PRACTICAL DEPARTMENT SETS NEW PATTERN

Rev. Cook Joins Western Faculty

The Rev. James I. Cook of Blauwburg, New Jersey has been appointed to the faculty at Western Theological Seminary as instructor of Biblical Languages. A native of Grand Rapids, the Rev. Mr. Cook attended Grand Rapids Junior College and served twenty-six months in the United States Army.

Following his discharge, he entered Hope College from which he received his A.B. in 1948 and subsequently attended Michigan State University from which he received the M.A. degree. His B.D. from Western Theological Seminary followed in 1952. He is presently completing the requirements for the Th.D. degree in the field of New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary.

In addition to serving as the minister of the Reformed Church in Blauwburg since 1953, Mr. Cook has also been vice-president of the Particular Synod of New Jersey, and served as chairman of its Church Extension Committee. He has been the editor of The Youth Page of The Church Herald in 1960-62 and was a contributor to the Reformed Church Youth Fellowship kit and The Reformed Review, the theological journal of Western Theological Seminary. He is a contributing editor to the book, Guilt, Grace, and Gratitude, edited by Dr. Donald Bruggink, another member of the seminary faculty.

The Cooks with their four children, Mark J., Carol J., Timothy S., and Paul B., arrived in Holland in mid-October. Mrs. Cook is from Chatham, New York and was graduated from Hope College in 1950. Professor Cook will begin his academic work with the second quarter, which gets under way on December 2 of this year. As the latest member of an augmented seminary faculty, Rev. Cook has his office in Zwemer Hall, inasmuch as there is no room for offices in the main seminary building. The address of the Cooks in Holland is 156 W. 12th St.

New President Welcomed at Seminary

President and Mrs. Herman J. Ridder of the Western Theological Seminary were the guests of honor at a welcoming banquet held at the Holiday Inn in Grand Rapids on Saturday, August 3. The Rev. Chester A. Postma, chairman of the Board of Trustees, presided at the event and gave the address of welcome to the Ridders. Mr. Elmer Hartgerink, a member of the Investment Committee of the Seminary, spoke for that committee.

The welcome from the professors and staff of the seminary was given by Dr. Lester J. Kuypers, secretary of the faculty. Dr. and Mrs. M. Eugene Osterhaven, recently returned from a sabbatical study in Europe, were also welcome by the group and Dr. Osterhaven presented several interesting highlights of their experiences abroad.

Present for the occasion were faculty and staff members and their wives, along with Executive Committee members and their wives, and Investment Committee members and their wives.

The Women's Classical Union of the Holland Classis also gave a welcoming tea for Mrs. Herman Ridder, at the home of Mrs. L. W. Lamb, Jr., at about that same time. Welcomed with Mrs. Ridder, wife of the new president of Western Seminary, was Mrs. Calvin Vander Werf, wife of the new president of Hope College. The tea was attended by many women of the Holland and Zeeland area.

The Ridders are at home at 580 Central Avenue, Holland, Michigan.

Western Begins Observation Program

Under the stimulating leadership of the Practical department, Professors Lubbers and ten Zythoff have begun an observation program at the school this fall. Voted by the faculty last spring, the program is actually an attempt to help the junior students in their first year of training to be responsive to the eclesiastical environment in which they find themselves as part of the learning process. Far too often, we do things without really understanding why we do them or what we might learn from the way others do them. For that reason, some eighteen churches in the area—one Reformed and some of other denominational affiliation—were selected in which two or three of our students are assigned on a quarterly basis. They are given opportunity to observe the entire church life, including the Christian education program, church administration, worship, and various other boards and committees of the congregation. Extensive reports are submitted which prepare the student for the teaching program in the last two years of seminary. In addition to the actual observation in the church which is carried on during the quarter, there are six seminar dinners which are attended by the students, pastors and lay representatives of participating churches, and interested faculty people. Outstanding speakers are being brought to the seminar sessions to speak on subjects that are related to the questions raised by the observation program. Seminar subjects for this year to be dealt with by outstanding lecturers are "The Psychology of Leadership," (Dr. Bloomsma); "Church and Culture," (Dr. Walter Kletsch); "The Ministry of the Laity," (Rev. Joseph Pelham); "Teacher, Preacher, Counsellor—Profession or Person," (Dr. Leonard Vander Linde); "The Role of the Bible in Christian Education," (Dr. Coert Rylaarsdam); and "The Function of a Board in the Life of a Denomination." (Rev. Arthur Van Eek).
Lecture Series Announced For Western

