



THE SEMINARIAN

VOLUME XXV

January 23, 1974

Number 12

CHRISTIAN UNITY

Thoughts During the Prayer Vigil for Christian Unity

In the dim candle light of an evening hour in the Chapel I sought for unity. What is the unity for which I can pray?

A first answer came quickly - our unity is in God. What is common to all people is the initiative of God. What is fragmented is the human response to God's initiative. The ecumenical task, then, is to widen the areas of common response to God.

A second answer came - life is common to all. We all have existence. But there is a great diversity in the qualities that different people and groups of people allow to shape that existence. The ecumenical task, then, is to understand these diverse qualities and to support one another in refining and nurturing them. In this task we need to learn to work together: people of different religions understanding and supporting one another; people of different cultures understanding and supporting one another; people of different vocations understanding and supporting one another.

Starting with the common fact of existence, people and groups reach many different levels. The ecumenical task, then, is to enable people to rise above the level of basic existence to higher levels of life. For example, we should seek to rise from the level of mere existence to higher levels of information--and knowledge--and understanding--and respect--and love. Beyond mere existence, we should achieve health - physical, mental and spiritual.

Each of us seeks to achieve these qualities as an individual. Higher yet is to achieve them in interpersonal relations--and intergroup relations--and international relations--in fact, the whole earth. The unity for which we pray, and toward which

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CONVOCATION

On Monday and Tuesday, January 28-29, the January convocation will be held here at LTS. This year's theme is Shalom?

One of the biggest parts of the convocation will be the Special Issue Groups. From the beginning, the Convocation Committee intended that the Convocation program should include issues that are building or breaking Shalom now. After deciding the issues, the committee set out to find knowledgeable people to lead us in facing them. The Convocation is most fortunate to be able to place before participants the following issues, led by people who are directly involved in these issues now!

The PURPOSE of the Special Issue Groups is: (1) to place before the Convocation issues which are contemporary, crucial, unresolved, and hurting; (2) to compare different perceptions of the nature, causes and resolutions of these issues; (3) to decide how churches and church people can respond to these issues.

The Special Issue Groups are as follows:

Monday only 8:15-9:30

1. Health Care Crises

Monday 8:15-9:30 and Tuesday 9:30-10:55

2. Building Shalom in Local Church and Community

3. Corrective Justice

4. The Middle East

5. Power and What It Does to People

6. Welfare Rights

Tuesday only 9:30-10:55

7. Organizing for People Power

If anyone would like to participate in any of the Special Issue Groups and has any questions, or has any questions about Convocation, see Dr. Lee Gable.

PRAYING FOR UNITY

This night in the chapel I prayed for

UNITY

But the Lord said, "It is not enough. It is not enough to pray just for unity."

So I prayed for

UNITY AND PEACE

Then the Lord asked me, "What will bring Unity and Peace?"

So I prayed for

HEALING

that brings

UNITY AND PEACE

Then the Lord asked me, "What prevents Healing that would bring Unity and Peace?"

So I prayed that the

BARRIERS

that separate us might come down.

Then the Lord asked me, "What is the greatest Barrier that separates you?"

I said to the Lord, "It is

THE LORD'S SUPPER

It is the greatest

BARRIER

to the

HEALING

that brings

UNITY AND PEACE."

The Lord said to me, "Do away with

THE LORD'S SUPPER

the

BARRIER

to the

HEALING

that brings

UNITY AND PEACE."

I said, "We cannot give up the Lord's Supper. It is our greatest treasure."

The Lord said, "You can

BREAK BREAD TOGETHER."

Then I remembered that the Lord had said to his disciples, "This is Bread. Take, eat in remembrance of me."

We can all break bread together in remembrance of Him.

It is not the Lord's Supper that has divided us.

It is what we have made of the Lord's Supper that has divided us.

So I prayed that we might give up the Lord's Supper and that we might

BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

for

HEALING

that brings

UNITY AND PEACE.

This was my prayer for

UNITY

in the Chapel tonight.

Ann Gable

CHRISTIAN UNITY

(continued from page 1)

we work, calls for the highest level which is love and spiritual health for all the world.

We usually think of ecumenism in the human terms of doing things together, dialog about religious practices and forms, and merging our religious institutions. These are good in themselves, but Christian unity calls for more. It should be God-oriented, not only man-oriented.

