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COVENANT Courier

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Enrollment on the increase; New students take orientation seriously

The enrollment at Covenant climbed upward as 520 students enrolled for the fall semester. Registrar Rudolph Schmidt, who heads up the registration procedures each semester, pointed out that it marked an increase of 26 over last year.

A total of 218 new students arrived on campus one week early to go through the orientation process. Of these, 159 made up the freshman class.

It was not an easy week for those going through orientation, but it wasn't because of some "upper classman's" merciless pranks. It was a carefully planned orientation process which was designed to help new students gain confidence and quickly adjust to their new surroundings.

Organized to give new students a boost in the "informational" area and the "emotional" area, the week of orientation started on a Saturday before classes began on August 29. The new students were divided into small groups, each of which was led by a resident assistant — an upper-classman who would be with them all year long.

They first went to a wooded area on campus, where there was equipment specially built for a confidence course. In this course the group was challenged to overcome certain physical obstacles which confronted it, and experiences in group cohesion, leadership, decision-making, and camaraderie followed naturally.

Besides a seminar on the use of spiritual gifts, information about many aspects of college life was offered each evening for the next week. New students also took

One by one, the freshmen helped each other scale the wall, at left. In the upper middle picture, cohorts prepare for their partner's free fall from a 10 foot platform. The last exercise, far right, was on parallel rappelling ropes.



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placement exams as they prepared for their academic work.

"There's a lot of change when someone goes to college," said Barry Loy, Covenant's Director of Placement and Counseling. "There are changes in responsibility, friends, finances, academics, and church life. If enough change happens at one time, it causes an emotional crisis. Orientation is set up to meet this potential crisis."

Clark prods freshmen to memorize while the time is right

Stressing that college is their last opportunity for certain kinds of learning, Gordon H. Clark of the Covenant philosophy department told entering freshmen of Covenant that they must get busy memorizing the Psalms and foreign languages.

"Memorization is a fleeting opportunity. After graduation very few students — with perhaps the exception of those who go to Seminary — memorize anything." Dr. Clark said, "The cares of this life, if not the deceitfulness of riches, exclude memorization. One may state as a

general rule that college is the last chance you will have to memorize Scripture."

Dr. Clark noted that memorization of the Psalms in particular would help to cure three common defects of prayer: a superabundance of petitions, crudity of language, and a lack of reverence.

"My dear young friends, memorize the Psalms," Dr. Clark pleaded. "The use of the Psalms in prayer will eliminate all three of these defects."

He went on to say that a college education shapes the minds of those who will be influential in future generations. He stated that a scholarship which is able to give a civilization its form and which controls the thinking of its people, demands proper preparation through the memorization of foreign languages.

"Your opportunity to become capable of influencing large numbers of the succeeding generation ends right here at Covenant College," he said. "To exaggerate only a little bit, Christian devotion consists in the devoted memorization of the Greek irregular verbs; and your advance in sanctification is measured by your grade-point average."

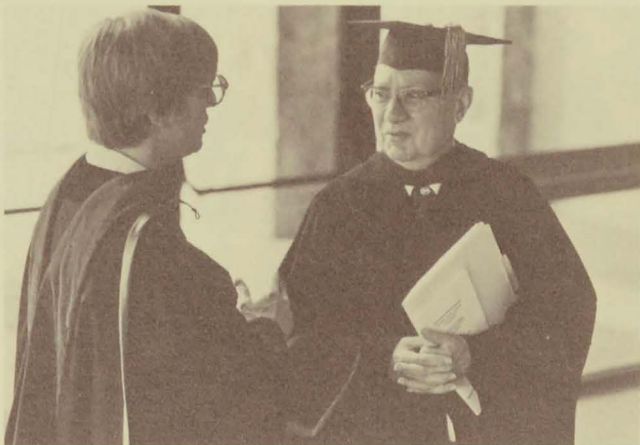
The 78-year-old scholar spends half of his time writing and the other half teaching philosophy.

Did you know . . .

■ That recent additions to the staff include Mr. Mark Arnold, Admissions Counselor; Mr. Barry Loy, Director of Placement and Counseling; Mr. Philip Freeze, Supervisor of Maintenance; and Mrs. Teri Curry, Director of Student Health and Education?

■ That the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod designated Sunday, October 26, 1980 as "Covenant College Sunday" throughout the denomination? Pastors of local churches will be contacted concerning details of the special day.

■ That Dr. Charles Donaldson, Covenant's Director of Planning and Enrollment Development is on a semester sabbatical to do further study at UCLA?



Dean Barker with Dr. Clark