

1963

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PUBLISHED FALL, WINTER AND SPRING FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

INTERIOR REDECORATION COMPLETED*Exterior To Be Done In Spring*

During recent weeks, a thorough-going redecoration program has been underway at the seminary.

The painting firm of William Rooks has been busily at work with a crew of about eight men painting the commons, the library, and the chapel.

Although the color scheme of lovely Colonial blue and white has been retained in the library reading room, the temporary south wall, segregating the upper book stacks, has been removed and replaced with a decorative iron grille permitting a sweeping view of the stack areas on the second floor from the main reading room floor. The walls of this

upper stack area have been painted a lighter Colonial blue to harmonize with the deeper blue of the main reading room.

We were encouraged to proceed with the removal of the wall and the erection of the ornamental railing on the second level of the stacks in the library by the receipt of a generous gift from Miss Jeanette Vander Ploeg. Given as a memorial to her father, the Rev. Herman Vander Ploeg of the class of 1895, this generous memorial gift was used for opening up the stack area and redecorating it.

The large commons room was redecorated with substantially the same color, although somewhat lighter in shade. The lovely draperies in the commons, originally imported from Belgium, were all

dry cleaned and re-hung so that the room now presents a fresh new look for alumni when they visit at Western.

After consultation with a highly qualified interior decorator in Holland, it was decided to paint the walls of the chapel a pale Roman gold, while leaving the woodwork and the lower dado a Colonial white. It is difficult to describe in words the lovely effect achieved in the chapel by this revised color scheme. The main halls and entrances of the building were painted by Mr. Stanley Huyser.

Alumni and friends of the school are urged to visit us in the loveliness of our newly-redecorated interior.

When the weather opens up in the spring, the exterior of the building will be repainted. The tower was repainted before winter began.



For the Life of the World

Over the Christmas holidays ten members of our seminary family converged with 3200 other students upon Athens, Ohio, on the campus of Ohio University for the 19th Ecumenical Student Conference on the Christian World Mission. Delegates from Western included Lew and Nancy Scudder, John and Carol Hood, Leoncio Yao, Kunihiko Yazaki, Sherwin Weener, Werner Minke, Stan Rock and Mr. James Malcolm of the Hope and Western Faculty. The delegation is very grateful to those in the denomination who helped make our attendance possible.

The conference drew students from a great variety of church backgrounds together in meaningful personal and group interaction. With an emphasis in the lectures upon a "sacramental" view of life where God is involved in the totality of our lives in the world, much time was spent in sharing through small living unit groups the ways in which God speaks and acts in the complex social, political and economic forces of our world.

These inter-confessional, inter-racial and international living unit groups were the core of the conference. It was often in these groups that students really met one another in honest discussion about the unity and mission of the church. A Negro college student from Tennessee would share her humiliating experience of being forced from a restaurant by whites on a bus trip home from school. A Nigerian medical student would speak of his concern for the irrelevance and self-destruction of the American church and of his own doubts of a relationship with God in his own life. A Negro theological student would share the power of the gospel to bring whites and Negroes together in a prominent Baptist church in Atlanta. An African from Sierra Leone would affirm the biblical view of sexual morality. A Baptist from the Midwest would speak of the way in which the conference had begun to open her eyes to the thoughts and contributions of Christians from other churches. A Southern Presbyterian from North Carolina would speak of his struggles with the meaning and authenticity of the claims of Christ in the New Testament. All noted the spirit of freedom and desire to understand and accept one another in these groups. Some were more biblically centered than others. Here was a context in which one could express the centrality of Jesus Christ in our mission where a word of clarity was needed.

The conference suggested ways in which the church ought to be aware of the church and revolution. The whole meaning of foreign missions for this century was re-evaluated. The conference did not spell out very clearly the relationships between U.S. missionary agencies and national churches, but important questions were raised in this area—questions such as: Should the foreign missionary agency speak out against the social and economic injustice which it sees in the country in which it serves? How can the foreign missionary best serve the national church? However, the accent was not upon the strong evangelistic spirit of the Student Volunteer Movement, the forerunner of this quadrennial gathering. The majority of our delegation was disappointed with this weakness in a conference on world mission.

Yet, we were deeply moved by this serious attempt to understand our world and the way in which the church bears witness to Christ in it. Perhaps the great symbol of that attempt came when almost all of us broke bread together in common worship of one Lord.

