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A Sad Farewell to a Beloved Friend

Memorial Service Planned on Wednesday for Dr. Bob Guelich

Fuller Theological Seminary, the Church, and the world of scholarship suffered a great loss with the death on July 3 of Dr. Robert A. Guelich. Bob Guelich was born on June 20, 1939. His inaugural lecture as Professor of New Testament on May 9, 1989 at Fuller was titled, "What is the Gospel?" It was a masterly discussion. The theme was one Bob had wrestled with all his professional life. The fruits of this study were daily evident in everything that Bob did—whether it was teaching, research, writing, mentoring, advising students, attending committees, drafting memos, or simply being a friend and colleague.

Bob Guelich received his B.A. (Greek and theology) from Wheaton College, his M.A. (classics) from the University of Illinois, and his S.T.B. from Fuller Theological Seminary. In each case he graduated Summa cum laude. From Fuller he went on to the University of Hamburg, where he distinguished himself as a pupil of Leonhard Goppel. He obtained his D.Theol. from the University of Hamburg Magna cum laude.

Immediately prior to joining the Fuller faculty Bob Guelich was Theologian in Residence at the colonial Church of Edina, in Minnesota. the positions that Bob held characterized the man. He combined the highest level of biblical scholarship with pastoral ministry. This was abundantly evident in his writings and teaching at Fuller.

His first major work was the widely acclaimed The Sermon on the Mount: A Foundation for Understanding. While at Fuller, Bob published the first volume of his Word Biblical Commentary on Mark 1-8:26. Work on the second volume was well advanced. Discussion of Mark’s passion and trial narratives was a regular topic of conversation with his colleagues. Bob had planned to write a monograph on The Theology of Mark and to co-author with faculty colleagues an introduction to the New Testament.

We grieve with Joyce, his wife, and the Guelich family. We have lost a brilliant scholar, an outstanding teacher, a wise and dear friend. Last July, an informal memorial service was conducted on campus with an overflowing room full of saddened and shocked students, staff, and faculty. A formal Memorial Service will be held in Chapel this Wednesday.

Memorial Service

Planned on Wednesday for Dr. Bob Guelich

Week 3 SEMI abbreviated...

The only problem with doing something new is that you never know what’s involved until you do it once, then you suddenly find out that it’s too involved for just one person. Well, guess what? That’s just what happened to me! We’re a bit over our heads here and falling too far behind. So, we are going to need a week to re-group and hire some staff. We will be back on track after this next week.

So, only the essential announcements will appear in a miniature version of the Week 3 SEMI. Any announcements and articles which were scheduled will appear in the Week 4 issue unless they are time-sensitive.

Vicki Luna, Editor

Chapel Services

Tuesday, October 1. - PRAYER AND PRAISE. Prayer Garden, 10 a.m. Service led by Steve Nygaard and the Office of Christian Community. This first meeting will be in Travis Auditorium. Come for an inspiring and profitable time.

Wednesday, October 2. - COMMUNITY WORSHIP. Presbyterian Sanctuary, 10 a.m. Our Community Worship will be a service of memorial for Dr. Bob Guelich, who suddenly passed away in July at the age of 52. This beloved professor is much missed, and our community will gratefully remember him. Offices closed and all are invited.

Thursday, October 3, SWM CHAPEL. Travis Auditorium, 10 a.m. Dr. Peter Wagner will be speaking on Intercession. All from the Fuller Community are invited to join us.
Dear Bob,

I don’t know what my first memory of you was. My parents always raved about your Sunday School lessons as we drove from church. You were a theologian, author, and professor, but you explained the gospel so clearly to a businessman and a school board member and all of their peers!

Did you know that in the days before car tape decks my Dad hooked up a little tape player to the lighter in his car. He would listen to old Sunday School tapes as he drove to concrete plants around the Midwest. I inherited those tapes in college and have broken a couple of them by frequent playing.

Your advice to me while I was in college was invaluable, and I followed you out to Fuller, in hostile California. Thanks again for letting me live with you while I looked for housing. I won’t forget spaghetti dinners, Joyce’s deserts, St. Pauli Girl, “Murder She Wrote,” or the hot tub. Never have I experienced the overt love expressed between a middle-aged couple; your marriage itself was beautiful to me.

