



Covenant Seminary Newsletter

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Challenging Student Ministry

Among the ministries carried on by Covenant Seminary students none is more challenging than that of senior Stephen Cakouros and his wife Stavroula who as a husband-wife team are in charge of Manchester House, a home for boys who are moved out of the St. Louis County Detention Home. Manchester House was originally instigated as an experiment by St. Louis County's well-known Juvenile Judge Noah Weinstein. It was to be a "half-way house" for boys who were thought to be able, in spite of their problems, to fit into a normal community environment without danger to the community or themselves.



Steve Cakouros counseling with one of the boys at Manchester House.

Steve and Roula, who have been directing the home for the last two years, are an ideal couple to have such responsibilities. Steve spent some time in an orphanage in his early life and later when in the home of foster parents lived in a tough area of the Bronx just above Harlem in New York City. There he became acquainted with the life of teenagers in an unwholesome environment. Steve says, "My background helps me understand how the boys think. At one time I had the same outlook on the future that many of them have."

Converted to Christ while in the Navy, Steve felt called to preach the gospel and after his discharge from military service began his educational prepara-

tion for the Lord's service. After graduating from a Bible college in Wales, he heard Dr. Rayburn preach in New York City and after talking with him about seminary enrolled at Covenant.



Roula Cakouros in a tutoring session.

Roula, Steve's wife, had a very different background from her husband. Born in Macedonia in Greece, she lived for a short time as a young girl under Communist guerrillas so has had an opportunity to know Communism firsthand. In spite of these difficulties, Roula enjoyed exposure not only to Christian teaching but also to cultural influences. Steve says, "She was brought up on Chopin; I on Dave Brubeck." Roula came to the United States to attend college at Nyack. Her background and training have prepared her to be most helpful to the boys at Manchester House. She not only provides the feminine and maternal influence in the all-male household with her sympathetic understanding and counsel but also tutors the boys who need help in their school work.

All the boys at Manchester House (usually ten of them, aged 13 to 17) have been taken from their homes by the court. This is not always because of the delinquency of the boy. It may be because of a bad home situation. Steve and Roula make every effort to give the boys as normal a life as possible, taking the place of their parents. The boys attend the local school and most of them work in the neighborhood some hours of the week. Each is required to do routine chores in the home. Because Manchester

House is not only their home but also Steve and Roula's home, Steve establishes certain regulations which are strictly observed. For example, no profanity is allowed in the home. Every effort is made to teach the boys good manners and the proper respect for authority and for other people.

Because the boys have been able to control their parents by some means, they seek in every way to manipulate Steve. When they first come to the home they put their best foot forward. Then they gradually begin to try by subtle machinations to get their own way. "These boys are no different from other youngsters in many ways," says Steve. "They need rules, and when rules are established for them they must be enforced. Every boy comes from a problem home where he has been subjected to strong tensions. It is difficult to overcome the tragic effect of these inadequate homes."



The boys at Manchester House enjoy informal fellowship with Steve.

Steve has been impressed with the boys' unwillingness to face up to what they have done to get themselves into trouble. Most of them are very ungrateful and think that the world owes them a living. All of this goes back to their homes and the attitudes manifest there. While it is very difficult to instill in them a proper sense of values, Steve does find great satisfaction in seeing some of them develop normal attitudes.

Direct religious instruction is prohibited by law, but the boys are allowed to attend church with the Cakouroses and each one receives a clear personal witness for the Lord Jesus Christ and to the Word of God from Steve and Roula.

Steve does not plan to stay in this type of social work following graduation from the seminary. He has been called to preach the gospel and expects to accept a pastorate. With the responsibilities of Manchester House, however, he has not carried a full

load of work each term and will need one final semester next year to finish his seminary degree. He feels that his experience with the boys has been invaluable, and he has acquired a wealth of illustrative material for his sermons.



The basement recreation room provides opportunity for Steve to get close to his boys.

During a two-week Christmas vacation granted the Cakouroses recently Steve's fellow senior Gary Tonnessen and his wife took over the supervision of Manchester House and greatly appreciated the experience and the insights which they gained from it.

Visiting Faculty Members

Two visiting faculty members have contributed much to the offerings of Covenant Seminary this semester. Dr. David Wells comes each Tuesday as Visiting Professor in Church History. Dr. Wells, whose home was originally in South Africa, attended London Bible College and received his Master of Theology from Trinity Seminary in Chicago where he is now teaching. His Ph.D. was earned at Manchester University in England. Dr. Wells met his wife, the former Jane Bowman of The Covenant Presbyterian Church of St. Louis, while attending L'Abri in Switzerland.

Visiting English Bible Professor this semester has been Dr. Edwin Palmer of Wayne, New Jersey, who has brought a one-hour course on I and II Thesalonians. Dr. Palmer did his undergraduate work at Harvard University and took his basic theological training at Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia. He earned his doctorate at the Free University in Amsterdam, Holland. He has had experience both as a teacher at Westminster Seminary and as a pastor having held three pastorates in the Christian Reformed denomination.