—Stan Rock

Students Attend Ministry Conference

Twenty-five seminary students and faculty representatives will be involved in a conference on "The Changing Role of the Ministry with Regard to the City," sponsored for Western Seminary by the Detroit Industrial Mission staff. The conference will be held on the grounds of "Parishfield" in Brighton, Michigan on March 6-8 of this year.

The conference is part of the educational program at Western Seminary which provides opportunity for students to think through some of the major issues that are facing the church today. In an effort to wrestle with these issues on a practical level, the staff from the Mission will share in their life and work as they are involved in the city ministry.

The Rev. Joseph Pelham, pastor of the Trinity Episcopal Church in Farmington, and an associate in the work of the Parishfield Community at Brighton, gave a lecture on "The Ministry of the Laity" at a Junior Observation Program dinner on Wednesday evening, January 8, 1964.

It is hoped that insights gained from this experimental work going on at Parishfield will be helpful to our students as they prepare for the gospel ministry.

Students Visit Augustinian Seminary

In December of 1963, about fifty of the students and faculty of Western Seminary visited the Roman Catholic Augustinian Seminary, located on the old Saugatuck road, a few miles south of Holland.

Located on the old Felt farm estate, the seminary recently moved into a newly completed \$1.4 million building. Currently housing 125 students and a faculty of eight, the facility is designed to accommodate 250 to 300 students for maximum capacity.

Students at the Augustinian Seminary are recruited mostly from the Chicago area and are doing academic work roughly corresponding to our high school level. The Rev. Father Ryan, dean of men, welcomed the visiting group. After introductions between the members of the two institutions, students and faculty paired off in twos and threes with Augustinian students and faculty members as touring guides to view the facilities of the new building and ask any questions which arose in their minds over any part of the program of the school.

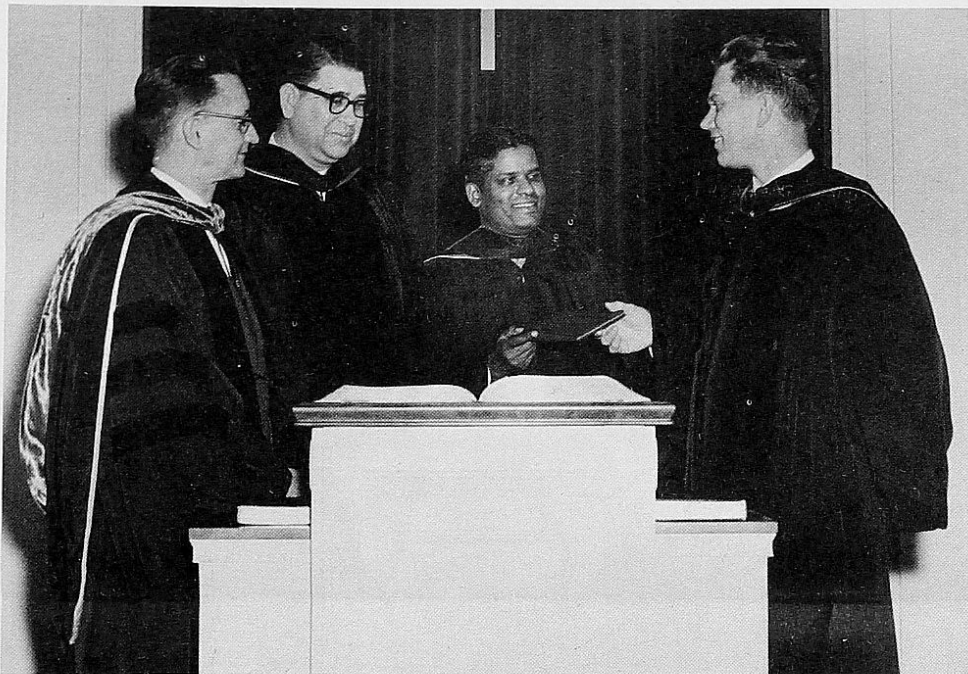
Following the tours, the groups reassembled in the dining hall where a number of questions were asked and where an informal discussion was carried on, after which the visitors were free to leave the grounds.

During Tulip Time of 1963, the students of the Augustinian Seminary had visited Western Seminary's facilities and toured its buildings under the auspices of the student committee, headed by Mr. Ervin Roorda, a senior student at that time. The Western delegation was pleased at the warmth and friendship expressed by the Augustinian group. The information and insights gained by this visitation should be helpful for the future ministry of the students.

Change In Library Staff at Western

After more than a year of outstanding service to Beardslee library as library assistant, Mrs. Ethel Swets terminated her service in mid-December, 1963. Welcomed to the library as her successor was Mrs. Evelyn Amacher, who began her duties as library assistant at the end of November of last year.

