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Fuller Theological Seminary

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For the 1996 Payton lectures they flew people in from all over the world: Germany, Argentina, Cuba. They even gave a special dinner and published a book called *The Future of Theology*. All because Jürgen Moltmann, one of the most influential theologians of the second half of the twentieth century, was at Fuller celebrating his 70th birthday. Moltmann is known as a “Theologian of Hope.” That’s not because we hope he’s a theologian, or because we hope we can understand his theology, but because his theology is shaped by the theme of hope. His first book was called, appropriately, *Theology of Hope* (1964). In this essay I want to try to figure out what Moltmann was talking about in the Payton lectures. The theme of the first lecture was “Christianity and Western Values.” Some of its main points were as follows:

**Humans as Persons, not Individuals:** What? I thought I was an individual person. But he defines an individual as being isolated. A person is a human being having relationships with other human beings.

**Persons have Dignity:** We are created in the image of God, which gives us our dignity. The image of God resides in mutual relationships (Gen. 1:27). To find God, therefore, we have to go into community rather than into ourselves.

**Person as Promise Keeper:** No, not the men’s group. Making and keeping promises is what we should be doing, not disconnecting ourselves from society. Moltmann asks us if we are more free in a supermarket (think ‘choice without fulfillment’) or in the community where we are known (think ‘commitment and love’).

Moltmann’s second lecture was entitled “Theology, Church, and the Kingdom.” This lecture answered the question, “Should state-run universities have theological faculties in today’s multi-religious society?” You will not be surprised to find out that, sure enough, Moltmann does want his job. To recover the role of theology in western society we need to realize that the kingdom of God is concerned with the world. Therefore theology is not just a function of the church, it is public theology. Theology has a mission of life in relation to other religions. Since the Spirit brings life, theology should embrace life where it finds it. It should also invite people to life in Christ.
Lesson from the Fires

by Jin H. Cho, SOT Ph.D. student

I watched the flames make their strange march across the city that day, and soon I had to cover my mouth with my hands from breathing in the thick, black smoke. The fires that burned countless buildings and dreams were no longer anonymous, but were now fueled by stores I had passed only the day before. Yet I was somehow numb to this remarkable sight of a modern city on fire. Instead, the focus of my horror was the naked hatred that was drawn so clearly along racial lines. 'Racial harmony' ... I remember thinking those words and being strangely amused by their irony. No more, I thought, could we hold to our pretensions of such things.

This April 29th marked the fourth anniversary of the event which came to be known as the Los Angeles Riots. I had the ‘opportunity’ to witness this event first hand. I had been working in Koreatown for a community-based organization, examining the very issue of the growing tension between different racial communities. Then the first Rodney King verdict sparked the outcry that ultimately laid bare the tenuous, if not superficial, nature of the coexistence of different ethnic groups comprising our city. Like some perverse marriage of convenience, we seemed to live together not because we enjoyed each other’s company, but because we had to. We tolerated the ‘other’ as long as we didn’t get in each other’s way.

Not that I was surprised. Yet the intensity of the experience of the Riots gave me an awareness and a point of reflection on this issue that I never had before. And as I began to search for answers to the multitude of questions that arose, I realized how thoroughly theological they were. “How can we hate so much and so blindly?” “Where is justice?” I knew I wasn’t alone in asking these questions. But I was profoundly disappointed with the inadequate answers given by various ‘Christian’ respondents – individuals, churches, and even seminaries.

Many ‘observers’ talked about the unjust conditions but seemed afraid to touch upon the human hatred that fueled the fires – whose flames were never extinguished – as if any of us was not guilty in this collective act of self-destruction. Some proposed ‘solutions’ seemed to justify, instead, our hatred. Others spoke too quickly of forgiveness and reconciliation, followed by token gestures of unity. It was as if we as Christians forgot what hatred was, or thought we were placed above it automatically. Having the resources to overcome hatred is a long way from actually overcoming it once and for all. (Jonah and Peter come to mind, with their experiences of having to get beyond their desire to distance the ‘other’.)

