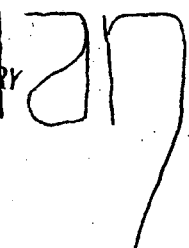




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150 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

Volume XXVI

May 8, 1975

Number 24

"REFLECTIONS"

On the surface of a swift-flowing stream, the reflections are always indistinct; Even if the water is clear and has no foam, Reflections in the constant stream of ripples, the restless kaleidoscope of water are still uncertain, vague, incomprehensible. Only when the water has flowed down, river after river, and reaches a broad, calm estuary or comes to rest in some back water or a small, still lake, Only then can we see in its mirrorlike smoothness every leaf of a tree on a bank, every wisp of a cloud or the deep blue expanse of the sky. It is the same with our lives. If, so far, we have been unable to see clearly or to reflect the lineaments of truth, is it not because we too are still moving toward some end, because we are still alive?

- Alexander Solzhenitsyn

This is the third of three poems by Alexander Solzhenitsyn which were narrated to music by David Englert.

JUST A WORD...

of thanks to all those who helped in any way with the morning chapels and the special services this year. To praise God in the company of other Christians is a wonderful thing!

Mike Iski, and the
Spiritual Life Comm.

PREDESTOR PRIMER

In the April 17 issue, the Heretic in the Hub, Tom Schreck let us know how the Unitarian faith looks at man's "inhumanities to man". I am surprised that none of my brothers and sisters at the seminary spoke out and proclaimed the Christian view of sin which is dialectically opposed to this other Faith. (Well, one could write a whole article on the subject of apathy.)

I must admit, Mr. Schreck, your article really got to my heart, but I don't think in the way you wanted it to. If you want to convince someone you do not insult them by calling them "absurd" and "popycock". This subject of original sin is probably very dear to your heart but that does not mean you throw out the laws of logic and especially the "Fallacy of Abuse". If you do not know them, I would suggest you look them up in Irving Copi's Symbolic Logic.

I do not know how your faith views the Bible, God's written Word, but Orthodox Christianity asserts it as the Authority in doctrinal questions. In Psalms 51:5, we read, "...in sin my mother conceived me." This does not mean sex is sinful, but it does mean every man, woman and baby are sinners as our ancestor Adam was. Babies are sinners just as much as I am and you are. They may not have accumulated as many sins as an adult, but we sin because we are sinners, not the existential position that we are sinners because we sin. Again, if you know anything about logic, you know these cannot be reversed. The

(cont. p.3)

HERETIC IN THE HUB

Radical freedom is not something you can deal with lightly. You cannot will it away, nor can you deny it by affirming loyalty to a creed or doctrine that denies it. Your very act of affirmation is itself a testimony to the fact that freedom does exist. The problem comes when we try to systematize things into a neat package. We attempt to balance the goodness of God against the presence of evil. We attempt to understand why good men suffer if God is all-powerful. We seek to deny human freedom in order to balance our equation which begins with God as omnipotent.

Could it be that the Universe has in its very fabric paradoxes? Could it be that God has done this intentionally, for whatever reason? Could it be that one of the great goals in life is not systematic understanding of all the pieces, but appreciating them piece by piece? God is good; put that piece aside. Man is free; put that piece aside. Don't try to balance the equation, for the only way you can do that is to diminish one of the pieces: either God must be un-good (for there to be evil) or evil must, in some way, be good for us. Maybe the Universe is not an either/or proposition. Maybe the important things in life are our fellow man--not our creeds and our myths. Maybe God left out some of the pieces just to see what sort of picture we humans drew to complete things. And, if I might venture a Unitarian Christian aside, maybe that is why Jesus met with tax collectors, sinners, and Gentiles. Woe to ye, systematic thinker! You cast out the baby with the bath water!

You cannot escape the responsibility of making your own decisions. No one can smile at his neighbor but you. Abdicate your right to free choice, to say NO, to think as a free human being if you will. But know that YOU are doing it. It is your blessing and curse, depending on what you make of it. And whatever you DO make of it--don't try to make your brother conform to your standards. If there were an unforgivable sin, that may well be it.

Tom Schreck

May 2, 1975

Sir: Please allow me to express my surprise and hurt--at Tom Schreck's "Heretic in the Hub" article of 4/24/75. While I realize that his tour with his friend from Mars is mythical and more importantly, I laud his point in his article, I can find no excuse or literary merit for his swat at the Catholic Church. It was only the Catholic Church he hit with a parenthetical aside generalization which, in the name of

RESPONSE TO "MARTIAN" HERETIC (Cont'd)
ecumenism, in the name of school solidarity (since I am a student of LTS) and, I dare say, in the name of Christ Jesus is totally uncalled for. May I also express my disappointment in you and in your lack of either scrutiny or lack of editorial policy. Quite frankly, Tom Schreck, you, the Seminarian, and perhaps LTS owe an apology to me and to the Catholics of Lancaster County, and to Christ Jesus whose body you have offended. --Hubert J. Kealey

Response....

