

The Enquiry

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Vol. II, No. 3, March 4, 1966

STRICKLAND RESIGNS: GOING TO APPALACHIAN

Dr. William C. Strickland, Professor of New Testament Interpretation at Southeastern Seminary and a member of its faculty since the founding of the school in 1951, has resigned to accept appointment as full professor and head of the department of Philosophy and Religion at Appalachian State Teacher's College in Boone, N.C.

The resignation, to become effective at the close of the coming summer session of the seminary, was announced at a called meeting of the faculty at 10:30 A.M. yesterday, Thursday, March 3.

Strickland will assume his duties at Appalachian on September 1, 1966.

In an interview with this reporter later the same day, Strickland viewed the challenges of the new position with obvious excitement.

"This position will, of course, present a broadening of my own interest," he stated adding that his work would involve the courses common to a college department of religion.

(Ed. Note- When contacted, President Binkley made the following statement for The Enquiry.)

"Dr. W.C. Strickland is a competent and dedicated teacher and on the day he informed us of his conversation with administrative officers of Appalachian State Teachers College we expressed the hope that he would decide to continue his teaching ministry here at Southeastern Baptist Seminary where we have a major opportunity to participate in the advancement of theological education.

"Professor Strickland is fully qualified to guide the scholarly study of religion in the college and he will have our personal friendship and professional regard as he undertakes that creative task."

Olin T. Binkley

CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT PLANS UNDERWAY

By John C. Whatley, Jr.

Plans for the modernization and development of the seminary campus have attracted interest recently among students and alumni.

Work is to begin immediately to erect further housing facilities for married students. Present plans call for eight new apartments--four two-bedroom units and four three-bedroom units, at a cost of \$75,000.

Of particular interest are the much talked about plans for a new Student Center, to be erected on the south side of the campus, between Hunter dormitory and the Wake Forest Baptist Church.

It is anticipated that the Center will house the Campus Store, the Baptist Book Store, student activities offices, and a spacious lounge; the amount of space to be given to each has not been determined yet.

Plans are being made also for the possible future addition of an adjoining auditorium for the production of plays.

The Southern Baptist Convention has appropriated \$280,000 for the construction of the Student Center; but since the this money will not be received until November, 1966, it is unlikely that work will begin before that time. Completion of detailed planning for the facility will be the responsibility of the Buildings and Grounds Committee and the seminary Administration.

The present building in which the Campus Store, Book Store, and lounge are housed will likely be razed, suggested Mr. Wilbur Todd, Business Manager for the Seminary.

A projected new men's dormitory, though much discussed as a part of the long range development of the campus, has as yet received no recommendations from the trustees.

Approval has been granted, however, for the erection of a new Health Center on the vacant lot behind the present infirmary.

The Convention has appropriated \$25,000 for the building, the total sum becoming available in Fall, 1967.

 THE ENQUIRY
 Official Student Publication of
 Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
 Wake Forest, North Carolina

EDITORIAL

A THANK-YOU FOR THE SMC

A year's planning was climaxed in only one weekend. Yet, the laughter of energetic voices, the friendly smiles, the acquaintances established, the chapel meditations, and the informal seminars will linger in the hearts and minds of the conferees for years to come. Deep appreciation, much gratitude, and a sincere thank you should be given to the General Chairman of the Student Mission Conference, Mrs. Velma Ferrel, and to her competent planning committee, for the worries and anxieties, the thoughts and meditations, and the endless hours spent over details which preceded this conference and made it a success. The conference program was superb!

We also appreciate our faculty members participating in the Student conference. Our professors were available for expert advice, and a sincere interest was shown in the students who came to our seminary campus.

Even though a year's work ended in a flash, the impact of the conference personnel upon the individual will be realized in future months. We have in mind another SMC in February, 1961, when Mr. Brooks Hayes spoke. Hayes had been appointed as a special assistant to the newly elected president, and he was on his way to Washington to accept the duties of his new position. At this conference, Mr. Hayes attempted to explain the nature and philosophy of the infant Peace Corps program. The thoughts created in the mind of the writer remained alive for several

months. Finally, he accepted the challenge of the Peace Corps ideal, and a new phase of his life began in the summer of 1962.

Questions were raised by the program personnel, new thoughts were created in inquisitive minds, and vows were made by the conferees. Maybe these factors will go undetected for years to come; however, a sobering fact is that reality was confronted this weekend by some participants in the SMC.