You were my friend, teacher, mentor, and pastor; you will not be replaced in my life. I pray that all of us in training at Fuller can claim your great burden for bridging academia and the church. Exegesis with a smile.

Thanks for everything. I miss you.

Tony Jones, Student

My community house had decided that we were going to have Bob over for dinner when he first moved here. As we ate and talked, Bob was so genuinely interested in our stories that he caught us by surprise. He wanted to know how we had come to Christ, what had led us to our individual ministries, and what had made us choose Fuller. Once we had all shared, he began to tell us his own story—warts and all. We settled back to watch the baseball playoffs (one of Bob’s passions), and afterwards picked up the conversation and talked until close to midnight.

At the end of the evening I told Bob that he was welcome to come back for the rest of the playoffs. It was one of those things you say when company is leaving that you never really expect to happen. But it did. We knew we’d made a friend when we heard a knock at the door two nights later, and it turned out to be Bob, beverages in hand, saying, “you guys going to watch the game?”

Bob’s friendship meant a lot to me. Like so many other CATS and M.Div. students, I was looking forward to working with Bob this year. And even though our time was spent mostly on academic things, I will never forget that from that very first time we talked, he was more interested in who I was than in what I did. That’s the kind of person Bob Guelich was. That’s why we loved him.

John D’Elia, Student

All friendships are a loving provision of God but some are providential in a special way. The mutual friendship between Bob Guelich and myself was like that. Throughout our relationship, Bob’s life and mine intersected at critical points in one or the other’s vocational journey. Of course I valued Bob far more than that, primarily for all that he was to me personally and for all that I learned from him. I will miss him most for who he was and not for what he did.

Rob Banks, Faculty

I remember one time I was talking with Bob about a dictionary article he had been asked to write on the gospel of Mark. He had been working on Mark intensively for years, and he had read all of the varied—and often extreme—interpretations of the critics. Some of these scholars had made their names by hypothesizing exotic settings or conflicts to which Mark was directing his message. Now how would he formulate the message of Mark for this important article? “It sounds trite,” he said, “but I think Mark’s message is pretty much the basic, vanilla-flavor gospel.”

Bob was always in service of that “vanilla-flavor gospel.” Many are indebted to his scholarly work, of course. But as I think of Bob’s gifts to me and to those whom I know, I think of strong, wholesome virtues, like humility and kindness, that were dependable and needed no pretenses. Like Elisha of old, who implored God for a “double portion” of the spirit that had been upon his master, Elijah, I look upon Bob’s anointing by the God of his “vanilla gospel,” and pray for a double portion for all of us—“Two scoops, please!”

Jim Butler, Faculty

Bob had a way of making people he came into contact feel important. Certain memories flooded my mind the weekend immediately following his death. Memories such as hearing him talking in the hallway with “faculty row” colleagues, even before he was in the office. Although his office hours were always full and students would sign up weeks in advance to meet with him, people would knock on his door, usually as he was running to a class or committee meeting (which seemed to be all the time) “Do you have a minute, Bob?,” “What do you think of this?” As I think about conversations I’ve had with people since his passing, characteristics such as “truly human,” “he was everything we all aspire to be,” and “a true mentor” stick in mind. I only knew Bob for 10 months. It is my loss that I didn’t have more time.

Gretchen Immen, Bob’s secretary

Bob took the toughest passage of scripture— the Sermon on the Mount— seriously. Not only in scholarship, but in life. Life didn’t deal him an easy hand—physically, relationally, spiritually—yet he embraced it and found meaning in circumstances that would have been overwhelming to many others. He had a capacity to plunge, to go down to deeper meaning levels and stay there until he and the listener were out of oxygen, or he and the partner in dialogue had touched truth.