May 8, 1975

Dear Father Kealy,

First, let me say if my article about the Martian visitor offended you or any other Catholic I am deeply sorry. However, that was not a "snide generalization". Read the sentence again and you will see that, if anything, I was taking a whack at us Protestants. What the "aside" does is comment on the fact that we Protestants tend to lump all Catholics together in a dehumanizing manner. It was intended to be irony. You and I know that all churches are not the same, Catholic or otherwise, but that each church reflects the character of its ministerial staff, local congregation, and neighborhood. You were offended because you thought I was caricaturing your religion, which I was not. But if my choice of words led you to this conclusion I do most sincerely apologize.

Tom Schreck

GOOD-BYE --- AND THANK YOU

Being editor of the Seminarian has had its ups and downs. For your sake, I won't bother to enumerate the downs, but I would like to mention one or two of the ups. It has been very important for me to work with many of those who have helped in all phases of the Seminarian's publications. While I was often disappointed in the general response to pleas for help, I found that there was always someone willing to put in some time.

Next year, Doug Turner and Nancy Lilly are co-editing the Seminarian next year. They will need your contributions and help in publishing as much as I did. But more importantly, the Seminarian always needs to be read to be effective. Good luck you two, and thank you all.

- J. Doni Bechard, editor

PREDESTOR PRIMER

(cont,)

definition of sin is not that we blow up a city with bombs, but that we want our own freedom rather than being submissive to Yahweh. The Christian faith asserts that man must be radically submissive to God almighty instead of trying to get "radical freedom" as you, Mr. Schreck, want. Without a recognition of Original Sin, there is no need for Jesus Christ. Maybe you would want him a mere example. But then that does not explain why Jesus had to die. Maybe he was just deranged, in which case you must throw out Christ as an example and also stop calling yourself a Christian at which I might agree.

To conclude, I would like to defend the Calvinistic tradition which is within the Christian faith. Do not brand the systematic theology of John Calvin and his admirers as absurd. If you read John Calvin in his primary source, the Institutes, instead of through secondary books and professors you may learn to at least respect a different outlook. You should have learned this respect from the sister religion of Unitarianism, i.e. Hinduism. John Calvin believed that man is a free agent, that he is responsible for his action and that he is capable of evil and good. He believed in predestination, but the term double predestination is his critic's terminology. Predestination is predestination, either God predestines or he does not, no double or triple or quadruple predestination. Predestination does not mean the hopelessness or automation of fatalism. Mr. Schreck, you should investigate Calvin's idea of the secondary free agent to understand predestination more clearly.

--George R. Yates

"THE GRADUATE(S)"

MASTER OF DIVINITY

Fred Barker, Michael Clark, David Colton, Stephen Cote, Lawrence Hemsley, Carol Houghton, Frank Keller, Lee McCardle, Park Ranck.

CERTIFICATE

Philip Bogosh, Gary Marcy

MASTER OF ARTS IN RELIGION

Paul Clark, James Green

MASTER OF SACRED THEOLOGY


Clarence Collins, James Miller

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

Gene Aulenbach, John Blackwell, Benjamin Griffen, Thomas Herrold, Andrew Missiras, Richard Scherch, C. William Wealand

B.D. FOR M. DIV.-DEGREE EXCHANGE

Douglas Albert, Carroll Bartholomew, Clifford Bollenbacher, Theodore Boltz, Harry Eberly, Dean Feather, Barry Fillman, David Focht, Willis Heckler, Richard Hemann, Harold Hess, Warren Hoopes, Jr., James Johnson, Nevin Kershner, Joseph Kim, George Martz, Charles Masters, Donald Miller, Lloyd Moyer, Robert Myers, Gideon Nice, Doanld Orander, Robert Paden, James Peeler, Harold Rodland, George Schmidt, Jr., Glenn Schultz, Harry Serio, Carl Siegfried, Jr., Jeri Smith, John Thomas, Roland Turnbach, Max Tussey, Harry Williams.

 Graduation
cap

RESPONSE

Tom Shreck:

I appreciate your articles in the Seminarian. I disagree very much but I enjoy reading them.

I have been wondering if I should respond at all but since there is space in this issue I will.

I simply wonder why it would be that God only let Jesus be crucified on the cross instead of the Buddha or Zoaster or Muhammed.

If there is no one way, then why is there only one sacrifice?

Why is it that we believe in our Christian faith that God came seeking sinners to bring them home while in every other faith sinners are trying to find their own way to God, i.e. earning their salvation?

Why is it that in this 20th century we are suddenly enlightened that other religions are valid?

How is it that a person who rejects Jesus as Christ can make it home no matter what path he takes when Jesus says no one comes to the Father except by Jesus Himself?