My questions, in part, led me to Fuller. And again I was not surprised by the level of ‘tolerance’ we had for one another. Tolerance, not community – that’s what we seem to have. And yet within this environment, which was in my perspective a step behind the ‘secular’ context, there was also a presumption of being already ‘reconciled’ and above such worldly problems. Such a presumption is not only a mistake, but stalls the actual reconciliation process. It forces us to hide our pain and mask our misunderstandings of one another. Instead, we have pretensions of understanding. I cannot recount how many times such pretensions have silenced my experiences of prejudice here at Fuller. How do you talk to someone who presumes such innocence on his/her part? What kind of dialogue can result from such a setting? Only a false ‘dialogue’ of accusation and denial.

continued on page 8
Statistics suggest that all of us will either personally experience a time of depression or know of a depressed person during our lifetimes. Depression affects people across all social categories and developmental levels. Depending on the degree of depression, staying active, gaining support from others and participating in psychotherapy can be extremely effective in eliminating depression.

How do I know I’m depressed? Individuals who complain of depression usually have the following symptoms:

- **Subjective report:** e.g. ‘I’m depressed,’ ‘I’m not happy with life,’ etc.
- **Signs of low self-esteem:** ‘I can’t succeed,’ ‘No one likes me,’ ‘No one cares,’ etc.
- **Psychological signs:** low energy, lethargy, low desire for interpersonal intimacy.
- **Thoughts of suicide.**
- **Substantial changes in weight** (gain or loss), sleep disruptions, ruminating thoughts.

What causes depression? Depression can result from recent events such as the death of a loved one, loss of a job, or any other significant perception of loss or lack of control. Long-term experiences of abuse, neglect, chronic physical illness, and other trauma can increase sensitivity to depression.

What do I do about my depression? In order to treat the more serious forms of depression, one must first identify the type of depression that exists. Psychotherapy tends to be instrumental in providing relief. A therapist will help identify the reasons that have caused the current depression and also address patterns within the individual’s life that predispose him or her to depression. The duration of treatment is variable depending on the individual’s emotional resources and associated factors.

It is important that if you choose to participate in psychotherapy, you work with someone who will be accepting of who you are, including acceptance of your spiritual concerns. God can assist the healing as no one else can.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14:27)
**Faith, Jesus and Tattoos**

(or, “You Can’t Judge a Book by its Cover”)

by Jim Gibson M.Div. student, SOT

Recently I became an art collector, purchasing my very own, very personal masterpiece. When the sun catches the gold at just the right angle, it is as if the wings could catch breath and take flight. The red center beats strong with pride, giving the wings a heart and a soul. And from a distance, the surrounding blue takes the beating wings into flight, to touch the hand of God. This is no ordinary piece of artwork, not as one would look upon a Chagall or Seurat, but rather the artwork of an anonymous Los Angeles tattoo artist.

When I first came to Pasadena, I, like so many “hip” newcomers to Fuller, migrated to Old Pasadena. The feel of a small town (minus the Adult store) with just the right mixture of Melrose Place made Old Town a surprisingly nice retreat full of adventure and surprises. After a while I noticed that when I went to Old Town with friends, more than a few would refuse to get near the tattoo parlor. The excuses ran from the ‘no interest’ to the ‘house of sin’ variety. Often when I would travel Old Town at night, I’d swing by the tattoo parlor and casually look through their artwork. Granted, some of the artwork was in poor taste, but the rest of the art was either religious or cartoon renderings. I had never given much thought to that art mixture, but soon enough I would realize that it was the people who were bothering me. I had seen these people, but never had I talked to them. I mean, what could I say to these pierced, tattooed, long-haired, scary dudes? We were supposed to hurt, and I knew with all my heart that this was my destiny. So why the nerves? I soon realized that it was the people inside, not the outward act of the tattoo itself, who were bothering me. I had seen these people, but never had I talked to them.

As we approached the tattoo parlor, I noticed I was sweating. I knew that it wasn’t supposed to hurt, and I knew with all my heart that this was my destiny. So why the nerves? I soon realized that it was the people inside, not the outward act of the tattoo itself, who were bothering me. I had seen these people, but never had I talked to them. I mean, what could I say to these pierced, tattooed, long-haired, scary dudes? We walked in, discussed the procedure with my assigned artist (God help me, I AM AFRAID OF HIM), and I settled into a barber-style chair. It’s all a haze – the artist asks a question – I doubt, ask him to move the location of the tattoo to the right – he pauses, could be a mistake – he glares, reapplies the outline, the needle buzzes to life and – Hey! I thought this wasn’t going to hurt!!

