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Covenant Seminary Newsletter

VOL. I. NO. 1

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Now, here is something new!

You have in your hands the first edition of a new publication of Covenant Theological Seminary – a newsletter. That is exactly what we intend it to be.

For some time our friends have been telling us that they would like to know more about what is going on here on the campus of Covenant Seminary. As we have talked with them personally, telling them of some of the interesting and exciting developments at the school, they have remarked, "People should know about these things!" We agreed, but the problem was finding the most satisfactory method of getting out the interesting information. This newsletter is our solution.

As a beginning, the newsletter is to be published quarterly in the spring, summer, fall and winter. If it seems desirable later to publish it more often, we will do so. We will bring you news of our alumni as well as the present students and faculty. Your comments and suggestions are invited.

New Faculty Member

The addition of Dr. Robert Reymond to the permanent faculty of Covenant Theological Seminary has been held by students and faculty members alike as evidence of substantial progress and blessing in the school. Dr. Reymond was born and reared in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, of Southern Presbyterian parents. His earned degrees including the Ph.D. in Old Testament Studies were from Bob Jones University where he taught for a number of years after his graduation. Dr.

Reymond has also studied at a number of other schools including Union Theological Seminary, Fuller Seminary, Concordia Seminary, New York University, and the Winona Lake School of Theology.

After four years in the U.S. Air Force, Dr. Reymond returned to the school room but he has also had pastorates in Johnson City, Tennessee, and Sylvania, Georgia. He is currently stated supply pastor of the Hazelwood Reformed Presbyterian Church where the membership is enthusiastic over his strong Biblical preaching.

Dr. Reymond spent the summer of 1967 travelling in the Middle East, with five weeks of this time in the Holy Land. He is the author of a number of published works. His latest book entitled Introductory Studies in Contemporary Theology was published during the last school year by Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company and has had excellent reviews. Students are enthusiastic in their praise of Dr. Reymond's teaching methods and the depth of his spiritual insight. He has been elected to the post of Assistant Professor in the Department of Theology but will be doing considerable teaching in the Old Testament Department.

New Administrators

Two recent appointments bring the administrative staff of Covenant Seminary back to almost full complement. Of special interest is the fact that both men added are alumni of the seminary.

Richard Smith, who developed the seminary book



Dr. Reymond teaching a class at Covenant.



Dick Smith in the bookstore.

room into an attractive, well-stocked store with the best supply of conservative Christian literature in the St. Louis metropolitan area, demonstrated his business ability so clearly that he has been appointed Business Manager of the seminary. He will continue to give supervision to the bookstore and promises to offer the same high quality of materials and service both to local customers and by mail order. "Dick" Smith graduated from Covenant College in 1964, and received his M.A. degree in Bible from Covenant Seminary in 1967. He and his wife, the former Carolyn Burkham, live in nearby Manchester and have one son, Timothy, age 2.

Rebuilding antique organs is not a skill associated with the work of a school registrar, but when President Rayburn was looking for someone to assume the important task of maintaining student records, establishing schedules, conducting registration, and all the many other duties of a registrar, it occurred to him that the same patience and meticulous care for detail which characterized Robert Thomas as he took apart, renovated, and rebuilt the chapel organ would



Bob Thomas at the chapel organ he rebuilt.

seem to make him an ideal choice for Assistant Registrar. Lacking any previous experience in this type of work Mr. Thomas hesitated before accepting the position, but his desire to serve the Lord by serving the students and faculty of the school in this key post finally caused him to accept. Mr. Thomas graduated from the seminary with the B.D. degree in 1968. He makes his home with his parents in Des Peres. His father is a retired minister who is a frequent and welcome visitor to our campus.

In commenting on the addition of Mr. Smith and Mr. Thomas to the administrative staff, Dr. Rayburn said, "We began to look for men to fill these positions in the churches of our denomination scattered throughout the country. Then the Lord showed us that both of the men we needed were right here on our own campus. Again the Lord has shown us that when He has a job to do, He has a man for the job!"

Student Service For Christ

Watching Mark Pett or Larry Pardun playing with Negro youngsters or doing their best to explain the intricacies of a handcraft project to a not-too-apt child, one would not think that these men spent most of their mornings and a part of each afternoon in classrooms listening to lectures on such subjects as Objective Soteriology! Soteriology, of course, is the theological term for the teaching of the Word of God



Student body president-elect Mark Pett and friends.

on the subject of salvation. Mark and Larry, as well as a number of other Covenant Seminary students, are genuinely concerned about the salvation of the souls of hundreds of children living under rather forlorn conditions in the "high-rise slums" of the St. Louis Negro district. Their compassionate concern has been translated into a program designed to make it possible to reach these youngsters for Christ. Making use of an apartment rented by the Baptists and gladly loaned for this project, several students go each week to the Pruitt-Igoe housing area and spend several hours chatting and playing with these children, tutoring them in reading, and teaching them arts and crafts—and most important, the Bible. Results have not been spectacular but there is evidence that some of the children are giving heed to the message of the gospel which they have heard and which has been confirmed by the lives of the seminarians whom they have learned to know.

