



Covenant Seminary Newsletter

VOL. 2. NO. 2

SPRING, 1970

New Faculty Members Announced

Covenant Seminary takes great pleasure in announcing that Dr. George Knight III has accepted the invitation of the faculty, administration and board of trustees to join the faculty as Assistant Professor of Practical Theology. Dr. Knight and his family will be moving to St. Louis in June, and he will begin his teaching with the fall semester.

Born in Florida and reared in Charlotte, North Carolina, George Knight was a child of the Covenant, but tells of having wandered away from the Lord in his early youth and of planning a career for himself in engineering. The unbelief of his college Bible teachers was used to shock him into an awareness of the significance of his Christian faith, and he surrendered his life to the Lord. A clear call to the ministry indicated theological studies which he undertook at Westminster Seminary where he graduated with the B.D. and Th.M. degrees. Doctoral studies followed at the Free University of Amsterdam where he specialized in New Testament and received the Doctor of Theology Degree in 1968. During this time in Europe he also studied with Karl Barth and Oscar Cullmann in Basel, Switzerland.



The George Knight family in front of the new church building in Naples, Florida.

Dr. Knight is well qualified for the teaching of pastoral theology having had a number of years of experience in the pastorate beginning with a student pastorate during seminary, then in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church of West Collingswood, New Jersey, and more recently in the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Naples, Florida. While he will be teaching primarily

in the Department of Practical Theology, he will be offering electives in the New Testament, the first of which will be a special study of II Timothy to be given during the fall semester.

Dr. and Mrs. Knight have five children, George, Vann, Margaret, Jennie, and Hugh. The Knights will occupy the faculty home on the campus which was formerly occupied by the Leonard Van Horns.



Joseph Hall

Another significant appointment which the seminary is happy to announce is that of Mr. Joseph Hall as Librarian. Mr. Hall has served as Assistant Librarian to Professor David Jones during the last two years and will move up to the post of Librarian with faculty rank of instructor after graduating from the seminary this spring. Mr. Jones will then devote his full time to teaching in the Department of Systematic Theology.

Joseph Hall was born and reared in Orlando, Florida. He graduated from Calvin College where he met Mrs. Hall, who is a native of Iowa. After one year of theological studies at Westminster Seminary, he turned to graduate work in library science at the University of Michigan. After earning his Master's Degree in Library Science, he joined the library staff of the University of Iowa as head of the Serials Department (periodicals, journals, newspapers, etc.) and remained there until coming to Covenant Seminary to complete his theological education.

Dr. Lewis Hahn, academic consultant to the seminary from the North Central Association, after learning of Mr. Hall's appointment wrote: "I am especially pleased with the library developments. Getting a professionally trained librarian with a good background in religion should prove very helpful . . ."

Mr. and Mrs. Hall have two children, Timothy 8, and Steven 3. Their home is at 826 Crestland in Ballwin, Missouri. The Halls are members of the Christian Reformed Church of St. Louis.

Alumnus Witness Is Far Reaching

Friends and alumni of Covenant Seminary will be very much interested in a letter which recently came to the attention of the faculty of the seminary through Navy Chaplain Bob Fiol. It is a letter from one of the men captured on the Pueblo and taken prisoner in North Korea. It was addressed to a chaplain from Freedom Village, Panmunjom, Korea.

That cross on your collar is beautiful. Boy, could we have used you these months since February. But we had God. Maybe we had Him because He had us. We were allowed no Bibles. We were not permitted to worship. Faith was supposed to be forbidden.

But we crewmen of Pueblo prayed. Charles Sterling said a blessing over the turnip soup. He was disciplined and warned not to pray again. But he did pray, and so did the rest of us. Just before going to bed, the guys would say, "I'm going to talk with Commander World Fleet." Sometimes the guys would be standing around, talking about their fears, and saying they had prayed. One day Doc Baldrige joined in and said, "I prayed too. I wasn't a religious man when the ship was taken. But when things got tough I turned to prayer." One of the guys turned to him and said, "And it helped too, didn't it?" Donald Pappard carved a cross from the slat of a packing crate. Guards found it, and broke it, and kicked it around the room, like it was a dangerous animal about to attack them. They said God was dead. They said the Russians had shot him out of the sky with a rocket. They said every cross in Korea was a radio antenna sending out espionage messages. Lieutenant Harris said they were fearful of our faith. We were beaten, but faith increased our strength. Lieutenant Harris called it "reinforcement."

