

The Academy Perspective

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Vada Lee Barkley, Editor

A PRAYER FOR '98 by Vada Lee Barkley

Remember that first prayer you learned
as your mother tucked you into bed?

Now I lay me down to sleep;
I pray Thee Lord my soul to keep;
If I should die before I wake,
I pray Thee Lord my soul to take.
This I ask for Jesus' sake. Amen

How appropriate that simple prayer is.
Since childhood Death has stalked us. Since
we last met, it has invaded our ranks and
snatched from us those we love.

This Christmas season witnessed the
home going of two former presidents of our
Alma Mater. Thank God for their profound
influence on the lives of hundreds of us alums.

In 1946 Dr. O.J. Finch hired me to teach
French and English at BPC. He supported me
through some difficult decisions during my first
year on the faculty.

Dr. Roy H. Cantrell came as president in
1947. His encouraging faculty to pursue advanced
degrees inspired me to get a Masters while
teaching full time at BPC. I owe him a debt
of gratitude for that.

I remember Dr. Cantrell best by his
optimism. "We're making wonderful plans," he
would say when speaking of the College. He
was one of few leaders who could accomplish
so much without ruffling feathers--his own or
those of others.

Walter Hill passed away shortly before
Christmas. He had been in ill health for some
time. As long as he was able, he and Helen
loved to attend Academy meetings. Our prayers
are with Helen, Randy, and Sue.

Justin Roper, nephew of Wanda Smith,
was accidentally killed during the holidays.

Douglas Knutson, oldest son of Jean and
Betty, grandson of Fay Beck, was killed on
New Year's Day. An Arizona State Highway
patrolman, Douglas had stopped a motorist to
issue a citation when struck by another car.

May God's tender loving care surround
those who mourn. And may He keep all of us
close to Him this year.

THANK YOU

from Elbert Overholt & Vada Lee Barkley

From Elbert: Thanks so much to all of you for
your faithfulness to the Academy and for the
Christmas check. You're a great group and I'm

proud to be associated with you. Up to this
point I've purchased a couple of CD's.

From Vada Lee: Thanks for your cards and
the Christmas check. I'm looking forward to
spending the money when I get to go shopping.

You're a wonderful group. It's a joy to work
with you.

OUR SICK AMONG US

Not only has Death claimed a number
from our Academy families, but sickness has
invaded our ranks.

Edna Moore is recuperating from cancer
surgery on her neck. She is back home at
Spanish Cove.

Gertrude Taylor spent several days in the
hospital with heart problems. She too is a
home recuperating from her surgery.

Fay Beck entered Deaconess hospital on
Saturday, January 3. She was dehydrated--
among other things. At this writing, she is
desperately in need of prayer.

Wilma Troutman still needs prayer that
her neurologist will find some treatment that
will help her Parkinson's problems.

Sam and Edna Davis' daughter Debbie
Curry has undergone surgery for lung cancer,
but needs further surgery to find the source of
the cancer.

Let's pray for these as the Holy Spirit
brings them to mind.

RIG MEETINGS PLANNED

by Jack Arnold

In its first meeting of the year, The
Research Interest Group (RIG) will analyze the
results of the Senior Issues Survey, which was
distributed last fall to Academy members. This
meeting will be held **Monday, January 19,**
10:00 to 11:45 a.m., in Room 139 of the
Royce Brown Building. All RIG members and
guests are urged to attend this most important
meeting.

In the second meeting, **Monday,**
March 8, RIG members and guests will format
a RIG computer web page which consists of
text and graphics (and more--like sound and
video--if it's a really ambitious pate), usually
marked with links (hyperlinks, actually), or
areas on the page that, when clicked, lead to
something else. Susan Baker, Director of

Academic Computing, will again lead the RIG
group in developing its first web page.

The third meeting, **May 11,** will focus
on developing a report to the Academy on the
research objectives and preliminary findings on
the key senior issues which have been isolated
as of the greatest interest to Academy mem-
bers.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR HAPPY CHRISTIANS

Brief glimpses of Philippians
by Lyle Flinner

For the next four months, we are going
to look at a very human letter, inspired by God,
which is very Christ-centered in its nature. We
are amazed at how contemporary it is. Its
problems, victories, and expectations are ours.
The circumstances change, but the needs of
the "inner man" remain the same.

