

# The Academy Perspective

## CAUTION: CHILDREN AT RISK

by Vada Lee Barkley

"Man is basically good," insists Modern Theology. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked...." Thunders Jeremiah (17:9). We Nazarenes used to hear a lot about the "Carnal Mind." "We were all born with it." Only by "dying out" to the "Old Man," who is "enmity against God," could we be free from its control. Perhaps that answers the question everyone is asking regarding the surge of child abuse in our state. "How can a parent allow, much less participate in, the torture and death of his or her own child?"

Someone has said, "The most dangerous place for a baby is its Mother's womb." By winking at abortion, our society betrays even the unborn. For example, as horrified as we all were at Susan Smith's drowning her precious little boys--presumably to win her boy friend--she would have gone scot free had she killed them before they were born--only a few months earlier. Either way, lust led to murder.

Obviously, the most dangerous place for Shane Coffman and his siblings was the home of their deprived mother and her demonic boy friend. Governor Keating says Coffman and her boy friend are not of the human race. Jeremiah would disagree.

As evident as abuse was in the Coffman case, everyone responsible for defending these innocent children failed utterly in that capacity. If the father knew of their plight, why didn't he do something? If he didn't know, why didn't he know? His uncle and grandmother awoke too late to help Shane.

Thank God for a pastor who tried. At least eight times he reported the problem to DHS. Neighbors too reported the abuse. Gover-

nor Keating has vowed to investigate DHS's handling or mishandling of the situation. Three other agencies are investigating on their own. Let's hope Shane's murder and the abuse of all these Coffman children serves as a wake-up call, not only for Oklahomans, but for society at large. How can anyone not intervene when they suspect child abuse, much less know it's going on?

Governor Keating proposes to try revising laws or passing new laws to help solve the problem. Better laws protecting children will no doubt help. More responsive family members, pastors, and neighbors who report to authorities will help. Better response to those reports will help. But, ultimately, to combat the scourge of child abuse, requires more than all these. Only God can remove a desperately wicked heart and create a clean one. As the old-timers used to preach, "Anyone who harbors the carnal mind is likely to do anything."

## NEXT MEETING

For the March 11 meeting, our speaker will be Robert Parker, SNU alumnus. Parker is in charge of the Senior Housing project so many of us have been promoting.

## 55 ALIVE

Marvin Peterson has arranged for an AARP defensive driving course to be held on campus March 30. Cost is \$8 per person. Room number and hours will be announced at the March 11 meeting. It takes about 7 hours. Call Marvin if you're interested and have not signed up for this course.

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Seen on a church bulletin board:  
"We are working to beat the devil."

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## DONATIONS TO OUR PROJECT FUND

Individual contributions to the Esther Overholt Memorial Scholarship fund should be given to George Cargill by the end of March. Many have already given to this fund and the Academy voted to give \$1000 from our treasury. But all contributions are needed before March 31. Make checks payable to Southern Nazarene University.

## VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT WORK (TRAVELERS AID OF OKLAHOMA)

by Lyle Tullis

Although the first organized Travelers Aid effort began in St. Louis in 1851, most Travelers Aid agencies date themselves back to the turn of the century and the First World War. Some were started by YWCA's or other Women's Organizations whose concern was for women and young girls traveling alone.

In 1940 two Naval Officers requested help from NTAA in moving personnel and families traveling from base to base. In 1941 Travelers Aid became an official member of the United Service Organizations (U.S.O's) which will be familiar to many of you.

One aim of the T.A. in Oklahoma City is the Travelers Aid booth at Will Rogers World Airport. The booth is staffed by volunteers from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. seven days a week.

Volunteers assist travelers in many different ways. During a busy four hour shift a Volunteer might have as many as 150 contacts, such as phone calls, people stopping by the booth, and making paging calls for people trying to locate each other. On a recent shift during the Christmas Holidays, I talked with people from a number of cities across the United States

including Portland, Chicago, Houston and others.

Volunteers are much appreciated by the Airlines serving OKC as well as the Airport Administration. Persons interested in Volunteering can call 232-5507 or talk with Lawrence Snell, an experienced Volunteer.

**GRIFFEN/SONNEVIK TOUR  
OF EUROPE 1995**  
by Bob Griffin

In early October Mabel and Milton Sonnevik and Dorothy and I met in Frankfort, Germany, to begin a three-week visit to Europe. We rented a practically new Opel for our pilgrimage.

