

The Inquiry

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Vol. II, No. 5, March 30, 1966

YOHANAN AHARONI TO LECTURE HERE

Dr. Yohanah Aharoni of Hebrew University Israel, will speak in extended chapel services on April 12 and 14.

His lectures will be: "The Excavations of Biblical Arad" -- 1. The Royal Citadel and Hebrew Inscriptions; 2. The Israelite Sanctuary. Aharoni's lectures will be based upon his most recent exploration at Arad.

Dr. Aharoni is Professor of Biblical Geography and Archaeology, at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel.

Aharoni has participated in such programs as the finding of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the explorations of Hazor, Gezer, and Ramat Rahael. He has served as an archaeological photographer.

In the fall of 1965, Aharoni was guest professor at the University of London. Presently he is guest professor at the University of North Carolina.

His future lecture schedule includes the following schools and universities: University of California at Berkeley, Harvard, Southern Baptist Seminary, and Campbell College.

Dr. Scoggin studied with him in 1962-63 and worked for five months under his supervision at Ramat Raha.

Scoggin calls Dr. Aharoni the most outstanding field archaeologist of today."

PASTORS' CONFERENCE MEETS THIS WEEK

A Pastors' Seminar is being held at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary March 29-April 1. Sponsored by the Seminary Alumni Association, it features special lectures designed for pastors.

Professor R. Eugene Owens, Associate Professor of Preaching, will lecture each morning at 9:00 a.m. on "Preaching and Sermon Construction." Special chapel services

will be conducted at 10:00 a.m. by members of the faculty and administration. At 11:00 a.m. Dr. William C. Strickland, Professor of New Testament Interpretation, will lecture on "Recent Developments in New Testament Research."

The afternoons will be free for recreation, fellowship, conferences, and study. On Tuesday and Thursday evening there will be discussion periods led by Professors Owens and Strickland.

The Carver-Barnes Memorial Lectures, which had been scheduled to be given in conjunction with the Pastors' Seminar, have been postponed, because of the grave illness of the wife of Dr. Roland H. Bainton, guest lecturer. These lectures will be given later.

AWARDS GIVEN TO SPORTSMEN

The intramural basketball season at Southeastern was climaxed by a championship game and the presentation of awards for intramural basketball, football, and golf on Tuesday evening, March 15.

Major intramural awards were presented to the following persons: Steve Watson, Captain, basketball champs; Bill Straughan, Captain football champs, Jack Wilson, Golf champion; Jim Wall, winner, first flight; Jerry Mullinax, winner, second flight; Allen Martin, winner, third flight. Plaques of appreciation for service rendered were given to Jeff Marlow, Chairman of the Athletic Committee of the Student Coordinating Council, and to Don Stevenson, Gym Assistant.

Don Moore, Director of Student Activities, and Ted Janes, Supervisor of the Athletic and Recreation Program, expressed appreciation the Seminary Administration and Trustees for their interest in the Athletic and recreational program.

THE ENQUIRY

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EDITORIALS

WELCOME TO PASTORS

We students of Southeastern express a warm welcome to alumni and friends who are attending the Pastor's Conference.

We are happy that these friends have returned to the Southeastern campus, for a week of study, fellowship, worship, and encouragement. An excellent program has been prepared to assist in fulfilling these needs.

We applaud the establishment and continuation of this conference for our alumni. This meeting exhibits one endeavor of our seminary to acknowledge and to nourish our "peoplehoodness", not only as students but as participants in the world. May such programs continue, and may they expand to reach growing numbers of theologically concerned people.

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THOUGHTS ON CURRICULUM

Should course content be practical or abstract? From time to time we hear comments about "no content" courses. Opinion seems to be that the seminary should be one or the other.