First, let's remember that "happy Chris-
tians" are not the same as "happy non-
Christians." Their happiness depends on some-
thing good happening, while the Christian has a
deep-seated joy in the midst of every circum-
stance or experience through which the Lord
leads them.

Paul is a tremendous example. All has
not gone well with him in his spiritual journey.
He, himself, lists troubles, hardships, dis-
tresses, beatings, imprisonment, riots, hard
work, sleepless nights, and shipwrecks. In
fact, all is not going well even as he writes
this letter to the church at Philippi. He is in
chains (1:3), preachers are causing him trouble
(1:15), people are working to their own inter-
ests (2:21), Judaizers are persecuting the
church (3:2), and there is conflict among be-
lievers (4:12)

Yet, in spite of all of the adverse condi-
tions, Paul writes, "I have learned to be con-
tent whatever the circumstances." (4:11).
How can that be? How can that happen in our
lives? Paul tells us clearly throughout this
letter and we plan to look at that in these
articles.

This is the first month of a brand new
year, a year in which each of us has sincere
desires for a closer walk with God, an in-
creased awareness of His presence, and a
renewed commitment to His will. Paul has
some help for us in this letter.

Paul was the theologian of the early
church and he always laid a solid foundation
for each of his suggestions, exhortations, and
advice. He was certainly not a "pop" psy-
chologist!

The book of Philippians is no exception. Paul lays a broad base of God and Christ-centered concepts and lets us know that the only possible way we can live an adequate Christian life and live out his exhortations is through the grace of God.

Notice how Paul established his Christ-centered theology. Our righteousness is through Christ (1:10) and we are united with Christ (2:1), we are to have the attitude of Christ (2:5-11), we are to rejoice in the Lord (3:1), we are enabled by the power of Christ (3:21), we are to remain firm in the Lord (4:1), we can do all things through Christ (4:13), and our needs are met according to the riches in Christ (4:19).

It is evident that for Paul, and for us, the Christian life is very much of a cooperative venture--the grace of God, balanced with our own personal efforts.

So in these four months, let's seek to learn how we can follow, in real life and real time, the encouraging and hopeful and challenging exhortations of Paul for victorious living. May the Lord bless you real good!

CAN AMERICAN DEMOCRACY SURVIVE?

by Paul Gray (Continued)

From 1789 until the Second World War the Judeo-Christian Ethic served as the foundation of our civilization. It was transgressed many times, but we, as a people, did not let it die. We suffered through the Civil War, the settling up of the West, the industrial revolution, the First World War the Stock Market Crash of 1929, the Dust Bowl and Great Depression, and it was still the principle that guided our lives and enabled us to maintain our integrity right up to 1940.

The years of the Second World War (1939 - 1945) were very difficult years in the history of our country. Pearl Harbor plunged America right into the middle of a global conflict. Americans became involved round the world. Yet we came out of the War as a people believing that we were the greatest nation on the face of the earth. We reveled in our power and strength, and our industrial and scientific ability. Our technological prowess was the envy of the rest of the world. We put a man on the moon. But in the midst of all this, there had come an insidious change! The War had weakened the restraints that had made us a noble people. The principles that made us great were forgotten. And then there was a "break down" which became "a rush through-" and caution was thrown to the winds.

The past appeared as a dull, dark age that had nothing romantic or exciting about it. "Freedom" was the great word, especially for the young. The old conservative ways were repudiated. Rebellion against all kinds of authority was the order of the day. This brought in the Hippie Era--long hair, short

skirts--anything that would show a rejection of the past. With the help of Hollywood, "sex" became a fixation even with the general public. All the old moral laws were flouted, and one's own wishes and desires were all that mattered. There were no longer any "absolutes," everything had become "relative." Apparently, there were no limits to anything anymore. The 7th grader said what the public had come to believe, "There is no right or wrong, unless you get caught."