Each year the academic life of the seminary is enriched by the visits of distinguished theologians from the world church. This year the lecture committee of the faculty announced the following program of lecturers, which in some cases is tentative as to dates:

On October 4, the Rev. Roelof Bakker, minister of the Gereformeerde Kirken in Rotterdam, gave a special lecture on the subject “Missionary Approach to the Jews.” On October 8, his colleague, Dr. N. J. Hommes, spoke to the students at an evening session about the life and work of the great French theologian, Pascal.

On October 9, Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, stated clerk of the United Presbyterian Church, spoke to the faculty and student body on the subject “The Ecumenical Movement.” His presentation was followed by a spirited and interesting question and answer session which was most enlightening and beneficial to the entire seminary family.

On October 17, Dr. M. Eugene Osterhaven, professor of Systematic Theology at Western, gave the first in a series of faculty lectures on the subject “Crisis in the Doctrine of the State.” In a very masterful way Dr. Osterhaven dealt with one of the thorniest subjects in the world of contemporary theological thought.

On November 5 and 6, Dr. James B. Pritchard, curator of the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania and world-renowned Biblical archaeologist, gave a series of three lectures in his field of specialized study. On Tuesday morning, he spoke on the subject “Gibeon: a Biblical City from the Earth.” In the afternoon, his subject was “Daily Life and the Afterlife.” The last lecture of his series given on Wednesday morning was entitled “What has Archaeology Done for the Bible?” Each of these lectures was enriched by a color slide presentation. The students and faculty were very appreciative of this very recent and important work being done in archaeological exploration in the Holy Land.

In an innovation in the series of lectures, Professor Edward Savage of Hope College will present the first in a series of lectures by college professors on areas of their special competence. In the first of five such lectures, Dr. Savage will speak on the subject “Man’s View of Man in Modern Drama.”

Other lectures in this special series will be one on January 23 given by Professor Adrian Klaassen on “Man’s View of Man in Modern Economies”; on February 16, Dr. William Vander Lugt will give an address on “Man’s View of Man in the Philosophy of Education”; and Professor J. Prins on March 19 will speak on “Man’s View of Man in the Modern Novel.” This part of the special lecture series will be concluded by Dr. D. Ivan Dykstra on March 26 speaking on “Man’s View of Man in Modern Philosophy.” It is hoped that in addition to the presentation of scholarly material in these special fields of interest, there will be created a closer relationship between the college faculty and the seminary faculty and student body.

On January 15-17, Dr. Eugene A. Nida of the American Bible Society will give a series of lectures whose subjects will be announced at a later date.

On January 30, Professor Elaine E. Lubbers will give a faculty lecture for the second quarter on a subject to be announced, while the faculty lecture for the third quarter will be given by Dr. Donald J. Bruggink, on a subject to be announced, probably about mid-April.

On February 13, Western will welcome Dr. James J. McCord, distinguished president of Princeton Seminary, who will speak on a subject to be announced later.

In mid-March, Dr. J. Coert Rynearson, professor of Old Testament Studies at the University of Chicago, will deliver a special lecture.

Later in the third quarter the New Brunswick exchange lecturer will be Professor James Eelman, while the Calvin Seminary exchange lecturer in the same quarter will be Professor Harold Dekker. The subjects of these lectures will be announced later. From the Western faculty, Dr. Richard C. Oudersluys will travel to New Brunswick to be their exchange lecturer for this academic year.

All Theolog readers should note the changed schedule of time for these lectures, which is as follows: 9:00-10:00 A.M., the lecture in the commons; 10:00-10:15, coffee break; and in the case of afternoon lectures, they are all scheduled to be held from 2:00-3:00 P.M.

All lectures in the series in the seminary are open to the public and all Theolog readers are cordially invited to attend.

Redecoration Planned For Seminary Building

At the October meeting of the Executive Committee, it was decided to carry out an extensive redecorating program. The present facilities of the seminary were dedicated in 1955. Since that time, a minimum of redecoration has been done, largely because of budget shortages in previous years.