At the risk of profaning the memory of my hero Kiekegaard, this is no either/or situation. It is a matter of both/and. My undergraduate college was inferior in many ways. But what they lacked in academic quality the faculty partly redeemed by a lot of good homespun philosophy. One of those East Texas proverbs was: "Keep your feet on the ground and your head in the clouds". My college never achieved the vital balance of cloud and ground because

of its constituency; but at least we were sure that it ought to exist. The seminary exists to prepare the ecclesiastical leaders of the denomination. This includes preachers, teachers, and so ad infinitum. Literally, we must offer the quality of teaching that the greatest theologian might begin his work here, and this work must be acceptable wherever he may continue his study. On the other hand most of us will be pastors. We will never get past the timber line of the summits some of our brethren will mount. But we still need to experience and handle the best scholarship available. Otherwise the work of the great scholars will be wasted. For who will be able to read them?

But we pastors need also to understand the dynamics of human relationships; be it in counseling, teaching church administration, or worship. Pastors can't make it without the CW area. If we don't get it in seminary we will have to get it elsewhere.

But the theologian needs to know about these matters, too. The days of the ivory tower are gone. The church is in the world and so is the seminary. So also must the theologian be in the world--And so also his students.

I think there should be in the seminary core curriculum a balance of practical and intellectual content. I think we have that balance here at Southeastern. The trouble is that the seesaw is broken. The students have a hostility to the practical courses. This may or may not be justified but the situation is just as bad either way.

The ideal approach to the breach, is, I think, assimilation. If there is any good in theology, it is a practical good. We don't study theology for fun even if we enjoy it. We study theology because it can give us insight into the situation of our church members. On the other hand, church administration becomes a secular study of institutional management if it is not guided by a true, practical Christian theology.

I cannot see a division of practical and intellectual. Ivory tower mystic and institutional mechanic, Foggy-eyed mystic, office-bound counselor; missionary, preacher, teacher of the church; all must swim together. We cannot divide the pond. The resulting little puddles would soon dry up.

G.B.

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

KEY TO LIFE: ONE MILE IN A PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

By Mervin Whealy, Staff Columnist

... Love never fails, you heard me right, mister, love never fails, never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end. How much arguing, how many demonstrations of proof, how many written books, how many witnesses will convince you that love can not fail. Don't bother me with definitions, don't ask me to explain every detail of a love that never becomes obsolete or comes to an end. I announce to some the self-giving love that shows affection for the unlovely and the undesirable. But this love of which I speak is something more than all its elements--a palpitating, quivering, sensitive, living thing. To experience this kind of love is a dynamic and ecstatic experience that will shake the foundation of your finite being. It will put a spring in your step, a song in your heart, a sparkle in your eye and a radiant smile upon your lips, and a new found joy in your life. If only you

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

REFLECTIONS ON GOD IS DEAD

By Dr. Gerald Shinn
Visiting Professor of Church History

The statement "God is Dead" by Thomas J. Altizer has been received with rather mixed feelings. Some scholars have responded with bewildered looks and pallid, maudlin expressions after having their fond and comfortable religious ideas called into question. But instead of attempting to understand the God-is-dead movement and attempting to speak to the issue, they have assumed the fetal position in their theological wombs and say nothing, do nothing, and think nothing. It is truly unfortunate that intellectual gestation, unlike its natural counterpart, can be indefinitely prolonged. Still another group of collegiate savants has responded with salvos of "Atheist!" and "Heretic!" and have run to shore up the crumbling walls of an outmoded theology which, for the last twenty years, has been covered by a verdant carpet of Mnium hornum. Still another group of homo intellectus has reacted to what they consider a new theological threat by overtly and covertly repressing discussion of the movement because of the fear of condoning it. A rather interesting attitude to be found in institutions which stand for free inquiry and investigation of any and all subjects, is it not?

In final analysis the statement by Altizer of "God is dead!" is not nearly as disturbing as the uncritical and ignorant reaction which has been launched in reply. From the welter of sermons preached, lectures read, and articles written almost no one has bothered to read the men who have

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knew what this transforming love can do for you and your friends. At times it is indescribable.

