

The Enquiry

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Wake Forest, North Carolina 27587

THIS IS A SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE ENQUIRY DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO AND DEDICATED TO THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN AND EXPERIENCED THE 1977 CONFERENCE ON MISSION AND MINISTRY.

THESE PEOPLE WERE INSPIRED BY EXPERIENCING THE MOMENT.

WE HOPE THAT THROUGH THEIR IMPRESSIONS YOU CAN EXPERIENCE IT, TOO.



ALONG WITH THE CONFERENCE CAME THE SNOW....
(Staff photo by David Haywood)

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THE
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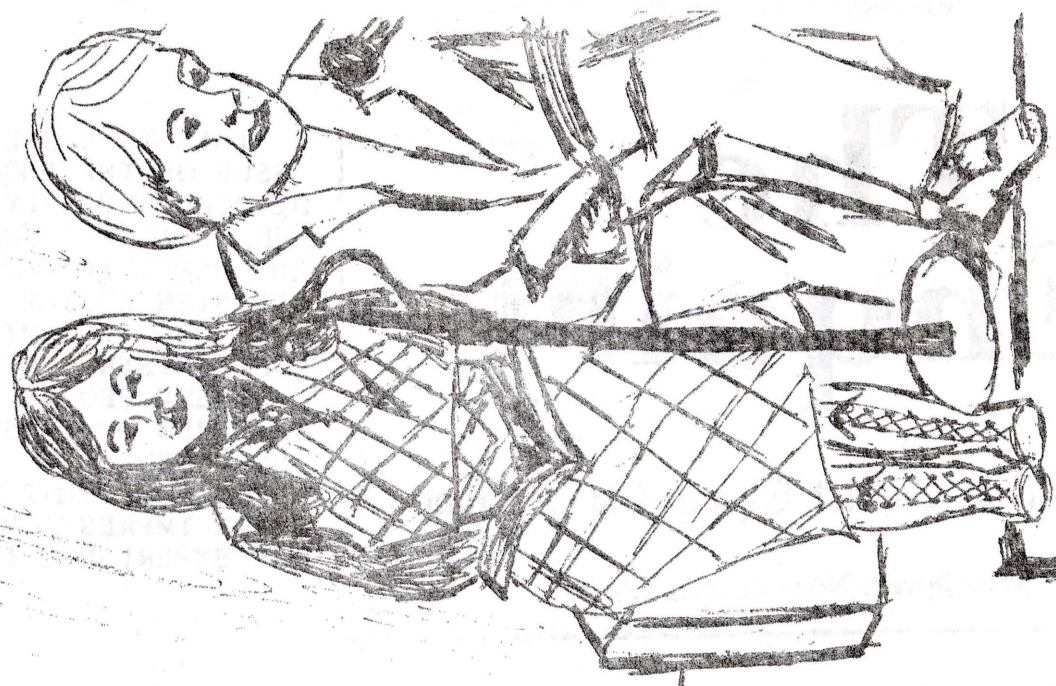
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readers i heater



Dear Harriet Anne,
Are you real
Some people
don't not believe
it. If you are you
better do something
Quick - God



D.M.G.

MOMENTS TO REMEMBER: REFLECTIONS ON THE STUDENT CONFERENCE
ON MISSION AND MINISTRY by Dawid J. Stanford

Mirror ball theology, victimology, payday to payday, lean on me, hot communion. Such terms symbolize some of the very best moments of a whole string of memorable, meaning ones in the 1977 Student Conference on Mission and Ministry. Oriented by the conference theme, "Experiencing the Moment," conference participants journeyed through a weekend designed to provide opportunities for introspection, meditation, personal growth, fellowship, and actually the doing of mission and ministry: opportunities which are similarly encountered throughout the pilgrimage of the Christian life. The "priesthood of all believers" philosophy and "ministry is where you find it" concept provided the bases for the opportunities offered. It can well be said that the conference participants took advantage of those opportunities, and experienced many moments which were meaningful in and of themselves, and other moments which will provide impetus for future mission and ministry.

Getting underway early Friday evening, February 18, it seemed evident that the Lord's blessings were with the conference right from the start. Freshly fallen snow adorned Wake Forest and the old campus was never more enchantingly picturesque. Snowball skirmishes, singing by Jane Sparks, and a Paul White mono-dialogue established a casual, good time mood. Theme interpretation began in proper with a multimedia presentation by Jim Ailor in the Johnson projection room, followed by a readers' theater production presented by Jim Rivers, George Gagliardi, Lynne Powers, and Lee Tuten. The conferrers then assembled in Appleby Chapel for the first of several worship opportunities of the weekend, this one fea-

turing music by Barbara Humble with the mixed ensemble and proclamation by Randall Lolley.

