

The Academy Perspective

WELCOME BACK by Vada Lee Barkley

Now that rain and temperatures are falling, it's time for Academy meetings again. A number of you have asked when our first luncheon will be. I'll try to answer that question and a few others you may have.

Our first luncheon/meeting will be October 9, at 11:45 a.m. We will continue to meet in the same place in the Commons building. We will enjoy the same accommodations; only the cost will be \$6.00 per plate this year. I think you'll agree that we've just lucked out in past years. Where else can you get a meal such as we have there for \$6.00?

At the October meeting the Membership committee will receive dues from those who have not paid for '95-'96. They will update ID cards and make ID cards for new members. They will have a list of paid-up members.

Since we never have enough time to visit, we have decided to make this October meeting a time for food, fellowship, and fun. Dr. John Sparks, new director of the Learning Resources Center, plans to meet with us to enlist some volunteer help. No doubt other Campus Colleague opportunities will be available.

The Plans and Programs committee will have some ideas for future meetings and interest groups. The Membership committee will report on its meeting.

We will introduce the personnel serving in various capacities this year. Finally, we'll introduce a special prayer chorus as our benediction. You'll love it.

The way things are speeded up it won't be long before a person can take a two week vacation in four days.

ESTHER OVERHOLT GOES HOME

The Academy owes a great debt of gratitude for the influence of Esther. No one has made a greater contribution to its success.

Esther's illness and home going on July 20 touched all of us. We miss her. But she is not lost. We know where she is. We know how to find her. Like the apostle Paul, she fought a good fight, she has finished her course, she has kept the faith (II Tim. 4:7). Now she's enjoying her reward.

Let's continue to pray for Elbert.

Donations to the Esther Overholt Memorial Scholarship Fund may be made to Southern Nazarene University, for this fund. Send or give checks to George Cargill, 8228 N.W. 100th St., OKC 73162.

OFFICERS FOR '95-'96

President -- Vada Lee Barkley
Vice-President -- Don Beaver
Secretary -- Evelyn Downs
Treasurer -- George Cargill
Member-at-large--Milton Sonnevik

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

| 1995: | 1996: |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| October 9 | January 15 |
| November 13 | February 12 |
| December 11 | March 11 |
| | April 8 |
| | May--Pending <i>to the</i> |

ART'S CHUCKLES

Man doesn't live by bread alone. He has to handle some hot potatoes, know his onions, and be worth his salt. No wonder he finds himself in a stew.

ACADEMY LEADERSHIP 1995-96

Administrative Council:

Vada Lee Barkley, President
Elbert Overholt, Director
Don Beaver, Vice President
Evelyn Downs, Secretary
George Cargill, Treasurer
Milton Sonnevik, Mem.at-large

Plans and Programs Committee:

Dick and Wini Howard,
Co-chairpersons
Coleen Cornwell -- Travel
Virjeane Bayles -- Forums and Lectures
Mabel Sonnevik -- Fine Arts
Marvin Peterson -- Community Service
Anna Belle Laughbaum -- Continuing Education
Elbert Overholt-- Campus Colleagues -- Ex officio
Vada Lee Barkley -- Ex officio

Membership Committee:

Lloyd Neighbors, Chairman
Bobbie Neighbors
Al Brown
Wilma Troutman
Sam and Edna Davis
Lloyd and Joyce Ellis
Elbert Overholt -- Ex-officio
Vada Lee Barkley -- Ex-officio

Bylaws and Organization Committee:

Margaret Dawson, Chairperson
Lyle Flinner
Edith Payne
Elbert Overholt -- Ex-officio
Vada Lee Barkley -- Ex-officio

Telephone Brigade:

Winnie Brown, Josie Harris,
Gladys Snell, Juanita Knippers
Helen Hill, Kathleen Sodowsky

Get-well and Sympathy Cards:

Kathleen Sodowsky

Don't cross any bridge until you know one is there.

REWARDS OF THE HARVEST
by Cantley George

The young people of the Korean Nazarene Church 8505 So. Santa Fe, here in Oklahoma City, went to Monterey, Mexico. We were to work among the refugees from hurricane Gilbert (1988) who could no longer have their homes in the bed of the river that passes through town. Floods had swept away squatters' shacks with great loss of life.

A barrio was established outside of town where they might rebuild what was left of life and property - and that is poor, very poor.

