



Covenant Seminary Newsletter

VOL. I. NO. 2

SUMMER, 1969

Commencement Activities

Close 13th Year

At impressive exercises in The Covenant Presbyterian Church of St. Louis, the 13th academic year of Covenant Theological Seminary was brought to its close on Monday evening, May 5. Twenty graduates received degrees. Of these, 14 graduated with the M.Div. degree which has replaced the B.D. as the standard degree for the regular three-year pre-ministerial course. One student, the Rev. Byung Won Kim from Korea, received the Th.M. degree representing post-graduate work of 30 hours beyond the B.D. or M.Div. Five students received the M.A. in Bible degree which the seminary offers for students not entering the ministry but desiring a thorough knowledge of the Word of God.

The commencement address was delivered by the Rev. John C. Winston, Jr., Dean of the recently established Faculte Libre de Theologie Evangelique in Vaux-sur-Seine, France, which is the only evangelical seminary on the graduate level in the entire French-speaking world. He gave a significant and fascinating

Presbyterian denomination in the Army. Chaplain MacGregor has served with great distinction in many parts of the world and in a variety of military assignments.



Mr. Buswell presents Homiletics prize to Barry Seagren.

Dr. Sanderson chats with Chaplain MacGregor before Baccalaureate Service.



In the absence of President Rayburn, who had been called to a short tour of active duty in the Army, Dr. Hugh Johnson, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, presided at the commencement exercises. Dr. John Sanderson, Chairman of the Department of Systematic Theology, gave the challenge to the graduates. Dean of Students John Buswell presented the Annual Homiletics Award to Senior Class President Barry Seagren. This prize of \$50 is awarded annually to the student who preaches the best sermon during the year. Mr. Seagren won on an expository sermon for Mother's Day based on Proverbs 31:10-31.



Deans Buswell and Harris, Rev. Winston, Dr. Johnson and Dr. Smick on Commencement Platform.

Graduates Accept Pastorates

Practically all of the 1969 M.Div. graduates of the seminary who are not continuing their education have received and accepted calls to pastor churches or to undertake other specific Christian ministries. Of the Reformed Presbyterian graduates, four have already accepted pastorates. Dale Dykema follows Dr. Carroll Stegall as pastor of the Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, RP Church. Charles Gwin has been called as full-time pastor of the Cutler, Illinois, RP Church which he served as a student during the last two years. David Hein has accepted the call of the new congregation

discussion on "The Spirit of Orthodoxy in the Land of John Calvin." Pierre Berthoud who graduated from Covenant Seminary last year will join the faculty of this French seminary in the fall, teaching in the Old Testament Department.

The sermon for the baccalaureate service on Sunday evening, May 4, was delivered by Reformed Presbyterian Chaplain (Colonel) John MacGregor who is presently Post Chaplain at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and the highest ranking chaplain in the Reformed

organized under National Presbyterian Missions in Orlando, Florida. Hermann Mischke has gone to Savannah, Georgia, to pastor the Faith RP Church there. Bob Wildeman has not yet made a decision concerning a definite place of ministry. Barry Seagren has already left for Switzerland where he and his wife will be workers with the L'Abri Fellowship for the next year or two. Jim Singleton has been called to active duty in the Army Chaplaincy and is stationed at Fort Hood, Texas.

The seniors who are from other denominations have also made definite plans. Jack Stallings has accepted the call of the Free-Will Baptist Church in Greensboro, North Carolina. The rest of the men are continuing their education. Daniel Cheung from China, Malayil Kurian from India, and Ye Chul Shin from Korea, with Arthur Valiant of the U.S., are continuing their studies at Covenant Seminary toward the Th.M. degree. Hi Phan Truong, our Vietnamese graduate, has been accepted for doctoral studies at Dropsie in Philadelphia, and he and his family have moved there.

BUSWELL PORTRAIT



The magnificent portrait of Dr. J. Oliver Buswell, Jr. pictured above was presented to the school at the 13th Annual Commencement as the gift of the class of 1969. The large oil painting is the work of DeWitt Whistler Jayne, well-known Christian artist who has provided many illustrations for Christian publications such as Great Commission, Scripture Press, etc. Mr. Jayne who now lives in Sacramento, California, was a student of Dr. Buswell's in Wheaton College in the '30's when Dr. Buswell was president of Wheaton.

During Dr. Buswell's presidency there, Mr. Jayne painted a portrait of him which hangs in the college today along with those of other presidents and famous faculty members. Mr. Jayne expressed a deep personal interest in producing the portrait of Dr. Buswell at this time for having painted him in his earlier years he was interested in the maturity and warmth of his personality in more advanced years.

There was prolonged applause at the commencement exercise when Barry Seagren, President of the Senior Class, made the presentation of the portrait. It will hang in the entrance hallway of the Library where it will be observed and enjoyed by more people than in any other place in the seminary buildings.