The amazing thing about this force is that it has no other desire but to fulfill itself. You ask how this can be? Oh silly one, a love that endures long and is patient and kind, a love that is never envious or boastful; one which holds out through the severest trials brought against a man, does not go on a parade, is not conceited, arrogant and inflated with pride is true love. A love that does not insist on its own rights or its own way, is not self seeking, is not touchy, fretful, resentful; takes no account of the evil done to it and pays no attention to a suffered wrong is from God-the Creator and Redeemer. Oh my friend a love that bears up under anything and everything, is ever ready to believe the best of every person; whose hopes are fadeless under all circumstances and endures everything without weakening is a love that never fails.

This love understands and waits, for when difficulties mount, heartaches burn, disappointments grow, depressions set in, fail ures crush and loneliness strangles, love comes through with soul releasing, transforming power. Think not that you can direct the course of this love, for love, if it finds you acceptable, directs your destiny. Let it grasp you and permeate your life and soul-your total being. Tongues, knowledge, and prophecy shall pass away, but this love shall never pass away-it is of eternal quality and essence.

To love abundantly is to live abundantly. How do I know that this love exists? Of recent days this powerful love has cleansed my aching heart and accepted my feeble being I tremble in its presence, feel it in my bones, and hear it in my heart. Love never fails, grasp that and you will have the key to life.

REFLECTIONS ON GOD IS DEAD
(Continued from page 3)

proposed the God-is-dead movement. It is absolutely incomprehensible how individuals who have been brought up in an intellectual climate and have been graduated from some of the finest institutions in the country can forget the very first lesson of education, which is: always check the primary source before stating an opinion. No one, be he a clergyman or layman has a right to state a public or private opinion concerning Altizer until he has read him.

The God-is-dead movement has revealed three grave shortcomings in the milieu of popular theological circles. 1) The apparent and decisive failure of the popular institutional theology to be meaningful for and relevant to the new generation. 2) The inadequacy of modern theology to answer Altizer reflects a vapid, inane, and insipid internal structure which is in sore need of reformation and renewal. Name-calling, finger-pointing, foot-stamping and pulpit-pounding are not sufficient substitutes for a responsible apologia the true Christian faith. 3) The refusal to read Altizer himself and the dependence upon the news media for the majority of our conclusions points up a High School epistemology which allows other people to do our thinking for us. Will Rogers was only joking when he said, "All I know is what I read in the newspapers," But most ecclesiastics have taken him seriously. But this is to confirm what one has suspected all along. Modern theology is a poor joke played on the public by the organizational men of the institution which has the name of the Church but not its essence.

The only serious mistake of the God-is-dead movement, in so far as its analysis of the present theological situation is concerned, is that Altizer is too optimistic. The popular, institutional God is not dead at all; but, he ought to be. And until the false, idolatrous God which we have created in our human organizations dies, God will not be God and Christ will not be Christ. Maranatha!

FINAL ETHICS FORUM TO MEET APRIL 14

"Conviction, Compromise, and Political Responsibility" is the subject of the Ethics Forum, announced Gene McLeok, Chairman of the Forum Committee.

Dr. Donald W. Shriver, Jr., is the speaker and discussion director. Shriver is the University Minister of the Presbyterian Church U.S. in Raleigh. Dr. Shriver is also Adjunct Assistant Professor of Religion at N.C. State University. He directs a sponsored investigation at State University entitled, "Experimental Study of Religion and Society."

Shriver's academic background at Davidson, Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, Yale, and Harvard has been chiefly in the field of Christian Social Ethics.

The final ethics forum will be held in the Bethea Room, Thursday, April 14, at 7:30 P.M.

FACULTY - STUDENT

FIELD DAY

GAMES

PICNIC

4:15

6:00

OLD FOOTBALL

FIELD

APRIL 14, 1966

COUPLES: BRING ENOUGH FOOD FOR FAMILY

PLUS ONE!

SINGLES: BRING 50¢ FOR DRINKS, HAM, ETC.

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