

The Academy Perspective

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Vada Lee Barkley, Editor

HAPPENSTANCE OR DIVINE INTERVENTION

by Vada Lee Barkley

No doubt you have experienced or witnessed mysterious events or premonitions that you consider divine intervention. Two such occasions made a lasting impression on me.

In the early 70's George and the late June (McArthur) Wood and Art and I were on our way to Falls City, Nebraska, for a weekend revival with Pastor Harold Durham. It started snowing on us at Oklahoma City. By the time we reached Perry, I-35 was a solid sheet of ice. We stopped for a break. We called Pastor Durham and he said the sun was shining there. We talked with travelers coming from the north. They assured us that roads had been cleared in Kansas. So we eased back onto I-35 heading north.

George and June were following us. I watched for them. Then I couldn't see them. About that time a southbound car skidded off the road, across the median, and into the northbound lanes. Miraculously it remained upright and soon returned to the southbound lanes and continued its journey.

We slowed down and soon saw George and June coming behind. When we stopped later, June was praising the Lord for His protection. Their windshield wipers had stopped, forcing them to slow down. George said, "What are we going to do?" Had those wipers not stopped, they would have been where the runaway car had landed in the northbound lanes. Soon the wipers began working normally.

Recently, lying in bed one night, I thought about our washing machine hose. What if one of them should break again? That had happened a few years ago. Maybe it was time to replace those hoses again? I asked the Lord to take care of that until some man came who could check.

When the man came to repair the plaster where Art kicked a hole

when he fell, I asked him to check those hoses. Sure enough, one was ready to burst.

I was reminded of what Pastor Gilliland used to say, "If it matters to us, it matters to Him."

March Meeting

Dr. Dick Moesel, from Moesel's Hort-Haven, will speak to us about gardening. Shirley Pelley has arranged for this program.

Thanks, Dawn

A Special thanks goes to Dawn Tullis for decorating our tables on special occasions again this year. Dawn works diligently to make all these pretty things for us to enjoy. I admire anyone with her creative talents and her willingness to use them for our pleasure. Thanks, Dawn.

At our March meeting we will distribute Activities Report forms for the President's annual report. Please complete and return them at the close of that meeting.

ASP ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 13, 1998

AGENDA

- I. Lunch
- II. Invocation
- III. Introduction of Guests
- IV. Business
 - A. Reports
 1. Treas.: G. Cargill
 2. Pres.: V. L. Barkley
 3. Nom. Com.: E. Overholt
 - B. Election of Officers: '98-'99
E. Overholt, Bd. of Tellers
- V. Program—talent arranged by Shirley Pelley

Art's Chuckles by Art Barkley

A person with money to burn can easily find a match

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*If money could talk, it would ask,  
"What happened?"*

## ASP TO JOIN WORLD WIDE WEB

World Wide Web addresses on the internet have become as commonplace as telephone numbers in advertising. Companies, such as Nike, have touted their presence on the web. Because of this emphasis, the focus of the March Research Interest Group (RIG) will begin establishing our presence on the Southern Nazarene University web page. On Monday, March 9th, 9:30 - 11:15 a.m., the group will meet in the new training lab in Herrick 229. Professor Susan Baker, Director of Academic Computing will facilitate the activities.

The lab is equipped with the latest computer equipment, including a scanner and 35 mm slide scanner. Be sure to bring any pictures that you'd like included on the ASP web pages. This will be a group venture, with some groups serving to organize information, and others actually creating the web pages. Academy members who do not wish to participate may observe or offer web page content suggestions.

We are excited about the opportunity to announce our presence and activities on the world wide web. This should prove to be an enlightening and enjoyable experience as we continue to discover new knowledge through computer technology.

## HELPFUL HINTS FOR HAPPY CHRISTIANS Brief glimpses into Philipians by Lyle Flinner

It is encouraging and inspiring to see how Paul so victoriously handled the circumstances of his life. But how about us? If Paul were here, he would say, "I'm glad you asked." For in this letter Paul piles up all kinds of suggestions, exhortations, instructions, and commands to instruct us how to learn

to be "content whatever the circumstances." (4:11)

He suggests that we begin our "journey" with the confidence and faith that "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion." (1:6) Every day you live, the God of creation is creating a new work in you! But this work of God in us is not passive but dynamic. As Paul writes in 2:12, "work out your salvation with fear and trembling." This suggests a serious, cooperative relationship. We have to work at it, too! So the process includes the grace of God, balanced with our own personal effort. Actually you have it entirely in your hands to determine your thoughts, your choice of action, and the ultimate influence of your life.