Saturday provided some of the best moments of the weekend, beginning with a moment of worship centered around a message by Dr. John Steely on the Time Dimension. The remainder of the morning was occupied by seminars, most of which were led by seminary professors and students. The twenty-one different seminars were of four categories: Experiencing the Moment in Missions, in Ministry, in the Arts, and in Introspection. Saturday afternoon brought what was probably the highlight of the whole weekend, and opportunity to quit talking about mission and ministry and actually to do it. Some conference attendees conducted a visitation in a Wake Forest Nursing home, while others played campus host to seventeen children from the Murdock Center. These ministry opportunities culminated in a short worship service in the Bethea Room led by the children from Murdock. Everyone in attendance was no doubt moved by the profundity of the words sung by the children: "God made you and God made me and God don't make no mistakes." Saturday night highlights included moments of inspiration evoked by Alan Neely in sermon and George Gagliardi in concert.

Sunday morning was a time when the conference participants were challenged to experience each other, to experience the Lord, and to keep on experiencing mission and ministry after disassembly. Dr. Colon Harris led the conference community to conclude that the worship dimension of the Christian life is far more than a Sunday at 11 o'clock assemblage in comfortable churches with comfortable pews.

The conference program committee had purposefully decided not to invite any outside, big name,

MOMENTS TO REMEMBER (cont.)

program personalities to lead this year's conference. For the first time in recent years the conference utilized all in-house talent. This proved to be successful as our local folks effectively led us in experiencing many wonderful, memorable moments in a great weekend.

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FRIDAY:

EXPERIENCING THE MOMENT WITH MULTI-MEDIA by Michael Williams

I was planning on having a very relaxing weekend, and one sure way to do that I thought was to push aside the books and attend the Missions Conference. Well, that is just what I did. I relaxed and attended the conference.

But the conference was more than I expected. One part that really appealed to me, not that no other part did, was the multimedia presentation, "The Christian Mission" by Jim Ailor.

I walked in the Johnson Classroom projection room and sank into my seat and took in all the many colors of the set and the budding participants when my relaxation was disturbed by Jim telling me to imagine my life as a light line on a screen and then that line being broken into many moving lines.

It was here that life found meaning for me. Life was moving at a pace around the room that for me to hold onto it was more than I could do; life was important, and what I did each moment of it was important.

Often one hears that if one's life is important, live it. But very seldom is one confronted with the fact that living life means experiencing each moment of it to its fullest.

It is hard for one to describe Jim's presentation of words, music, light and pictures to one who was not there. But it is easy for me to say that this was the one time that I really relaxed because here I dealt with myself. For a moment I had time to wander off in thoughts and see what life was for me and how I was spending each moment of it.

Jim, you had a message in what I experienced. Now I know that I need the time to be just me.

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EXPERIENCING THE MOMENT IN THE READER'S THEATRE

by Diane McClelland

As a child we can understand the theology of candybars,..... of rocks.....of butterflies and snails.....but when we grow older, our theology tends to change from candybars to cars, from rocks to diamonds, and from butterflies and snails to the "hassels" of everyday life! We begin to lose sight of the simple but beautiful meaning of life as it is in each moment that we experience and share.

Through the Readers' Theatre, those of us who were present were given the opportunity to experience the "theology of life" through the words and stories of children. Exerpts from three well-known stories were used to express the idea of being "real"... ..to be real by seeing in others their best potentials and by expressing love to all people.

By far, this dramatic presentation was very emotional--and very real, and we should commend the performers for a drama well-done. Let us also thank God for the theologies of children--for they seem to speak to our hearts instead of our minds

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SATURDAY:

EXPERIENCING THE MOMENT IN TIME
AND DIMENSION

My Response by Eddie Jo Jarrett

After my heart had been prepared for worship by Phyllis Mayo and Mrs. Humble's versions of "Come to the Water" and "Freely, Freely," my eyes were already moistened as I heard Dr. Steely choose for his theme and scripture, "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it (Ps. 118:24). Immediately my mind flashed back to the days that my only contact with God had been that particular verse and that contact with God had virtually been the Hope that had kept my mind from completely falling apart.