Dr. Palmer is currently the Executive Secretary of the new Contemporary Translation of the Holy Bible which is being financed and published by the New York Bible Society. Several of the Covenant faculty members have been working on this new translation.



Dr. David Wells, Visiting Professor in Church History.

Slide Presentation Available

Mrs. Wilber Wallis, who is national President of the Women's Synodical of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod, has prepared an excellent slide presentation of Covenant Theological Seminary which is being viewed in a number of churches.

A tape recording on which President Rayburn describes the various color shots of the campus, the students, and the faculty and staff who are featured in the slides accompanies the presentation. The 35-minute program gives an excellent opportunity for members of Reformed Presbyterian congregations who have not been able to personally visit the campus of the seminary to get an introduction to the physical facilities which the Lord has provided as well as to the faculty and staff who are laboring here.

Requests for the slide presentation should be made to Mrs. Wilber Wallis, 18 Winslow Lane, St. Louis, Missouri 63131.



Mrs. Wallis works on her slide presentation.

A Missionary Journey

While his travels frequently give President Rayburn an occasion to observe the work being accomplished by alumni of the seminary who are pastors in this country, he does not often get the opportunity to look in on the labours of the graduates who are serving on the foreign mission field. Such an opportunity did come to Dr. and Mrs. Rayburn, however, between semesters during the Christmas holidays. An invitation was extended to him to be the principal speaker for the Chilean Keswick Convention, an annual gathering of the evangelical Protestant missionaries working throughout the land of Chile. This provided the prospect of a visit to the missions of World Presbyterian Missions in Chile and Peru not only to see what had been accomplished but actually to participate in mission activity.

The first night the Rayburns were in Chile he preached in the tent evangelistic campaign of John Crane in Quillota. Three adult men made professions of faith when the invitation was extended. The next morning Dr. Rayburn preached for Covenant Seminary alumnus Werner Mietling in the church he pastors in LaCalera. There followed two weeks of visiting national churches, sightseeing with members of the mission and preaching both in the churches and at the Bible Conference. In Los Andes, Dr. Rayburn spoke on the daily radio program conducted by John Crane and Robert Auffarth, pastor of the Los Andes congregation. Several adults made professions of faith after his sermon on Christmas Sunday evening in the Los Andes church.



John Crane at the Los Andes radio where President Rayburn broadcasted during his visit to Chile.

The Rayburns were privileged in being entertained in each home of the mission family. Walter and Mary Cross, parents of seminary middler Jerry Cross, were their first hosts. Roger Lambert, a second seminary alumnus working in the Chile mission, is on furlough in the States. The theological seminary, a principal effort of the Chile mission, was closed for the summer vacation (seasons are reversed south of the equator), but the Rayburns met the students, one of whom is working diligently with Walter Cross on a translation of Dr. Buswell's Systematic Theology into Spanish.

Due to extremely heavy rains which made ground travel impossible and the cancellation of a flight on which they had reservations to fly to Ayacucho from Lima, the Rayburns were unable to visit the mountain stations of WPM in Peru. They were privileged, however, to see something of the work in the nine churches and groups in the Lima area and to meet some of the national Christians. Mrs. Homer Emerson, mother of Paul who was a first semester student in the seminary, was their gracious hostess in Lima.

"It was indeed a rich blessing to see how God is using our own seminary graduates and the other faithful missionaries in our two South American missions,"

Alumni Briefs

Roger Hunt of the class of '63 has just accepted the pastorate of the First Bible Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis.

Bong Ro (Covenant B. D. '64) has been granted the Th. D. at Concordia Seminary and has departed for Singapore under O.M.F.

Catalogue Wins Again

The Covenant Theological Seminary catalogue won a special distinction recently when the Art Directors Club of St. Louis presented the seminary with its 12th Annual Exhibition Award for Excellence in Advertising Art and Design.

This is the second time that the seminary catalogue has won a distinction of this kind, and most of the credit goes to Mr. Arthur Werremeyer who has worked with the administration in the designing and printing of the seminary catalogue. A framed certificate of the award was presented to the seminary and is hung in the president's office.



The president's secretary, Mrs. Porter, shows the catalogue award to Dr. Mare.

In Loving Memory

During the months of October, November, and December gifts to Covenant Seminary have been received in memory of the following:

Mr. M. Sprague Barker	Mrs. Hazel Knibb
Mr. Martin Galt, Jr.	Mr. Roy Louden, Sr.
Mr. Roy Holder	Mrs. T. Stanley Soltau
Mr. James VanDevanter	

COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

12330 CONWAY ROAD
 VENTNOR CITY, MISSOURI 63141
 SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63141
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