

The Academy Perspective

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Vada Lee Barkley, Editor

DISENGAGEMENT OR UPDATING PRIORITIES

by Vada Lee Barkley

For some seniors the process of disengagement ends with retirement. For others it begins with retirement. For me it was the latter.

As I approached age 62, I checked my retirement benefits. When I discovered I would be working for minimum wage if I didn't, I retired in May 1981.

To my utter dismay, two months later I faced colon cancer surgery. It threatened to banish me from the public arena. But that fall I was back in the classroom as an adjunct instructor. I taught part-time at Redlands Community College and/or SNU for three years. During that time I completed a correspondence course in writing non-fiction.

In 1984 I quit teaching to devote full time to writing SURVIVE AND THRIVE AFTER FIFTY-FIVE. Randall House Publications, of Nashville, Tennessee, published it in 1987. I spent a lot of time speaking to senior groups, promoting my book, and talking about retirement.

Then came an invitation to meet with a group of SNU alums who might be interested in organizing an Academy of Senior Professionals at SNU. The mention of senior housing grabbed my attention, so Art and I attended every meeting.

When we were ready for organization, Elbert invited me to come to his office to talk about it. I had no idea he would ask me to become president. But he did. And I accepted. He and I hammered out a set of Bylaws. In October 1990, Dr. Loren Gresham met with 22 of us and organized the Academy.

During the past 8 years I have presided over all 64 meetings of the Academy. I have edited the Perspective since December, 1991. I have presided over all regularly scheduled Ad Council meetings. I have attended every standing committee meeting. In addition, I have supervised the telephone brigade or, before their day, made hundreds of calls to verify reservations. I have written scores of letters to prospective and/or new members and others.

Because of you, all these activities have provided a satisfaction beyond words. I consider it the greatest honor you could have bestowed upon me to let me be your president for 8 years.

Next year you will have a new president. I urge you to support him or her with the love and cooperation you have shown me. We are in a position to move ahead to far greater achievements.

Does this mean disengagement for me? Absolutely not! I'm merely updating priorities. I plan to attend Academy meetings and to serve on the Ad Council next year. I need to devote more time and energy to coping with the aging process--my own and Art's.

But, as it has been from the beginning of my involvement with the Academy, my top priority will continue to be first-class affordable senior housing for all of us. Now's the time to put up or shut up. With the kind of support we're getting, it is certainly no time to shut up. So, in the words of the late Dr. Roy H. Cantrell, "We're making wonderful plans."

April 13 Meeting

This will be our annual meeting. We will have reports and election of officers. Annual dues (\$10) per person are due at this meeting. We will take in some new members as well.

Shirley Pelley is arranging for some entertainment.

RIG TO FINALIZE ACADEMY WEB PAGE

by Jack David Arnold

After an "enjoyable and fruitful" meeting on March 9 in the New Computer Training Lab (Herrick 229), members and guests of the Research Interest Group (RIG) are looking forward to this month's meeting with Prof. Susan Baker, Director of Academic Computing, to finalize the web page for the SNU Academy of Senior Professionals (ASP).

All Academy members and guests are welcome to participate in and/observe this exciting SNU/ASP/RIG web page process:

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 1998

9:30 - 11:15 A.M.

HERRICK 229 (NEW LAB)

HELPFUL HINTS FOR HAPPY CHRISTIANS

Brief glimpses into Philipians
by Lyle Finner

After four months, we conclude our "look" into the letter to the church at Philippi by summarizing Paul's discipling thoughts for growing and maturing Christians.

While Paul was certainly interested in the "doing," the major thrust of his practical ideas was in "being." Such an emphasis is particularly applicable to we who are now enjoying the "golden years." For most of our lives we have been so concentrated on "doing" that our very identity was tied to our jobs or vocations. With that focus of yesterday vastly fading, our new emphasis is on "being." This means a whole new concentration on developing the various areas of life such as the spiritual, physical, social, intellectual, etc.--areas which often suffered by our disease of "busyness" during earlier years. So our new freedom of time becomes a stewardship concern.

As the practical and formal theologian of the early Church, Paul sought to develop detained concepts as to how to gain, develop, and live the Christian life. The letter to the Philipians is a prime example of such exhortations and encouragements. Let's summarize these under three inclusive concepts.

1. FACE UP TO THE POSSIBILITY OF SUFFERING

Paul was not writing from an ivory tower; he was writing from a prison! Throughout his various letters he catalogs his trials and negative experiences and suggests that this is not abnormal. It is to be expected. So in 1:29 he writes, "it has been granted to you...also to suffer for Him." It goes with the territory. In a sense, you can't have one without the other!

2. MAINTAIN A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD LIFE

Paul maintained a firm faith in the sovereignty of God. He lived his life by a God-directed agenda. Whatever the situation or experience, he was confident that God was weaving it into His plan for his life. So he exhorts us to "Rejoice in the Lord always." (4:14)--"press on toward the goal" (3:14)--

(Continued on page 2)

present your requests with thanksgiving (4:6)--think about excellent and praiseworthy things (4:8). When we read Paul thoughtfully, we get rare glimpses into the exciting possibilities of the Christian life.

3. MAINTAIN A COVENANT PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD

Chapter 1:9-11 describes Paul's prayer for them (and us). In 1:27-30 he encourages believers to keep the faith. In 2:5 he exhorts them to have the same attitude as that of Christ. In 4:11 he instructs them to "stand firm" in the Lord.

The main thrust of these brief glimpses into Philippians is to find practical ways to "learn to be content, whatever the circumstances." (4:11) We have looked at how Paul did it and we have also studied his guidelines for how we can do it. And that is so important.

