

THE SEMINARIAN

The Student Paper of the Lancaster Theological Seminary
Volume XXXV September 29, 1983 Issue 1

Editorial

Greetings to you all and Welcome Back. It is a real pleasure and honor to be able to serve as co-editor of the Seminarian this year. It is good to be able to work with Helen and a fine staff to edit what I consider to be an important part of our student community.

Frankly, you could fit my life time newspaper experience in a one ounce jar, but I do hope to do all I can to help make this paper a quality one that our school can be proud of. We do hope that all of our L.T.S. community- faculty and students alike- will think of this as their paper and take responsibility for making it work. Please feel free - and indeed we encourage you - to contribute articles, offer suggestions or criticisms, and to serve on the staff in any way you feel able. Only as we all work together can we really have a paper of quality.

Thank you for the opportunity of serving as co-editor this year. I look forward to a real learning experience and a fine newspaper. We extend our sincere best wishes to you all for a fine and rewarding school year. God bless you all.

Stevan Atansoff
Co-Editor

Beginnings always come to endings. September session began and then ended, seemingly too soon. In three short weeks, we experienced what type of place L.T.S. was, what CONTACT training and really listening to others entailed, and urban and rural church settings. IM 101 was a good beginning for our L.T.S. studies,

More began in September than just academics. Friendships began; respect began; building up one another began. A community began to develop and establish itself with the students in IM 101. I think that a lot of the good reactions to IM 101 were a reflection of the fantastic community building that occurred during the session.

As a smaller institution, L.T.S. needs community. A feeling of community strengthens each individual within the body; it lets them know that they are unique and accepted as that and encouraged to grow as they will. I know that the community begun in September session will continue to grow as the year progresses. Beginnings come to endings, and endings bring new beginnings. We have begun well.

Helen McMullan
Co-Editor

HARD EARNED WAGES

An old church in Belgium deciding to repair its properties, employed an artist to touch up a large painting. The committee required a detailed bill. The artist, although nettled at the request, had the saving grace of humor, and shocked and astonished the worthy members of the committee with the following items. The committee never again asked for an itemized bill, nor did they again employ the same artist.

Correcting the Ten Commandments	\$ 5.12
Embellishing Pontius Pilate and putting new ribbon on his bonnet	3.02
Putting a new tail on the rooster of St. Peter and mending his comb	2.20
Re-pluming and re-gilding left wing of guardian angel	5.18
Washing the servant of the High Priest and putting carmine on his neck	5.02
Renewing Heaven, adjusting stars and cleaning moon	7.14
Touching up Purgatory, restoring lost souls	3.06
Brightening up flames of Hell, putting new tail on devil, mending his left hoof and doing odd jobs for the damned	7.17
Re-bordering the robe of Herod and adjusting his wig	4.00
Taking the spots from son of Tobias	10.30
Putting ear-rings in Sarah's ears	5.20
Putting a new stone in David's sling, enlarging the head of Goliath and extending Saul's legs	11.83
Decorating Noah's Ark and putting a head on Shem	4.31
Mending the shirt of the Prodigal Son and cleaning his ear	3.09
	<u>\$76.64</u>

from The Seminarian, Volume VII, Number 10

Congratulations to:

Joel and Kathie Nogle on the birth of their daughter, Karlie Joelle.
 Paul and Dawn Cronin their wedding.
 Stevan and Karen Atanasoff on their wedding, September 3rd.
 Bruce and Bonnie Dallius on their wedding, September 10th.
 David Meyer and Linda Gentzel on their forthcoming wedding
 July of next year.

Deepest Sympathy to:

Mike and Kathy Gingrich on the death of her father this summer.
 Barb Kershner on the death of her grandfather.

LEARNING TO LISTEN by Stevan Atanasoff

It was the kind of mistake I make all too often and always vow never to let happen again but still do. I shudder to think how often this occurs.

My wife Karen and I were attending a gathering following the funeral of one of my parishoners. As we were standing near the food line I happened to over hear on of my young members talking to a friend. The words 'marriage', a woman's name, and the month December, all caught my ear.

Not waiting to hear more, I eagerly waited for my chance to talk to this young gentleman. When I got the chance I offered my sincere congratulations on his impending marriage in December. I asked him if it was the same girl I had seen him with before and said how nice she was.

He said it was the same one, and that he would be wanting to talk to me soon. Before he could get another word in, I rushed in again mouth flapping at 90 miles per hour, "Oh, you want to talk about getting married," I said quickly, "I would be happy to marry you two - and congratulations!"

My young friend mumbled something else, sort of smiled, and then, after shaking my hand walked away. I wondered why he did not share my enthusiasm.

Later, while we were sitting alone in another part of the house, my wife provided the answer. "Steve, I hate to tell you this but your friend had been saying that his girlfriend is pregnant, is due in December, and that he does not know what to do, for he does not want to get married," she said. "You," she said, "only heard part of his conversation. I think you goofed."

At that point, I wish I could have simply evaporated. Yet, this is not a new problem. I find that in my own life - and I fear in the lives of many of my pastor friends - it is much harder to listen than it is to talk - and this can create problems!

