The SEMI (1991-2000)

12-1-1997

The Semi (12-01-1997)

Fuller Theological Seminary

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Clearing Your Thanksgiving Plate

by Chris Yaw, Ph.D. student in Practical Theology

One of the funniest scenes in Charles Schultz's 1974 TV classic, A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving, involves Snoopy's preparing a Thanksgiving dinner for the Peanuts gang. Following his preparations, America's beagle marches out of the kitchen, not with a turkey and trimmings, but with popcorn, toast, pretzels, and jelly beans—a meal which, one might think, could not be better suited for this Peanuts-aged posse. But what's surprising here is how this meal is roundly dismissed as insufficient. Not one member of the gang will sit for Snoopy's fare. Rather, the kids find contentment only when they later arrive at Grandma's house for her traditional turkey dinner. Is this because kids never choose jelly beans over string beans? Are yams always preferred over popcorn? No way. Rather, what this cartoon poignantly depicts is the fact that America's Thanksgiving meal finds its nearly universal attraction not so much in its taste but in its meaning.

For me, one of these meanings is reconciliation. Reconciliation means the restoration of harmony or friendship—an unmitigated Christian ambition. In my estimation, Thanksgiving offers a reconciling opportunity unparalleled by other holidays—indeed, unparalleled by any other communal meal. One reason is that Thanksgiving is synonymous with homecoming and being together with loved ones. The holiday comes during the time of year when many high schools and colleges welcome alumni and family members to 'Homecoming' events. A recent study by Hallmark greeting cards found America's obsession with coming home for Thanksgiving bad for business. Hallmark researchers found that Americans rank Thanksgiving second only to Christmas as their favorite holiday, yet it ranks a distant seventh in terms of cards sold. Sociologist Fred Geib suggests it's because a kid isn't going to send a 'Happy Thanksgiving' card home if he's going to be there when it arrives. As reflected by Hallmark's card sales, on the whole Thanksgiving is one American holiday that routinely resists commercialization. Presents are not formally exchanged during this holiday, the only business booms being in airline and bus tickets (home), long distance phone service (home), and, of course, turkeys.

A second element adding to Thanksgiving's reconciliatory ambiance is seen in the holiday's strong and penetrating symbols, particularly the Thanksgiving meal, which serves as a symbol of unity that ties the melting pot of American culture together. The turkey is the common denominator between rich and poor, black and white, Christian and Jew. CNN reported that 90% of all Americans would feast upon turkey at Thanksgiving in 1996; that's more than 200 million people. It appears that even if Americans don't like turkey on Thanksgiving Day, they eat it anyway. Perhaps the traditional Thanksgiving meal serves as a tie between our American past and present, and it provides a nationalistic, communal, and familial bond.

It is during this meal that one of the more reconciliatory acts humankind can experience gains once-a-year acceptance: prayer. The Thanksgiving prayer, usually said before the meal, is one of the few times when atheist, agnostic, and believer can bow their heads together in an expression of unity, if not thanksgiving. Perhaps it is Thanksgiving's heritage as a state and religious holiday that makes prayer at mealtime more roundly accepted by American society. A cursory look at recent popular TV programs frequently shows this to be the case. The 1992 Thanksgiving episode of the CBS TV...
PEW YOUNGER SCHOLARS FELLOWSHIPS

Goal: To nurture Christian scholarship and strengthen the Christian intellectual community.

Awards: Ten $39,000 fellowships ($13,000 for 3 years) to support study in the humanities, social sciences, and theological studies.

Eligibility: No degree beyond a terminal master’s; not currently enrolled in or offered admission into a Ph.D. program; not beyond the age of thirty when the Ph.D. program begins; G.P.A. of 3.3 or higher; GRE test scores available by application deadline.


For applications, contact: The Pew Younger Scholars Program phone: (219) 631-4531 fax: (219) 631-8721 email: HEINIG.2@ND.EDU

THE HARVEY FELLOWS PROGRAM

Several annual stipends, for a maximum of three years, of $13,000 are available for Christian graduate students, enrolling in the highest-rated institutions, with potential to assume top-level leadership positions in strategic vocations in which evangelical Christians appear to be underrepresented. Applications are available in the Office of Financial Aid.