A graduate of Manchester College in Indiana with a major in English and a minor in Library Science, Mrs. Amacher comes to Western after a period of study at the Reformed Bible Institute in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mrs. Amacher and her daughter, Patricia, are at home at 148 E. 13th Street, Holland, Michigan.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Dr. E. M. Eenigenburg, Academic Dean; Rev. Chester Postma, President of the Board of Trustees; Rev. J. Sam Ponniah; Rev. Herman J. Ridder, President of the Seminary.

Pastor from India Earns Master's Degree

A special convocation was held in the chapel of the Western Theological Seminary at Holland, Michigan on Tuesday morning, January 28.

The Rev. J. Sam Ponniah, an ordained minister of the Church of South India and a student at Western Seminary, was awarded the Master of Theology degree at colorful ceremonies conducted by the chairman of the Board of Trustees, the Rev. Chester A. Postma of Kalamazoo, Michigan and the president of the school, the Rev. Herman J. Ridder.

Mr. Ponniah came to Western Seminary in September, 1962 as a candidate for the Th.M. degree in the field of practical theology. His master's thesis dealt with the relationship of the Reformed Church in America to the Christian church in South India and the formation of the United Church of Christ of South India in 1948.

A graduate of The Theological Seminary at Bangalore, India, Rev. Ponniah served as a pastor in the Madras Diocese of South India, prior to coming to America for his master's work.

Mr. Ponniah left Holland Tuesday afternoon by air to return to India. He will spend the next Sunday in London, the succeeding Sunday in Jerusalem, and the third Sunday he will rejoin his wife and two sons in South India. Mrs. Ponniah is a medical doctor with a special mission to lepers in South India, continuing a work formerly carried on by Dr. Margaret Rottschaefer.

Mr. Ponniah will resume his pastoral work at Wandiwash, South India, in the

Madras Diocese of the United Church of South India.

At the convocation ceremonies, the faculty of the seminary, in academic garb, led a procession into the chapel. The colorful master's degree hood was placed upon the young candidate by Rev. Postma and the Th.M. diploma was given him by Rev. Ridder. The entire audience—students, interested friends and visitors, and representatives of the Board of World Missions of the Reformed Church in America—joined in singing a farewell hymn with Mr. Ponniah.

At the regular chapel worship service, conducted just prior to the convocation, the Rev. Mr. Ponniah led the worship service.

The presence of this gifted young Indian theologian in the community has been helpful to the churches in the area as well as to the student body of the school. Mr. Ponniah appeared at many group meetings of churches of various denominations, both in the Holland area and in the greater middlewestern area during the summer vacation period. His discussions of life in India helped Americans to better understand that country and the impressions he has gained here will lead to a mutual understanding when he returns to his homeland.

An on-going program of scholarship grants at Western Seminary makes experiences such as this one with Mr. Ponniah possible.

The Rev. J. Sam Ponniah's address will be: Church of South India, Wandiwash, North Arcot District, South India.

Lectures Program Continues at Seminary

Alumni will be interested to review the remaining lectures in this academic year's series.

On February 13, Dr. James I. McCord, president of Princeton Seminary, will deliver a special lecture whose subject will be announced through *The Church Herald* and announcement cards.

Dr. J. Coert Rylaarsdam, professor at the University of Chicago Divinity School, will deliver a special lecture on March 5. His subject will be "The Christian's Use of the Old Testament."

The two final lectures in the series "Man's View of Man" will be given by Professor James Prins of Hope College on March 19 on the subject "Man's View of Man in the Modern Novel;" and on March 26 by Dr. D. Ivan Dykstra on the subject "Man's View of Man in Modern Philosophy."

The annual exchange lectureship between Western and New Brunswick will be carried on this year by Dr. Oudersluys going to New Brunswick and Dr. James Eelman coming from New Brunswick on the exchange.

The Calvin Seminary lecturer this year will be Professor H. Dekker. It is expected that the final third quarter faculty lecture will be given by Professor Elaine E. Lubbers on a subject to be announced.

All *Theolog* readers and alumni within driving distance of the school are cordially invited to join us for these outstanding lectures.

Memorial Service at Death of President

The tragic death of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy came at a time when the Western Theological Seminary was in its examination week. When the death of President Kennedy was announced, all examinations scheduled for the following Saturday morning were cancelled and a phone program gathered together all the students and faculty members and their wives for a special service in the seminary chapel at 9:30 on Saturday morning.