By this time we were well into the 1960's, and matters continued to worsen. There was an insatiable desire to explore any idea that came to mind. If it feels good, do it. This became the order of the day. Consequently, it was hep to try drugs of any kind that came to hand-- LSD, cocaine, marijuana, pep pills, crack, etc. Conditions continued to deteriorate through the 1970s and 1980s, and now in the middle 1990s the situation is even worse. The Judeo-Christian Ethic has been completely undermined and repudiated by many people in leadership positions, in grammar schools and universities, and Washington included, so the outlook is bleak indeed.

(To be continued)

FAMILY REUNION IN NORWAY

by Milton Sonnevik

The summer of 1997 was a very memorable one for the Sonnevik family. We had never had a family reunion on my father's side of the family. Of course, all my father's siblings have passed on to their reward, but I still have a large family in Norway. You all know how much planning has to go into a successful family reunion, and since much of the planning was done from this side of the ocean, it took a great deal of time and effort.

Mabel and I flew into Hamburg, Germany and rented a seven passenger VW van there. It was much more reasonable to rent a van in Germany than in Norway. We drove north to Denmark and all the way to the northern tip of Denmark to a little village there called Hirtshals. Hirtshals is a well known departing point for ferries. The ferry ride from Hirtshals to Oslo took eight hours and was a very pleasant ride. The ship was like a cruise liner holding at least 300 cars and about 1,000 passengers.

Arriving in Oslo we met our two children with their mates and drove around the coast of Norway to the little town of Flekkefjord, my father's home town, which lies on the southern tip of Norway. The family reunion was to be held in the somewhat new Maritim Hotel there. We were delighted to have just about 50 in attendance including the children. The reunion banquet consisted of Norwegian salmon with all the trimmings. The following day, which was a Sunday, we took a ferry out to the island of Hidra, where my father was born. There we attended the Lutheran State Church

service in the same old church where my father and his six siblings were baptized and confirmed, a very important ceremony for each Norwegian child. We also visited the old Sonnevik burial spot in the local cemetery where my grandfather and grandmother as well as uncles and aunts are buried. The name of that little village is Kirkehamn. From there we drove around the island to the little village of Sonnevik where my father was born. The old house is still in the family and used mainly as a summer home.

Sunday afternoon lunch was enjoyed at Skipperhuset in Rasvaag, which is very close to the Sonnevik village. It was again one of those very special buffets which included smoked salmon, shrimp, cheeses, breads and superb cakes.

Close by is a little museum called Febrenes Minne, which means, In Memory of Our Parents. My father had told me about the museum, and if I recall correctly, had donated some money and items to it when it was first established. Our group had made a special appointment to visit the museum that afternoon. I was told that my great-grandfather's tools were donated to the museum. He was a maker of wooden barrels for storage of salted fish. I even located a picture of my father as part of the crew of a ship.

It was a very special time together with the entire Sonnevik family. Since my father was the only male who married, his sister's families have different names, such as, Ueland, Nokling and Geraldson. It was a great time for our two children to meet most of them.

Following the reunion we visited with many of my old friends in Stavanger, did some sightseeing, took a fjord cruise in Lysefjord, one of the most spectacular fjords in Norway, drove back over the mountains to Lillehamar and Oslo and again marveled at Norway's unusual scenery.

Norway has developed into a super modern country, especially since the discovery of oil and gas in the North Sea. That wealth has generated a strong economy, and strong social system, superb schools and excellent communications. However, everything is expensive with high taxes on all items. The value added tax runs about 23% and is included in all prices. Gasoline runs about \$5.50 a gallon, but is plentiful. Where possible, tunnels are blasted under the fjords instead of building bridges. It is unbelievable to drive under some of those fjords. Through the mountains there are also numerous tunnels. It all makes for interesting driving.

We returned home with a whole new appreciation of our great heritage. We are indeed fortunate and blessed.

DON'T FORGET!!!
NO MEETING JANUARY 19
NEXT MEETING FEBRUARY 9