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BORN AGAIN: THE FUNDAMENTALIST CHALLENGE  
TO THE LUTHERAN WITNESS

RECEIVED  
APR 5 1979  
LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY AT PHILADELPHIA

In the last convocation of this academic year, Dr. Eric W. Gritsch presented a seminar focusing on the "born again" movement. His two areas of concentration were 1) fundamentalism, as a religion of the mind, and 2) the charismatic movement, as a religion of the heart.

Dr. Gritsch, in his first unit, discussed the origins and claims of the two movements. He emphasized the "biblical inerrancy" and "verbal inspiration" which is characteristic of the fundamental movement. The charismatic movement is chiefly concerned with the Holy Spirit and its gifts. The emphasis here is on the conversion experience. He showed basic areas of convergence, i.e., the Neo-Pentecostals of the 1960's, which led to his concluding thesis that both "movements are 'anti-movements' against cultural and scientific developments of the modern world linked with Americanism."

The normative Lutheran stance was the topic for Dr. Gritsch's second presentation. Historically, the Word of God is revealed both in creation and redemption - law and gospel. But it is only the gospel which reveals the "real work of God." The law reveals sin, whereas the gospel reveals the unconditional love of God for his creatures, agape. This is how God decided to reveal himself, in Jesus of Nazareth he decided to show us what it means to be born and to die. God is known by the relationship established in his Word. Dr. Gritsch went on to point out that the Holy Spirit is bound to the word and sacrament. Therefore the Spirit is not floating around waiting to grab some unsuspecting person, but it confronts us in the means which God has set up for us - word and sacrament. Thus, the Spirit always leads to service for the neighbor, and thereby service to God. The Lutheran stance asserts that life is nourished by the sacraments and warns against any kind of self-centeredness. Dr. Gritsch concluded that if Lutherans can agree on this major stipulation, then the arena is open for further dialogue.

In his concluding unit, Dr. Gritsch presented two case studies, the "born again" passage of John 3:3-8 and the "gifts" (charismata) of the Spirit in I Corinthians 12. In his presentation, Dr. Gritsch pointed out that being "born again" is the final push away from self-centeredness. Our "rebirth" is exhibited in our service to our neighbors. The "gifts" that are provided must not be understood individualistically. "The life of the Spirit is to be discerned in service of the body of Christ."

In conclusion, I have to say that Dr. Gritsch made his point about the seriousness of the "born again" movement. Wherever anyone claims to have the gospel, we as Lutherans, and more importantly as Christians, must face the possibility that we can cooperate, and serve the one Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. All gifts are ultimately linked up with Christ.

Peter Breitsch

## Random Notes from the Dean

My thoughts are not random this week. They are quite focussed. I find them a mixture of anger, frustration and despair. How often have students spoken to me about how parochial we are, how closed in, how unconcerned about either the community around us or other religious denominations. And yet a large number of these very students were conspicuous by their absence this past week at the excellent programs which were part of the "Black Expressions of the Gospel" week. Our seminary Black Concerns Committee, under the leadership of Mike Cobbler, did a fine job of preparing a broad spectrum of presentations. Yet many of our community were "too busy" to find time to take part.

Thanks to Mike and the Committee, thanks to the members of our Philadelphia Community who came to dialogue with us, thanks to those from other denominations who came to share themselves, and thanks to those faculty and students who did come to the various events and took part.

### Additional Library Hours

I have learned through the Worship and Community Life group that additional library hours, especially later in the evening and weekends, are a concern to some students, and these students have raised the issue in the First Professional Degree Committee. Please allow me three comments directed to the issue: my statement of the basic need, a statement on current practice, and options for the immediate future.

As reported to me, the issue is not so much access to library materials as it is a need for a quiet place for study. In this light the extension of library hours may be the easy but inappropriate solution.

Currently library staffing is available only until 10 p.m. five nights weekly. The only official weekend hours are 7-10 p.m. Sundays. Volunteers are enlisted for building security to open the library weekends for study and access to materials but not for circulation or reference services. Volunteer staffing is arranged by the student representative on the library committee, who this year is Debbie McConomy. She reports hours covered and the person responsible to the library staff. The hours are then posted on the easel by the door and on the outside of the library main door. It is our hope to post hours by 5 p.m. Thursday. End of term pressures usually increase volunteers and hours.

