

# The Academy Perspective

## WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T HAVE A CHRISTMAS? by Vada Lee Barkley

At this season of frequent fires and thefts, we often hear the heart-breaking appeal: "Without your help these children will not have a Christmas." (As if one could "not have a Christmas"). People usually donate more than enough to replace the loss. These donors "have the Christmas spirit," we say. What does this Christmas spirit involve?

Obviously, it involves pageantry. The official holiday season begins with Macy's Thanksgiving parade. Gradually neighbors decorate their homes. The sound of carols dominates the airways and church services. Shopping malls use every imaginable glittering ornament and sales promotion to attract shoppers.

Since the Christmas spirit involves presents, eager shoppers swarm to the malls to take advantage of bargains. This frantic pace continues until midnight Christmas Eve. Every shopper is bent on finding "the perfect gift" for each person on his/her list. If they don't know what a child wants, they can ask Santa.

Children and grandchildren play a vital role among the Significant People involved in the Christmas spirit. So much so, in fact, that we often say, "Christmas is for children." Looking back from our vantage point, we retirees tend to agree.

The Christmases we remember as best included us as children, our own children, or our grandchildren. Now illness--our own or that of a loved one--drains our emotional and physical energy. Many precious ones from past Christmases are celebrating in Heaven. Yet we can make this our Christmas.

The absence of pageantry, presents, or people may dampen your spirit. But since the Prince of Peace is its essence, He can make the

"Spirit of Christmas" shine brightly in spite of circumstances. With Him, you can indeed have a Christmas.

*May the Christ of Christmas be very near you during this holiday season and throughout the coming year.--Art & Vada Lee*

## PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER 11

A choral group from SNU, under the direction of Prof. Neal Woodruff, will provide special music. Mabel Sonnevik, who represents the Fine Arts interest group on our Plans and Programs Committee, is responsible for arranging this program.

## SEATING RESERVATIONS

NO TURNED UP CHAIRS,  
PLEASE!

With our increased attendance, turned up chairs limit the flow of traffic in our limited space.

We are providing RESERVATION CARDS for those who need them.

Dawn Tullis is responsible for Table Decorations.

## CHRISTMAS CARD, I LOVE YOU

by Mendell Taylor

One of the most wonderful things about Christmas is to receive a Christmas card. If we trace its history, we will realize, anew, its importance.

About 50 years ago somebody planted a small tree. It survived in spite of storms, and floods, and dry weather, and cold weather. It became about a thirty foot tree and was cut down and hauled to the paper mill. It went through many painful experiences as it was transformed into pulp. Then treated with heat and chemicals, it was pressed into paper.

The paper was submitted to an artist whose creative mind put a colorful picture on the front of it. (Thank God for trees and colors and artistic talents).

Then a gifted poet composed a poem that expressed an unforgettable tribute about me. This was printed on the inside of the card. (Thank God for poets and printing equipment that carves ideas on paper).

Then this product was transported from the factory to the retail store. (Thank God for our transportation system and merchandising system).

Then a thoughtful, caring, sharing person purchased the card. This person had some friends that were to be remembered at Christmas Time. Out of the five billion (5,000,000,000) people who inhabit the earth planet, I was fortunate enough to be the one this friendly person thought of to receive the card. I was on their mind so much, that the sender added some lines of appreciation that made my day.

The sender thinks enough of me to have my address and place an expensive stamp on the card. (Thank God for loving friends that keep up with me enough to know where I live).

A wonderful communications system enables us to keep in touch, and it delivers the card to my door. (Thank God for our postal system that enables us to communicate with each other).

I looked at the return address and a flood of cherished memories rushed through my mind regarding the sender. The poem and written notes call attention to the Christ Child who is the reason for the season. (Thank God that He gift-wrapped His love in the clay of humanity and had Him come to us as the Baby of Bethlehem).

Christmas Card, you are wonderful, and I love you.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**  
by Vada Lee Barkley

In this issue of the Perspective, I attempt to answer some of the questions members and prospects ask. I am quoting from our Bylaws and brochure to support my own observations.

**Q. WHAT IS THE ACADEMY OF SENIOR PROFESSIONALS AT SNU?**

A. It is an organization sponsored by SNU for senior professionals who desire a dynamic, Christian alternative to the traditional concept of retirement.

"Academy members broaden intellectual horizons and make valuable professional contributions to society through both the University and local community." Brochure (Available at each meeting or at the office in the Royce Brown building).

The Academy is not a church, a Sunday school or college class, nor a prayer meeting--although at times it may include an element of each. It is not just another social club--even though fellowship is a vital part of its meetings. It is not for Nazarenes nor SNU alumni only--although a vast majority of its members are both. It is not a service club--although my annual report in 1994 includes 4 typewritten double-spaced pages listing activities of our members.

Within the context of the above explanation, the Academy is just about what its members make it.

**Q. WHO CAN BE A MEMBER?**

A. "The qualifications for membership shall be as follows: Members shall be individuals from various professional backgrounds who, having arrived at the state in life when they no longer need to meet the pressure of regular professional activities, would like to join with others in comparable circumstances in the realization of personal and shared goals entailing various forms of intellectual, cultural, spiritual, and service activities. They shall show evidence of humane concern, intellectual purpose and the ability to share and synthesize experience and expertise. Such abilities are to be shared for a reasonable period of time each year in the results of personal

investigation, in individual or group projects, and in ongoing programs of the Academy." (Bylaws, Article I, Section 1).

**Q. WHY SHOULD I BE A MEMBER?**

A. In addition to the benefits of association with such people as the above-mentioned and the challenge implied in the qualifications listed, the Academy offers a number of benefits available through SNU. (A list of these benefits is available at each meeting).

**Q. HOW DO I JOIN?**

A. "Application for membership shall be made to the Director on forms provided by the Academy to the prospective Member.

Applications shall be approved by the Committee on Membership and by members of the Academy Administrative Council." (Bylaws, Art. I, Sec.3)

Application for membership should be submitted to the Director along with an initiation fee (currently \$15 per person). The applicant will be notified of the action of the Membership Committee and the Administrative Council.

**Q. HOW CAN I REMAIN A MEMBER?**

A. "A Member is considered to be in good standing as long as he or she has paid all dues (currently \$10 per person annually) and has satisfied any other obligations to the Academy." (Bylaws, Art. I, Sec.4)

**ART'S CHUCKLES**

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Men consider a fifty-mile hike a physical fitness, but women call it shopping.

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It comes as a shock when you visit old friends and find one of the children has grown a foot, and the other a beard.

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Love is an ocean of emotion amid expanses of expenses.

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When you think about having a woman as president, that's no problem. What's strange is the thought of having a man for First Lady.

MERRY

CHRISTMAS

**CHRISTMAS**

(Sunshine Magazine, Dec., 1972)

*Christmas is the faith men have in all that is good in the world;*

*Christmas is the selfless spirit of doing for others;*

*Christmas is laughter and friendship and the spreading of cheer;*

*Christmas is the guileless wonder of childhood and the light of faith in young eyes on Christmas morn;*

*Christmas is the sweet joy of families united in person or spirit;*

*Christmas is the tender knowledge that you are loved by someone--and that you have someone to love;*

*Christmas is believing in prayer and in the Power that answers it;*

*Christmas is the right to sing of your belief in the way of your choice;*

*Christmas is all the things that free men fight for;*

*Let us keep it shining for all the world!"*

HAPPY

NEW

YEAR