Synod Honors Wallis

Covenant Seminary received a significant honor when the Chairman of its Department of New Testament Dr. Wilber Wallis, was elected Moderator of the 147th General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod. Runner-up was Dr. John M. L. Young, whom Dr. Wallis appointed Vice-Moderator. Dr. Wallis presided at the sessions with great dignity and with consummate skill, finding it necessary rather frequently to untie the parliamentary knots in which the body found itself.

When the Women's Synodical Society met for its annual meeting in connection with Synod, who should be elected president for the coming year but Marie Wallis, wife of the Moderator! It was a clean sweep for the Wallis family. To add further interest, at the Synod banquet on Thursday evening, Dr. and Mrs. Wallis announced the engagement of their daughter, Grace, to Mr. Fred Marsh, son of missionary parents (Africa) who expects to enroll at the seminary following his graduation from Covenant College next year.



New Seminary field man McGregor Scott congratulates Dr. and Mrs. Wallis.



Alumni at Synod luncheon meeting.



Alumni Meet at Synod

Since nearly one-third of the ministers of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod are graduates of Covenant Seminary, it was not surprising to find the Covenant alumni taking a conspicuous and important part in the sessions of the 147th Synod which was held at Covenant College on Lookout Mountain May 20-23.

Ted Martin, pastor of the University Presbyterian Church of Las Cruces, New Mexico, was elected to the Board of Trustees of the seminary by the Synod. He joins Paul Alexander and Tom Jones, alumni who are already members of the board. Several seminary alumni are serving on other key boards and committees of the denomination.

At a luncheon business meeting of the Seminary Alumni Association held on the veranda of Carter Hall at the college, Bob Palmer, energetic pastor of the Bethany Reformed Presbyterian Church of New Castle, Delaware, was elected president of the association for the coming year. Dan Cannon was elected as vice-president and Richard Smith as secretary-treasurer.



Alumni president Bob Palmer discusses plans with Paul Alexander, Ray Clark and Will Barker.

The Alumni Association voted to continue its project of last year, raising one-half of the funds needed for the paving of the student parking lots on the seminary campus. A little more than one-half of the needed portion of the funds was contributed by the alumni during the last year. President Palmer promised an aggressive effort to bring more of the alumni into active support of the seminary and the Alumni Association which now numbers 150 members.

Vietnamese Government Honors Fiol

Covenant Seminary alumnus Bob Fiol, a lieutenant in the Chaplains Corps of the U.S. Navy, was recently awarded the highest decoration for "Honor and Reputation" by the Vietnamese military. The ceremony took place at the I Corps Division Headquarters of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam at Camp Haskins North, DaNang, Vietnam.



Chaplain Bob Fiol receives Vietnamese decoration from General Hoang Xuan Lam.

"Chaplain Fiol of MCB-53 at Red Beach," the citation read, "was of great assistance in helping the Duy-Tan hospital and for helping to build the schools at An Hai, Tien Bich, and An Cu Ba in DaNang, Vietnam, and in particular, his help in supplying materials for the construction of the Hoa Khanh Vocational School."

Vietnamese Government Honors Fiol (Continued)

Chaplain Fiol has been in charge of MCB-53's Civic Action Program through the battalion's first deployment to Vietnam, from January 1968 to September 1968, as well as for the first three months of its second deployment, from February 1969 to May 1969.

The citation went on to say, "Deeply appreciated also are the clothing and soap that he distributed to the people of Mai-Loc Village in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam." The Mai-Loc villagers are Montagnard tribespeople.

Toward Blunder-Free Preaching

When Robert Burns wrote his famous lines,

*"O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us
To see ourselves as others see us!
It wad frae mony a blunder free us,
And foolish notion:
What airs in dress an' gait wad lea'e us,
And e'en devotion!"*

he certainly didn't have seminary students in mind, but the sentiments he penned are indeed applicable to prospective preachers. As the result of a generous gift from an eastern foundation Covenant Seminary possesses the finest in television camera and recording equipment and a complete audio-visual center. This enables all middler and senior students not only to hear but also to see themselves as others see them. That this from many blunders has freed them is evident in observable improvement in the preaching style of many students.

The homiletics professors, Robert Rayburn and John Buswell, listen to the student preachers from a control room in the rear of the present chapel where a video monitor enables them to see what is being recorded on the video tape while they are also able to observe the student preacher directly through a glass window. Needed comments and criticisms of the professor are recorded on the tape so that when the student watches the playback his mistakes are pinpointed for him.

Students are enthusiastic about the advantages afforded them by this equipment. "I wouldn't have believed the professor if he had simply told me what I was doing," said one. "I would have been sure he was exaggerating. When I saw it myself I was forced to believe it."



Covenant's Audio-Visual Center with Dr. Rayburn and homiletics class.

During April, May, and June gifts to Covenant Seminary have been received in memory of the following:

Mr. D. W. Babcock Mr. Lloyd Melton
Mrs. F. W. Bald Mr. James N. Van Devanter

COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

12330 CONWAY ROAD
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63141

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