The ultimate goal of ecumenism is that

the initiatives and qualities of God become incarnate in individual and corporate humanity. This is the unity for which I need to pray. "You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Lee Gable

Rollo May, psychologist, authority on anxiety, and author (Love and Will, Paulus) will be at Millersville State College on April 22. In preparation for his lecture and seminars, anyone interested in a study group on his works should let me know. Alice Zimmerman

ANOTHER TRANSLATION FROM THE CUNEIFORM

Mr. Bricker's search in the dusty caverns of the Library has unearthed another clay tablet of Nebuchadnezzar's time which he has asked me to translate. It was rather disappointing in content since it was merely a report of the King's annual payments to the Royal Collector of Tributes. My translation follows:

"In the fifth year of King Nebuchadnezzar's reign, it was decided that announcement should be made to the loyal citizenry of the King's stewardship of his possessions. It was reported that since he ascended the throne, his networth had increased from 300,000 shekels to over a million. This was accomplished in ways which were probably legal and above suspicion.

Besides the Royal Palace at Nineveh, he also found it necessary to sojourn for brief periods of time in other Royal Palaces which he acquired. One was in the Far West, in the neighborhood of Tyre, another in the Far South on the shores of the Gulf of Persia. The grateful populace, appreciative of the Royal benefactions, did pay for these temporary domiciles.

He had also owned a small set of rooms in the Metropolis of the East, but upon ascending the throne, he chose to sell them. However, he did disdain to pay what was then called 'capital gains' on the profit because he claimed residence in the Western Providence of Tyre. That same year, he did disdain to pay anything to the Collector of Tyre's Tributes, claiming residence in Nineveh.

The King also announced, to the intense gratification of his subjects, that he had decided to give the invaluable papers which he had collected as Crown Prince. Thus the populace learned with great edification that in his first year as Crown Prince he was accustomed to have a five-minute egg for breakfast and that in his fifth year as Crown Prince he took his dog Chess for a walk in the Royal Gardens every night at 11. Such a wealth of information for future historians, he modestly valued at half a million shekels and quite properly deducted that from his income for Tribute purposes.

Such ledgerdom with shekels and dinars utterly amazed his loyal subjects. Then indeed were they astounded when the good King reported that in one year, with an income of 268,000 shekels, he had given in alms the huge amount of 295 shekels. Such generosity from the Royal purse did give all his loyal folk a most worthy example of utmost charity and goodwill for the poor and unfortunate."

Here the tablet breaks off in its record of Nebuchadnezzar in the fifth year of his reign.

Donald M. C. Englert

SPORTS SHORTS

Okay, sports fans. We know that since THE SEMINARIAN didn't come out last week you are on "pins and needles" awaiting this week's bowling results. Fast Denny Bechard moved ahead of Don "Exorcist" Wetzel this week with Paul "Prat-fall" Thompson close behind in third place. Thompson's bowling style this week reminded us of the old time "Silent Spot" on the Red Skelton show. Doc Englert's 215(!!!!) high game is going to be hard to beat. Doc suffered an injury in that game.

I believe the "Thompson Effect" played a large part in Doc's injury. Mick Szilagyi owes his wife a new bowling ball because she broke 150! Nancy wanted to make sure Mick had the point so she bowled a 151 and a 161! Happy bowling.

R. E. Lee Jessup

Did you hear about the Christmas present that the gynecologist left Rogie and John Fureman?

THE SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS

Turquoise oil slicks floating
on the broken shells of human existence
and forgotten circumstance.
The Now, the When, the If, the How
confront our sensibilities
with tired certainty.
The rancid butter on our daily bread
slides down our crooked throats.
Red sunrise - blue sunset...
it all turns out the same.
The ancient riddle is scratched
in the blindman's forehead.
The dark shore of discontent is
his cosmic resting place.
He speaks to the vultures
in a cheerful tone.
They squawk their disapproval.
The good of the passing was.
Landscape faces in colorless masks
cover his mind's canvas.
Wooden figurines pull rickshaws
through the elephant's burial ground.
The klip-klop of then
and the klip-klop of now
meet in the sundried marshmallow bones.
The native tribesman panics
and coos his curse
while no ears hear.
The true end was
before the beginning.
Was it a Greek who threw the spear
that made the hole
in the universal dome?
Boys stood on the burning decks
taking orders from the shipwrecked
sailors.
The liquid tapestry of misery
lies beyond the grasp
of our brittle fingers.
Parched is the moment
of our recognition.
The gutted ruin of our existence is
the Temple of Modern Man.
Men lay in the flooded hulls
giving apologies for the respectable
civilians.
Wild satellites are trapped in space
and there is no time to free them.
Wax fingers search for questions
in the maze of doubt.
They melt in the flame
from the cigarette lighter.
Death is orange and slimy.
Rotted corpses drink the wine
of our desperate neverendings.
The bullfighter wears a lotus blossom
in the lapel of his clown suit.
Man and Beast do the minuet.

