

What happened in the Unification Theological Seminary's historic first year

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Two years ago this week we gathered in this chapel for the inaugural convocation and installation of faculty of a new Seminary. Even at this initial stage, it was the fulfillment of a long-time dream of its founder, Sun Myung Moon. In his Inaugural Address, Rev. Moon referred to the Seminary as the cornerstone of the Kingdom of Heaven. With the passage of time and the gradual accumulation of experience, the vision becomes clearer, the reality takes form and milestones appear along the way.

In another ten or twenty years, our perspective on the early history of the Seminary will be different from what it is today. And some of the achievement in which we take pride now may be shadowed by events and accomplishments of the future. Nevertheless, we recount them today with gratitude to our Father in Heaven and to all whose efforts and sacrifice have made them possible.

Dr. Josef Hausner, Professor of Biblical and Judaic Studies and Dr. Constantine Tsirpanlis, Professor of Church History, were installed as full time members of the faculty last September. With their appointments the Seminary was greatly enriched. We were also blessed with the appointment of Joyce Lowenstein as librarian in charge of cataloging.

Guest speakers during the year included Professors Richard Rubenstein, Harvey Cox, John Rexine, George Kline, Lonnie Kliever, James Michael Lee, and others too numerous to mention. During the month of May, a weeklong program for biblical scholars brought guests together for discussion of the Old and New Testament and more specifically, the mission of Jesus. Noted among them were Dr. Jack Finegan and Dr. John Marsh.

In January and February the Seminary and the Interfaith Affairs Committee hosted a series of lectures sponsored by the Society for Common Insights on the topic "Minorities and the Problem of Human Restoration." The lectures were given by black ministers from the New York area and dealt with the role of black and minority churches with regard to the general and spiritual health of our society.

Both faculty and students added a number of publications to their credit this year. Several faculty members published books and both faculty and students had a number of articles published in both scholarly and popular journals and newspapers.

Several students have led the way in compiling an anthology of poetry written by Church members. The anthology is at press now and will be available soon. Well on the way to publication is a second issue of *New World* which will deal with the subject of women in history, in the Bible and in our contemporary world. Many of you already enjoy the monthly issue of *The Cornerstone*, the Seminary's newsletter.

Our library has continued to grow with the acquisition of new books, journals, microfilm and other materials. The year also saw the establishment of the Oriental Religions Research Institute for the study of the History of Asian Christianity. Its library is funded by the Korean, Japanese, Chinese and American churches and contains over 1000 volumes. The Institute featured a lecture and film series on the future of world religions.

Professors and students alike attended a number of conferences and meetings of professional societies dealing with everything from women's liberation to deprogramming. Among them were the First Jerusalem Conference of Christian and Israelis: a Conference on Women and Human Liberation, a National Conference on the Church and Social Problems, Ecumenical Pentecost, the International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences, the Toronto and New York conference on deprogramming.

A group of students produced the musical "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown." The production, while not able to serve as an outreach to the local community as intended, was well received at several successful performances at the Seminary and also at the Manhattan Center in New York City. The Cultural Affairs Series brought several memorable events during the year including a concert by Dr. Boslooper and Mary Allen, a noted soprano, a cello concert by Lewis Lowenstein, a slide film lecture on Art and Culture by Mr. Samuel Leuchli, to mention but a few.

There are the beginnings of a number of traditions in our history of these two years. Among them was the first annual David Kim Oratorical Contest held in February and sponsored by the Oratorical Club.

Last November two distinguished Seminary educators visited the Seminary as consultants on behalf of the State Board of Education, Dean George Peck of Andover-Newton and Prof. Campbell Wyckoff of Princeton Theological Seminary. They examined the program and facilities, attended lectures, met with faculty and students, and subsequently reported to the State Board. Their report culminated in a recommendation that the Seminary be granted the Provisional Charter for which it had applied in April of 1975.

Further testimony to the accomplishment of the Seminary, and in particular to the excellence and dedication of our faculty, is the fact that seven members of our first graduating class have been admitted to renowned seminaries and universities in the U.S. and Canada for further graduate study: Union, Harvard, Drew, University of Chicago, General Theological Union, Boston University and the University of Toronto. Eleven more graduates have completed their field requirements and have gone to various states as Unification Church State Directors. From the beginning of the Seminary, Rev. Moon has expressed his concern that students be well rounded in their interests and skill. In April and May, he expressed his concern in a substantial way by initiating a fishing campaign in the Tivoli Bay lagoon that caused virtually every student, at least one professor and a number of church leaders to go beyond the limits of previous experience and to become novice fishermen and fisherwomen.

If the opening of the Seminary and installation of the faculty in September 1975 was foremost among the milestones of our short history, graduation of the first class on July 1, 1977 must be of equal import. With graduation the faculty and administration experienced both pride and a sense of achievement but in no way could we feel inclined to sit back and rest. Indeed with the experience of each term we can better see the distance we must yet traverse in order to bring together the ideal and the real.

But Seminary education is more than the events and products easily recalled today. More difficult to assess and to describe is the process which somehow binds together the academic, the spirited, the cultural and physical to give the Seminary a certain thrust. The process includes but is more than search, discovery, discipline, application, sensitivity and growth. It includes but is more than faith, trust, love and relationship. I pray that together we can "write" another year of history which we and our children can look back upon with pride.