Application deadline: December 1, 1997.

AID FOR WOMEN

The Philanthropic Educational Organization offers several grants and loans (maximum of $7,000) for U.S. citizens and permanent residents as well as international women pursuing graduate education. While general information is available in the Office of Financial Aid, interested students may contact local member Mrs. Grace Verburg for application materials and an interview at:

626 W. Huntington Dr. #121
Arcadia, CA 91007
Phone: (626) 446-7915

Application deadlines: There is none for the loans, but it is December 1, 1997 for grant applicants.

ASIAN, BLACK, HISPANIC, & NATIVE AMERICAN UNITED METHODIST HISTORY AWARDS

Purpose: To promote excellence in research and writing in the history of the ethnic groups above in the United Methodist Church or its antecedents. Submissions by members of these groups are encouraged.

Awards: One award of $3,000 or two grants for $1,500 each will be made.


Details are available in the Office of Financial Aid.

WOMEN IN UNITED METHODIST HISTORY RESEARCH GRANT

Purpose: To provide seed money (travel, secretarial services, etc.) for research projects relating to the history of women in this church or its antecedents. It may not be used for equipment, publication costs, or researcher’s salary. Proposals on women of color and on history at the grass-roots level are especially encouraged.

Awards: One $1,000 and two $500 grants

Submitted proposals must be postmarked by December 31, 1997.

Details are available in the Office of Financial Aid.

CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITY

The Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty will be hosting the “Toward a Free and Virtuous Society” conference in San Juan Capistrano, CA, February 19-22, 1998. All students selected will receive full fellowships for the conference, and some travel scholarships are also available. Applications are available in the Office of Financial Aid. They will be accepted by the institute through January 1, 1998.

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Announcement Information: Notices may be submitted to the Editor (Kreyssier Hall, 2nd Floor) by noon (12 p.m.) on Tuesday, ten days prior to the date of publication. No late notices can be accepted.

In-house users will be charged for notices from their departments which exceed 50 words in length or which run longer than two weeks.

Advertisement Information: Notices from individuals or churches for events not directly sponsored by a Fuller office or organization will be printed in the “Ads” section and charged per word.

LIFE magazine wrote this about flight attendants:

“...must be young (21-26), unmarried, pretty, correctly shaped, and the right height (5 ft. 2 in. - 5 ft. 8 in.). She must have the equivalent of a year of college... even teeth, a nice smile.”
To Change a Light Bulb...Religiously

We at the SEMI have always wondered about the answer to the question of how best to change a light bulb, and thanks to the amazing research technology available to us via e-mail, we found the answer. We have fulfilled our goals. Our lives are complete. We can die content.

How many charismatics does it take to change a light bulb?
Only one, since his/her hands are in the air anyway.

How many Calvinists does it take to change a light bulb?
None. God has predestined when the lights will be on.

or
Calvinists do not change light bulbs. They simply read out the instructions and pray the light bulb will decide to change itself.

How many Baptists does it take to change a light bulb?
CHANGE???????

How many neo-evangelicals does it take to change a light bulb?
No one knows. They can’t tell the difference between light and darkness.

How many pentecostals does it take to change a light bulb?
Ten. One to change the light bulb and nine to pray against the spirit of darkness.

How many TV evangelists does it take to change a light bulb?
One. But for the message of light to continue, send in your donation today!

How many fundamentalists or independent Baptists does it take to change a light bulb?
Only one, because any more would mean compromise, and ecumenical standards of light would slip.

How many liberals does it take to change a light bulb?
At least ten, as they need to hold a debate on whether or not the light bulb exists. Even if they can agree upon the existence of the light bulb, they still may not change it to keep from alienating those who might use other forms of light.

How many Anglicans or Roman Catholics does it take to change a light bulb?
None. They always use candles.

How many campfire worship leaders does it take to change a light bulb?
One. But soon all those around can warm up to its glowing.

How many Episcopalians does it take to change a light bulb?
Ten. One to actually change the bulb, and nine to say how much they liked the old one.