Regulations have been relaxed so that most library resources can be checked out overnight including bound periodicals, reference works, and reserve volumes. Thereby students are not separated from their access to resources at closing time.

As has been the practice in recent years, I would like presented to me a petition indicating the particular need (e.g., hours until 11 p.m. or access to commentaries, or Sunday 6 a.m. hours for a last crack before preaching, or whatever), the people experiencing the need (preferably names but total actual numbers in any category will be accepted), and options for a solution (e.g., persons volunteering for necessary orientation and willing to be responsible for the building and its contents). With such data in hand we will work to meet the needs.

Certain hours available in the past have been curtailed because there was insufficient need as demonstrated by the number of persons using the facility. This included regular Saturday staffing and opening through the 5-7 p.m. slot. In no way does this prejudice the present need, but is a reminder that at times the noise created for a service is not commensurate with the actual need. Our attempt is to meet as many needs as possible responsibly.

Dave Wartluft

## RUNNING

### Preliminaries

General- There is actually debate now over whether running is beneficial or harmful to one's health. There is a handful of doctors who argue that even healthy people should not subject their systems to anything more strenuous than a brisk walk. Of course there are also a few scientists who would like us to believe that smoking is good ventilation for the lungs. In all seriousness, the overwhelming evidence is that running is good for a person's physical and mental well-being. It strengthens the heart, lungs, and circulatory system and helps keep the muscles in tone. There is also increasing evidence of late that running combats depression and other mental afflictions. This is plausible and those people who know me will attest to the fact that I am never in anything but a lighthearted and happy-go-lucky mood. Moving on, it should be noted that persons of advanced years should begin a running program in consultation with a physician. Also, if you exercise your jawbone as much as the Brothers Bob, you have no need to run.

Shoes- If you decide to run regularly it is worth picking up a pair of genuine track shoes. About 90% of all leg, knee, and ankle trouble which plagues runners can be traced to the foot, and a goodly number of these problems, like the "tender knee" and shin splints, can be blamed on improper foot gear. The cushioning and fit of track shoes are designed especially for running. There is a large number of track shoes on the market these days ranging from about \$15 upwards. Do not be deluded into the assumption that the fancier and more outlandish a shoe appears the better it is. The best shoe on the market is the Adidas Runner at \$45 and it is quite unassuming looking. Don't be bashful when buying a running shoe; be ready to try on a number of models and to trot around in the store with them. In the final analysis buy the shoe which you find most comfortable within your price-range.

Attire- Certainly one can wear almost anything when running but in the warmer months of the year most people find that shorts and some sort of tee shirt are appropriate. Proper color coordination does not make you go faster and does give some people the impression that your main interests lie in something else than serious exertion. Tattered, grungy looking tee shirts are often regarded as a sign of the veteran.

Places to run- The founders of the seminary had the foresight to locate the institution in the proximity of two good running places. One is the track at the Chestnut Hill Academy and the other is Valley Green in Fairmount Park. The track is good for beginners, inasmuch as it is flat. It is also convenient for measuring how far you are running: 4 times around is a mile. Unfortunately, running around in circles is a deadly bore. The park provides varied landscape and terrain. Another advantage is that the running surface is softer and thus easier on the bones and muscles.

### Getting On With It

Beginners should begin slowly. When I started running in my youth, I thought that a mile was going to kill me. Don't overdue it; just run as far and as fast as is reasonably free of pain. There is nothing ignoble about interspersing running and walking. If after several weeks of acclimating yourself to the whole business you want to begin to push yourself, then you will have plenty of opportunity to make an intimate acquaintance with pain. There are two mythical distances in

running -- the mile and the marathon. If you can run under 8 or 9 minutes for the mile then you are in better shape than 99% of the population. (Add a minute or two if you are a woman.) If you can break 6 minutes you are in splendid shape. If you can break 5, then you are in the elite. The world record is a little under 3:50. Marathons should not be attempted by beginning runners. A marathon is around 26 miles and if you are not in superb shape you will not make it. Even if you are, do not schedule a marathon for a day when you have any important social engagements planned for the evening since it is not uncommon to be ill for a prolonged period of time after running one.

