant. At the same time we see the reflection of our Seminary days in the mirror of the mind; we see there the image of the future. We are not so much concerned with the past, except as it has influenced us for the future. It has made its indelible mark upon us. We now look ahead eagerly anticipating whatever may lie beyond this mountain we cross as we bid adieu to Seminary life. We feel the pangs of severing relations with beloved students and faculty members and families. But the class of 1950 will turn the dark clouds of departure inside out.

In the spirit of Tennyson, the Senior class hopes that in devoted service we may see our "Pilot face to face" when we have crossed the bar ---our days of preparation for our work. We carry pleasant memories and high hopes.

Earl R. Marks.

#### EPILOGUE

The shadows were falling in a lace pattern from the leafy trees. The campus was a patchwork of dancing green and black and gray spots. It was the beginning of all the festivities. This was the 21st of May and the events were about to start. There was to be a concert by the choir, a reception on the lawn, and then the Baccalaureate sermon to be preached by Dr. Harner. In three more days the whole thing would be over, the appearance before the Board of Visitors, the annual sermon by Pres. Stafford, and, finally, the Commencement. These will be times long remembered by all those who take part. But especially to seventeen men they will be at once the climax to three years, nay, seven years of preparation and study and, at the same time, the epilogue written indelibly in bold letters, the epilogue to an era, an epoch in the lives of these seventeen men.

To all of the Seniors, this week marks the climax of all their efforts toward the goal that began in their own minds at various times in the years past. Dr. Harner expressed this same sentiment on Sunday night much better than I could hope to do. Nevertheless, I would like to add my voice and, I'm sure, the voice of all the underclassmen to the congratulatory note which is the dominant theme

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## Epilogue

(Cont'd from Pg. 3)

at all graduation times. To all of us, the goal we seek will be realized by the Seniors this week. This is not the ultimate goal, but it is the stepping stone to greater things, to "the more excellent way." Each graduating class which leaves the Seminary finds itself closer to the opportunity of realizing the ultimate end and it also finds its lesser schoolmates one step closer to the realization of the stepping stone which they, the Seniors, are passing.

There is no way in which mere words will express the congratulations and well wishes which we all extend to the Senior class, individually and as a whole, for a job very well done. We congratulate them for the work thus far, and we wish them well in all future undertakings. We are grateful for the fact that we have been associated with them for one or two years and have been able to work and play with them as fellow students. It would not be true to say that we envy them their accomplishments. We do not. But we do rejoice with them for their achievement, and we look forward to the day not too far distant when we shall stand where they do now, on the threshold of their lifework. We look forward, too, to the time when we shall again be working with them. But then we shall be working at a much greater task than the performance of the requirements for graduation.

To the Seniors: Congratulations!  
Best Wishes! and God-speed!

### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Farewells are always a sad task. It is with a heavy heart that I must compose this last issue of THE SEMINARIAN for the 1949-1950 academic year. My association with the editorial position of this student newspaper for the past two years has been rich and pleasant, but the passage of years makes necessary the injection of the vitalizing influence of new blood into the editorial bloodstream.

I am extremely happy to learn that my successor is to be a man with long and valuable experience with student publications. Under the guidance of Dick Glatfelter THE SEMINARIAN should continue to grow and improve. With a revised policy, and increased use of the new facilities, and the lessons learned from mistakes in the past, the paper should come ever closer to the objectives set up for it by the present administration.

Dave Mark

## HUMOR ESQUIRE

Graduation is a wonderful time of the year, especially for the Seniors. After a long period of study, the Seniors are at last on the threshold of a new experience. The purpose of this alleged column is to salute them and to give the ones who stay at the Seminary their Last Will and Testament. Now I do not consider myself anything that approaches a law student, altho I did receive one of my degrees from the local Police Station. The colors of the degree were black and blue, and I am sure the A. B. stands for All Bruised. Be that as it may, I still am not able to write this in the manner that the occasion calls for, so I'll have to write the way I see fit.

