GOD, KARL BARTH AND GREATNESS IN SAN FRANCISCO

by Jon L. Yost

As one of those who made the pilgrimage to San Francisco on May 15 to hear Dr. Karl Barth, I have been asked to record for you my impressions of the man and his message. I make no apologies for the fact that what I report is necessarily from my own experience and evaluation of that event. It must be that way, for when one encounters - or rather is encountered by - greatness, that which is carried away and lives on in the memory is what one individual has appropriated for himself in a moment of passionate inwardness. Well, enough for the existenz and on with the report.

As regards the man, I must say that if this is greatness then God grant more of it in his creatures. To speak of the small man with the disheveled hair, the enchanting smile, the ill-fitting spectacles and the unostentatious manner is to present only the physical appearance of Dr. Barth. But these are all important, for they pre-figure something of Karl Barth's God - the God who is interested - genuinely and savingly - in human existence, even in the existence of this man. What then was the message that so well corresponded with the appearance of the man who presented it?

Dr. Barth was concerned with setting forth the "God of the gospel" (a phrase often repeated) in evangelical theology. Since I did not take copious notes, I cannot give the four or five explicit points he made. What I can relate may be a more appropriate way of coming at the message of Dr. Barth. More appropriate, I would say, because it reflects what the message said to me.

Dr. Barth emphasized that God made theology and not vice versa. God is the Subject of evangelical theology. As evangelical theology's Subject, the God of the gospel has no equal. But this is not to say that he is a lonely God. While God is "up there," he is not self-sufficient or self-contained but a God who relates to men. On this note the word was sounded out that "God is as lowly as he is exalted." God seeks us in Christ. He relates himself to us. This means that God has a genuine interest in human existence! But this does not give us strings on God. Evangelical theology respects the freedom of its Object and frees its Object from any presuppositions in regard to himself. For this reason, the God of the gospel must be seen as he is, i.e., God as a "living procession", a dynamic God. Evangelical theology rejects a God who is "static, frozen." At the same time, it knows a God who has revealed himself as merciful. (Thought provoker: Dr. Barth asserted that Schleiermacher's God could not be a God of mercy.) For this reason the God of the Evangel is a God of good news - the Word that is good for

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EDITORIAL

Recently Dr. Masumi Toyotome challenged all of us to strengthen our missionary emphasis by founding a School of Missions at Fuller Theological Seminary. This is not the first time that such a suggestion has been presented to the Seminary. Students have recognized the need for a stronger missions department for some time, as recently evidenced by the petition asking for an enlarged missions curriculum.

However, the backbone of any school of studies is its library. It is to the embarrassment of evangelicals that the Missionary Research Library is located in Union Theological Seminary and that the Kennedy School of Missions is at Hartford Seminary -- institutions not known for their conservative theology.

The raison d'etre for the Puller Library has been for theological studies. Books in other disciplines have been included, but only because they complement major theological disciplines. Though the Puller Library contains approximately 17,500 volumes that relate directly or indirectly to the field of missions, a glance at the shelves demonstrates inadequacies. We are lacking adequate missions-oriented materials in the fields of anthropology, biography, comparative religion, geography, history, linguistics, political science, sociology, and statistics. The paucity of material was most recently experienced by students attempting to secure information for term papers in Dr. Toyotome's course in Mission Strategy in Southeast Asia.

We therefore propose the following: firstly, our library should be strengthened, not only to meet the demands of our current program, but also to allow for further expansion in the missions department. Secondly, in order to exert leadership in the field of missions, a West Coast Missionary Research Library should be established at Puller Seminary. Such a library should have its own catalogue files for easy reference purposes. It should be a depository for indigenous church and mission board literature. Care should be taken to include publications and books printed abroad by non-American groups. A large selection of missionary biographies and histories of various works should be secured. Information on every country of the world should be selected and kept up to date in the areas of: anthropology, history, linguistics, political science and sociology. Finally, another librarian should be engaged whose specialty is being well acquainted with the field of missions and missionary research work.