We students pray that the next year's conference will continue in the same tradition as the one which ended this weekend.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

MORE ABOUT FACULTY-INTRA-RELATIONSHIPS

While this letter does not seek to answer S.C.C. President Hal Littleton's letter in the last issue of The Enquiry, it does speak to the issue raised.

Maybe the time has come to put into practice this business of personhood and genuine Christian love. Rather than fanning the flames of a cold issue, hoping for a new burst of activity, let's move on the another area of concern.

Part of this move forward in the area of Faculty-Student, Student-Student, Faculty-Faculty, ad infinitum relationships would be an open assertion of a known truth; faculty and student alike, we're all human.

Humans have a strange desire to pair off into groups of similar likes and dislikes. Certainly students demonstrate this trait without threat of label or suspicion from anyone. Faculty members of the human race probably also desire to make free choice of friend and foe, that choice having little to do with theological position or teaching tenure or disavowal of personhood.

Let's bury our magnifying glass, useful for blowing molehills into mountains, and grant that which we seek. Let's allow the students to gather at will, scatter when ready, or be isolated, if necessary. Let's admit that a small group of professors are hardly a threat to our school or to anybody else's theological position. Their interesting conversation probably involves no more threatening a subject than monthly bills or college ball scores.

Let's posit positive evidence of our own desire to receive everyman as our neighbor, even daring to love him as we desire to know him. And let's move away from our distasteful habit of diagnosing everybody's ills but our own and plunge creatively into our ministry to persons.

- Editor.....Frank Wood
 Associate Editor.....Lester Ariail
 News Editor.....Bill Carson
 Arts Editor.....Gerald Bryson
 Columnists....Lyman Ferrell, Mervin Whealy
 Faculty Advisor.....James Tull

Dale Steele

DRAMA SHOULDN'T CUT OBSCENITY

By Lyman Ferrell, Staff Columnist

The Missions Conference opened Friday evening on a most disturbing note. Malcolm Body's drama-dialogue, "Boy", was presented by Francis Wilson and Bill Bell. Both men depicted their parts rather well considering they were handicapped by wearing masks. The disturbing note struck was the fact that I was forced again to deplore a society in which some adults are free to walk rough-shod over other adults of another color or lower status.

In comparing this drama with a real situation; however, I noticed that some of the reality of the shoe-shine-stand language was missing. The omitted language is foul obscenity; nevertheless, "Boy" was written with this language included. And one wonders why the actors felt the necessity to omit or change any of the lines.

One answer could obviously be that the actors simply forgot their lines. Time was short in preparing this presentation. Omission due to forgetting is understandable.

Another thought is that the lines were changed to avoid being offensive to visitors and other participants in the conference. This dialogue did officially open the conference, and it was included within the context of a worship service. If the lines were altered to avoid being offensive, then the choice to present "Boy" was a poor one and the drama should have been presented at a later date when the work could have been presented as the author intended.

One wonders how much the conflicts in which the drama committee has been in the past helped to determine these discreet decisions. The drama committee has been entangled with faculty committees since the fall of 1964 concerning the choice of productions to be presented on this campus or elsewhere. One of the main criticisms of past productions was the use of obscene language.

One hopes that Mr. Wilson was not influenced by past misunderstandings. "Boy" is a work of art that stands on its own merits. The total work strikes that the message is more than the words used to convey the meaning. Also the situation which is revealed is an obscene situation. To omit the words that sound nasty and to depict the scene does not eliminate obscenity from occurring in our holy chapel. To omit the obscene words renders the obscene situation unrealistic.

I hope Mr. Wilson and Mr. Bell just forgot their lines.

AN EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

By Mervin Whealy, Staff Columnist

It is hereby resolved: That all men are created equal and free under the divine authority of our redeemer God who manifested himself in and through Jesus the Christ, our Lord and Savior. Let it be noised abroad that all men are free under the divine order and protection of Almighty God to search and investigate the holy Scriptures and to find the depths of reality that can grasp their lives and give to them the courage to be. Let there be no mistake or ridiculous misunderstanding about the right and freedom of a man to hold a view contrary to that held by other men, preachers, teachers, or dissident churches. Let it be thoroughly understood that theology is a dynamic, powerful, ever moving force that cannot remain static, stationary, or fixed to a predetermined doctrine or narrow dogma. For we bear the good news that truth is not to be memorized, standardized, or sentimentalized, but that it is the depth of reality that all men ultimately seek and cry out to experience.