Although the monies are not in hand for such a program, it was felt by the administration of the school that further postponement of such absolutely necessary building maintenance would be a costly factor in the continuing life of the seminary as well as highly questionable stewardship. Although it may well be that some of the redecoration for the exterior of the building will have to wait until the warm weather of next spring, plans are being formulated for the earliest possible redecoration of significant portions of the interior of the school during the current calendar year.

Intern Program Enters Third Year

The one-year intern program, begun at Western Seminary recently, is now in its third year of activity.

It began with five interns in 1961 and continued last year with six interns. This year’s program includes seven interns who are spending a specialized year of work under close supervision in various areas of church activity.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Boyce are serving at the Bethany Reformed Church of Kalamazoo, Michigan, a church which last year used the intern services of Harian and Cathie Ratmeyer. Larry Groeters is serving the Ebenezer Reformed Church at Morrison, Illinois, while H. Peter Kuiper is assigned to the Fifth Reformed Church of Grand Rapids. Stephen Springer is working at the Cedar Grove Reformed Church in Wisconsin, and LeRoy Suss is at the Hope Reformed Church in the Los Angeles area in California. Delmar Thiesse is assigned to the Elmendorf Reformed Church in New York City, and the seventh intern, Mark Walvood, is serving at First Reformed Church of Pella, Iowa.

Western students who have come back from a year of intern service have been most enthusiastic about their experiences and have been stimulating sources of information and discussion in the student body.

Churches desiring the services of a one-year intern should address their inquiries to the president of the school or the dean of students. Arrangements can be made which will be mutually satisfactory to the school, the student, and the requesting church. This carefully structured program is of great importance for the educational work of the students at Western Seminary, and it should become increasingly important through the years.
Highlights of the 1963 Commencement

At the graduation exercises of the class of 1963, one of the unusual features of this event was the commencement of Jeremy and Elsie Law. It was the culmination of many years of careful preparation, constant prayer, and a deep faith in God. For the first time in the history of Western, a man and wife received their degrees at the same commencement. Elsie Law is the first woman to earn the B.D. degree from Western Seminary.

Jeremy Law, born in Amoy, China, is the son of a Chinese pastor of The Trinity Church in Amoy, one of the strongest churches in the Classis of the South Fukien Synod of the Church of Christ in China. Jeremy graduated from the Anglo-Chinese High School.

Elsie, as a ten-ager, was a student in the Amoy Girl's High School where Dr. Tena Holkeboer was the principal at that time. Elsie was a leader in the school. Her father was an elder in the Church of Christ in China.

The Laws were forced to leave China by the political crisis in the mainland in the late 1940's. Elsie studied and worked in various parts of Malaya where she gained considerable experience in the Methodist Church. During this time, Jeremy was in Hong Kong where he studied theology at Bethel Bible School and later was an instructor there. At the same time, he was a leader of the young people in the churches of the Amoy-speaking Chinese in Kowloon and Hong Kong.

In August of 1963, Jeremy, Elsie, and little Sammy left Holland to enter upon their first work together in the Hong Kong area. Both Jeremy and Elsie are now teaching in the Hoh Fuk Tong Anglo-Chinese College in Hong Kong. This is a new high school which just opened its doors for the first time in September of this year. It is located in the new territories in a picturesque, rural setting twenty miles from downtown Hong Kong and sponsored by the Hong Kong Council of the Church of Christ in China.

Other overseas students graduating with the Laws were Moses Keng, who is now in Manila serving a school and a church and busily at work in this area of kingdom work; and Stanley Lin, from Hong Kong, who is at present a candidate for the Th.M. degree here at Western. The seminary is happy to report to the readers of the Theolog that each member of the senior class of 1963 has now been placed. The first fields of service of these students have been published in the Church Herald and in the local newspapers of the graduates themselves.