From the time that I realized that my marriage had been a mistake and that I should have followed my call into full-time Christian service, I prayed for a second chance. After seven years I was granted the opportunity to enter college for the first time. God had assured me on the first day of class that "This is the day that the Lord has made," but the days and the years which followed were not easy. Commuting to college, rearing a daughter through the usual childhood illnesses accompanied with extremely high fevers which can be so dangerous, caring for my semi-invalid mother-in-law, and, in the meantime, emerging from a delayed adolescence which had resulted from my having been such an idealistic teenager and encountering the disappointments in friends, in my marriage, and in life in general, someday I would hate to greet the morning. On each of these extremely difficult days, I would go to God in prayer and then to the Bible searching for an answer to the question, "Why, God?" My answer was, "This is the day that the Lord had made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it." "But, God," I would say, "Surely not this day--this day of heart-break, sorrow, loneliness and disappointment--I hurt so much! Surely You do not expect me to rejoice in this?" And yet, the only answer would be, "This is the day that the Lord has made." Then, many times through tears, I would reply, "O.K. God, if this is the way You have of speaking to me, please continue, because I know that You have not let me go." Then, there would be days of happiness, sunshine, and days of achievement for both my daughter and me. With thanksgiving in my heart and on my lips, I would go to God, and God would say, "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." I would say, "Thank you, God; I know that you are leading."

As I sat listening to Dr. Steely and remembering both the good and the bad experiences in my life, I had to ask God the question, "God, I have learned through the years to acknowledge You more readily and agree that today is the day that You have made, but is it because of the days of sorrow, hurt, and heart-break that I am here at Southeastern today?" A quietening peace drifted over my being as I prayed, "If this be the situation, thank You, God, for every hurt. Today is worth it all! Truly, 'This is the day that the Lord has made.'"

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EXPERIENCING THE MOMENT WITH ALAN
NEELY IN MISSIONS

by Sally McClelland,

Winthrop College

I enjoyed the singers immensely. Their voices were the best. They not only entertained us with their talent, but also allowed us to experience the moment by singing along with them.

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THE MOMENT IN MISSIONS

Then Dr. Neely spoke, and he was good. He was a very good speaker. The moment we experienced with him was touching and humorous. The hour was approximately from seven to eight as we continued on our journey--experiencing the moments.

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EXPERIENCING THE MOMENT IN CONCERT
by Robin L. Lewis,

Winthrop College

Saturday night at eight o'clock the Bethea Room was filled to the brim with a group of expectant young people. George Gagliardi was there along with his guitar, electric guitar and a piano (soon the concert organ).

In several of George's first songs he expressed his feelings about children and the neglect of old people. He played several familiar pieces, but most of the songs were composed by him and expressed his feelings on people and relationships. However, some songs were a little more comical. George substituted new words into such songs as "Shadow of Your Smile," in which he inserted "nose," and "First Time Ever I Saw Your Face," in which he inserted "feet." It was hilarious!

At the end of the concert some students shared ideas. George thought up on-the-spot songs about these ideas. They were beautiful! This was the part of the concert I enjoyed most.

I only have one suggestion for the concert. I felt the humorous songs should have been performed at the beginning of the concert instead of the middle. This would probably have relaxed the audience and prepared them more for the other songs.

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SUNDAY:

EXPERIENCING THE MOMENT TOGETHER
...APART by Ron Anderson

The Student Missions Conference culminated in a worship experience which began Sunday morning, February 20th, at 9:30 a.m. in our gym. When all participants passed through the entrance onto the gym floor, they were handed a slip of paper with a number imprinted.

David Stanford announced to those assembled that they were to divide according to their number and form a group at various spots pre-arranged with papers which related situations with which each group was responsible for dealing. The situations were discussed, and solutions were suggested. Then each group was asked to come together with another group dealing with the same situation. These two groups merged and discussed their observations and solutions. Next, these five larger groups appointed a representative to relate their situation, observations and solutions to the whole body gathered.

We then continued to worship through shared litany, a meditation by Dr. Harris, music by George Gagliardi, group singing, communion, prayer, and a painting by Richard Tumbleston. The total experience contributed to the theme of "Experiencing the Moment Together...Apart."

I personally enjoyed this more individual involving and unique worship experience. Another seminary student stated that he believed it would improve the spiritual life and fellowship of fellow seminarians if we could experience similar creative worship more often on campus during chapel hour or as a Sunday worship period.

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