How many United Methodists does it take to change a light bulb?
We choose not to make a statement either in favor of or against the need for a light bulb. However, if in your own journey you have found that a light bulb works for you, that is fine. You are invited to write a poem or compose a modern dance about your personal relationship to your light bulb and present it next month at our annual light bulb Sunday service, in which we will explore a number of light bulb traditions, including incandescent, fluorescent, three-way, long-lived, and tinted—all of which are equally valid paths to luminescence through Jesus Christ.

¡MUCHAS GRACIAS!

There may be only a few names on our masthead, but the SEMI is very much a cooperative effort. Dozens of people contribute suggestions, expertise, support, and advice each quarter. The SEMI would like to thank our contributors, interviewees, and research assistants for fall quarter:

Richard J. Mouw • David Bayne • Chris aka “Speedy” Low • Carmen Valdés • Martyn Smith • Ruth Vuong • Jubilee Committee • Sharon Ralston • Margery Corben • Laura Partridge • Judy Balswick • Yea Sun Eum Kim • David Ausgburger • Rik Stevenson • Barbara Eurich-Rascoc • Arch Hart • James Bradley • Bobby Clinton • Rob Banks • Helena Wiebe • Jollene Anderson • Jim Butler • Peggy McDowell-Cramer • Raedorah Stewart Dodd • Glen Stassen • Trudy Dumont • Shelley Cobb • Karen Peacock • Allen Corben • Richard Grout • Tracy Barber • Kenneth Ogden • Miriam Cover Notehelfer • Cynthia Eriksson • Sandra Furukawa • Elias Gonzalez • Bob Meye • Dan Payne • Mike Manning • Gary Demarest • Eva Peters • Libbie Patterson • Dudley Woodberry • LIFE Magazine • Michael Card • Chris Yaw • Margo Houts
I am writing to address three myths about Fuller I have heard repeatedly, even as recently as this week.

Myth 1: There are so many barriers that students cannot take courses they want in all three schools.

The resources in the various schools are, after all, a major reason why many students have chosen Fuller. Recognizing that increasingly students were coming to Fuller because the large number of course offerings in all three schools made specialization possible, the SWM faculty five years ago cut down SWM requirements on the master’s level to three core competencies—“word, world, and church.” These may be satisfied by examination or course work done here or elsewhere—normally in the theology of mission, missionary anthropology, and mission history or church growth, with the emphasis of all being on missiological principles.

In addition, an integration course is divided between the beginning and end of the program to help students integrate the core competencies with a specialization in a program that has unity, academic integrity, proper sequencing, and relevance to anticipated ministry. In designing their programs students are expected to consult the ECDs of all three schools. Even with the Bible and theology requirements of all Fuller degrees and a proposed required course in the theory of missiology next year, many electives remain that can be taken in all three schools.

Myth 2: There still is not a three-school M.A. in Urban Studies.

Though technically each degree must be offered by one of the schools, the discussion of Myth 1 shows that a student can earn an M.A. in Urban Studies while taking urban courses in all three schools. When course offerings were surveyed three years ago, there were 30 urban courses offered at Fuller, plus others that can be taken at other cooperating institutions in the area. Currently discussions are underway in the urban task force about the basic courses in SWM, SOT, and possibly SOP that would be expected of an M.A. in any school.

Myth 3: Fuller extensions are only in the western part of the United States.

In addition to the many courses Fuller professors from all three schools teach all over the world and the regular teaching of SOT professors in St. Petersburg and Zagreb and the Korean D.Min. in Seoul, SWM has had extensions in Nigeria (5 years), Papua New Guinea (7 years), the Philippines (3 years), and Brazil (2 years). It has also formed partnerships with both the Presbyterian College and Seminary and Chongshin University in Seoul for the yearly exchange of professors and students.

The model for our present negotiations with countries like India and Indonesia, however, is a partnership rather than an extension. SWM developed this model with Scandinavian theological institutions and mission agencies three years ago. A local committee of which SWM is a part decides what missiological education they need, what they can provide, and what they need SWM to provide. Modular courses are then offered twice a year at the University of Copenhagen, with the university paying for travel, lodging, and honorarium. Students may then receive credit from any participating institution, such as the University of Copenhagen, the Free Lutheran Theological Seminary in Oslo, or Fuller.