Our part in working with God involves concentrated attention in a number of different areas. Obviously, every effort we make must be to live in "a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ." (1:27) Only the very highest standards of personal behavior are worthy of the gospel. An ideal Christian must produce a clear reflection of Christ. Actually, Paul says that "your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus." (2:5) Here the accent falls on obedience. Jesus was obedient not only in the manner of His dying but also in the method of His living, and so should we.

Some of the "spin-offs" of assuming the attitude of Christ are outlined by Paul.

1. Put the interests of others first. Paul writes: "in humility, consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." (2:3-4) And in 4:21, he also warns: "For every one looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ." There used to be a popular saying in Gospel circles which read: "GOD FIRST, OTHERS SECOND, ME THIRD."

2. Live up to what you profess. "Let us live up to what we have already attained." (3:16) This certainly implies a consistency and perseverance. In fact, Paul supplemented this idea in 4:1 by writing "Stand firm in the Lord." We are to stand firm in the strength which Jesus gives, never yielding nor even flinching in the conflict. Never retreat! Never, never, never give

up! We can hold steady, and make it--victoriously.

3. Rejoice in the Lord always. The Christian joy is independent of all things on earth because the source of this joy is in the continual presence of Christ. Such joy must even be exercised in the midst of human suffering, for joy can have radiance without having exuberance. Paul is saying, "I know what I'm talking about. I've thought of everything possible than can happen, and still I say it--rejoice."

4. Do not be anxious about anything. (4:6) Anxiety and prayer are born enemies, as are anxiety and peace. Actually, we hinder both the peace of God and the God of Peace when we are overly anxious. Worry is really a vote of "no confidence" in our Heavenly Father. Paul is not speaking about positive anxiety, which implies care and concern, but he is warning about a panic response in the face of difficulty--a fear that diverts our attention from God to ourselves and our circumstances. Remember, there is nothing too great for God's power and nothing too small for His fatherly care.

In the light of the fact that we must work cooperatively with God to grow and develop as worthy Christians, how seriously do you take control of your life? What kind of work are you and God doing with you? Many plan their lives seriously, pray expectantly, open themselves to the leading of the Spirit, walk in all of their known light, and carefully choose and take advantage of every opportunity to fulfill their lives and thus their potential under God. Those look like worthy goals which would certainly meet with Paul's approval!

**INSPIRED FROM ABOVE  
OR A CRAZY DREAM**  
by Bill Porter

Awake in bed in the middle of the night, my mind began projecting thoughts across the underside of my eyelids about a Campground in Spain.

From our 42 missionary years, many things stand out. But two top the list as a source of great satisfaction--the two campgrounds we were able to see established--one in Puerto Rico (known as *Toro Negro*) and the other in Venezuela (names

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*Jiraquito*). Over the years, these campgrounds have been the place where thousands of young people have responded to the call to serve the Lord, seek His Spirit to fill them, make relationships that last a lifetime, and much more.

The fifty-five acre hilly coffee farm in Puerto Rico and the 200 acres of mountain terrain in Venezuela are now planted, not just with hundreds of tall tropical pines but also with dorms, bath houses, kitchens, dining halls and chapels.

Two years ago we served in Spain for fourteen months. While there, we rented a campsite in the mountains just outside Madrid. We were impressed to see how *camping* evangelism got the attention of our Spanish brethren.

We returned to Oklahoma and re-retirement. Over and over I pondered the need for a campground in Spain and wished someone would make it happen. About \$30,000 would buy land in those beautiful mountains outside Madrid. If the land were secured, we could ask Work and Witness groups to build the facilities, little by little.

Then one day, in one of my more reckless moments, I felt that Juanita and I should be brave and give it a try. From time to time we receive offerings when we hold Faith Promise Conventions. Those offerings were important to us, helping pay our bills. But we could stretch...

An account was set up in the World Mission office for a Campground Property in Spain. Churches would get 10% credit. We started sending in a few hundred dollars each month. We figured that at the rate we were going, if I lived to be 110, we'd reach the \$30,000 goal.

Then, God impressed several friends to send an offering for the project. Next, our good friend Duane Srader, South Europe Field Director, told us there is the possibility that a dedicated Nazarene friend would match what was raised, at least the first \$4,000. With that help, after only fifteen months, more than a third of the goal has been reached!

I know now that the campground in Spain will be a reality. In fact, I anticipate *putting the top on the project* before they *put the top on me!*