President Ridder presided at this memorial service, basing his meditation on an experience of Isaiah (chapter 6:1-5) in which the prophet reacted to the death of a great national leader in Israel, King Uzziah. It was at this time that Isaiah went to the temple where he was given a great vision of God, a sense of his own inadequacies, and a call to the duties that lay before him.

Holland, like cities everywhere, was stunned at the death of the president and all social events were cancelled for the weekend.



ZWEMER LOUNGE

Newly - Redecorated Lounge and Library



BEARDSLEE LIBRARY

Special Gifts Brochure Available

Those responsible for the welfare of Western Theological Seminary and its future programs and progress have long felt that the promotion of a continuing program of annuity gifts would be an important part of this aspect of seminary life and work.

An unusually attractive gifts brochure is available, and all **Theolog** readers and interested friends of the seminary are urged to ask for this booklet, either for their own use or to be given to friends who might be interested in such a program for themselves.

Among the many ways by which friends of Western may help the work of the seminary, the entering into annuity agreement contracts is one way by which important help may be given to the seminary in its program and yet important annual income may be derived by the donor, much of it substantially

free from income tax. The seminary would welcome inquiries from readers who are in a position to consider a program such as this.

A small but interesting source of help from friends of the seminary comes through matching grants made possible by certain corporations in America. A few corporations such as The Dow Chemical Company, headquartered at Midland, Michigan, and the P. R. Mallory Foundation of Indianapolis, Indiana, will match gifts by their employees to institutions such as Western, even though the employees are not themselves graduates of the school. If you are employed in a corporation where such a matching grant program is possible we invite you to use it for Western Seminary.

We thank God for the many devoted friends of Western who have already mentioned Western Seminary in their wills. All inquiries concerning wills, bequests and annuities may be directed to the President, Rev. Herman J. Ridder.

Graduates Commissioned To Overseas Churches

At impressive dedication services held in the Immanuel Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, on January 28, Mr. and Mrs. John Bandt, Western class of 1962, were dedicated as missionaries to the Philippine Islands; and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon De Pree, Western class of 1955, as missionaries to Hong Kong.

An outstanding feature of the service was the address given by the guest speaker, Dr. C. S. Sundaresan, clergyman of the United Church of South India, and a teacher in the Andhra Union Theological College in Dornakal, South India.

Dr. Sundaresan also conducted a special chapel worship service at the seminary on Saturday morning, January 25, and on the next day served as guest pastor in two local churches,



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Bottom Row—Donald Jansen, Karl Overbeek, Stanley Vugteveen, Leon Aalberts, Leoncio Yao, Mark De Witt, Ronald Beyer, Harry Heeg, Frederick Kruithof, Richard Hunt, Theodore Huisman, Don Bekkering, Jason Chen. Middle Row—Jerry Wondra, Stanley Hagemeyer, Donald Vuurens, Norman Kolenbrander, George Beukema, Calvin Tysen, Charles Stickley, John Ekema, Sherwin Weener, Charles Doornbos, Daryl Vetter, Howard Schipper. Top Row—Wayne Joesse, Kelvin Kronemeyer, Arnold Van Beek, Carl De Jong, Paul Swets, Werner Minke, Ronald Van Der Werff, Marvin Schultz, David Van Dam, Stanley Vandersall, Paul De Maagd.

Men's Choir Plans 1964 Spring Tour

Basing its concert repertoire on numbers which will portray the entire Church calendar year, the 38 members of the Western Seminary Men's Choir will begin their eighth annual spring tour on February 26.

Under the direction of Ronald Beyer, the choir will open its schedule on Wednesday evening, the 26th, at the Immanuel Reformed Church of London, Ontario. Thursday evening, the 27th, will find the group performing in the Lisha's Kill Reformed Church of Schenectady, New York, while Philadelphia's Talmage Memorial Reformed Church will host the assemblage on Friday evening, the 28th. On Saturday, February 29 and Sunday, March 1, the choir will sing at least three concerts in the Richmond, Virginia area. Included in the southern

venture are dates at Second Presbyterian and the all-negro Virginia Union University. After a night on the bus, the men will spend the afternoon and evening of March 2 on and about the campus of Annville Institute in Jackson County, Kentucky. The final concert will be sung on Tuesday evening, March 3 in the First Reformed Church of South Holland, Illinois. At least one Sunday evening "home" concert will be presented, at the Bethany Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan on Sunday evening, March 15, at nine o'clock.

The accompanist is Richard Hunt while Charles Stickley, Daryl Vetter, Frederick Kruithof, and Ronald Van Der Werf serve as president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, and business manager respectively.