David Augsburger, Faculty

Bob took the toughest passage of scripture—the Sermon on the Mount—seriously. Not only in scholarship, but in life. Life didn’t deal him an easy hand—physically, relationally, spiritually—yet he embraced it and found meaning in circumstances that would have been overwhelming to many others. He had a capacity to plunge, to go down to deeper meaning levels and stay there until he and the listener were out of oxygen, or he and the partner in dialogue had touched truth.
One of the memories I will cherish most about Bob is that of a group which met together weekly for sharing and prayer. I was always moved to hear Bob pray. Here was a man, widely respected for his exacting and careful scholarship, who week after week prayed simply, "Thy will be done." By the same token, one cannot pick up his work on the Sermon on the Mount or his commentary on Mark and fail to miss the depth of faith that drove the quest of which he spoke often, the quest "to bring head and heart together," while others speak of the same quest, few pursued it with as much passion and humility as Bob. We will miss the model of Christian life that Bob set before us.

More than one colleague with whom I have spoken since Bob's death has characterized him as the glue that held us together. The sheer dynamism of his personality, his winsome ways, his concern and love served to bind us together. His loss to us all is immeasurable.

Esteemed colleague, trusted friend, brother in Christ—we will miss you, Bob. May God grant you rest and peace.

Marianne Meye Thompson, Faculty

Bob was a bridge-builder par-excellence. There is a beatitude that Bob did not find in Matthew: "Blessed are the bridge-builders, for in such the Kingdom of God is truly manifest." Bob built and maintained those blessed bridges well — between faculty and students, clergy and laity, European scholarship and its American counterpart, the learned and the unlearned, the right side and the left side, the wise and the unwise... How we need bridge-builders — and how thankful I am for the blessed bridge-building that our colleague completed in his three all-too-short years with us. Blessed are the bridge-builders....

Robert Meye, Associate Provost

After learning of the death of Dr. Guelich and the shock had worn down, I went through the typical process of grieving. I grieved that he had been taken from his family and friends. I grieved that I would never again be able to take a class from him, hear him encourage or critical word from him, or have lunch with him and watch him put ketchup on his pizza. Most of all, I grieved for the people who had not yet had the chance to experience this person. This man who made the New Testament come alive for me. This man who was both a world-class scholar and a world-class friend to a person he didn't really have time for. This man had such a contagious witness for Christ both in and out of the classroom through his honesty, integrity, and humility.

Michael Patzia, Student

The "Making Love Last" Marriage Retreat

The quarterly Marriage Retreat, sponsored by the Office of Christian Community, is scheduled for 7:30 pm, October 11 (Friday evening) to 3:00 pm, October 12 (Saturday afternoon) at the Harbortown Marina Resort in Ventura. The speaker will be Dr. Richard Hunt, SOP, whose primary teaching and research area is in couple's therapy and marriage assessment. His theme will be "Making Love Last." The cost is $65 per couple. Partial scholarships are available. Pick up a registration form by the retreat posters in the Garth and the Catalyst. call the Office of Christian Community at 584-5322 for more information.

Community Announcements

Author's Forum: Dr. Harville Hendrix

All students, faculty, staff are invited to an informal presentation by Dr. Harville Hendrix Monday, October 7, 1991 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Student Lounge-Faculty Lounge Finch Hall, Graduate School of Psychology. Dr. Hendrix is the author of the bestselling marriage book, Getting the Love You Want: A Guide for Couples, which has been featured on the Oprah Winfrey show, and founder of the Institute for Relationship in New York.

Congratulations!

Theresa Elise Shirley (Tracey) 7 lbs. 11 oz., 22", was born on 9-16-91 at 10:16 a.m. to Alice & Chuck Shirley (M.Div.). Hannah (2) now has a sister!

Friends of the Vineyard

Ken Gulickson will be here Monday, September 30, discussing current issues facing the Vineyard movement. Ken, Director of the Association of Vineyard Churches, is based in Anaheim.

Career Services and Field Education Open House

This Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (9/30-10/2) stop by Slessor Hall to meet our staff, see our Job Rooms, and have some refreshments. All SOT, SOP, and SWM students and spouses are welcome!

Attention All Ye RCA/CRC-ers

There will be no RCA/CRC meeting on Monday, September 30 at 10:00 a.m. Students are encouraged to attend the California Classis meeting that day in San Juan Capistrano Retreat Center. For more information call the Classis office at (213) 402-0097. See you on October 7th!