### Hazards

Dogs- Dogs enjoy harrassing runners; they recognize that they are not automobiles and cannot run them over and know that most runners simply do not have the energy for serious retaliation. For a runner to have a dog chasing him up the street, lunging, barking, jumping, is a profound source of annoyance. Yet it should be emphasized that it is a very rare dog who actually wants to bite a runner. Most dogs are interested in scaring you and chasing you away from their property but not in actually hurting you. I have run about 19,000 miles in my life and have yet to be bitten by a dog. There are several ways of dealing with particularly aggressive dogs. Surprisingly, an authoritatively delivered rebuke will often stop them dead in their tracks. If a dog looks like he might chase you, lavish him with praise (good dog, nice puppy) as you pass by. If this fails to appease him, admonish sternly (No! Bad dog!). If this fails, you have several options. You can try to run faster but this seldom works since the usual result is that the dog runs faster and one law of nature is that dogs are faster than humans. Another option is to throw a stone in his direction, without, of course, trying to hit him. By all means don't kick. First, the dog may bite your foot. Second, if you miss, as a friend of mine once did, you are apte to lose your balance and land on your posterior, a most painful experience. If the dog is unusually persistent, and you are willing to look foolish, the last resort is as follows: stop suddenly, turn around and run at top speed toward the canine, all the while flailing your arms and shouting wildly at the top of your lungs. Most dogs will flee. The disadvantages of this method are two. If the dog does not flee he will probably attack. Second, if you are in a residential neighborhood someone may call the police.

Cars- Fortunately, the days are for the most part gone when drivers enjoyed seeing how close they could come to you without quite hitting you. Nonetheless, the ramifications of being run into by a careless driver are so unpleasant it is wise to be cautious. Also, do not be too surprised if an occasional beer can comes your way via the window of a passing car. Many non-runners resent runners and most drivers of cars are non-runners.

Books on Running- The past several years have witnessed the publication of numerous pretentious books on running with such portentous titles as Running and Being. These books offer up incomprehensible amalgams of running, philosophy, and religion and talk about running in terms of "the Ultimate Transcendent Event" and the "Recapitulation to Cosmic Origins." It is all a bunch of baloney so far as I am concerned. For good practical advise and information read James Fixx. Try to ignore all the faddishness which has surrounded running during the last several years. Happy hoofing!

Galen Tinder

Brothers Bob

For many of the people here at the seminary, the ministry was not their first choice of a profession. But because of the tight job market in other fields, the choice has been made for this profession. It is interesting to note what the first-choice professions of certain people were: Pete Amerman-professional wrestler; Peter Breitsch-sheik of Arabia; Linda Wagner-basketball player; Dave Pasterello-house painter; Chris Nelson-maitre d' ; Curt Wolff-race car driver; Ray Bost-plantation owner; Keith Hardy-mad scientist; Ruth Snyder-Tennis pro; Pat Wirick-millionaire; Phil Gustafson-singer; Bob Ashburn-professional hit man; John Burkhart-writer; Tom Irwin-beatnik; Connie Grogan-circus clown; Rich Sauer-undertaker; Bob Stott-retired executive; Ed Perry-one of the Brothers Bob; Ruth Hankins-naturalist; Cheryl Meinschein-tree surgeon; Ray Ormond-vice squad policeman; Gerry Sanders-turkey farmer; Steve Shanaman-chief of police of NYC; Bruce Ewen-professional model; Bobb Bolz-bum; Kevin Ogilvie-sculptor; Catherine Ziel-concert kazooist; Mark Livermore-Roman Catholic priest; Tim Lull-pope; Foster McCurley-lobster fisherman; Faith Burgess-genetic engineer; Margie Weiss-sex symbol; Bruce Trethway-professional dancer; Ann Larson-housewife; Galen Tinder-dirty old man; Scott Larson-Pixley Times editor; Tom Walters-organist; Fred McElderry-hockey goalie. Do you know of any others?

Quote of the week: Asha George to Stan Steele, "I'm gonna sleep in your bed tonight!" We're not even going to ask! Amen.