Dr. Piet Writes for World Home Bible League

Dr. John H. Piet, Professor of English Bible and Missions at the seminary, is widely regarded by the world church as a pioneer in the use of written materials for the world mission of the church. His correspondence courses have sold in the hundreds of thousands of copies. More recently, since coming to the seminary, Dr. Piet has prepared booklets which have been used as study materials by the world church to be distributed through the World Home Bible League. His most recent materials are 35,000 copies of a booklet entitled "The Kingdom of God" and 65,000 copies of a booklet entitled "That You May Have Life." In a time of emerging nationalism, many people in the world church in foreign countries are particularly open to this kind of evangelistic effort and the materials supplied by Dr. Piet are an important part of this whole activity.

Seminary Receives Generous Gift

Mr. John De Haan of Platte, South Dakota, who with his three sons owns and operates the John De Haan Farms, made a generous gift of $40,000 to the Restricted Endowment Fund of the seminary. Given to establish the "John De Haan Scholarship Loan Fund," the gift in its principal sum is to be invested in church building projects of the Reformed Church. Earnings from these investments are to be used to provide scholarship loans to students of the seminary, either while they are enrolled at the school or, in certain cases, if they go on to graduate theological studies.

Begun in 1960 with the help and guidance of Dr. John R. Mulder, then president of the school, the planning of this gift had a two-fold design: first, to strengthen the extension efforts of the Reformed Church and second, to support the theological training program of the Reformed Church through Western Seminary by being of help to the students at the school.

In commenting on the gift, President Ridder said, "One of the pressures in the world of theological education is for growing scholarship aid funds so that students whose financial resources are all but exhausted after four years of college, may be increasingly excused from the necessity of non-educative employment."

It is expected that through the years the John De Haan Scholarship Loan Fund will grow into a very substantial
asset, helping many students to receive theological training for the service of the church of Christ at home and around the world. It is hoped that this gift may be a stimulus for other readers of The Theolog to "go out and do thou likewise."

The Seminary has an attractive brochure relating to bequests and annuities that we would be glad to send to any address suggested by one of our Theolog readers.

Goyim Project Underway

The Goyim missionary promotion program for this academic year was opened on October 18 with an early morning breakfast prepared by the students of the Goyim Society. Dr. Miner Stegenga, guest speaker and an experienced pastor, gave a background introduction to the Christian mission.

Later in the day, at the regular chapel service held at the seminary, the Rev. Robert Block, teacher at High Hope School for Boys in Basra, Iraq, spoke about the need to present the Christian gospel to Muslims. The project approved by Goyim for this year is a gift to be applied toward the building of a new library for the High Hope School in Basrah. This library project is part of a larger program to build a totally new facility for this famous boys' school. Located in Basrah, the third largest city of Iraq, with a population of 160,000, the school will continue the ministry maintained by the Reformed Church for many years under the inspired leadership of Dr. John Van Eas.

In the evening, a potluck supper for the entire seminary family was held in Ter Keurst auditorium of the Trinity Church of Holland. At this meeting, the Rev. Mr. Block showed the costumes and customs of the Muslim people of Basrah. He also presented a filmstrip showing the present school buildings and some views of the city. The present building, about fifty years old, is overcrowded, rundown, and, in many respects, beyond repair.

The Goyim project this year is close to the hearts of the student body because Mr. Donald Jiskoot, a senior student at the seminary, has left to serve as a three-year short term missionary in this school. Elsewhere in the Theolog is an account of Don Jiskoot's experiences to date.

The amount pledged on October 25 was $2,235.00.

Last year's Goyim project was for a North American Mission project of the Reformed Church and was designated for the Cool Springs Chapel in Jackson County, Kentucky.

Seminary Student Serves at Basrah

Donald Jiskoot of Sheldon, Iowa, a graduate of Northwestern College in Orange City and a senior student at Western Seminary, arrived in Basrah, Iraq on September 7 to begin a three-year short term missionary assignment. Don will be serving at the High Hope School for Boys in Basrah, Iraq, a distinguished institution served by our own Dr. John Van Eas for many years. Don will teach English and Physical Education.

There are about 250 Iraqi Muslim students in the school, which has trained many Iraqi government officials through the years. Among the "firsts" of Jiskoot's trip will be that he is the first short-term missionary to enter Iraq since the 1958 revolution in that country and he is also the first seminary student to do his missionary work while still attending the seminary. Most students do a short-term before entering seminary or following the completion of seminary work. Dr. John Piet, Professor of Missions at the seminary, first interested Jiskoot in doing his missionary work in this way. Dr. Piet hopes that more students will follow Don's lead.