These models are among the ways SWM is adapting to the shift of the numerical and vital center of gravity of world Christianity from the West to the East and from the northern hemisphere to the southern. Along with these models SWM has already developed and tested one interactive web-based course, and is developing others so that leaders around the world can be further equipped for ministry while remaining in the relevant and supportive context of their ministries and churches and without the prohibitive expense and trauma of uprooting their families.

If we do not continue to adapt in such ways, while retaining academic integrity, we shall increasingly become less relevant to the emerging leaders and churches around the world.
Ripples from the Stone
by Olive Brown, Reference Librarian

I wonder if the glow from the reenactment of the Old Fashioned Revival Hour has gone? Or are there ripples still being formed from that occasion, to mix the metaphor? I have two tales to tell.

I bought some tapes of Rudy Atwood and as I listened to the tunes I grew up with, I thought of my 92-year-old Sunday school teacher in England. I could imagine her enjoying the memories those tunes would bring back. So I sent her a tape. I got a letter from her saying, “I was going through a patch of depression, and as I listened to the tunes I grew up with, I praised God for that tape’s doing His work. I could listen to it at once, singing where I couldn’t.” How wonderful!

I phoned my sister in England last Saturday morning and your tape. ‘Thank you, Lord.’ She listened to it at once, singing where I could and listening when I couldn’t.” How I praised God for that tape’s doing His work.

I phoned my sister in England last Saturday morning. She responded to my greeting with, “I’ve had a really uplifting day.” She received the tape of the reenactment of the OFRH and had played it through, listening with her husband while they ate lunch. Then, when he went off to draft letters, she had gotten her hymnbook and played it again, this time singing along with us. I wish I could convey to you her excitement at the experience. She finished the call by saying, “Please thank all those responsible for that tape. It’s marvellous!”

So here it is—thanks to Tammi, Scott and Co., and all those who helped.

I wonder where else those tapes have gone and what effect they are having?

Fresh Voices Essay Contest
The Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research in Collegeville, MN, is sponsoring an essay contest with prizes of $1,000 each for the best 12 essays. Anyone in North America currently enrolled in a program of study leading to a post-baccalaureate degree is invited to write a 2,500-3,000-word essay (in English) in response to one of four questions:

1. How do I decide who is in the household of faith and who is outside?
2. How does contemporary science act as a catalyst for transformation of religious imagination?
3. How does the theological voice contribute to the resolution of cultural dilemmas?
4. What does institutional religion offer a person who is on a spiritual journey?

The deadline for submissions is March 2, 1998. To obtain a cover sheet and further instructions for the essay, visit the Institute’s web site at http://www.csbsju.edu/iecr or call (320) 363-3366 to request one.

William Carey Academy is looking for a Math and History teacher. Call Pep Stenberg at (626) 398-2323.

Valley Hunt Club needs a part-time Kids Klub counselor. Call Pat Jones at (626) 793-7134.

MetLife is recruiting for a marketing position in the Glendale/North Los Angeles area. Contact Bob Nienber at (818) 242-6821.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES
Full Time:
Calvary Church, Chino, CA
First Baptist Church of Lakewood, Long Beach, CA

Rolling Hills Covenant Church
Junior High Women’s Associate

For more information visit the job room. We have many more full- and part-time church jobs.
**SEMI Winter Deadlines**

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Submissions are due by noon in the SEMI office on the second floor of Kreyssler Hall (upstairs from the Catalyst).

Questions? Call the SEMI at (626) 584-5430.

“We encourage you to make submissions early for issues 1 and 2 due to seminary holidays. This is especially true of issue 2, since the seminary is closed the week before our deadline. Please consider submitting your information before Christmas. Thanks!”