This is an ambitious program but one that can over the years lead to better qualified men for overseas missions. The best is not too good for Puller Seminary, and this, we believe, is in keeping with the spirit of the Great Commission.

RBW

In Memoriam

RAYMOND PEMBERTON HORNSEY


"...after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep..."

Acts 13:36
BARTH (con't.)

men because it is gracious. This God is a "self-proclamation in friendliness. But when we have said all this about the God of the gospel, we must admit that "theology cannot capture in its meaning the free love of God!" This latter God reveals, and man must accept.

Implicit in what has been given in capsulated form of Dr. Barth's message (and explicit in his message) is the truth that evangelical is not the private property of a segment of Christendom. To make the God of the gospel in evangelical theology such is to deny that, as Dr. Barth so aptly and beautifully phrased it, God is "a modest God." There is no other God than the God of the gospel, and there is no other theology except that which is evangelical. This God of the gospel is good news to us! He is the God who reveals himself to us savingly without regard for labels which men may attach to him to claim him as their own. The God that Dr. Karl Barth presented is a God before whom one can only bow the knee and worship.

Dr. Barth spoke in San Francisco's Calvary Presbyterian Church for less than one hour. This brief encounter with greatness was achieved at some personal expenditure of time and money (as was the case with others of our number who heard him). Was it worth it? At the risk of being charged with blasphemy, I will answer with a quotation from the Evangel:

What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind? But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet.

I went out to see . . . and I saw.

TEAM PLANS FULL SCHEDULE FOR SUMMER

by Larry DeWitt

Most of us recognize that the work of propagating the Gospel is of major significance in our Christian experience. For several years a group of Fuller students have spent the summer months working in the field of evangelism. The purpose of the Fuller Seminary Evangelistic Team is to give interested students the opportunity of gaining information, inspiration, and practical experience in the task of evangelism. This year, Larry DeWitt is captain of the team composed of Bill Beatty, Don Diegelman, Paul Shaver, Ralph Bell, and Thad Dowdle.

The team will work in the Greater Chicago Billy Graham Crusade from May 30 to June 17. Special training sessions will be held in Chicago by the Graham Team members for evangelists and seminary teams. The Fuller men will serve as advisors for the evening Crusade services and will work during the days in selected areas such as counseling, follow-up, student work, crusade organization, and office administration.

At the close of the Chicago Crusade, the group will leave for Connecticut where it will engage in a full program of evan-
gelistic services in the West Hartford Bible Church. Following the meetings in West Hartford, the team will assist the evangelist Jack Murray in a cooperative crusade to be held in a tent at Hyannis Port, Massachusetts, under the sponsorship of twenty-four churches in the Cape Cod area. The team will then move to Buzzard’s Bay, Massachusetts, for meetings in the Grace Alliance Church. The final stop on the schedule will be Rutland, Vermont, where the group plans to take part in a crusade sponsored by one of the local churches.

In each place, Thad Dowdle will be preaching nightly for the series of special services. Conducting the services, leading songs, holding children’s meetings and youth rallies, participating in visitation programs, and planning training programs for youth and adults will present a diversified and full ministry for the rest of the team members.

The Fuller Seminary Summer Evangelistic Team appreciates the interest and prayers of the entire student body. We pray that Fuller Seminary may be represented well and that Christ may be exalted in all that is done.

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A SUGGESTED SUMMER READING LIST

by Anthony C. Yu

"It is not how many books thou hast but how good; careful reading profiteth, while that which is full of variety delighteth." So wrote the ancient Seneca. To the Seminary students who desire both profit and delight for the summer, may we recommend:

Gustaf Aulen, Reformation and Catholicity, Muhlenberg.
Emile Cailliet, Recovery of Purpose, Harper.
Roland M. Frye, God, Man, and Satan, Princeton.
Grace Irving, A Biography of John Newton, Eerdmans.
Dietrich Ritschl, A Theology of Proclamation, John Knox.
Eric Routley, Church Music and Theology, SCM.
J. D. Salinger, Nine Stories, Modern Library.