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HOUSE SITTING OPPORTUNITY

BRIGHT, AIRY STONE FARMHOUSE IN WEST MT. AIRY; 4 BLOCKS FROM SEMINARY, 1/2 BLOCK FROM ALLEN'S LANE TRAIN STATION.

OWNERS SEEKING RESPONSIBLE PERSON TO LIVE IN, CARE FOR DOG AND GARDEN. IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CALL CH-8-0986 EVENINGS.

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Treasurer's Report April 1, 1979		
Balance 3/1/79	\$460.36-Savings	
	178.49-checking	
Beginning Balance	638.85-Total	\$638.85
Expenditures-		
Athletics	\$000.00	
Contingency	000.00	
Publications	000.00	
Sherry Hour	000.00	
Social Activities	12.56	
Social Ministry	000.00	
Student Administration	6.00	
Union 7301	1.68	
Total	20.24	\$20.24
Income-Dues	\$855.00	
Social Activities	42.10	
Total	898.10	\$898.10
Ending Balance		\$1516.71
Balance April 1, 1979	\$1358.45-Savings	
	158.25-Checking	
	1516.71-Total	

Submitted By Gerry Sanders, Treasurer

## Poet's Corner

in the silence so deep and deafening  
death's dark veiled shadow  
illumines the cross  
my spirit is touched is oppressed is shaken  
on a trembling precipice  
the borderline of life  
one solitary candle whispers  
of the passion of our Lord  
earthly anguish  
human grief  
they are but heaven bound  
awaiting alleluias  
on the joyous easter morn.

beth johnson

## Chaplain's Corner

With the arrival of Holy Week, one of the most significant times of the year for Christians is upon us. Let's take the opportunities we have to worship as a community during the period prior to and immediately following Easter.

There has been a change in the plans announced for Monday of Holy Week. Compline will now be held at 10pm led by Pastor Dufresne's small group.

A special Holy Week Communion Service will be held on Tuesday April 10th at 9:40 am. Pastor Dufresne will preach and celebrate. (The Seminary photo will be taken after the service, so please proceed from the Chapel to the library steps for that purpose).

LBW Responsive Prayer 2 will be held at 9:40 am on Wednesday the 11th. (an appropriate service to send us on our vacationing way!)

Returning to Seminary after the Easter break, we will have a joyous celebration of Holy Communion on Tuesday April 17th when Dr. Swanson will be the preacher and celebrant.

Arlene Stofflet will preach at 9:40am on Thursday April 19th when we remember Olavus Petri (priest) and Laurentius Petri (Archbishop of Uppsala), renewers of the church.

Remember to spare a thought for Anselm, the theologian on April 21st, the day of his commemoration in our calendar.

And--- a final word of thanks to all who completed the worship preference survey. The first 31 responses were collated and discussed in a preliminary way at the recent Worship and Community Life Committee meeting. More responses have since come in. The final collation of results will be discussed by the Worship and Community Life Committee in April. We will let you know what plans will be made for the 1979-80 chapel services.

Margaret Krych

Credits: Editors: Peter Breitsch and Ruth Hankins, Production Manager-  
Asha George, Typists: Devie Rippel, Galen Tinder, Peter Breitsch and Ruth  
Hankins, Collators from March 28th: Bob Asburn, John Hazel, Tom Walters,  
Sarah Brown. Thank you all.

## the JOHANNINE LITERATURE

Loose ends: I owe my loyal and faithful readership (one is loyal, the other mom) an apology for missing last week. There was an unseasonal storm which passed over Patmos, and lines of communication were knocked out. We have restored order without asking Grinnin' Jimmy to declare us a disaster area.

I would like to know what the word "nice" really means! I have heard it used in varying contexts, mostly by little old ladies who are reluctant to curse, or when one is being too polite to say what one really feels, which would nonetheless be perjorative. "That's not nice" is heard often by miscreant children of all ages, usually from a character associated with the demeanor and authority of a "mother." But what then does it mean to be nice to someone? "Pleasant" springs to mind, but "nice" has more of a sterile meaning, as in "Have a nice day." Without elaborating on a dismal topic, I will leave it up to the reader to discern for his-or-herself what our language means when it includes the nebulous, euphemistic, sneaky adjective, "nice!"