We tried to remember the books of the Bible. We got most of them. We pieced together the twenty-third Psalm and a few familiar verses we knew. We wrote them on the paper they had given us for confessions. You could say it was a kind of confession - of faith.

But then they found the papers and knocked us around. And we wrote 'em again.

All the while prayer helped to keep us from hating our captors. We bore the marks; but we're not sure who the real prisoners were. If release from captivity means a kind of coming home, we were made free while still in prison. We'll always bear the marks of faith from our Korean captivity.

Lieutenant Harris was right. When things were blackest the greatest comfort would come. Chief Kell said so too. He did more than anyone to sustain optimism and keep up our morale. In October things got worse. Lieutenant Harris said he felt our release must come soon or never. He turned to the Lord and prayed intensely, asking the Lord to let Pueblo's crew get home for Christmas. It seemed absurd. But the Koreans suddenly announced they'd treat us better. That was two days ago and here we are. God was with us. We were with Him but not by chance. Faith was contagious. So was strength. We drew on Harris' strength. Someone asked about his religious life, before imprisonment in North Korea. He said he was communications officer on a West Coast destroyer in 1964. The squadron chaplain asked him home for dinner. They talked about the abundant life, and the need for commitment to Jesus Christ. Two

months, and nothing happened. But he was troubled and could not forget. He returned to the chaplain and told him he wanted to invite Jesus Christ into his life. They prayed together. He took the plunge, he said. A Presbyterian challenged to commitment, invited to Christ, by a Baptist chaplain. No, not from chance was born the faith that sustained our crew.

A year before our capture, that chaplain was hit while serving in Vietnam. Aboard the hospital ship *Repose*, shrapnel in his head and back, an arm and leg badly torn, the chaplain said, "Each year of my ministry is better than the last. I guess a chaplain leaves a part of himself behind, sometimes physical, always spiritual, at every duty station."

The Covenant Seminary family will be interested in the fact that the Baptist Chaplain referred to who led Lt. Harris to the Lord was our own Chaplain Stanley Beach. Little did he realize that his ministry would reach directly into the lives of everyone of the Pueblo crew, and through them to multitudes throughout the world who have heard this testimony.

Klooster Gives Lecture Series

Jesus Christ: History and Kerygma was the title of a series of four lectures given by Dr. Fred Klooster, professor of Systematic Theology in Calvin Seminary, on April 2 and 3 at Covenant Seminary. The lectures were designed to bring the so-called "Quest of the Historical Jesus" up to date. Students and faculty alike found the series both informative and



Dr. Fred Klooster chats with Professor David Jones of Covenant's theology faculty.

stimulating. The first lecture, entitled "The Old Quest," set forth the attempts of the old liberals who rejected the historical validity of the gospels to find the truth about the life and ministry of Jesus. The second lecture, "The No Quest," was a discussion of the neo-orthodox school including Barth, Brunner, and Bultmann and its attitude toward Jesus Christ. Dr. Klooster's personal acquaintance with and studies under Karl Barth added special interest to this lecture. The third, called "The New Quest," was an investigation of the position of the disciples of Bultmann led by Ernst Käsemann in Europe and James Robinson in America. The final lecture which Dr. Klooster called "The Now Quest" was an interpretation of the teachings of Wolfhart Pannenberg currently teaching Systematic Theology at the University of Munich.

Tapes of the four lectures are available to alumni and pastors who are interested in hearing them.

Buswell Concert Great Success

To high critical acclaim and to the great delight of a large and enthusiastic audience, the 23-year old violin virtuoso, James Oliver Buswell IV played a benefit concert for Covenant Seminary on Friday, April 10, at the Kirkwood High School Auditorium. Young Buswell, who is the grandson of Covenant's distinguished senior scholar and theologian, Dr. J. Oliver Buswell, Jr., responded to the request of the seminary student council for a concert, the proceeds of which are to go entirely toward the new library-learning center authorized by the board of directors. Buswell is a senior student at Harvard University but took most of April away from classes for an extensive concert tour. He has achieved international acclaim and many honors but was enthusiastic about being able to assist in the project of the new library for the seminary.