Liz snickers as she observes my face contort into a variety of painful manifestations. Just what I need, to be proven a wimp in front of a woman. This was much more painful than I thought. Trying to take the focus off myself, I offhandedly tossed a question to the artist, “I hear that you shouldn’t drink before getting a tattoo. It’s supposed to ruin the ink or something?” PAUSE – it was as if you could see the remote control button being depressed. The hour discussion that followed made me feel as if I had truly lost sight of why I had come to Pasadena. The artist’s reply began with a talk on how you should never drink as it destroys your brain cells and continued with, “where do you go to school?”

The following comments are those of the artist:

“You’re going to be a minister?”
“What religion is that school?”
“Protestant? Well, I’m a Christian, but I think the Protestants have some good ideas too!”
“I think Jesus is cool, really cool, he’s our saviour.”
“I know I’m going to heaven.”
“I may not be in the front of the choir but I’ll be in the back.”

His faith was pure. He believed in Jesus and had accepted Him as his personal savior. He didn’t know of the lines that existed between denominations (or how we had been made to be seen as hypocrites). His was a faith of going to church, talking to strangers about the Lord, believing that Jesus was the only way to salvation, “so why should it matter how you get baptized.” He had not polluted himself with theologians and minor prophets. His was a faith based on faith, not on fact. I remembered the varied art and the religious symbols. It made much more sense now. We had thought this a den of thieves but had discovered gold. We had assumed and labeled without fully continued on page 8
A Random thought on this thing called “Reconciliation”

Fuller is a lot like a big box of Crayola Crayons. I remember being so excited as a child when I received a brand-new box of crayons. All those different colors! The possibilities for creating mini-masterpieces seemed endless! When the box was new, I vaguely remember that the crayons were systematically ordered according to color. Once I removed the crayons from the box, though, and used them for the purpose for which they were created – to express color and create beauty – they were never returned to that systematically-ordered arrangement in the box. Each crayon really did not have an “assigned” place dependent on where it originally came from – I was free to place them anywhere I wanted. I chose to mix them up. Most children still choose to mix them up.

The Fuller Community is a lot like a box of Crayola Crayons. We each have been uniquely created by God. He has blessed each of us with a beautiful “color.” We each have also been created for a purpose similar to that of a crayon – to take something that is empty and/or dead and to write on it in such a way as to bring life to it. This rebirth occurs only through knowing Christ’s powerful love personally. This love is then expressed uniquely through the different colored filters we each possess. In addition, we each need to be “in a box” at times . . . a place to rest, learn, be encouraged and equipped prior to being called out by the master creator to be used as a writing utensil of love.

Have you prayed and responded to God’s call to be a reconciler? Your obedience to this command will connect you with other “colors” in the body and the end result could be God’s masterpiece which is even more beautiful and life-changing for those who view it.

Honestly, when I view Fuller, I see God’s writing utensils of love compartmentalized. As a result, His ultimate masterpiece that could be a witness to the world is still waiting to be created. When will we allow Him to create this masterpiece?

Another thing I have noticed is that there are many broken crayons around Fuller, crying out to be restored. Do we hear them? Do we notice the brokenness? As a white female, I have been on both the receiving and giving end of these wounds. Being a member of the Action for Reconciliation and Renewal group on campus has provided an opportunity both to confess my sins and to receive healing. I believe this experience will be a profound factor in the creation of the masterpiece that God has called me to. Won’t you join me in adding “more color” to your masterpiece?

Karen Kuchan
M.Div. student, SOT
Action for Reconciliation and Renewal Member

Spring Opportunities

+ Genesis Journeys
If you’ve been wanting to go on a Genesis Journey but have been putting it off, now is your last chance!!! All of the dates have been filled up except for Friday, May 10th (this date was actually added because there had been no response to another weekend in May). If you need a day away from the city, would like to take a retreat, but aren’t sure how to spend your time – this could be just what you’re looking for. There are only a couple of spots open, so call ASAP for more information.

Ongoing Opportunities

+ Bridge to Wholeness (12 step group) - Thursdays, 7:30-8:30pm, at the OCC Office, for anyone associated w/Fuller
+ Couple’s Garden (Marriage Enrichment) - Saturday, May 18, 5:45-7:00pm, at Payton 101, for Married Couples.
+ Common Lunch Time - Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:15-1:00pm, Catalyst & Refectory.