At the age of twelve, I decided to become a minister. It was basically in response to meeting my first atheist, and I gave the usual ill-founded catechetical defense which he tore apart. Nonetheless I persisted in wanting the noble profession as a career, until closer scrutiny of parish and institutional practices steered me toward teaching. But I still hear from the die-hards that think I will eventually switch to M.Div. "You'll make a good minister," which is balderdash. There is an underlying assumption that any male MAR will eventually switch, as a course of nature, rather than become a DCE or counsellor. Well, I am tired of such sex discrimination. I have nothing at all against the ministry; I have more respect for it than may be apparent. But the word "to minister" means to "serve" (unless I haven't been paying attention); and service need not be limited to the roles outlined in ordination.

Allow me to close with this little verse:

We needn't at all times be "nice"  
When we're not, we pay the price;  
As we know from heaven above,  
There are funny ways of showing love.

Auf Wiederschreiben,

Johann

### BONHOEFFER

On April 9th the Lutheran Church commemorates Dietrich Bonhoeffer, teacher, theologian, martyr, Lutheran pastor. Bonhoeffer may be the most significant figure in 20th century Christianity. He was a profound thinker. He moved beyond Barth and Bultmann and defined in a new and radical way the Christian's relationship to God. He found new ways of affirming the Christian's secular, worldly existence as the arena in which the Christian lives in faithful and creative obedience to Jesus Christ. But Bonhoeffer was far more than a thinker. He was a man of activity. He lived what he wrote and he wrote out of what he lived. He fought the Nazis -- their corrupt theology, their militarism, their anti-Semitism. On 5 April 1943 Bonhoeffer was arrested for his possible role in an attempt on Hitler's life. He spent two years in prison during which time he wrote his Letters and Papers From Prison. On 9 April 1945 he was hung.

Galen Tinder

RESPECTABLE HOBBIT REFUSES EXISTANCE OF  
GNOMES ON LTSP CAMPUS!

While raking in front of 7304 Boyer Street on campus last Wednesday, I saw out of the corner of my eye, a peculiar light. A full grown human only four feet tall! I stopped him, much to his surprise and asked him where he lived. He pointed to the house and said, "In a hole up there." I walked up the slight hill with him and much to my amazement there was a door very near the ground. He opened it and I went inside. It was not a nasty, dirty, wet hole, filled with the ends of worms, etc., it was a hobbit-hole, and that means comfort. I was so thrilled to finally get to talk to a hobbit in person, that we talked for hours about all kinds of things and finally to the subject of gnomes. A tear came to his eye when I first mentioned the gnomes and he told me briefly what had happened. "There had once been a great colony of gnomes here on the hill, but about two hundred years ago, there was a great battle between the gnomes and hobbits and the goblins and theologians. Unfortunately, the gnomes were wiped out, as well as the nasty goblins who were double-crossed by the theologians, and a few hobbits still survive trying very hard to avoid you humans. As the theologians were building the great buildings on the hill, we hobbits worked at night to build a tribute to our friends the great gnomes of Mount Airy which the theologians do not realize to this day what it really is. We built the Tomb of the Un-gnome Soldier right under their noses. It is the round colume with the time dial on it in front of the great book-room. We sorely miss those little people!"

I left William of the Tooks to his sorrow and thanked him for the information and told him how sorry I was to finally learn the fate of the gnomes of Mt. Airy. He invited me back for tea someday soon, but not to expect anything more adventurous than that.

Frank Anderson

A WEEKEND OF NUMBERS

- ONE One Bertha Parks to spur one Martin Luther King, Jr. to action and martyrdom;
- TWO Two hundred thousand people in Central Pennsylvania awaiting word of possible evacuation;
- THREE Three Mile Island in the middle of the Susquehanna River becomes the center of the universe;
- FOUR Four corners of the world gather with geiger counters, TV cameras and news reporters in Middletown;
- FIVE Five people in my family strengthening our bonds in the midst of possible crisis;
- FOUR Four empty thrones in Narnia awaiting the arrival of Sons of Adam and Daughters of Eve;
- THREE Three cooling towers with the innocent appearance of ice cream cones and the potential of death;
- TWO Two conflicting reports emanating from the federal government and Metropolitan Edison;
- ONE One frightened public; one hydrogen bubble; one Aslan in Narnia; one Jesus Christ of Nazareth!