James Oliver Buswell IV



Mr. Frank Allen, missionary to the Philippines, was the chapel speaker on Campus Day. He is shown here chatting with Paulita Natad, seminary student from the Philippines.

Studies Suspended For A Day

The weather on April 10 turned out to be ideal for the annual spring Campus Day of the seminary family. Students and faculty alike picked up rakes, shovels, paintbrushes, and other implements to spend several hours on the beautification of the campus area. When it was all over, Richard Ellis, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, felt gratified that so much had been accomplished.

At noon before the entire seminary family enjoyed a picnic lunch together on the campus, the regular chapel service was held with Frank Allen, missionary under the Far Eastern Gospel Crusade, as special speaker for the day.

The music critics of both St. Louis newspapers were fervent in their praise of Buswell. The following paragraph from the POST-DISPATCH is typical of the reaction:

"The most striking thing about Buswell's playing, the aspect in which his excellence was virtually unqualified, was his lefthand control. This produced scale passages of stepladder evenness, some of the most beautiful double-stops that could be heard anywhere and a general aura of confidence and command on ground where lesser artists have to tread with unseemly caution."

Mark Pett, president of the seminary student body, expressed the deep appreciation of the seminary family in introducing "Jamie" Buswell and his accompanist, Seth Carlin, a young professor at Julliard School in New York who proved a true artist on the piano and gave flawless support to the soloist.



Several stumps provided a challenge for the students on Campus Day.



Students assist in beautifying the grounds on the annual spring Campus Day.

McColley Visits Campus

In a series of three chapel messages during the last full week of classes, William McColley, pastor of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, shared with the students the rich blessings as well as some of the challenging problems of pastoral life.

Since he spent five years following his graduation from Covenant Seminary on the staff of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship working almost exclusively with college and university students, Bill told the students that he is often asked why he left the "more glamorous" work with students to go into a National Mis-



sions pastorate. His answer is that from his contacts with the students and his dealing with their problems according to the scriptures he became more and more convinced of the primacy of the Church in the plan of God for His people as well as for the work of evangelizing the lost. He felt a great desire to do his part in building the Church.

Bill described the wide responsibilities he has faced in the pastorate but emphasized his conviction that the preaching of the Word must always command a major part of the pastor's attention. The people must see how the scriptures deal with their everyday problems and are relevant in every area of their lives. He also emphasized the personal counselling ministry in which every pastor must be constantly involved.

When McColley's messages were concluded, Dr. Rayburn, Chairman of the Practical Theology Department, commented, "We simply couldn't have had a better back-up for what we are trying to get across in our pastoral theology and homiletics courses here at the seminary."

Bill McColley was in the St. Louis area to speak to two weekend conferences of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship.

Alumnus Gives Strong Witness In Death

The homegoing of the Rev. Alan Mohrenweiser in St. Cloud, Minnesota, on February 28 was the first time an alumnus of Covenant Seminary has been called into the presence of his Lord. For the last few years, Mr. Mohrenweiser has been confined to his bed with arthritis which crippled him so severely that it had become necessary for him to give up his first and only pastorate in Cambridge, Iowa, where he had served since seminary days. The Mohrenweisers moved from Cambridge to St. Cloud, and Mrs. Mohrenweiser has been teaching in the public schools of that city.

The large attendance at the funeral service in the Covenant Church of St. Cloud was a testimony to the vital witness for Christ which Alan Mohrenweiser had during the many months of his severe affliction. Dr. Rayburn preached the sermon on the text, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith," (II Tim 4:7) reminding the congregation that a triumphant victory over the doubts and fears always present in severe affliction brings more honor and glory to the Lord than spectacular service not attended with severe trials. The memory of Alan Mohrenweiser's life is a blessing to all who knew him.

In Loving Memory

During the months of January, February, and March, gifts to Covenant Seminary have been received in memory of the following:

Ola Mae Brooks
Walker H. Evans

Alan Mohrenweiser
Arthur Wendorf