

The Academy Perspective

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Vada Lee Barkley, Editor

THANKS A MILLION

by Vada Lee Barkley

Thanks for your Christmas cards, phone calls, and check. What a joy to serve as your president! You're a great group.

Had my foresight been as good as my hindsight, I could have bought two Tickle Me Elmo's EARLY. I could have made enough by scalping to make a sizable down payment on a car. Instead, I settled for a Protector Firesafe to save rent on a bank deposit box.

Thanks, Perspective contributors, for your response to my request last month. I'm saving some material for the February issue. Keep writing. We want to hear from you.

LOOKING AHEAD

January 20--Roy Dorris sharing research in pharmacology.

February 10--Jack McElrath, retired FBI agent. Bob Emmel, facilitator. Patriotic program.

March 10--To be arranged by Elbert Overholt.

April 14--Annual Meeting

IN APPRECIATION

by Elbert Overholt

It is with a deep sense of appreciation and gratitude I write these few words to supplement my oral expression at our last meeting.

I am grateful for the Christmas check. I purchased a tennis tote bag. Even more I am grateful for each of you, your support of the Academy and its elected leaders. I believe the Academy is doing well, is growing and there are even better days ahead.

From a more personal standpoint, may I express a special word of thanks for your support during the last 18 months. I appreciate your prayers, encouraging words, and your comforting presence in my life. It will always be remembered and appreciated. You're a great bunch!

SOUTHERN SENIOR SERVICES UPDATE

by Elbert Overholt

The membership of the Board of Southern Senior Services (SSS) has been completed and the final legal documents are being filed for tax-exempt status. The following members have been appointed and have accepted positions on the Board.

Robert Parker, Chairman	Elbert Overholt
Don Billings, Vice-Chairman	Philip Rustin
Carolyn Barlow	Tim Warkentin
John Bumpus	Jerry White
Terry Liebman	

The Board accepted Eva May Harper's resignation but requested that she remain active with the group by serving as the Public Relations Representative and "point person" with The Covenant Group, Inc., (CGI) the company hired to do the marketing analysis and feasibility study. She will be involved with the CGI in doing a survey of Oklahoma City area churches in February.

The SSS is currently working with an option on one and two-thirds acres of land at 36th and College. Additional land is being considered to supplement the land under option.

The Board members recently toured Tealridge Manor, a senior housing center in Edmond, Oklahoma that is currently being managed by CGI. Don Billings and Anthony McDermid, Project Manager for The Architectural Partnership, toured the corporate headquarters of The Covenant Group and visited two senior citizen housing facilities that are managed by the CGI. These visits are providing valuable input to the Board as we attempt to build a center that will serve effectively in this community. If you have additional input please contact Robert Parker or one of the other Board members.

YOU ARE INVITED -- TO THE FIRST RIG MEETING OF THE YEAR.

MONDAY, JAN. 20, 1997

ROYCE BROWN CONFERENCE RM. 135

9:30 AM -- COFFEE/JUICE

9:45 / 11:15 MEETING BEGINS/ENDS

I'VE LEARNED THAT RESEARCH IS

ABOUT LIVING, LEARNING, AND

PASSING IT ON TO OTHERS

by Jack Arnold

Last Easter, Dallas friend Nancy Tullos gave me a very special little book entitled Live and Learn and Pass It On by H. Jackson Brown, who on the morning of his fifty-first birthday, decided to jot down a few things that more than a half century of living had taught him. He wrote "I've learned that..." twenty times and then completed the sentences. In the months that followed, Brown added to his list by asking others, including senior citizens, for their observations. Five senior citizens shared the following:

"I've learned that there are so many good books to read, sunsets to see, friends to visit, and old dogs to take walks with--so I keep looking ahead." --age 86

"I've learned that an insatiable curiosity is important to never feeling old."--age 71

"I've learned that you always find time to do the things you really want to do."--age 64

"I've learned that it's never too late to improve yourself."--age 85

"I've learned that I still have a lot to learn."--age 92

I was inspired after reading these wise words by our senior colleagues and realized that our Research Interest Group (RIG) encourages and fosters all of the things which I underlined above: reading good books, having an insatiable curiosity, finding time to do the things you really want to do, improving yourself, and learning continuously. Using Brown's "I've learned that..." format, I would like to list some of my observations about research:

"I've learned that it takes time to review old research techniques and develop new research skills, but it is a worthwhile investment in my continuing education."

"I've learned that stumbling aimlessly in search of information in a random effort is frustrating and can exact a toll on my patience and pocketbook."

"I've learned that by becoming familiar with a handful of basic reference publications (Continued Col. 1, Page 2 -- RIG)"

RIG (Continued from Page 1)

and organizations and their services, I can channel all my energy into getting correct answers quickly and efficiently."

"I've learned that research is easier than it appears when I know where to look for the information."

"I've learned that the key to research is having a plan."

"I've learned that the *ethos* (character, competence, and good will) of each RIG charter member motivates me to never lose my enthusiasm for thinking new thoughts, sharing knowledge, meeting new people, and seeing new places."