For those who would "enliven morality with wit," Eutychus and His Pin and Right Ho, Jeeves! by P. G. Wodehouse are excellent choices!
Letters to the editors...

THE EGO AND THE ID

As advance publicity for our new graduate school in psychology, the recent lectures by Dr. John Finch were a smash hit. Presumably aimed at welding psychology and theology, they were a depressing example of the need for this union.

The content of Dr. Finch's lectures seemed to be lifted quite uncritically from the pages of Kierkegaard and Tillich. The concepts involved can, no doubt, illuminate the orthodox Christian view of man. Also without doubt, they need scrutiny under a Biblical light. However, neither process occurred in the lectures or in the discussions which followed.

Dr. Finch responded to questions from his audience with an air of distrust that turned dialogue into debate. At one point, for example, he countered a student's question by identifying his questioner with the Saducees, himself with Christ.

With this attitude toward theological inquiry, Dr. Finch managed to stifle any serious conversation. This, however, was not the purpose of his coming. Hopefully, in the atmosphere of the new graduate school, serious conversation can be revived.

Connie Mohr

KUDOS FOR TRI-THETA

I would like to express my appreciation to the members of Tri-Theta for the initiative shown in their activities this year. It was one of the few indigenous contacts with the world of culture, and the theatre in particular.

There is much to be learned from this medium of expression, especially concerning contemporary man's outlook on life and himself. Sartre's "No Exit" is an excellent example. Such vehicles should be presented more often next year, and greater attendance on the part of the faculty and student body encouraged. Original productions could also be attempted, and quite fruitfully, I believe.

I hope Tri-Theta will not stop this year, but will continue next year with a larger program beginning early in the fall term. Let's get behind this endeavor and make it an integral part of our school life.

Paul Simpson

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NEWS EXTRA.....

the opinion has learned of a recent faculty decision to secure new hymnals for the chapel. The Orthodox Presbyterian Hymnals selected are excellent in their composition: a good selection of church hymns, unison readings, creeds and confessions. Upon hearing the news, Al Cash, president of the Middler Class stated: "The faculty is to be commended on this action designed to aid in our chapel worship next year."
I am happy to report that the new student council is functioning with a fine sense of team work and energy. Here are some of the things on which we have been working.

New Student Retreat

Ron Thompson, Vice-President of the Student Council, has done an outstanding job in organizing the New Student Retreat. Since the retreat is primarily an opportunity for the new students to meet the faculty informally and to be prepared by them for the school year, Ron felt that we should work for maximum faculty participation in the retreat. The faculty was receptive to this plan. The entire faculty will be present for the entire retreat; six will bring messages; several more will give informational talks. This promises to be one of the best retreats Fuller has ever had.

Chapel Program

Tom Johnson, student member of the Chapel Committee, has compiled a report giving a summary of the suggestions made by Dr. Lindsell in his talk at the Chapel Assembly, the points raised by the faculty-student discussion immediately following the talk and the results of the student poll. This report was forwarded to Dr. Booth, Chairman of the Chapel Committee. It is hoped that some of the suggestions will be incorporated into next year's chapel program.

FMF

We are delighted that Arthur Glasser and Eric Fife have accepted FMF's invitation to be the speakers at next year's FMF Conference. The date for the conference is Feb. 25-March 1, 1963. Until new elections can be scheduled, Ron Thompson, a member of the FMF Committee, will act as interim FMF chairman.

Employment and Housing Director

Charles Landon has been appointed the new Employment and Housing Director. He takes over from Charles Holman on June 7th. The Council would like to express special thanks to Mr. Holman for his excellent service as Director this year.

Yearbook

We hope you have received your copy of the Yearbook. Editor Joel Stolte is to be congratulated for a fine job. This is the first Yearbook in three years. Another one is planned for next year with Mr. Stolte as editor again. He intends to use a similar format, but a greater number of informal snapshots is planned so that the year book will be more complete.

Alex Aronis

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