Western graduates now serving at the Basrah school are the Rev. and Mrs. Harvey Staal of Grand Rapids. At one time, the Rev. J. Kapenga of Holland was a short-term missionary in Iraq.

Don arrived in Basrah by way of the Netherlands, Paris, Rome and Beirut, Lebanon where he visited with the Ed Luidens family. Don hopes to finish his B.D. work at the seminary following his three-year term of duty and his challenging assignment at the high school.

Emeriti Honored at Dinner

The present faculty and staff of the seminary served as hosts for a dinner to the retired members of the faculty and staff of the seminary on September 20 in the commons. Present were Dr. and Mrs. John R. Mulder, president emeritus; Dr. and Mrs. George Mennenga, emeritus dean of the seminary; and Dr. Simon Blocker, emeritus professor of preaching.

Highlight of the occasion was the welcoming of Mrs. Albertus Pieters, who had just celebrated her 97th birthday. Mrs. Pieters, in full health and gracious as usual, was happy to lend her presence to this occasion. After a brief presentation made by Dr. M. Eugene Osterhaven, the guests of honor were able to converse informally with the members of the present faculty and staff. It was a delight to all the participants to retain a close relationship between themselves and those whose contributions were made in earlier years.

Lilly Scholarship Award

The faculty of the seminary named Rowland Van Es as this year's recipient of the Lilly Scholarship Award given under the auspices of our accrediting agency, the A.A.T.S.

The Award is made on the basis of scholarship and scholarly competence and is granted so that the recipient may be essentially freed from duties outside of his educational responsibilities.

Rowland is a member of the senior class at the seminary and is a son of Rev. and Mrs. Peter Van Es, who are currently serving the Christ Reformed Church of Newark, New Jersey.

Former recipients of this distinguished award include John Kleinheksel, John Opmeer, Evert Fikse, and Howard Davis.

Student Newspaper Begun at Western

Poïema, the new student newspaper at Western Seminary, was published shortly after the new school term began.

The present editorial board consists of Editor Jerry Wondra, Bill Burke, Carl De Jong, Stan Hagemeyer, and George Boergeren. Faculty members and students of the school are encouraged to publish essays, articles, prayers, poems, and other forms of creative writing in this new vehicle for student expression.

Readers of the Theolog who would be interested in receiving a copy should write to the editor, Jerry Wondra, in care of the seminary.
Western Students Budding Archaeologists

Although most Western students enter more prosaic assignments on their summer field duty, two Western students, at the completion of their junior year this past summer, had an unusual opportunity for summer field service. Norman Kansfield of South Holland, Illinois and Gordon Dragt of Grant, Michigan, participated during the summer in a study tour and archaeological seminar given by the Institute for the Mediterranean Studies. The Institute recently completed a second season of work at Tell Nagila, Israel, a classical ancient site. Seminars of the Institute are conducted at the present excavations of this site, which serves as a training area for students of history, archaeology, anthropology, and Biblical studies in the practical methods and concepts of a modern excavation.

Study tours and courses in Biblical languages and archaeology are offered in connection with this experience.

The initial inspiration for this summer field duty on the part of Western students was given by Dr. Charles Fritsch of the Princeton Theological Seminary, who gave an illustrated series of three lectures at Western Seminary on a previous lecture tour. Dragt and Kansfield had the privilege of stopping off at Rome to tour the famous city and visit places like the Vatican, Colosseum, Forum, and other ancient and modern sites. They also stopped off at Athens to view the Acropolis, the Agora, and Mars Hill. Their stay in Athens also included a beautiful drive of 17,000 feet altitude in the mountains of the Greek countryside to visit the site of the ancient “Oracle of Delphi.” From Athens they flew to the kingdom of Jordan, where they made an intensive tour of the country, visiting many places that played an important part in the biblical story.

For these budding Old Testament scholars, one of the highlights of this experience was to visit the place where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered; also to walk through the streets of old Jerusalem and to view the mountains of Judea and of Moab, being aware of the fact that this was the area where the patriarchs had spent so much of their time and the town which is so rich in Biblical history. Experiences like this leave impressions which give life-long inspiration.