Jewett's Systematic Theology Tapes

Media services is selling complete sets of Dr. Paul K. Jewett's Systematic Theology courses (I,II,III) for $41.50. These are used tapes and are sold "as is." Please contact Media Services located in McAllister Library—Basement 2, phone number: 584-5227.

A Field Education Opportunity

Air Force Reserve Recruitment Officer, Major Gerard McNulty, will be on campus (in the Garth) on Wednesday, October 9, 1991 from 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. If you are interested in learning about becoming an Air Force Chaplain, be sure and take advantage of this opportunity to discuss it with Major McNulty. This is a paid position and training is provided. For students interested in obtaining Field Education units, this chaplaincy meets all necessary requirements.

Make Some $$!

Sell ads for the yearbook. Contact area merchants, churches and organizations to encourage them to become an official 1992 Fuller Yearbook sponsor. If you are gregarious, creative and broke, this could be the job for you. Contact Yearbook Editor, Donna Brewington at 818-795-3635 or 584-5452. Let's talk.
HELP WANTED: Licensed drivers needed to shuttle RENOVARE conference participants from local hotels to the conference site. Several shifts are available between Oct. 23rd and Oct. 26th. Compensation will be given in the form of scholarships towards the RENOVARE conference. To sign up, or for further information, contact Dave at Continuing Ed, 584-5338.


ACCIDENTS! PASADENA COLLISION CENTER: One of the most advanced collision repair shops in Southern California. Specializes in unibody construction and professional color matching and painting. See us for free estimates and consultation for your insurance claims. We offer free loan cars and discounts for the Fuller community. Owned and operated by a Fuller graduate. 1562 E. Walnut Street, Pasadena 91106. (818) 792-7605.


QUALITY DAYCARE: in Christian home. Reasonable rates, part time or full time, enclosed play-yard, daily program, sensitive to the developmental and personal needs of the child, within walking distance of Fuller campus. For more information, call Lisa at (818)577-9482.


PROBLEMS WITH YOUR TIME PIECES? Call the Specialist. Free pick up and delivery for clocks only. Also 25% off for complete overhaul on time pieces. Free estimate. Please call Galvin’s Time Repair (818)285-9466.

NEED MUSICIANS: for Friday evening Prayer & Praise at Knox Presbyterian Church. Contemporary music. See or call Carol Aldena, Church Relations Office, 584-5580.

BASIC COMPUTERS- has a major mission in providing computers, software and peripherals to Fuller people at the lowest possible cost. If you need anything in the way of IBM compatibles give us a call: Ted Barnett, BASIC Computers, 3134 1/2 Foothill Bl., La Crescenta, CA 91214; (818) 957-4515

APT. TO RENT: Extra large 2 bedroom, new carpets, drapes, air conditioning, patio, laundry, pool and carport with lots of storage space. 15 minutes to Fuller - So. Madison in Monrovia (near Foot-hill) $675. Call Pat 792-6732.

SINGLE GUEST HOUSE: in exchange for Mother’s Helper. Located 6 miles from Fuller. Utilities included. Laundry room, AC, quiet surroundings. 16 hours per week required. Additional hours paid by salary beginning in November. CA D/L, references, and experience. Please phone Mary for additional info. (818) 258-1544.

A WARM WELCOME: will be extended to new and returning students by Altadena Baptist Church, Sunday, September 29. After the 11:00 AM Worship Service, you and your family are invited to enjoy a free dinner on the church lawn. Reservations are not necessary. Just show! 791 E. Calaveras (Corner of El Molino).

The SEMI is published as a service to the Fuller community by the Office of Student Services, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California 91108. For more information, contact the Editor at 584-5435. SEMI Team: Director of OSS, Ruth Pugliese; Editor, Vicki Luna; Assistant Editor, John Prassas.

NOTICES may be submitted to the Editor (Kaye Sales Hall, 2nd Floor) until 5 p.m., on the Friday a week and a half prior to the date of publication. No late notices can be accepted. Users will be charged for notices which exceed 75 words in length. Notices from individuals or churches for events not directly sponsored by a Fuller office or organization will be printed in the “Ad” section and charged per word. Articles and Commentaries do not necessarily reflect the views of Fuller administration.