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**FROM THE OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID**

**Foundation for Advanced Christian Training (F.A.C.T.)**

F.A.C.T. emphasizes the renewal and maturity of church leaders and those who teach them. Highly competitive scholarships for the next academic year, beginning in September of 1998, are available to seminary teachers and world leaders in need of a doctoral degree. Applications are available in the Office of Financial Aid and must be submitted to F.A.C.T. by January 1, 1998.

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**Lord Acton Essay Contest**

The Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty is pleased to announce the 1998 Lord Acton Essay Contest. This year’s contest is based on this quotation from Lord Acton:

> “The moral foundation of political economy is not the satisfaction of appetite but the fulfillment of duties. Labour, patience, justice, peace, and self denial are the mainsprings of economical production, and the metaphysical basis of the science is not in a philosophy which reduces religion and science to mere satisfaction of an appetite, like eating or drinking, but in the verification of the promise, ‘Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His justice and all these things’—the necessaries of life—‘shall be added unto you’.”

The application deadline is January 15, 1998.

Guidelines for submission are available in the Office of Financial Aid.

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**The Sandy Ford Memorial Fund**

Sixteen scholarships of $20,000 for the 1998-1999 academic year are available for those pursuing careers in missions and/or evangelism. Applicants must have completed a B.A., reside in the country where they plan to study, and be between the ages of 25 and 40. All required application materials are available in the Office of Financial Aid.


Financial Aid is located on the second floor of Stephan Hall and can be reached by calling (626) 584-5421.
Attention Military Chaplains and Candidates!

We will be meeting the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month to support and to pray for one another. Contact Teresa at (626) 585-0920 or Rick at (626) 449-7332 for more information.

Reentry Discussion Group—New Time!

Tuesdays @ 5:30-7 p.m.

Have you recently left a field of ministry? The transition back to your “home culture” can be the hardest part of cross-cultural service. Please join us for a free, 3-week discussion group about the ups and downs of “coming home.” We will meet on Tuesday evenings, 5:30-7 p.m. (November 25, December 2, and December 9) in the Psychology Building, room 126. Please call to sign up! Cynthia Eriksson, Ph.D. (626) 584-5533. Refreshments will be served.

Havurat HaMashiach Fellowship Student Group

2nd & 4th Saturday of each month @ 6 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to our Saturday evening fellowship with Ma’ Ariv Havdolah services featuring special guest speakers on the second and fourth Saturday of each month from 6-8 p.m. in Payton 101. Refreshments provided. In December, we hope to have a special messianic Hanukkah party. Contact Melvin Spicer, fellowship coordinator, at (626) 798-3522 or mwspicer@fuller.edu

SWM Family Christmas Bash

Payton 101 Friday, 12/13 @ 6 p.m.

Don’t miss it! We’re all going to be there!

Pasadena City College Gospel Choir Christmas Concert

Saturday, 12/13 @ 8 p.m.

The award-winning Pasadena City College Gospel Choir will perform in concert on Saturday, December 13 at 8 p.m. in Sexson Auditorium. Each time the Gospel Choir has performed on the college campus in Harbeson Hall, there has been standing room only, so this year they have chosen to move to Sexson Auditorium, PCC’s 2,000-seat theater. Sexson is wheelchair accessible. Tickets are $3 for adults and $2 for students; children under the age of 12 are admitted for free. For ticket and concert information call the Pasadena City College music division at (626) 585-7208.

Women’s Retreat

Friday-Saturday, 11/16-17

All women at Fuller are invited to a retreat at St. Peter’s-By-the-Sea from Friday evening through Saturday afternoon, January 16-17. Wives, students, and staff in the schools of psychology, theology, and world mission will be represented. Carpooling, childcare, and scholarships are available by arrangement. See the “Women at Fuller” bulletin board or call (626) 584-5215 for more information.

Announcements

Donations Needed

International Student Services is looking for donations of linen items, used (in good condition) or new. We are in need of bedding (esp. twin sizes), towels, blankets, etc. These items will be given to international students at Fuller in order to assist them in their stay in the US. Please bring these items to the ISS office or call (626) 584-5396 for more information.

ODD JOBS

Remember to call the SEMI and tell us what unusual jobs you’ve had in the past. You’ll never guess what some of our students, staff, faculty, and administrators did before we knew them! Call the SEMI at (626) 584-5430 or drop us a note at Box OSS.

