

The Academy Perspective

"IT'S FRIDAY, BUT SUNDAY IS COMING!"

by Lyle Flinger

That familiar quotation by Tony Campolo is an exciting and graphic way of emphasizing once again that "God always has the last word."

Passing by the Cross on that fateful day were many skeptics who called out a premature "Aha" in derision. And, for the moment, it looked like they were right. But God was not through yet! His salvation plan was still in process.

Until we get to Sunday, the whole story of the Easter season is one of despair, defeat, betrayal, and death. For the disciples, it is a story of blasted hopes and ambitions and burning disappointment, coupled with dread and fear.

But Easter changed all that!

The short-range facts were all on the side of those who "passed by." Pilate was pleased with himself; he had handled the case safely. The Pharisees and Sadducees celebrated their relief that this troublemaker was at last eliminated.

But Easter changed all that!

If the final balance had to be taken at sunset, those who jeered would have been right. At the end of the day, Friday was "Bad Friday"--the worst Friday that had ever dawned. The returns are never all in by sunset.

God's acts can never be measured on a short-term basis. In your own life, if you will only wait for God's process to be completed before you make your judgment, you will find that He really had something wonderful in mind.

The return of Easter should be to the Christian life the call of a trumpet, stirring us to new awareness of the glory of this historic day of salvation and resurrection. It is the news of a great victory and a final triumph.

"It's Friday, but Sunday is coming!"

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. ANNA BELLE LAUGHBAUM

by Vada Lee Barkley

According to SOUTHERN LIGHTS, "in honor of her unequalled achievement," the Oklahoma City Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) has presented SNU with the DR. ANNA BELLE LAUGHBAUM/AAUW SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT.

The \$10,000 endowment will provide general scholarship assistance to an upper division female student with a minimum GPA of 3.0 with the first priority given to a returning adult student.

Anna Belle has served as Chairman of the OKC Branch Educational Foundation Program. Previously the AAUW honored her as "Woman of Achievement in International Relations" for her work at the Korean Nazarene Theological College.

We are honored to have such an outstanding lady as a member of the Academy.

A word of appreciation

--Vada Lee Barkley

Thank you for your calls, cards, and prayers during Art's illness. Thanks to Juanita Knippers for running errands when I couldn't. We're especially grateful to Elbert Overholt, Marvin Peterson, Lloyd Neighbors, and Grant Keeton for taking turns sitting with Art the last night of his hospital stay. Art said those professionals made quite an impression, coming in their leather jackets. I know they made quite an impression on us. They helped preserve Art's sanity and mine. I compared them to the four men who brought their paralytic friend to Jesus, even tore up the roof to get him into Christ's presence. For several years Art dressed up two or three afternoons a week to do hospi-

tal visitation for our church. Now in his time of need, friends came to his aid. Isn't that just like God's family?

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Professor Dick Howard's book BIBLE GEMS FOR BUSY PEOPLE has arrived. He will bring copies to the next Academy meeting. He can give us a special rate on them.

At the May meeting, Virjeane Bayles will arrange for our member book authors to talk about and display their books. That is, those of us who did not have the opportunity last spring.

NEW FISCAL YEAR

by Elbert Overholt

The start of the fiscal year for the Academy coincides with the annual meeting. This means that dues for the 1996-97 year are payable at our next meeting April 8. Please come prepared to pay your dues to Lloyd Neighbors or one of his committee members. If you are a new member and you paid your initiation fee since January 1, 1996, you are paid up for the new year. All others are \$10.00 per person. Thanks for your cooperation.

"The real purpose of books is to trap the mind into doing its own thinking." --C. Morley.

"There is always an easy solution to every human problem--neat, plausible, and wrong."--H. L. Mencken

"We have modified our environment so radically that we must now modify ourselves to exist in this new environment."--N. Wiener

**GRIFFIN/SONNEVIK TOUR
OF EUROPE --1995
(Part 2--Conclusion)
by Bob Griffin**

After leaving Switzerland, our next stop was Paris. We spent the night on the south side. We planned to take the subway downtown to the famous sites the next day. But that morning the subway was bombed. So we visited Versailles, the palace of Louis XIV and the place where the armistice ending WWI was signed.

From there we drove to Normandy, France, where we visited Du Mont Saint Michel. Though the Abby sits on a granite hill in the Atlantic Ocean, at low tide we could drive to it and visit the church and village. Then we drove to the Normandy Beaches, where some 10,000 American soldiers are buried.