--Don Wetzel

LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

SEMINARY COMMUNICATOR - 150:31

May 8, 1975

*Open to Seminary Community

**Open to General Public

Numbers in parentheses refer to announcements which follow.

CALENDAR

Monday, May 12

- | | | |
|--------------|---|------|
| 10:00 - 2:00 | - LCDC Advisory Council Meeting | L214 |
| 10:30 a.m. | - Shelley Photos for graduating seminarians | L200 |
| 5:00 p.m. | - Make-up for Historical Drama | A103 |
| | Costumes " " " | A203 |
| *7:00 p.m. | - Historical Drama Rehearsal in Hensel Hall | |

Tuesday, May 13

Wednesday, May 14

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 8:00 a.m. | - Executive Cabinet | |
| 5:00 p.m. | - Make-up for Historical Drama | A103 |
| | Costumes " " " | A203 |
| **7:30 p.m. | - Historical Drama | Hensel Hall |

Thursday, May 15

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| *10:00 a.m. | - Alumni Council Meeting | L200 |
| 12:00 noon | - Luncheon - Reunion Classes | |
| * 3:00 p.m. | - Rap with the faculty | |
| 5:30 p.m. | - Alumni Banquet-F&M Baer Dining Hall | |
| ** 8:00 p.m. | - Baccalaureate | Hensel Hall |
| ** 9:00 p.m. | - Reception | Refectory |

Friday, May 16

- | | | |
|--------------|---|-------------|
| 9:00 a.m. | - Shelley Photos for graduating seminarians | L200 |
| **11:00 a.m. | - Commencement | Hensel Hall |
| 1:00 p.m. | - Luncheon | |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Communicator 150:31

150th Anniversary Commencement Activities

Everyone in the Seminary Community is cordially invited to attend all of the 150th Anniversary Commencement Activities! They are as follows:

May 14 - Historical Drama	7:30 p.m.
May 15 - Alumni Council Meeting	10:00 a.m.
Luncheon - Reunion Classes	12:00 noon
Rap with the Faculty	3:00 p.m.
Alumni Banquet	5:30 p.m.
Baccalaureate	8:00 p.m.
Reception	9:00 p.m.
May 16 - Commencement	11:00 a.m.
Luncheon	1:00 p.m.

James Glasse

From the Office of Development and Communication

Historical Drama Rehearsal: Monday, May 12, 7:00 p.m. in Hensel Hall. Mrs. McConnell appreciates the response of all helping with the drama. Now she wants to put it all together!

All LTS Seminarian Financial Grant applications submitted to Mr. Farrar will be reviewed by June 1. Persons who have applied will receive a personal letter from Mr. Farrar. Some personal interviews may be necessary.

Reminder - Applications for scholarship funds for 1975-76 are available in the ODC office.

Seminary Day speakers for May 11 are:

Salem, Allentown	James Glasse
Christ, Elizabethtown	Lyman Farrar

Thanks again to all who have gone out for Seminary Day and to those who will be going out! Would someone be interested in going to Zion Church, Kutztown on June 15? Please check with Miss Book.

(over)

From the Office of Development and Communication (continued)

The deadline for the June issue of the Bulletin will be May 19.

Lyman G. Farrar

Seminarians interested in part-time work in the Refectory beginning September, please contact Ruth Balazs by May 16. The schedule is approximately 5 to 7 p.m. each day the Refectory is in operation.

Myron Wolf

Meet Young Man from Japan

I will have as my guest May 14-16 a young man from Japan who wants to learn all he can about organic gardening and farming. I will appreciate any help you can give me providing him transportation around the county or entertaining him at meal times, etc. Do you have any ideas about things he should see or people he should meet?

Allen Kroehler

At the suggestion of Paul Hafer, chairperson of the Board of Trustees, some faculty and students met recently with some Boy Scout representatives to consider what LTS might do in a scout program.

As a result, an Explorer Post will be formed, sponsored by the Seminary with the support of the Lancaster County Council of Churches.

Dennis Spangler, Todd Snyder, Warren Beaman, Allen Kroehler and Dorothy Book from the Seminary community have been working with the Scout Office to plan a first meeting with area high school students who might be interested in establishing a Post. A first meeting of this group will be held on May 22 in the Hafer Center.

Dorothy Book

Exploring Religious Occupations Unit Organizing

Lancaster Theological Seminary and the Lancaster County Council of Churches are inviting high school youth to gather together from all over Lancaster County to explore religious occupations. After initial, introductory meetings, the youth will plan their own program with the support of an advisory committee. Serving as adviser to the youth will be Denny Spangler, assisted by Warren Beaman and Todd Snyder. On the committee with them will be the Rev. Dorothy Book, the Rev. Lawrence Gross, the Rev. Richard Grant (or another representative of the LCCC) and the Rev. Allen Kroehler. If you are interested in helping with this new program, please contact any member of the committee.

Allen Kroehler

This will be the last edition of the Communicator for the 1974-75 academic year.

Edna Hafer