DISCOUNT DISNEYLAND TICKETS!

Epworth Christian Preschool is offering discounted general admission tickets for Disneyland to the Fuller Community. Tickets are only $25 ($11 off the regular price) and are good from October 20 through December 24, 1997 (excluding November 28 and 29). Call (626) 568-9502 to order your tickets today! Order forms are available outside the SEMI office (Kreyssler Hall, 2nd floor), but must be submitted to Epworth.

FULLER WOMEN’S INTERCESSORY PRAYER MEETING

Mondays @ 7-8 p.m.

If you are a woman in need of a prayer/support group while at Fuller, come join us. We are a bunch of evangelical and charismatic women who have gathered for intercession. For location and more information, contact Teresa at (626) 585-0920 or Kaye at (626) 796-1923.

Reminder for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities may be eligible for academic accommodation. Please contact the Office of Student Services and ask for Randy Parks (626) 584-5435 or Ruth Vuong (626) 584-5437. Students registering for the winter 1998 quarter are asked to bring a copy of their schedule printout received during registration to the OSS. All students are also asked to pick up and fill out a new Accommodations Request Form. We can serve you best if winter schedules and request forms are turned in by Monday, December 1. Feel free to call if you have any questions.

ALL SACRAMENTAL CHAPEL

Come and join us this Wednesday, December 3, at the First Congregational Church at 10 a.m. to hear a message from Nancy Murphy, a professor in the School of Theology.

The Thursday Chapel meets in Travis Auditorium at 10 a.m. This week, there will be a testimony from Moffett Zimba, a student in the School of Theology. There will also be a time of praise and worship led by the Chapel Worship Team.
CLASSIFIED ADS

This section of the SEMI is for the announcement of events or services not directly offered by a Fuller office or organization. For information about rates, contact the SEMI at (626)584-5430. Note: Each person is responsible for checking on the quality and type of service before contracting or using it. The SEMI and Office of Student Services do not personally recommend or guarantee any of the services listed.

FOR RENT

1-bedroom apartment for rent December 20 to January 1. Beautifully furnished condo. Great for holiday visitors. $350, will negotiate for a shorter time. (626)584-9822.

FOR SALE


JOBS

Would you like to be an innkeeper? Call Janet at (626)796-1291.

Computer Personnel Wanted! Excellent earnings for MIS (programming, DBA etc.) skills. Close to Fuller (12 min. walk). [F/T & P/T]. Mike Spence (626)398-9885.

Earn $ Have fun! Sell film at the Rose Parade. Average profit is $75. Interested? Call Dave at (626)303-7179 or George at (213)735-2050 for info.

Bull’s-eye! Looking for an opportunity to own your own business without any of the typical hassles? You’ve hit the bull’s-eye! We require no inventory, no delivery, no quotas, and no experience. For more information, call today. Scott (SOT ’93) (818)248-8832.

SERVICES

Domestic & International shipping, packaging, crating, auto & household goods shipping, small packages & free pickup. ADP Freight 1(800)374-4648.

Struggling with depression? Fuller Psychological and Family Services is offering a therapy group for men and women experiencing depression and/or significant personal crisis. Space is still available. For more information, contact Sahrah Marion or Jackie Caolie at FPPS, (626)584-3555. Fee is $15 per session.

Auto Repair: SMOG CHECKS, tune-ups, oil change, brakes, batteries, etc. Complete service. Hrant Auto Service, 1477 E. Washington Blvd., Pasadena. (626)798-4064. Call for an appointment.

New Church Being Formed!

If you are interested in being a part of history in the Los Angeles area, then call for information about a new church that is
1. Evangelical in its message
2. Charismatic in its expression
3. Sacramental in its worship

For further information about a new “Charismatic Episcopal Church,” please call (805) 287-3562

HAPPY HOUR! 3-5:30 p.m.
20% off all Espresso Drinks!

HIGHER GROUNDS

90 NO. LOS ROYALES AVE. NEXT TO FULLER BOOKSTORE

FINE COFFEES & TEAS