
Introduction to This Issue

by *Frank Bateman Stanger*

In this issue of *The Asbury Seminarian*, we are pleased to present parts one and two of the Asbury Theological Seminary 1977-78 Ryan Lectures. These were delivered by the Rev. Dr. Howard A. Snyder, a graduate of the Seminary, now serving as Executive Director of Light and Life Men International of The Free Methodist Church. The scholarly lectures were delivered in the field of Church History and Missions under the general topic, "John Wesley and the Radical Protestant Tradition."

Part three of this series will appear in a future issue of *The Asbury Seminarian*.

Purpose

In 1964 the Ryan Lectureship was established at Asbury Theological Seminary in order to enable the institution to bring to its campus each year an outstanding Christian scholar as guest academic lecturer. These scholars are chosen from among the several disciplines of theological education, and lecture within their areas of academic expertise.

During the years of the Ryan Lectureship, the students of the Seminary have been afforded unusual intellectual stimulation and academic breadth as further preparation for their own future ministries.

The Donors

The Ryan Lectureship has been provided by the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Lowell O. Ryan of Corpus Christi, Texas.

Dr. Ryan is an ordained minister of The United Methodist Church and served as pastor of local churches in the Southwest Texas Annual Conference for 31 years, and as a District Superintendent for six years. He was educated at Victoria College, Southwestern

Dr. Frank Bateman Stanger is President of Asbury Theological Seminary.

University, and Perkins School of Theology.

Intense evangelistic emphasis always characterized Dr. Ryan's ministry. He has served as evangelist in his own annual conference, and in conferences, churches, and camp meetings in many states. While pastor in Corpus Christi, he established and conducted "The Gulf Coast Gospel Hour" heard on radio every Sunday for eight years.

Asbury Theological Seminary honored Dr. Ryan in 1956 by conferring upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. He was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Seminary in 1962, and in 1968 was elected chairman. He served in that position for six years.

In 1971 Dr. Ryan retired from active pastoral ministry to become a regional representative for Asbury Theological Seminary in the Texas-New Mexico area.

Mrs. Ryan, co-sponsor of the Lectureship, is the former June Bissel of Giddings, Texas. Through the years of Dr. Ryan's active ministry in United Methodist churches, she was exceedingly active in all phases of church work and made a significant spiritual contribution, wherever they served.

Dr. and Mrs. Ryan are the parents of two sons and a daughter: Michael Lynn, Timothy Lowell and Carolyn, all married. The Ryans are also proud grandparents.

Asbury Theological Seminary salutes Dr. and Mrs. Ryan for their dedicated and generous commitment to our institution and for their constant good works on our behalf.



Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Lowell O. Ryan of Corpus Christi, Texas.