Richard "Louie" Cheek leaves his position as a Senior from Catawba to Lloyd Sechriest.

Earl "Digger" Marks, the grave character from Richland, Pa., leaves his position as President of the Society of Inquiry to Robert "Toot" Delp. "Digger" leaves this position to "Toot" because "Toot" has been trained.

Thomas Hoffman leaves his ability to find and marry a beautiful woman to any Middler who can fill the bill; he isn't particular.

"Ernie" Hawk leaves his baritone voice to anyone who is willing to make choir announcements in the Dining Hall.

Ken McCrea leaves his red hair to "Stanuel" Dunn; a bottle of peroxide goes with it.

Fran Ringer leaves his mustache to John Winter (This I gotta see!)

Arthur "Pappy" Papenmeier leaves his athletic prowess to Richard Gross. "Pappy" was a good Spanish athlete; that is, he was good at throwing the bull.

Ed Taylor leaves his poise to Dick Glatfelter.

"Salty" Breininger and John Martin leave their positions beside the mailboxes to the Middlers who can run the fastest.

George Geisler leaves his room-mate to Dave Mark.

Ray Faulds leaves his nick-name of "J.B." to Dave Mark; that is, unless Dave works this summer.

Harold Edward Homer leaves his thesis (Principles of Remodeling the Rural Church) to the Dept. of Engineering.

Bob Mays leaves his laugh to the whole Middler Class.

Richard Dilly Abernethy leaves... period.

Testator: Mel Palmer

Witness: Royal Typewriter

Note: Anyone who dislikes this last will and Testament can write their own with the help of any typewriter and two fingers.

## SENIOR STATISTICS

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## THE MEMBERS OF

Dick Abernethy - from Coplay, Pa., a graduate of Moravian (1947), going to Rebersburg Charge with his wife.  
Fred Ambrose - at First Baptist, Lancaster, graduate of Eastern Baptist (1945) a family man.  
Harlan Breininger - from Breinigsville, graduate of F & M (1948), going to Ringtown, also married.  
Dick Cheek - from Burlington, N.C., a graduate of Catawba (1947), taking Pat to Rockwell, N.C.  
Ray Faulds - of Munhall, graduate of F & M (1947), going to St. Mark's in Cumberland, Md., - alone???  
John Gable - at Florin E.U.B., graduated from L.V.C. (1944) - married.  
George Geisler - from Spring Grove, attended F & M, he and his wife go to South Bend, Pa.  
Ernie Hawk - of Northampton - graduated from Muhlenburg (1947), he and Lu are going to Greencastle.  
Tom Hoffman - from Burlington, N.C. graduate of Elon (1947), married!!! going to Mt. Pleasant, N.C.  
Harold Homer - now at Conestoga Methodist, graduate of Taylor (1946), a family man.  
Earl Marks - "Native" of Richland, graduate of L.V.C. (1947), going to Lykens Valley - alone???  
John Martin - from Womelsdorf, A.B. from Goshen (1947), headed for Dal-lastown - alone???  
Bob Mays - of Philadelphia, graduated from L.V.C. (1942) - he and Emma will go to Boonesboro, Md.  
Ken McCrea - from Milford, N.J., graduated from Rutgers (1947) - member of C.C. Church; he and Kathy have not yet decided on a future address.  
Art Papenmeier - native of Wadesville, Ind., A.B. from Elmhurst (1947) - no wife yet - Where to?  
Fran Ringer - from Delmont - graduated from F & M (1946), going to New Providence, blissful bachelor.  
Ed Taylor - at Thurmont, Md., with his family. B.S. F & M (1938).  
Ross Whitby - at New Holland Methodist, graduated from Wheaton (1945) - a family man.

## THE STAFF

## OF

## THE SEMINARIAN

## WISH YOU A

## PLEASANT & PROFITABLE

## SUMMER