We did evangelism and VBS type work with mostly the children and some adults. God greatly blessed our efforts.

Among the children who gathered to ask Jesus into their hearts was Norma. As the invitation was given I could see the hunger in her countenance and a struggle. Having talked with her several times I felt led to ask her if she wanted to ask Jesus into her heart. She said, "I can't, I sometimes say bad things and I fight." I then explained to her that Jesus would help her and that He loves us just the way we are - that He wants us to come to Him and let Him take care of those things. By this time we were both in tears. Norma went forward and received Jesus as her personal Savior. As a token of remembrance I gave her my handkerchief and I wrote her name on a paper napkin which I have taped to the front of my computer (even as I write this). I said, "When you use or see or touch this handkerchief, remember that I am thinking and praying for you, that God will walk with you, will live in your heart and keep you every moment of every day." She accepted it with gladness. Each time I sit at my computer I stop and pray for Norma.

Mt. Vernon Nazarene College sent a group of people back to San Gilbert later in July with Gary Sivewright. This enthusiastic work and witness team did both construction and VBS type activities.

At the end of the time, as Joe Noonan was giving the bible lesson and preparing to also give an invitation, Alfredo was outside tossing pebbles and berries through the window disturbing the others who were listening.

Acting as Joe's interpreter I could see that the devil was at work at a very important time in the service. I stopped and told Alfredo to come inside (I did not feel that he would disobey because the Holy Spirit was working among us in those moments). He came inside and I seated him in a chair right in front of me. He listened quietly to the remainder of the message and the invitation to come to Jesus. Again, as with Norma during the other item, I could see the struggle and the indecision as well as the hunger in his face; but he did not respond.

As the others of the team were busy I sat with Alfredo. I put my arms around this lad of about twelve years of age and asked him if he didn't want to receive Jesus. His reply, "I'm dirty, I sin and do bad things, I can't come to Jesus." I told him that he was a boy whom Jesus loves and that Jesus loves us and tells us to come to Him. He will make us clean and will change our lives and make us new persons. I asked him to let me lead him in a prayer of salvation, explaining in the simplest terms I could use to make him understand. I implored the Holy Spirit to help us and began to pray. In a very short time I could see the change in Alfredo's face and sense the complete change in his spirit and the lifting of his burden of guilt. As we talked afterward, he leaned close and asked, "Why is my body trembling like this?" I explained that our very physical bodies can sense the lifting of the burden of sin and that he was sensing freedom and God's love.

Pray for these two children and for all the workers in the fields that are ready for harvest that many more of the lost and hungry souls may find peace and freedom from their burden of guilt and sin.

How marvelous the rewards of the Lord of the Harvest; how blest we are to serve Him who loves without measure.

SCANDINAVIA IN A VERY SMALL NUTSHELL
by Anna Belle Laughbaum

"To travel is to live," said Hans Christian Anderson. An hour's drive from Copenhagen in meadows dotted with white-stemmed windmills, an hour's ferry ride, and we find ourselves in Nyn, the author's island home. In Odense, black and white portraits hanging above the street where Anderson lived and a big statue of him in the park, gracing the 800-year-old Gothic cathedral where he was confirmed, attest to his fame. In his small house, where his father also had his cobbler's shop, we hear that Anderson's fairy tale, "The Ugly Duckling," is probably the most famous selection in his 38 volumes, and autobiographical.

Elsinore Castle, in Denmark, the setting of Shakespeare's "Hamlet"; Sibelius' massive monument of organ pipes, in Finland, and the lovely strains of his "Finlandia"; in Sweden, VASA, once-sunken royal warship resurrected after 300 years; Edvard Grieg's wooded retreat overlooking a lake, where he did much of his composing; in Norway, too, the funeral Viking ships carrying royal cargo to distant shores, Heyerdahl's balsa raft, Kon Tiki, sailing from Peru to Polynesia, and Lillehammer -- these are some of the highlights of our tour.

But the highest lights, in my opinion, are the waterfalls striping the mountains, the mountains themselves, and the fyords. Manifesting God's state-of-the-art splendor, they are His lovely psalms. Hans Christian Anderson must have been thinking of these when he said, "To travel is to live."

MORE CHUCKLES

You finally get to the place where you are making a mark in life and along comes someone with an eraser.

By the time a man is in shape to buy his wife beautiful clothes, she isn't.