The Office of Christian Community may be reached at (818) 584-5322, or FTS Box 243, and is located on the second floor of the Catalyst building.
Lesson from the Fires - from page 2

A presumption of guilt seems more appropriate. Yet quite a few people seem to be ‘tired of all this talk about reconciliation,’ feeling a certain sense of repetition in pointing to a problem that is not really a problem for them. “Don’t create something where there is nothing,” “maintain peace at all costs,” some have said, as if true peace can ever exist by pretending everything is okay. We cannot afford to presume such things even after we pray together. That is just the beginning of the process. We are mistaken about how God works if we think we will all be fine if we are just closer to God. He calls on us to reconcile with one another directly, empowered by Christ’s love.

We can move toward such reconciliation only through a very difficult and agonizingly slow process that forces each one of us to look in our not-so-innocent hearts. I don’t think we can ever be satisfied with such work, at least not for more than a moment. I don’t think we can ever feel like we have completed the reconciliation process either (at least not on this side of the eschaton). Reconciliation, from this perspective, is not a state of understanding of one another, but the awareness of our guilt toward one another. Perhaps then, we can move beyond our ‘tolerant’ community.

May our reconciliation never come cheaply.

Join us for discussion on this article or reconciliation in general from 12:15-1:00 on Tuesday, May 7 in the SEMI office, second floor of the Catalyst building.

Tattoo - from page 4

knowing. We had not chosen the book since the cover displeased us.

As Liz and I looked around we noticed that we had gathered a crowd. But there was no embarrassment, only mild astonishment at the men from tattoo city talking and believing in our Lord. As I tried desperately to interject a word or comment - no doubt wanting to try out some of this Fuller knowledge - he would take anything I said and simplify it into astonishing simplicity and beauty. I sat in awe as I realized that this rough-hewn, pierced, tattooed man was a ‘rabbI’. We sat at his feet mesmerized by his simple faith. I never got more out of a class than what my $120 bought me that night. I learned that sometimes I am so anxious to talk that I forget to listen, that sometimes the need to talk about God (we love the sound of our voices) has taken the place of talking to God, and that in the strangest and most unexpected places we should be still and listen for God.

The tattoo that is now finally healed means more than what is apparent. Yes, the golden wings and red center are the Army Air Force logo from World War II. As a former ‘Air Force man’ and a history buff to boot, I could not imagine having a more proud symbol upon my arm. But to me, it will always remind me of an anonymous tattoo artist who taught me not to complicate beauty. If you have to destroy beauty in an attempt to understand it, isn’t it better to let it be and just be satisfied with the beauty? Rather than destroy, simply believe.

“...Jesus is really cool!”

Tattoo

Joining us for discussion on this article or reconciliation in general from 12:15-1:00 on Tuesday, May 7 in the SEMI office, second floor of the Catalyst building.

International Corner

Marian Hamari

Program: Ph.D. SOT
Research interests: Public theology; relations between church and society.
Country of origin: Slovakia (eastern part of former Czechoslovakia)
Facts about country: In process of transition from Communist-totalitarian to democratic/free-market society.
Role in the church there: Ordained pastor, leader of evangelical movement, co-editor of Spiritual Renewal
What brought him to Fuller: Multidenominational and multicultural character; variety of presented theologies and Christian ministries.

“It’s great to be here right now as the Christian church enters another chapter of its history and witness in the world. I just hope I’ll be able to communicate all these experiences and this knowledge to my home church which is trying to define and articulate its true identity in a rapidly-changing world.”

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Wanted: Excel Telecommunications managing reps.
Join the growing team of Fuller community members who have found much-needed financial assistance with this company. Work as many or few hours a week as you want (depending on your needs). This is an excellent opportunity for missionary students who need financial support from the states and anyone desiring a nice extra income.
Join us for a no-obligation presentation every Thursday beginning at 6:30 for a unique look at this job opportunity. We are here to assist you!
Location: LEE’S HOAGIE HOUSE 2269 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena (2 blocks west of Sierra Madre Blvd.) FREE APPETIZERS SERVED.
For automated 24 hour info, call 1-800-266-6245, then press 31122.
PLASTIC BAGS NEEDED
International Student Services needs your grocery store plastic bags! We need bags for our food and bread distribution. Please bring your donations to the ISS office ASAP!!! Thank you!