We forever rebel against the enforcement of past interpretations and ideas upon our inquisitive minds. Let us make it poignantly clear that we will tolerate no interference in our quest for truth and its true manifestation in this life. Our consciences serve us notice that we cannot survive in any atmosphere save that one which guarantees our right of thorough investigation, stark liberty, and the pursuit of a lasting meaning to life. Then and only then shall we participate in the equality and freedom that God has created for us to seek and to enjoy.

Therefore, we are resolved: That Southeastern is a noble experiment in the educational life of Southern Baptists and that we are determined to let its light shine forth brightly in the decades to come. For it is here and only here that this writer has found the freedom to think, to choose a place of service in the kingdom, to feel absolutely free to decide a direction and course for the future. He does not dictate, memorizes no formulas, defies any nonsensical dogma, refuses to recant for what he believes, and rejoices that the Spirit of God is with him in this quest.

Thank God for Southeastern and its demanding purpose; for every day it usses forth its emancipation proclamation. I know, for now I am free at last!

REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF STUDENT MISSIONS CONFERENCE YIELDS FAVORABLE CONCLUSIONS

By Velma McGee Ferrell

(Ed. Note: we asked Mrs. Ferrell, the general chairman of the recent Student Missions Conference, to report on the Conference and give her evaluations.)

At the ninth annual Student Missions Conference, held on our campus February 25-27, there were 235 students and their directors to register. The program personnel consisted of three major speakers, seventeen seminar leaders, and ten Southeastern professors who helped in informal discussion groups.

There had been little change in the planning of the Missions Conference in the past few years. The members of this year's committee felt that a re-thinking of the basic program and its purposes was necessary. Changes had been suggested for at least two years, but very little was done about them.

A theme was chosen which seemed relevant to our day: "No Man Is an Island." The three major speakers were selected on the basis that they were known to have an effective and meaningful message to college students. The past records of Dr. Culbert Rutenber, Dr. Charles Boddie, and Rev. James G. Stertze were witness to their abilities to interpret the meaning of the Christian mission to young people. Indeed, two highlights of the Conference were Mr. Stertze's message, "The Church Is No Island," and Dr. Rutenber's closing address, "Toward Wholeness in a Fragmented World."

The first real problem tackled by the planning committee was that of publicity. The past printed posters and programs used had little appeal, but two contemporary drawings were selected this year to go on the poster and program and added much to the "bulletin-board-appeal" on college campuses.

Complaints had been made of a crowded schedule on Saturday, so a morning coffee-and-doughnut break was planned, at which time the students were given the opportunity to talk informally with the missionaries participating in the program. To make room for this break it was necessary to eliminate one of the usual sets of seminars on Saturday morning, but a new series of seminars was substituted for two previously-held sessions that morning. These were on the general theme of the Christian

mission and included such titles as "Dealing with Other Religions," "The Meaning of 'God's Call' for Me," "The Problem of the Indigenous Church," "A Mission to the Inner City," and "A Mission to an Affluent Society."

Other good features of the Conference were the two informal sessions after the evening worship services. Dr. Boddie effectively involved the group in a period of singing as he led and the students responded with chants of "Certainly, Lord," etc. Another special highlight was the showing of the movie "The Parable" and the discussion groups which followed. Some students became so involved that they requested a second showing of the movie after the period of discussion. The late hour and a full day's schedule did not seem to dampen their enthusiasm. This movie provided an excellent opportunity for open communication among the students. Francis Wilson and Bill Bell opened the Conference in a meaningful way by posing, in a brief drama by Malcolm Boyd, the question of the Negro's personal identity. On Saturday afternoon approximately 200 people, a large increase over last year, took time to attend Max Smith's organ concert.

Many other things could here be mentioned which helped to make the Missions Conference a valuable week-end for students. Evaluations by participants are not yet in, but if participation is any indication, the Conference was a success. Attendance at some of the sessions and services far exceeded what had been hoped for. In no instance was there need for disappointment because of a lack of interest. Appreciation is here expressed to each person who had a part in carrying out the week-end.

PARDON OUR BLOOPER

We inadvertently omitted the heading to the story in our last issue covering the speech of Dr. Harold W. Tribble on Founder's Day.

That heading should have included the fact that the story was a reprint from the Raleigh Times of an earlier story by Ed Corson.

Our apologies to Corson and the Times.