Seminarians Sing In The Southland

There was still the threat of snow flurries in the middle west the day before the Seminarians Quartet took leave of the campus and embarked upon a ten-day tour through the "deep south" which occupied the entire spring vacation. Snow flurries were left far behind and the men enjoyed warm sunshine and the even



Mr. Buswell rehearses the seminary quartet.

more blessed warmth of hearty Christian hospitality in all the churches that they visited. A swim in the Gulf near the winter home of Presley Edwards, one of the founding trustees of the seminary, was just one of the delightful extras which the quartet enjoyed on a schedule filled with services and extensive travel.

John Wilson, LeRoy Sheldon, Larry Billiter and Larry Pardun make up the quartet. Dean of Students John Buswell who selected and trained them accompanied them on the journey and spoke briefly concerning the seminary in the services. Robert Harris, son of Dr. R. L. Harris, also went along to provide piano accompaniment for the musical ministry of the quartet.

Reports from the churches visited have been enthusiastic. Not only their music but the personal testimonies of the men proved a blessing in each congregation. The tour included visits in the following Reformed Presbyterian Churches: Augusta Street and Shannon Forest, Greenville, South Carolina; Westminster, Fort Walton Beach, Florida; First Presbyterian, North Port Charlotte, Florida; Kentucky Avenue, Lakeland, Florida; Covenant, Naples, Florida; First Reformed, Chattanooga, Tennessee; and the Huntsville (Alabama) RP Church. They ministered also in the Hull Memorial Presbyterian Church (Independent), Savannah, Georgia.

During the school year the quartet has had a ministry in churches of a number of denominations in the St. Louis area.

Chaplain Champion

The ping-pong championship of Covenant Seminary may not be considered one of the seminary's highest honors, but for David Peterson it was to lead to other triumphs which would open many opportunities for him to bear effective witness for Christ. While he was a chaplain at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Dave won the championship of that large post in ping-pong (more properly called table tennis). This brought him to the attention of many men and those who admired his prowess with the ping-pong paddles couldn't miss the fact that he was a man with something special in his character and personality.

On returning to the States after a year in Vietnam, Dave was assigned to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where he has again used ping-pong as a means of contact with needy men. His work as a chaplain has been so effective that he was recently awarded a special citation for meritorious service. Among other things the citation commends him for "serving with an exceptionally high level of professional competence and technical proficiency as Deputy Army Training Center Chaplain." Brigadier General Michael Paulick who signed the citation noted that Dave "performed his duties with an expertise very seldom seen in a man of his grade and experience."



"Pete" in Rec Room.

Chaplain Peterson recently arranged for President Rayburn to preach at the Sunday morning services of the Post Chapel at Fort Campbell. The same Sunday at all of the post chapels the offering was designated for Covenant Seminary, and nearly \$800 was received. Our hearty thanks to "Pete."

Chapel Speakers Delight, Inform, And Inspire

"There is not a solitary doctrine of the Mormon Church which is compatible with the Christian faith!" With this emphatic assertion Einar Anderson, widely-known missionary evangelist, opened a series of two chapel services in which he discussed Mormon doctrine giving the seminary students keen insights into the practices as well as the teaching of this sect. Mr. Anderson was born in Utah and reared under Mormon teaching. After his conversion to Christ he developed a deep love for the Word of God and a passion to lead men to the Saviour. In his evangelistic ministry he has been especially effective in reaching Mormons and his chapel messages were filled with fascinating accounts of his encounters with them.

Mr. Anderson is one example of the men who enrich the lives of the Covenant seminarians through the daily chapel ministry. Each year students are privileged to hear from men of God who serve Him in wide-



Einar Anderson.



Psychologist Kenneth Markley.



Dr. Packer at the seminary pulpit.

ly diverse ministries. Some are heard in single chapel services, others in a series of messages, while at least once or twice a year special credit courses are offered by visiting lecturers.

A professional psychologist who believes the Bible is a rare find indeed, but one who is an enthusiastic Calvinist is even more uncommon. Kenneth Markley's zest for the Christian life, and for the counseling work in which he is involved, as well as the rich and varied experiences he has enjoyed made him a fascinating lecturer. During a three-day visit to the campus in the spring semester, Mr. Markley, Eastern Director of the Narramore Christian Foundation, gave several lectures to the seminary students on their role as counselors, spoke to their wives on the problems of discipline in the home, and addressed the college students who were campus guests for the Annual Conference on the Ministry.

The last guest lecturer for his school year was Dr. J. I. Packer, well-known evangelical scholar from

England, whose books and articles have blessed thousands. Dr. Packer, librarian of Latimer House at Oxford University, gave a series of lectures on the Epistle to the Ephesians during the final week of classes before semester examinations. Students and faculty alike appreciated the opportunity for personal fellowship with Dr. Packer during the days he spent on campus.

In Loving Memory

During the past three months gifts to Covenant Seminary have been received in memory of the following:

*(Mrs.) Isabelle Baker (Mrs.) Lloyd Griffin
(Mrs.) Ola Mae Brooks (Mrs.) Hazel Hoffmeyer*

Arthur Schild

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