We must guard these, our "quiet years," as a period given to us by God in which to mature ourselves for the work which He will give us to do.

"Whether any particular day shall BRING to you more of happiness or suffering is largely beyond your power to determine. Whether each day of your life shall GIVE happiness or suffering rests with yourself." (George S. Merriam)

"WAIT! THE TOMB IS EMPTY!"

by Hoyle C. Thomas

Luke 24: 5-6. Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen."

Pharisees, Herodians, and demons were rejoicing that Christ was incarcerated in the tomb. However, Easter sunrise made a startling revelation--THE TOMB WAS EMPTY! God's angel rolled away the stone from the door of the sepulcher and sat upon it, giving assurance that it should remain open, and never again be closed.

It is appropriate that Jesus should rise while dark, for He was the Light of the world come to dispel the darkness. It is appropriate that Easter should be celebrated with song, for undoubtedly the same angels who sang at His birth, now sang from the tomb in Joseph's garden. It is appropriate that Easter should be celebrated with flowers, for He was the Rose of Sharon. As the flowers come forth to beautify the earth at this season of the year so the bodies of His saints that sleep shall come forth on the resurrection morn, clothed in immortality.

I. THE EMPTY TOMB TELLS US THAT CHRIST IS FOREVER CONQUEROR.

Alexander, Charlemagne, and Napoleon rode over continents and nations bowed at their feet. Jesus Christ charged the citadel of Satan, and made conquest of death, and robbed the grave of its victory forever. His

resurrection is the pillar and ground of the Christian's faith. "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept." Christ's victory over death is the inspiration of the Christian's hope. The grave is not a terminus, but a thoroughfare.

II. THE EMPTY TOMB BRINGS ANSWERS TO LIFE'S INSISTENT QUESTIONS.

It is our Comfort in Sorrow. When we have laid away our Christian dead we sorrow not as those who have no hope. "The dead in Christ shall rise first.....and so shall we ever be with the Lord." It is our pledge of immortality. Beyond the sunset is the sunrise. Beyond death is life. Beyond the grave is glory. Jesus said, "Fear not...I am He that liveth and was dead; and behold, I am alive forevermore." We are safe in Him.

III. THE EMPTY TOMB IS A GATEWAY TO GLORY.

How do we know that Jesus is alive? He was seen by the 3 Marys; Peter and John found the sepulcher empty; Cleopas and his friend walked with Him; the soldiers who stood guard testify to His resurrection; He was seen by ten disciples; He was seen by seven fishermen; the eleven saw Him on the mountain; and He was seen by five thousand at one time. His resurrection makes possible our new bodies. We shall break forth from the muddy ditch that men call the grave, and soar into realms of light to meet the descending Lord in the air.

There is the glory of undimmed vision. A man observed a ragged lad eyeing Christmas toys through a window. He purchased several and gave to him. The lad exclaimed, "I can feel them--and there's no glass in between." It is the gateway to the Lamb-lighted city of God. "And the city had no need of the sun, ... and the Lamb is the light thereof." It is the gateway to the glory of heavenly fellowship. One day the arch-angel will blow a mighty blast and Christ shall claim His bride. What glorious anticipation? Doesn't that assurance grip your soul? REJOICE, CHRISTIAN! THE TOMB IS EMPTY!

HAPPY HOSTELLING

by Elbert Overholt

An exciting, informative, enjoyable week in Savannah, Georgia was supplied by an Elderhostel sponsored by Armstrong Atlantic State University. Darlene and I attended these sessions during the week of March 1-7.

Although the entire program centered around the International Arts Festival, Savannah on Stage, there were three basic areas of learning and enjoyment.

Jaime Keena, Armstrong Professor, covered the History of American Music during the 18th, 19th, and 20th century. Interesting

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"items" in the early years included the development and use of shaped notes, John Newton's "Amazing Grace" and the life and music of Stephen Foster.

After the U.S. signed the international copyright law in 1891 many interesting and sometimes frustrating situations developed; such as, you can't legally use "Happy Birthday" as an organization without securing permission. Professor Keena took us through the Tin Pan Alley days and on to songs of World War I and II.

He had little to say about Rock and Roll and Elvis Presley. Sorry, but I still like to hear "Hound Dog"! Johnny Mercer's "Accentuate the Positive" and "Moon River" were favorites.

A second segment of the Elderhostel centered around guided tours to the Savannah Historic district and Savannah lowlands. We visited the Wormsloe Plantation, the country estate of Noble Jones, the early pioneer and horticulturist. After Mr. Jones build the first big house in this area many of the neighbors built houses of equal grandeur; hence, the origination of the phrase, "Keeping up with the Joneses."

Stuart Gordon, Artistic Director of the Festival, gave us a lecture on the history of "Savannah on Stage," the characteristics and requirements of the competition, and quality of the participants. We learned that Ernestine Dillard of Tulsa (She sang the National Anthem at the memorial service for the Murrah Building bombing.) was the first winner of the American Traditions Competition of the Savannah on State Festival.

We tried our own hand at judging the participants in the competition as we attended the quarter-finals and semi-finals. This competition was only a part of the week long series where Savannah's beautiful historic churches were used as venues for many musical performances. On Wednesday evening we were privileged to attend the Kuhlman Gala Opening Night Concert that featured Anthony Molinaro, pianist, and Albrecht Breuninger, violinist, with the Savannah Symphony Orchestra.

I've mentioned only a few of the many musical performances that were included at the festival. A similar festival is being planned for next year and Armstrong State, as well as Savannah State, plan Elderhostels during this time. You may request the domestic, international, and service Elderhostel catalogs by writing:

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