FREE MOVIES ON CAMPUSS
Mark your calendars for the following movies in the CFD Resource Center (465 Ford Pl.): Romero, showing at 3 pm on Friday, May 3, and The Fugitive, showing at 3 pm on Friday, May 10.

“A NIGHT OF SONGS”
Presented by soprano Linda Williams, accompanied on harp and piano by Paul Baker. Friday, May 3rd at 7 p.m. in Payton 101. Free admission; donations will be accepted to benefit the I-CAN program, a psycho-social rehabilitation program for adults struggling with persistent mental illness. For information, call (818)577-2261.

IS FULLER MEETING YOUR EXPECTATIONS, OR NOT?
We’d like to know. During the week of May 20, all students will receive a questionnaire designed by Communicorp, our marketing research and communications firm. Your candid (and anonymous) answers about your experiences here will help us develop new communications materials and will affect future decisions about the seminary. Fuller needs to hear what you have to say; thanks in advance for your participation!

MINISTRY ENRICHMENT SEMINARS
• Mr. Len Smith, Certified Financial Planner and a minister, will present “The Pastor and Personal Finance” on Tuesday, May 7, 1-2:30 pm in Payton 101. Record keeping and financial planning present specific challenges for pastors.
• Rev. Sam Chetti, Minister in the American Baptist Church and adjunct professor at USC, will speak about “Honoring and Transforming the Dormant Church” on Monday, May 13, from 11 -12:30 pm in the Geneva room. The presenter is an expert on how church cultures can be changed.

EPWORTH CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL
Get a jump on Epworth Christian Preschool summer and fall enrollment! Call 818-568-9502 for an interview and registration forms for children 18 months to 5 years old. Before and afterschool care for students attending Don Benito Elementary can be arranged. Epworth Summer School runs from July through August this year and the 1996-97 school year begins in early September.

THE MATZ! CONCERT
The MATZ!, an a capella ensemble for the Fuller community, is proud to announce its 10th week study-break concert! May 31st — 8pm Payton 101. Come meet the age of enlightenment in song! Special guest soon to be announced!

CHILD ABUSE WORKSHOPS
Are you interested or currently involved in helping others? Perhaps you have wondered if child abuse has molded their lives and you need to know more in order to help them better? Or is it that your care-receiver has been abused, abandoned, neglected and you have questions? Come join us on May 10th for our Child Abuse Workshops that will help you assess, to talk about your reporting responsibilities, and to help you form models of treatment. Call the Office of Continuing Education at 584-5290 for more information.

FITNESS SEMINAR
The Fuller community is invited to a Fitness Seminar on Friday, May 10, from 9:00 to 10:00 am in Payton 101. This free seminar will be presented by a representative from Blue Cross California Care. Call Teresa in Human Resources (818)584-5238 by May 9 to register.

SEMI PRODUCTION EDITOR WANTED!
Can you make magic with a Mac? Would you like to learn? Are you up to the challenge of following in the footsteps of the amazing Jin Cho? Not sure? Why not try? The SEMI invites you to apply to be its new Production Editor! Pick up an application at Human Resources.
Monrovia Apartment Value: Extra large 2 bedroom ($675) and 3 bedroom ($800), lots of closet space, private patio, pool, laundry room, a/c, cable, parking. 15 minutes to Fuller. Good area. Call Pat at 818-792-8732.

Getting Engaged? Or just want a reliable jeweler? Many Fuller students have come to us and it has been a privilege to help them. We do not sell to the general public. Walter Zimmer Co., wholesale manufacturing jewelers with 78 years’ experience. Call 213-622-4510 for hours, days open and directions. Ask for Mel or Ken Zimmer. (Mel is a member of Glendale Presbyterian Church and is active in the healing ministry.)

Editorial Services: Professional editing for dissertations, theses, articles, books. Reasonable rates. References provided. Dr. Denise Blue, Blue Pages, 818-441-5106.


Christians need cars too! SIDICO Auto Brokers serves Christian Colleges, Missions, Staff/Students/Alumni. This is our 10th year serving the Christian community. Fuller Hotline 909-949-2778 or 1-800-429-KARS. “A good name is chosen rather than riches.” - Proverbs 22:1

For Rent: Vacation Get-Away at the Harmony House. 4 bedroom retreat center (sleeps 10-12) in beautiful Lake Arrowhead. $295/weekends, $650/week. Call Dr. Janet Harms 909-934-9990 (Fuller choir director) for brochure and reservations.

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