

The Academy Perspective

MY FIRST SEMESTER AT BPC by Vada Lee Barkley

January is not the only month for new beginnings. My most memorable turning point began in the months preceding the new year--my first semester at BPC.

My twice-widowed mother had reared five children on a 90-acre farm in north Arkansas. After the Great Depression scattered our family from coast to coast, I completed high school in 1938. Mother determined to help me--her only child at home--to get a Christian education.

At the close of Big Springs camp meeting near our home in 1938, Mother and I came to Bethany with Evangelist and Mrs. E.G. Theus.

I had worked during the summer on the NYA program. We had sold our last heifer for \$18, borrowed \$100, and packed our few belongings.

We rented a one-room apartment where the Multiplex now stands. Mother got enough work to pay our room and grocery bill. We worked for my tuition (\$20) cleaning woodwork and windows at Bresee Hall and McConnell Hall. Once Mother found \$2 at the post office; it was never claimed. The day before Thanksgiving a big basket of groceries appeared on our porch. Though our faith was tested, we managed to pay our expenses. We even saved enough to repay the \$100 we had borrowed.

We joined First Church. I joined the choir. We attended everything--church activities, college functions, and cottage prayer meetings. I got to play the piano for these precious old saints and benefit from their prayers. Mother and I thought we were next door to heaven--and nothing ever changed our minds.

Lawrence Snell's parents attended cottage prayer meetings. They invited us to share Thanksgiv-

ing dinner with their family. They had four teenagers and a piano. What a delightful time we had! Mrs. Snell invited me to come over and play the piano any time. I hope I didn't wear out my welcome.

In those days Christmas meant Handel's Messiah. Under the direction of Dr. Chester Crill, I joined in singing that marvelous cantata. What a thrill for an Arkansas hillbilly to sing The Hallelujah Chorus for the first time!

Mother went to heaven from Bethany. I expect to do the same. And when I get there, I can sing with gusto: "Jesus Led Me All the Way"--yes, right to BPC.

LOOKING AHEAD

Our next meeting will be January 15 at 11:45 a.m. Colleen Cornwell, representative of our Travels interest group, is responsible for the program. Bob and Wilma-Troutman will take us on an inspiring, educational, and exciting adventure to South Africa. You will not want to miss this armchair safari.

Anna Belle Laughbaum, representing our Continuing Education interest group, has arranged for Virjeane Bayles to give a Book Review for our February meeting. The title of the book is LINCOLN'S MOTHERS.

MAURINE DICKERSON TO TRINIDAD

At our January meeting last year, Maurine Dickerson gave us an overview of her adventures in retirement. She is now headed back to Trinidad, where she will spend three months cataloging books and doing whatever else she needs to do. I'm sure she will appreciate our prayers.

ADULT DRIVER EDUCATION COURSE

Marvin Peterson has consented to arrange for a 55 Alive driver training course if enough of us are interested. Many insurance companies give 5% or 10% discounts on automobile insurance rates for those who take this course. It must be repeated every three years to qualify for continued discounts. The course requires most of 2 days. It consists of films and discussion. It costs approximately \$8 per student. See Marvin if you are interested. He has a sign-up sheet.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS--THANKS

Thanks for your gracious Christmas gift of \$50. I bought a cordless phone. Now I can call you from my office, and I don't need to run all over the house to answer calls. Frankly, I have worn out one phone--at least the #8 has fallen out. So I had to make all calls with a #8 from the kitchen phone. You can't imagine how many calls I make with #8 in them. At any rate, I'm enjoying the new phone. It will be especially welcome close to meeting times.

You're a great group to work with! (Vada Lee).

To the members of the Academy: My one word response to the Christmas gift did not fully express my appreciation to all of you for your support of the Academy and of me personally during these last few months. You have been great and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. (Elbert).

ART'S CHUCKLES

Do you know why Santa Claus came last Christmas with only seven reindeer? Comet stayed home and cleaned the kitchen sink.

WORLD-WIDE MISSIONS TRIP
By: Milton Sonnevik

For more than 25 years I have been involved with an interdenominational mission organization founded about 45 years ago by Dr. Basil Miller. Many of you knew Dr. Basis Miller as an educator, pastor, preacher, author and Nazarene elder. He founded and directed World-Wide Missions until his death in 1978. It has been my privilege and responsibility to work with that organization as a board member, and for the last few years as chairman and president of World-Wide Missions. Dr. Miller's dream was to support, educate, assist, and develop national Christian leaders. The mission was not a sending organization, as such, but sought out strong Christians in their own countries to preach and teach the Gospel to their own people.

From time to time it becomes necessary to visit the various areas where World-Wide Missions has national workers. During 1995 I completed two such ministry trips, a four nation tour of Africa and a tour to Hong Kong, China, Macao and Taiwan.

The African tour involved Kenya, Cameroon, Ivory Coast and Liberia. In each one of these countries World-Wide Missions supports and gives leadership to schools, churches and a variety of mission endeavors. The work in Liberia has been very difficult due to the six year civil war. My visit to Liberia was not without its dangers, but the Lord granted safety. It was my high honor to have a 45 minute conference with the acting president of Liberia, Chairman of the Council of State, Professor David Kpomaphoh. At the end of our conference he graciously requested we have prayer together and indicated to us that the solution to Liberia's problems was only found in a return to God.

In November the Mission requested I check on some of our contacts in Hong Kong, Macau, China and Taiwan and participate with them in their 20th anniversary celebration of a church I assisted in dedicating 20 years ago. In the past the Mission also supported the leper clinic in the area. What is so

rewarding is that the whole project is now self-supporting. On this same trip I was also invited to participate in taking over 200 bibles across the Chinese border, which in itself was quite an experience getting by the Chinese border guards.

We thank the Lord for safe travels and wish each one of you a happy and productive New Year.

BOOK REVIEW
by Wini Howard

The title of this book is *Taken on Trust* by Terry Waite. This has been an exciting read. Terry was and may still be a lay-worker for the Anglican Church. So, of course, he is British. He traveled literally all over the world for his church, setting up programs and overseeing many activities of church leaders. He even planned trips and often accompanied the Archbishop of the Anglican Church. He led a very busy, interesting life.

It was understandable that the church would be concerned about the hostages that were being taken. He was instrumental in freeing hostages in both Iran and Libya. Then he went to Lebanon to hopefully free several hostages including the American, Terry Anderson. That was when he was captured and kept in solitary confinement for about four years. His account of those years, interspersed with his memories of his past life, are very interesting and challenging. What would I do if I had to live like he did for a long period of time? This becomes as you read, a very soul-searching book.

(Available in Bethany Public Library.)

MORE CHUCKLES

Anyone who is plugged into current affairs is bound to be shocked.

A woman should try to make her husband feel he is boss of the home, even if he's just chairman of the fund-raising committee.

There are no hard-and-fast rules for getting ahead in the world -- just hard ones.

The hardest thing about skating is the ice.