Wanda K. Snyder



ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON THE FIRST EPISTLE  
OF TIMOTHY-TO THE PHILADELPHIANS

1. The writer apparently is comparing coffee hour with the community's weekly celebration of the Eucharist and with other such celebrations in which various members of the community participate on the Sabbath day. The obvious scriptural reference is to 1 Cor. 11 with its long discussion of eating and drinking to proclaim Christ's death.

A second event from which the writer might have distinguished coffee hour is the eating and drinking for which the brothers and sisters gather each Wednesday at the eleventh hour, just before the evening meal. This, too, has been an occasion of much conversation and consolation, and I rejoice that coffee hour expands this opportunity.

2. Thursday is clearly the day on which this gathering occurs. The practical reasons for this choice are clear. More of the members of the community are present than on Monday or Friday, and it avoids conflict with the longer liturgical celebrations held at the fourth hour on Tuesday and the frequent academic gatherings which occur on Wednesday. There seems to be less theological basis for the decision. The only scriptural citation I can find is 2 Chron. 20: 26: "On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Beracah, for there they blessed the Lord." With this precedent in mind, it would certainly seem appropriate that we too assemble on the fourth day of each week to bless the Lord (and perhaps say a kind word for the worship and Community Life Committee).
3. While there is no doubt that I personally like donuts (particularly Chocolate Honey Dip and Dutch Apple), it is virtually impossible to deduce the writer's feeling on the subject. It is also difficult to determine whether there is any theological significance to his choice or "donut" over "doughnut."

The question of who should purchase the donuts and prepare the room is an important one, since it is not right that anyone should give up preaching the Word of God to serve donuts. Nevertheless, the value of this gathering may be such as to justify a teleological suspension of the ethical. Viewed in this way, it would not be unfair to ask the group leading worship that week to also prepare coffee hour.

4. Perhaps we should approach this question by recalling the words of Richard Lovelace:

Stone walls do not a prison make,  
Nor iron bars a cage;  
Minds innocent and quiet take  
That for an hermitage.

While it would be no small task to find an innocent mind in this community, I think we can all agree that coffee hour provides an hermitage of a sort in the midst of madness. Perhaps holding it in Hagan Prison also gives us an opportunity to affirm our unity with the prisoners who have gone before us: Joseph, Jeremiah, John the Baptist, Peter, Paul, those who live out their lives in North Dakota. Besides, there aren't any mail boxes in the refectory.

Catherine  
(of New Jersey, not of  
Alexandria or Sienna)

FATHER JOHN'S CONFESSIONS  
(and traveling road show)

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

- Gone With The Wind - life with a toddler
- Ben Hur - A father, disappointed at the sex of his offspring names his daughter Ben.
- Run Silent, Run Deep - The stirring saga of 211 items flushed down the toilet by a two year old.
- Close Encounters of the Third Kind - (We are not alone) - any parent could have told you that.
- One Flew Over the Cuckoos Nest - Three preschool children and their father spend a rainy afternoon inside.
- Oh God! - A documentary on two year olds.
- Star Wars - A father's struggle to pay for the space toys his kids got for Christmas.
- Heaven Can Wait - One determined parent's struggle to toilet train his son.
- The Clutching Hand - A father meets his daughter's first date,
- The China Syndrome - An enterprising mother uses paper plates to avoid any accidents.
- Fastbreak - A young boy is told it's time to have his hair washed.
- Dracula - A father meets his daughter's new boyfriend.
- Saturday Night Fever - Parents with reservations prepare to leave the kids with a sitter.
- Hair - A young man's vigil for his beard.
- I Remember Mama - A mother tells her kids "don't forget."
- Ever Which Way but Loose - A mother takes her toddler to the home of a friend who says, "There's nothing he can reach that he can't have."
- The Bride of Frankenstein - A father meets his daughter's husband-to-be.

"Father" John

Editors Note:

There will be no newspaper next week. The next issue will be printed on April 19, 1979. We wish you all a Blessed and Happy Easter.

THE SEMINARIAM  
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Philadelphia, PA 19119

FIRST.  
CLASS