Beginning with the Martin Luther Memorial at Worms, we drove to the Romantic Road and visited several ancient walled cities. Rothenberg and the castle at Heidelberg were outstanding. After a delicious dinner at the Eisenhut Hotel in Rothenberg, we saw the biggest wine keg in the world at Heidelberg. (The king who drank several gallons of wine a day died at age 38).

We spent the night in Munich, where Hitler gained much of his early following. At Du chau, we toured the concentration camp, where Jews and other Hitler opponents were incarcerated and thousands massacred.

At Neuschwanstein, we toured the famous magnificent castle built by Ludwig II. We spent the night and had a delicious meal at Zimmer (Bed and Breakfast) in nearby Schwangau.

On our way to Salzburg, Austria, the setting for the musical "Sound of Music," we passed through Innsbrook. Near Vienna, Austria, we toured the cathedral at Melk, the most beautiful and lavishly adorned of all the houses of worship we visited. At Vienna we toured the Plaza, the Schonbrunn Castle, and beautiful gardens.

Leaving the car at Venice, we took the water taxi on the grand canal to St. Mark's Plaza and our hotel. Our gondola ride through the side canals was a memorable experience.

We by-passed Rome and visited the "Leaning Tower of Pisa." It really leans 14.9 feet.

Hoping to attend Sunday services at Nazarene Bible College church, we headed for Switzerland. At Zermatt we viewed the Matterhorn, then took a car train through the mountain to Interlaken. From there we took the train to the top of Jungfrauoch. (Jungfrau is composed of the three tallest peaks in Europe). At the top we toured the ice cave carved out of the glacier. It was breathtaking.

In Bresengen, Germany, we enjoyed the Sunday morning service and a tour of ENBC grounds. Later, at nearby Schaffhausen, Switzerland, we viewed the famous Reine River Falls.

--To Be Continued--

**YOU'RE NOT TOO OLD**  
by Wini Howard

"So you've had your 75th birthday. Wow! Isn't it time to plunk yourself down in your Boston rocker and take it easy?"

That seems like a good question for me to consider. I've had quite a busy, full life. I grew up in a parsonage, then married a minister the summer after I graduated from college. He was already pastoring a small church. Life in the manse, with the arrival of first a daughter and then a son, went on for over 20 very busy years.

Then my husband changed careers and became a college professor. He encouraged me to finish my Masters' degree and teach too. This I did for several years. Now we are retired and we manage to keep quite busy. Keeping up with a home and participating in church activities leave me with not much of what I would call free time.

But would you believe that my husband (who decided to get a computer about two years ago for his writing projects) has talked me into working on the computer? At 75? Yes!

He has proved to be a very patient instructor. That alone has made this all possible. When I blow the little tin whistle hanging on my lamp, he comes! Not on the run quite, (he is 76 years old) but he leaves whatever he is doing in his office and comes to me.

At the this point I am often somewhat frustrated. Pooh Bah (my mouse) will not always come

when I "call" for him. I may not know what needs to be done next. But, hubby patiently untangles the problem.

I am not always pleased with my progress, but he continues to say that I am doing well. Word processing is all I'm doing so far, but he declares there is much more I can and should do.

This experience tells me that you are never too old to learn a new thing. It can bring added meaning to your life. What activity or hobby have you always wanted to engage in? Go ahead. You are not too old!

**CHUCKLES**  
by Art Barkley

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The person who claims the Old Fashioned winters were harder probably has a son who shovels the sidewalks for him.

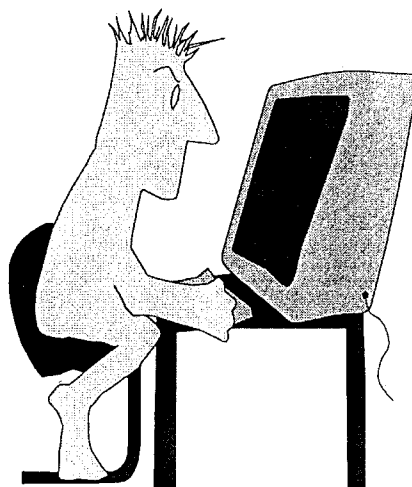
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Sometimes a man is so busy earning his salt that he forgets his sugar.

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Overheard at a party: "They are a perfect pair. He's a pill and she is a headache."

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Oh, No, Not Again!