The practical work of excavation was done at Tell Nagila, Israel. Academic course work, given in a governmental agricultural school near Beer Sheva, alternated with actual work at the excavation. This three-week program of intensive studies in the Negev was the crowning experience of their whole trip.

Here they not only worked with pick and shovel and wheelbarrow but also washed, marked, sorted, and helped reconstruct pottery that was found during the excavation.

Further insights were gained by visiting other tells, excavations, and museums, all of which were part of an intensive archaeological program.

Following the completion of this archaeological work, Dragt and Kansfield resumed courses of study in Jerusalem, living on the campus of the Hebrew University, one of the most beautiful spots in the entire country, and studying at the Archaeological Institute where most of their time was spent in research and classroom attendance. Here it was their privilege to attend lectures by outstanding professors from the world church. Free time permitted the students to become acquainted with the city of Jerusalem and the Jewish people.

The whole situation in the Near East opened up to these students because they were here for a longer time than mere tourists. Toward the end of the summer, Kansfield and Dragt also spent some time in study and a tour of northern Palestine. The beauty of Lake Galilee, rich in its storied, historical past, was an inspiration to the students and gave them some of their most memorable impressions. Regretfully, they left Israel on September 8.

TheoLog readers will be interested to know that both Dragt and Kansfield, while they were seniors at Hope College, took advantage of the new program which the seminary offers, allowing college seniors with proper recommendations to enter the study of the Hebrew language with the seminary classes, receiving credit toward their college requirements. In this way, Old Testament scholars get a one-year advantage in the study of this Biblical language. It is hoped that this program will continue from year to year in the seminary curriculum.

The Institute for Mediterranean Studies will continue this type of program each summer.

Words Not Enough

At an unusual chapel service conducted by Dr. Lester Kuyper of the seminary faculty held early in the beginning of the school year, the students were deeply moved by the challenge of race relations and the Christian attitude toward this thorny national problem.

The chapel service was held on the day of the funeral of the victims of the bombing of the Sixteenth St. Baptist Church of Birmingham, Alabama. In a spontaneous expression of student-faculty response to the challenge of this special service, more than $100.00 was raised at an unscheduled offering. This amount was forwarded to the trustees of the Birmingham 16th Street Church to be used for reconstruction of their bombed-out building. Although the amount was not large, Rev. Herman Ridder, our acting president, said the offering was taken because “we felt more than words were needed to express our concern.”
Faculty Holds One-Day Retreat

An unusual event of the opening days of the new school year this fall was the one-day retreat held by the faculty of the seminary at a private cottage on Lake Michigan. Purpose of the retreat was to consider in depth the problems revolving about the applicant for admission: his academic credentials and his psychological makeup and the spiritual maturities during his student days. In an unhurried atmosphere, the faculty had ample opportunity to consider this important subject at length.

Other events of opening days included the Camp Geneva Convocation, the highlight of the opening period, with Dr. Campbell of the Ann Arbor Presbyterian Church as principal speaker. The formal convocation in the seminary chapel was addressed by our new president, Rev. Herman J. Ridder, who spoke on the subject “Theological Education and the Mission of Today’s Church.”

The final revised enrollment total of Western for this year is as follows: Seniors, thirty-four; Middlers, thirty-three; Juniors, thirty-two; MCE candidate, one; Th.M. candidates, ten; special students, three; for a total of 113 full-time students at the school. In addition, seven interns are serving out in the field for a total of 120 enrolled at the seminary in this academic year.

This year the new field of Christian Ethics and Philosophy of Religion has been opened with Dr. Elton M. Eenigenburg as head of that department. Replacing him as Professor of Church History and Historical Theology is Dr. Donald J. Bruggink, who last year served as sabbatical replacement for Dr. M. Eugene Osterhaven who was studying overseas at the University of Utrecht in post-doctoral study. Mr. James Malcolm of the speech faculty of Hope College is assisting as instructor in speech in the first two quarters of this year, replacing Mr. Eugene Rucker. The second year of work toward the Master of Christian Education degree is underway with Mrs. Elaine Lubbers as professor in that department. Readers of the Theolog are reminded that there is this new opportunity for young women in the Reformed church to receive specialized training which should prepare them adequately for posts as directors of Christian Education in our larger, multiple-ministry churches.