Visitations Welcomed At the Seminary

In accordance with the tradition established in the last few years, church groups, consistories, brotherhood groups, couples' clubs, and young people's societies of Reformed churches within driving distance of the seminary, are invited to come in for an evening of visitation and fellowship. The seminary is anxious to share the beauty of its building and the workings of its program with all interested groups of the church. If your groups would like to consider a program such as this, please contact the business manager, Mr. Henry Kleinheksel, at the business office of the school.

There are a number of high school delegations that annually make the trip to Hope College; the seminary would be pleased to make itself available to any in such a group whom the sponsors of the group feel might benefit from seminary training.

Centennial Committees Appointed

The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees has approved the appointment of the following committees to make suitable preparations for our Centennial which falls in 1966.

Serving as chairman of the Central Committee is the president of the seminary, Rev. Herman J. Ridder, along with two faculty members, Dr. L. J. Kuyper and Dr. H. J. Ten Clay; three board members, Rev. Chester Postma, Rev. Raymond Beckering, and Dr. Louis H. Benes; two members-at-large, Mr. Willard Wichers of Holland and Mr. Robert S. De Bruyn of Zeeland.

Dr. Elton M. Eenigenburg, Academic

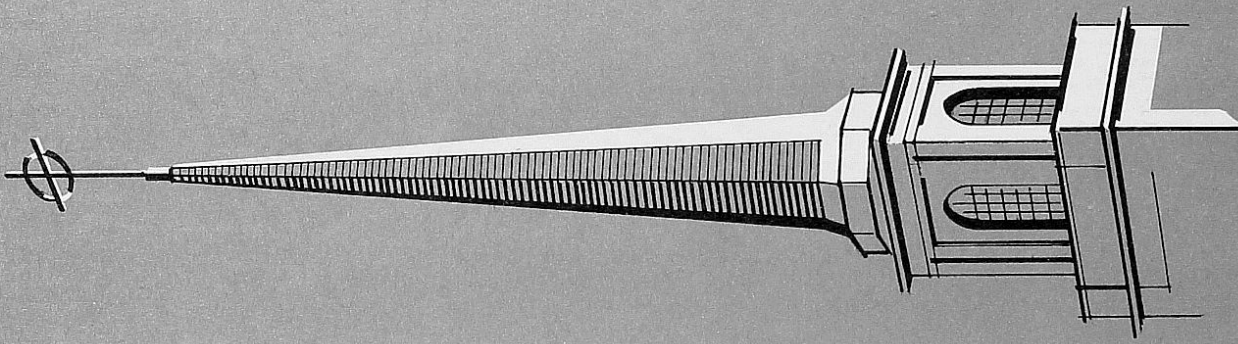
Dean, is serving as chairman of the Committee on Publications. Assisting him is Dr. Donald J. Bruggink of the faculty; two board members, Rev. John Tien and Rev. Wm. Brownson; and one member-at-large, Mr. Paul Dame of Kalamazoo.

The Committee on Academic Events has Dr. R. C. Oudersluys as chairman, along with Dr. John H. Piet and Professor Elaine E. Lubbers of the faculty; board members Dr. Calvin Vander Werf, president of Hope College, and Dr. Jerome De Jong; with the member-at-large, Dr. C. W. Vermeulen of Chicago.

Serving as chairman of the important Committee on Development, the largest of the centennial committees, is Mr. Alfred Rypstra of Grand Rapids. Faculty members are Dr. M. E. Osterhaven

and Rev. G. J. ten Zythoff; board members are Mr. H. Strabbing, Mr. Arend D. Lubbers, president of Central College, Rev. G. Van Oostenburg and Rev. K. Hesselink; with members-at-large, Mr. E. Hartgerink of Zeeland, Mr. J. Chester Brandt of Grand Rapids; Mr. Siebern Vander Wegen of Chicago, and Mr. Henry Kleinheksel, the business manager of the school.

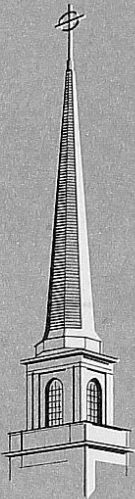
The president of the school will serve as ex-officio member of each of these committees. The board also stated that faculty representatives hold membership contingent upon their continuation as members of the seminary faculty. The committees are already at work preparing for this significant event in the life of the seminary and of the Reformed Church at large.



The Theolog

WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN



The Theolog

WINTER, 1963-64 TERM

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