VOLUNTEERS INTEREST GROUP

At the close of our January 20th meeting, I want to take a few minutes to schedule an organizational meeting for those interested in Community Service. Many of you are already involved and a number of others have expressed an interest.

For our organizational meeting, I am preparing an "Area of Interest" form to help match each volunteer with opportunities requiring his/her skills or expertise.

DEAR FRIENDS AT THIS CHRISTMAS TIME

by Bronnell & Paula Greer

Today's date is Dec. 19, 1996 and our envelopes, addressed over two months ago, await that Christmas letter which is to convey our special greetings and message regarding our latest evangelistic tour in India.

The trip was for two months, rather than six months as in 1994-95. Yet the sheer intensity of our schedule was such that we were able to visit most of the Nazarene churches on the four districts of Maharashtra and the four districts of South India. The big districts of North and East India were not included in our tour this year.

Leslie Fitzlan, born in Pune, India, in 1915 made a most valuable contribution to our team. He was well received by all, and God honored his messages as they were given with zeal and power. He is a son of early Nazarene Missionaries, and himself, together with his wife Ellen, have served as missionaries for 13 years in India. Unfortunately Ellen expired about three years ago.

Our team participated in 110 services in which there was an unusual response, as God

drew hungry souls to Himself. Four churches were organized on the same day. A new church was dedicated. For another church new land was dedicated. Baptisms took place frequently. It was truly the atmosphere of the New Testament church when new members were being added daily. The goal of 100 churches in the combined Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh districts by the year 2000 will surely be met. We all agreed that the low level of our bank accounts at the end of this tour was nothing in comparison with the blessings we received everywhere.

Though this description of church growth may not be equally applicable to all the eight districts, out of the total of ten districts of the Church of the Nazarene in India, still the work of God's Holy Spirit was evident in new congregations, new conversions, and revival of believers. Sincere dedication of believers and the infilling of the Holy Spirit resulted in cleansing and changed lives and a new spirit of witnessing.

More and more districts are becoming self-supporting. New pastors are being trained for the expanding work. Through Bible colleges and through TEE (Theological Education by Extension) additional progress is evident. John and Doris Anderson are soon to retire. With only one long term missionary couple in India, the Jakobitzes, national leadership personnel are being called, trained and sent forth as is God's plan for His church.

Bronnell emphasized the need for fulfilling the Great Commission to all the world through Internet, using e-mail and the worldwide web. The title of our program is "WorldFriends." He challenged the youth and our leaders to work for a computer in every church so we may work together to get out the good news to every creature.

We contacted families of about ten Indian students in our Host Family program at Oklahoma University. We stayed in the homes of two such families and were treated with love and respect.

We conclude with the words of an old song: "Go tell it on the mountains." this song was presented in a Christmas program at Calvary Church of the Nazarene in Madras, South India, in which many Christian families participated and were greatly encouraged to witness everywhere "that Jesus Christ is born."

Let each of us heed the words of this song and proclaim everywhere that Jesus Christ is born."

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One way to live happily ever after is not to be after too much!

DIE FEIERTAGE

by Maurine Dickerson

I love cold, crisp winter nights in the mountains when a blanket of snow has covered all vegetation, the roofs of the houses, and the Christmas Evergreens! In a pensive and reflective mood, I began thinking of Switzerland. Too much thinking resulted in action!

The Swiss Air MC-11 lifted off from Atlanta's Hartsfield International Airport on December 2, 1996, for an eight-hour flight to Zurich, with me on board. Swiss friends, Emil and Nelly Bernath, whom I've known since 1977, were at the airport to greet me. I felt as Erma Bombeck did when she said: "It's ironic to arrive in Paradise looking like your passport picture!" But friends don't object; however, Emil soon stopped at a Tea Room because in his broken English, he said: "Maurine needs a coffee." I really needed sleep!

As we sped down the highway toward Busingen, location of European Nazarene Bible College, I felt that I was coming "home." Nelly had already been to my room at the college where she had placed a "Herzlich Willkommen" sign on my desk, along with a small Christmas table arrangement of evergreen branches holding fruit, nuts, and candy.

After a day of rest, I was on a roller coaster of activities until I boarded Swiss Air 747 for my flight back to Atlanta. Now, two weeks have passed and it's pure joy to pause and reflect upon my time in Switzerland. Join me as I review my two-week calendar of activities with friends in a country of old-world charm.

In Zurich at the International Protestant English Church, we heard selections from THE MESSIAH, with piano and organ, and outstanding soloists from the Zurich roster of opera singers, performing in a lovely old historic church.

Also, in Zurich, Sandy Mahler and I enjoyed coffee and cake at Sprungli's Tea Room. Afterwards, we strolled along the Bahnhofstrasse admiring the beautiful Christmas displays in the shops, the icicle lights stretched across the street from one building to another, and the melodious music from the "soldiers and soldierettes" of the Salvation Army Band playing Christmas carols. It was a crisp evening, and the atmosphere was charged with Christmas cheer.

As the electric train moved smoothly over the tracks, we were enjoying a breakfast in the dining car, a breakfast of croissants, coffee, cheese, jelly, butter; the menu never changes. Looking out the train windows.....

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