Often, I am guilty of appearing to listen intently but, in reality, even as the person is talking, I am thinking of what I will be saying next. Other times, I mutter a response even if I do not know

LETTER FROM AFAR

22 Sept. 1983
Aleppo, Syria

Dear Friends:

As you can see by the date, this letter is not being written from the usual location (i.e. Beirut). Maria and I are in Aleppo, awaiting the possibility of return to Beirut. At this point it seems unlikely that school will open on time, although it is possible that it will open. Every year is the same story, so they say. People tell us not to worry, school will open. But will it stay open? Once the rain starts, the fighting stops. But when will the rain start? So here we are, in dusty, noisy Aleppo, waiting.

We do not know why God spared us from the shelling of the past four weeks. We continue to trust his guidance, even as we are amazed at how things worked out. We have had a full summer, with children's and youth conferences. We left one conference on Sunday, August 28, and that night some shelling began, though we heard nothing at the seminary. Early on the 29th at 5:30 we left Beirut, as we had planned, for the next conference in Syria, not knowing that by noon the shelling was to begin in earnest. We passed Lebanese, Phalangist, Syrian, and Palestinian checkpoints up through Tripoli to the border. As an American citizen, without a Lebanese residency card (only a visa), I was unable to obtain a proper visa from the Syrian border officials. We considered turning back, still unaware of Beirut's condition, but decided to proceed, trusting in God.

The conference in Kessab an Armenian village near the Turkish border, was rewarding in some ways and trying in other ways. These youth are desirous to grow in their faith, and that is a tremendous resource with which to work. On the other hand, we had

(Atanasoff, cont., from p. 3)

Once. Karen told me the same thing three times because I had not listened to her the first time, and had to keep asking the same questions over.

I suspect our marriage will survive this problem for we work on it. But, I wonder how parishoners and friends - who do not have nearly the committment to making things work out - deal with it.

I can't undo the embarrasment I created by my ill advised remarks. I do hope that this latest social blunder will drive the point home once and for all - listen first, really listen, talk later - or not at all. If I can remember that, I think it will take me farther toward being a good pastor - and person - than anything I can learn anywhere else.

WATCH THIS SPACE
by Helen McMullen

Would you be interested in participating in the 9th Annual Christmas Mail call? This is a program through which Christmas cards, friendly notes, and news is collected from all over the country and sent to various facilities of the Department of Defense (Hospitals, USO's, servicemen's centers, units, stations, etc.). There letters are distributed to the soldiers and add holiday cheer to the season. More information about this program will be forthcoming, so watch this space.

The Seminarian would like to welcome all new and returning members of the LTS community. We look forward to the gifts that each of us can bring to make this an exciting and rewarding year.

(Letter from Afar, cont. p. 3)

our ears to the radio, and listened with anguish as the reports came in. Not only are all our belongings there, but more importantly our friends and relatives. Fortunately for us, we were (and still are) with friends from N.E.S.T. who are brothers and sisters to us. They gave us much support and comfort. Of course we were quickly received by the youth also, not knowing that our relationship was to be extended by these circumstances.

We listen to the news constantly, though I am not able to understand most of it. The fellow seminarian at whose home we are staying translates for me. Syrian state radio makes up stories about what is happening in Lebanon, making listeners think that Syria is really helping, not dividing, the Lebanese. (What do you expect from a Soviet influenced Country? Voice of America dramatizes everything, making listeners think that the U.S. is simply doing peacekeeping. (What do you expect from a capitalist Country?) BBC is reliable but late. Voice of Lebanon (Phalangist) gives the names of the dead every day, along with cheery military music and cheery diatribes. Radio Monte Carlo, again from Lebanon, gives about the most balanced news (along with BBC). But today they started reciting the numbers of jets and helicopters aboard the U.S. and French ships, perhaps in an effort to scare the Syrians, Durzis, Palestinians, and other assorted militias in Lebanon. I cannot give a simple explanation of what is happening there (Beirut) but something of cousin Maria's said the other day is most pertinent. "No one understands what the Lebanese are going through.; not the Syrians, not the American. Only the Lebanese do, because they feel it on their skin." I do not pretend to know what it is like to have survived nine years of war.

(Letter from Afar, cont., from p. 4)

But I think I have gained a faint understanding of the people who have. Today, I remembered Judith Hipp, who is out in the mid-west this semester, I suppose. In our collegium, she asked me if I knew what it would take to make us decide to return to the U.S. At that point I did not know what to answer, but it is clearer now. What I mean to say is that you might be seeing us very soon. Oh -- if any of you have become possessed to write to us, don't. At least not until the airport re-opens.

Until we see you all, the peace of God be with you.

In Christ's Service,
Nishan Bakalian

The deadline for submission to the next issue of The Seminarian is Friday, October 15, 1983.

Please place letters or articles in The Seminarian mailbox (alphabetically placed among the student's mailboxes).

The first staff meeting for The Seminarian will be tuesday October 4, at (;30 a.m. at N203. We welcome all new members.

Book Reviews
by Dale Bowman

The Fight: The Christian Struggle, written by John White and available from Intervarsity Press for \$3.95 is an excellent work. The audience for whom the book is written are for those recent converts to the Christian faith. The work concerns itself with the fundamental aspects of Christian living, and does so from a more conservative view. White clearly portrays the Christian life as one of contentment and also joy. He is quick to point out and does so clearly that this contentment and joy is not without cost, nor is

it without struggle. He writes, As you live the Christian life, you may have periods of darkness or of doubt. You may encounter painful struggle and discouragement. But there will also be moments of exultation and glory. And most important of all, you will become free.

I do recommend this book for any Christian library. While the work concerns itself with the fundamentals of Christian living, the mature Christian can find many blessings in its reading.