They've taken down the exit signs.
We are hopelessly stranded
on a deserted planet.
The emperor cannot commute
his own sentence to life.
There are no pardons - only excuses.
Granite columns sliding into the sun
become twisted pieces of wrought
as they burn red-hot
in the vacuum of our creation.
Then they are quicksilver.
Then they are gone.
We all wear the cold tattoo
of refusal to know or understand.
The cripple stands on his head
while we fall off our chairs.
Sticky fingers page through
the want ads of unconsciousness.
Crumbs of existence fall
into the crevasses.
The murky light spreads
slime over all.
Such is our error - our totality -
our universe.
We see only dark shadows
of eons relived.
Carried to the extreme
we see only ourselves -
a mirror in the dust of Time.
I sing of the man with no arms.
The nobody nobody knows
is then and now.
Busboys sing the moans and groans
on New Year's Day
as the pennies jingle jangle
inside our hollow skulls.
Buzzards greet our coming of age.
Endless answers to unasked questions
find us
gaping at the tidal wave.
How does the candle keep its flame
underneath the glass?
Time fades as tallow melts.
Inside is the nocturnal blaze
outside is reality.
A brittle, shatterable transparency
lies between.
Brutal, universal truths attack
the candle's shield with their
eternal pressure
into its inevitable collapse.
The wick provides two-way camouflage.

P. E. Clark

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LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - 149:16

January 24, 1974

* Open to Seminary Community

** Open to General Public

Numbers in parentheses refer to announcements which follow.

CALENDAR

Monday, January 28

8:00 A.M.	- Case Method Group	L214
* 9:10 A.M.	- Morning Prayers	Santee Chapel
** 10:00 A.M.	- Registration - Convocation	Library, Second Floor
** 10:30 A.M.	- General Meeting - Convocation	L200
** 1:15 P.M.	- Convocation Assembly	L200
2:30 P.M.	- Interaction Groups and ACTS Seminars	
** 4:00 P.M.	- Convocation Assembly	L200
7:00 P.M.	- Interaction Groups and ACTS Seminars	
8:15 P.M.	- Special Issue Groups	
9:45 P.M.	- Vespers	L200
10:00 P.M.	- Shalom Audio-Visual Resources	L200

Tuesday, January 29

* 9:00 A.M.	- Chapel Service	Santee Chapel
9:30 A.M.	- Special Issue Groups	
11:00 A.M.	- Convocation Assembly	L200
1:45 P.M.	- Convocation Assembly	L200
3:05 P.M.	- Interaction Groups and ACTS Seminars	
4:30 P.M.	- Shalom Resources	L200
7:00 P.M.	- Convocation Assembly	L200
8:00 P.M.	- Celebration of Shalom	L200

Wednesday, January 30

8:00 A.M.	- Executive Cabinet	L204
* 9:10 A.M.	- Morning Prayers	Santee Chapel
10:00 A.M.	- Alumni Council	L204
2:00 P.M.	- 150th Anniversary General Committee	

Thursday, January 31

* 9:10 A.M.	- Morning Prayers	Santee Chapel
	ACTS	

Friday, February 1

* 9:10 A.M.	- Morning Prayers	Santee Chapel
	ACTS	

DATES AHEAD

Plans are in progress for the Trustee-Faculty-Seminarian Retreat to be held February 8-9 on campus.

February 10 - 7:30 P.M. Opening Convocation - Santee Chapel

Features: Prelude Concert by Frank McConnell (7:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.) introducing the new organ. Address by the Rev. Sidney Lovett, Central Atlantic Conference. Reception following in Refectory or new students, visitors, etc.

THE REGISTER

Executive Cabinet

No Report

Next Meeting - January 30, 1974

Academic Affairs

No Report

Campus Affairs

No Report

Student Community Council

Information Reported: In clarification of last week's report, the respective people have been selected to represent their respective constituents on the "Collegium Development Committee" which is responsible for reviewing the current collegia system:

Juniors - Lee Jessup and Tom Smith

Middlers - Larry Hemsley

Seniors - Jim Fatzinger

Pastors - Bruce Willcox

Next Meeting: 7:00 P.M. - February 13, 1974 - The Hub

Doctoral Studies

No Report

Collegium Development

No Report