Next we drove through the French countryside, through Luxembourg, to the Belgian border and back to Germany. By chance we came across the Cave City at Neown, France. Discovered in the 3rd century BC, the cave provided the villagers protection from conquering armies. The cave city was also used by the German and Allied High Commands during WWI and WWII.

We spent two of our final three nights at Prun, Germany, in a quaint little hotel with a great restaurant. From Prun we drove up to Cologne and visited the Cathedral and took a boat ride on the Rhine. The stained glass windows in the Cathedral are works of art.

Our final Sunday we drove back to Frankfurt and from there we flew back to the United States on October 23rd.

We had a wonderful trip with great traveling companions. We came home with a new appreciation of the culture from which many of our ancestors came.

**NO EASTER: NO HOPE
by Arthur E. Barkley**

As we Christians celebrate Easter, hundreds of false religions deny the deity of Jesus. It is a rare

year, in fact, that has not seen the birth of some "new" religion. Reproducing almost every system of philosophy which went to its grave centuries ago, modern cults, for the most part, are simply ancient heresies wearing a new dress. Spotlighting a few of these heresies reveals the utter hopelessness their followers endure.

Sun Myung Moon, a Korean, claims that, on Easter morning 1936, Jesus spoke to him in a vision. Jesus urged Moon to carry out the mission He was unable to complete. Jesus failed to marry and reproduce physical children and establish the perfect family. Moon, therefore, as the new Messiah and Father God, along with Mrs. Moon, as Mother God, produce the "perfect family." Thus, they are doing what Jesus failed to do.

Though thousands of youth are attracted to this warm family that meets many of their needs, they wake up too late. They soon learn that Moon demands total sacrifice, absolute obedience, and unquestioned devotion. They are forced to stay on the streets until they raise a specified quota of money--mostly through selling books and flowers. Yet their perverted sense of family keeps these devotees in line.

Since becoming a permanent resident of the United States in 1973, Moon and The Unification Church have amassed a financial empire. July 16, 1982, Moon was sentenced to 18 months in jail and a \$25,000 fine for income tax evasion. If this so-called "sole vehicle of salvation" is their only hope, surely Moonies are forlorn.

Transcendental Meditation, the teachings of Maharisha Mehesh Yogi, was developed and delivered some 5,000 years ago by the Hindu god, Krishna. Yogi declared 1975 the first year in the "Age of Enlightenment," 1977 the "Year of the Ideal Society," and 1978 the "Year of Invincibility to Every Nation."

TM has some 400 centers in the USA, with 7,000 teachers initiating new meditators at the rate of 30,000 a month. TM is Westernized Hinduism expressed in scientific terms, but with the strict discipline removed, and offered to Americans who are empty of spirit. It is taught in universities, high schools, and the US Army. On

drug trips victims learn to recognize many "gods" of the Hindu religion. Who would have believed 20 years ago that millions of people in our culture would be calling on Hindu deities to possess them, and doing it in the name of science, convinced that what they were practicing had nothing to do with religion? Pretending to meet the needs of young and old, TM leads to the blind alley of hopelessness without Christ.

The Way International was founded in 1958 by Victor Paul Weirwille. A former pastor of the Evangelical Reformed Church of Van Wert, Ohio, Weirwille believes that through the Way's ministry, God is revealing insights hidden since the days of St. Paul. He claims to have the only correct interpretation of the Word since the first century.

The Way meets in homes. It promotes its heresy through a video taped course POWER FOR ABUNDANT LIVING and monthly magazine "The Grapevine." It has a college in Emporia, Kansas, holdings in Farmington, New Mexico, and new headquarters in New Knoxville, Ohio. The Way received unwanted publicity, however, when sued for breach of promise. A paraplegic claimed he gave the organization \$201,000, two expensive automobiles, and other donations in exchange for the promise that he would be healed and walking within a year. When he wasn't healed, he sued. He won the case and got his money back.

Someone has said that the more authoritarian a cult leader is, the better he or she feels. If so, Paul Weirwille and his successor Craig Martindale need no physician. They seem to share Jim Bakker's view: "As long as stupid people are foolish enough to send it (money), I'll take it."

The Apostle Paul said: "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable (I Cor. 15:19). Thank God, for the hope the message of Easter brings to us who believe.

"If fifty million people say a foolish thing, it is still a foolish thing." - B. Russell.
