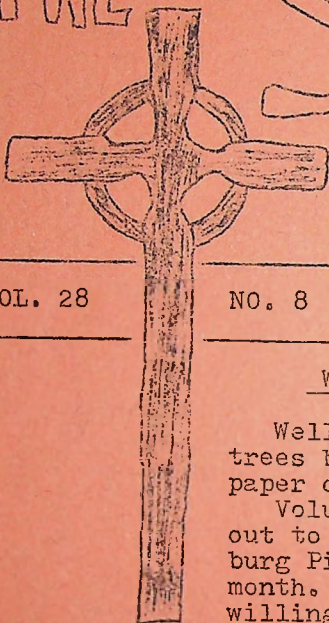


THE SEMINARIAN



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SHOW LOVE!!!

NOVEMBER 19, 1976

WORRIED ABOUT OUR TREES BEING CUT DOWN?

Well, then, how about helping to save some other trees by putting your newspapers and other recyclable paper on the table in the trash area on campus?

Volunteers are also needed to help take paper out to the L.E.A.F. Recycling Center on the Harrisburg Pike on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of every month. Please contact Ross Reider if you would be willing to help.

- Ross Reider

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ADMONITION

Step lightly, O thou lost child
Upon thy Mother's silent grave
For she who had naught but love for thee

Has died of Grief
Has died of the burden of a too heavy heart
And the weary weight of a soul
Black as the glistening raven's wing
Or the shadowed ebony crucifix
beneath the Mother of Sorrows

Has died of longing for the child she never knew
But loved beyond all telling

Step, then, O so lightly
That your presence may not disturb
The only peace she could afford.

- Armen Dichter

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A DIPLOMAT

A diplomat is a person who can tell a lie in such a way to another person (who is also a diplomat) that the second person is compelled to let on that he really believes the first person, although he knows that the first person is a liar, who knows that the second

person does not believe him. Both let on that each believes the other while both know that both are liars.

submitted by D. Turner

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"THE NUMBERS RACKET"

It is easy to watch TV, see a movie, or read a book about modern society and police work and hear about the vice squad breaking up the numbers racket or a numbers game. The numbers game is a type of gambling along the lines of a lottery.

The church, any church and our church, plays a numbers game. It is not a lottery that the church plays. We have our own numbers racket that needs to be broken up. We worry about low or stable numbers. We strive for high numbers. High numbers are good. They will bring happiness. They are all that counts. We question: What can we do to raise attendance in Church School, worship service, youth meetings, or meetings. We want more, more, more! Numbers become a god. We worship high numbers. We will do anything to raise our numbers. We will bargain, beg, offer gifts or pins, use gimmicks, anything to raise our numbers.

More, more, more! We worry if our numbers stay the same; we panic if they drop. More, More, More! We sound like Oliver, facing the head tablemaster. He comes with his bowl and says, "Please, sir, I want some more." The headmaster responds quite surprised and filled with anger, "More! You dare ask for more! Never before has a boy wanted more." Now certainly the little boy, Oliver, may have needed more, but I will compare that story with our situation.

People have come to me saying, (as pastor) "Please, we want some more. Increase our numbers." And I feel God often would like to respond, "More! You dare ask for more! You always ask for more! Yet you are not thankful for what you have. You have not used what I have given you!"

Now you may say, "Aren't we to preach, to evangelize, to save souls, to lead others to God through Christ?" I answer, "Yes, we are but that is only part of our ministry." We are to heal, feed, clothe, comfort, teach, strive towards perfection, and grow as individuals. It is hard to measure growth, comfort, feeding and healing. It is easier to measure salvation. Either you are or you aren't. None or one.

Certainly the early church did grow in numbers. It had to or it would die. But we are alot more than a few dozen. The urgency to grow in numbers is not as great. We must grow, evangelize, save souls, but we are committed to a total gospel. As blessed and good as salvation is, we cannot eliminate everything else. We must practice, live, and act in the other aspects of our ministry. Be thankful for the members, or attendance we have today, or last week. Don't panic over next week's numbers. Let us dedicate ourselves to using what we have. Let us look for quality, not always quantity.

(continued, next page)



"Wally Nelson will now lead us in a discussion entitled, 'It Doesn't Matter What You Believe, Just So You Believe Something.'"

"THE NUMBERS GAME" (continued)

I can't remember how many times someone has said, "I wish I knew more about the Bible, or about the church." That is a quality request. They want to know what the scripture says. That desire is good, even excellent. We learn to share or express our faith. That is quality. But we use Sunday school classes, youth meetings, and church meetings trying to find ways of increasing our numbers. That is not always good.

We desperately need to increase our quality. Let's have a quality program and ministry to offer to the people we now have and all the people we hope to get. How do we hold their interest once we have them? I could fill a meeting, service or class, by bringing in celebrities, but what brings them back next week or next month? Quality, not gimmick.

Don't use this argument as an excuse to stop evangelizing. That is a necessary part of our ministry, but it is not the only part of our ministry. Thank God for what we have, and be satisfied. Help break up the numbers racket.

- Rev. Dale Miller
Pastor, Fulton
Circuit, UMC

THE CONTINUING SAGA OF "DOC" TRINE... D.MIN. OF THE OLD WEST

The letter was one of profound acceptance. I felt a very strange religious affection welling up in the utter recesses of my heart. At once, I was moved to write a reply, accepting the acceptance which proliferated itself upon me.

One week from that glorious day, I boarded an iron horse bound for Lanchester. When I arrived at the small hamlet, I was met at the station by one Very Rev. Lemon G. Zarrar, a noble representative of that fine institution (even with such

an odd name). He gave me a ride in his carriage to the campus, pointing out interesting sites and buildings along the way.

Then, we arrived. It was, indeed a sight to behold!!! Rev. Zarrar proceeded to show me my room in the campus dormitory. It was beyond description...

(cont'd next issue)

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THE SEMINARIAN WISHES ALL MEMBERS
OF THE SEMINARY COMMUNITY A
HAPPY THANKSGIVING. HAVE A GOOD
TIME...AND REMEMBER THOSE LESS
FORTUNATE THAN YOU. THEY NEED
YOUR PRAYERS, FOOD AND AID.

- E. Scofield
Editor

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Environmental

*Action
+ Concern*



*Starts Right
Here On Campus!
Wake Up + Put Now!*