

The Academy Perspective

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Vada Lee Barkley, Editor

GOD IS A REFUGE

by

Ethel Dickerman

Psalms 16:8 reads "I have set the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken."

For sixty years I have set the Lord always before me. As a young teenager I made the choice to wholly follow the Lord and have sought his guidance at every crossroad of decision.

I have a delightful inheritance. God has made known to me the path of life and boundary lines have fallen in pleasant places.

Nevertheless there have been times of testing. Life hasn't always been easy. There were years of the Great Depression when the doors to suitable employment were closed--for four years.

Living in a parsonage for thirty-three years brought both blessing and disappointments. There were the saints and the saints in the making.

Guiding two children through high school, college, marriage, and vocations demanded wisdom and some sleepless nights.

Death has visited my family several times to claim my parents, siblings, a daughter, and my husband. There are some things worse than death but death and illness can test the roots of our being. Still I declare there are some things that cannot be shaken because God is at my right hand.

God hath made known to me the path of life. My prayer is "Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge."

Editor's note: The last of November Ethel will be moving to a lovely retirement center near four generations of her family in North Carolina. We will miss her, but we wish for her God's continued blessing and protection.

DRIVERS ED REFRESHER COURSE REPORT

Sandwiched between tests preceding open-heart surgery, our Plans and Programs committee chairman, Milton Sonnevik, made arrangements for a refresher course in Drivers Ed for seniors. In June fourteen of us--not all from the Academy--completed the course. Thanks, Milton, for a job well done.

LOOKING AHEAD

Our speaker for the November 16 luncheon will be Rev. Bill Porter. Bill and his wife Juanita, SNU alumni, spent forty-one years as missionaries in the Church of the Nazarene. They will retire officially the last of October. They are our newest members, and their participation has already begun.

A Christmas dinner and program featuring members of the Academy is scheduled for December 14. Jack and Josie Harris, co-chairpersons of the Social Functions group, have some interesting ideas for that occasion. Watch for details in the next Perspective.

SENIOR HOUSING UPDATE

The survey which Dr. Loren Gresham requested last spring was initiated soon after our annual meeting in April. On July 20, Professor Jeff Seyfert compiled his report, and I delivered a copy to Dr. Gresham's office that week.

The report is very encouraging. Some 92 names are on the prospect list. Several others want to be included but didn't sign their names. Requests for forms and completed forms are still coming in. With enough prospects to fill at least 100 units NOW, we're well on the way to having enough to justify building, and we have by no means exhausted our potential market.

Stay tuned, we'll keep you advised.

BOOK SALE

The Academy is sponsoring a book sale November 13-14 (Homecoming Week). This will be an excellent opportunity for some of our retired ministers--and others--to sell books at discount prices to active and prospective ministers. Announcements of the event will be sent to Northwest and Southwest Oklahoma Districts so pastors will be informed.

This sale can be beneficial to both retired and active ministers. If you have books to sell and want to participate, see Leon Jennings or Art Barkley. They will be in charge of assembling and distributing these books.

COMMUNICATIVE ARTS INTEREST GROUP

Under the leadership of Margaret Tulp, Communicative Arts fans will have an opportunity to participate in both on-campus and off-campus activities. Group attendance at musical, literary, and dramatic productions will be encouraged. (Academy members receive a discount at some on-campus performances). Who knows, we may plan our own program with our own talents some time. We have a wealth of talent among our members.

A glance at the SNU Calendar gives us some ideas:

Brass Choir--8 p.m. 12/3/92

Messiah--Choral Society--3 p.m. 12/13/92

The Canadian Brass--8 p.m. 2/1/93

Putnam City North Performing Arts Center

The Debussy Trio--8 p.m. 2/25/93

Speech Department--

One-Act Plays--8 p.m. 10/30-31

Three-Act Plays--8 p.m. 3/5-6/93

This list could go on.

Let Margaret know what creative arts activities appeal to you.

FORUMS AND LECTURES

Lyle Flinner has agreed to chair this group. In our two meetings with group leaders, Lyle has already suggested several ideas for Forums and Lectures. For example, he would like to schedule Dr. Leo Finkenbinder to talk about the environment. The Culture of India, with Paula and Bronell Greer as speakers, is a program in the works. Other topics will be explored as interest demands.

Your suggestions are welcome. If a program can not fit into our regular Academy meeting, another time is a possibility.

EXPANDING HORIZONS DIVISION

With the exception of regular meetings, most of our emphasis has centered on the University Campus Colleagues Division and the Community Service Division. That emphasis will continue.

As membership in the Academy increases, however, the desire for more activities in the Expanding Horizons Division becomes more apparent.

Laying the foundation for four interest groups in the division has kept a number of us busy this summer. As a result of meetings with leaders for these groups on June 22 and September 9, four new interest groups were activated. More details appear in the individual headings.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

As chairman of the continuing education interest group and as a new member of the Academy, Bob Troutman is open to suggestions for opportunities and activities. A few ideas we have discussed include the following:

Water Exercises

Writing Memoirs

Stress Management

Geneology

Photography (Camcorder Photography)

Campus Beautification--Landscaping and Gardening

Selected SNU courses are available to Academy members for a \$25 course fee. These special discounts apply for a maximum of two courses per semester on a space available basis.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

Two of our newest members, Jack and Josie Harris, are co-chairmen of the social functions interest group. Immediately after they accepted that assignment, Josie was on the phone making arrangements for a Christmas social the week of December 14. That's the kind of leader we need to promote her group's interests. A number of you who checked social functions as an interest on your application for membership will probably get a call for help from her.

MEMORIAL

On June 19, Paul Sodowsky passed away after a brief stay in the hospital.

Paul and Kathleen joined the Academy as charter members. But part-time work and family responsibilities prevented Paul from attending most of our meetings.

Paul--Milford as we knew him then--graduated from Bethany Peniel College with a Th.B. in '39 and with an A.B. in '40.

He and Kathleen spent a number of years in the pastorate; then moved to Kansas City, where Paul was an associate in the Office of Ministerial Benevolence, Nazarene International Headquarters until retirement.

Our sympathy goes to Kathleen and family in the loss of their loved one and our friend. He was a model Christian gentleman.