

# SUMMERTIME AT COVENANT

JUNE, 1978

## 99 take degrees after "a job well done"

The excitement of Saturday morning—commencement morning—at Covenant is always great, but this year there were a number of special things to look forward to. Those of us who were here wish the rest of you could have stayed to see this finale to the 1977-78 school year.

First of all, God generously gave a beautiful spring day for this year's festivities. Then it was the sound of Deborah Hasting's (Jeannie's sister) bagpipe that summoned the 99 graduates to their seats in the Great Hall, which was literally jammed with parents and friends of the seniors.

After the singing of "None Other Lamb" and Elsbeth Schaffers' senior testimony, Dr. J. I. Packer was introduced. Covenant people know him as the author of *Knowing God* and *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*. Besides being an author, though,



he is the Associate Principal of Trinity College in Bristol, England and a fine speaker. He was the senior class choice for commencement speaker, and he met their high expectations with a fine message.

He told his Covenant audience that living under authority brings freedom. "The condition and cost of freedom is that we will be willing to live under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ," he said.

"Don't seek an unstructured life," Dr. Packer said, addressing himself to the graduates. "The most unstructured life is where there is nothing but 'hanging loose,' and it has the Biblical name of hell."

What, then, is true freedom? "It isn't a matter of being free *from* anything," Dr. Packer noted. "It's a matter of being free *for* personal content, unselfish love, and joy."

The hymn "Father I Know"—an appropriate follow-up to the message—was sung, and then two special friends of the college received recognition. They were Dr. Franklyn Dyrness, a trustee from

Quarryville, Pa., and Mr. Henry Trotter, a retired insurance executive of Chattanooga. Both received plaques of recognition for their years of service and commitment to the college.

Other special recognition went to Mr. and Mrs. Max Belz, parents of Sara Belz, a senior who is the youngest in a family of eight. All eight of the Belzes attended Covenant, and Mr. Belz was on the original board of the college.

Finally, the faculty and board of trustees made statements of appreciation to Dr. Barnes, who was finishing his last commencement at Covenant as the college president. In further tribute to him, the recently-finished portrait of him was unveiled. Dr. Richard Chewning, who presided over the entire service, announced that Dr. Barnes would become chancellor of the college after his term of president ends June 30.



A special guest at commencement was president-elect Dr. Martin Essenburg, who was visiting from Holland, Michigan.

Of the 99 seniors, 15 graduated with honors:

Daniel Martyn Brown, magna cum laude  
William Arthur Cairns, cum laude  
Lewis Lancaster Codington,\* cum laude  
James Hugh Ells, magna cum laude  
Cecilia Randine Fuentes, cum laude  
Sharon Alice Farrow, cum laude  
Donald Timothy Hanna, magna cum laude  
Gary Lee Kleinau, magna cum laude  
Jonathan Eric Labman, cum laude  
Nick Alan Lazor, cum laude  
Jonathan Bruce McDonald,\* cum laude  
Paul Kenneth Moser, magna cum laude  
Philip Edward Pedley, summa cum laude  
Elsbeth Caroline Schaffers,\* summa cum laude  
Rebekka Young Strom, magna cum laude

\*indicates double major

### Hindsight is better than foresight

Sam Mietling, who, as most up-to-date Covenant students know, came in 116th in the Boston Marathon this year, told the *Presbyterian Journal* that there were two factors that may have hampered him from running an even better race.

The first was that Sam was a full minute late getting over the starting line because of his seeding in the race. Apparently some 200 runners got to begin the race before he did, and this gave Sam a "late start."

The other factor was the size of Boston's "Heartbreak Hill." Sam wishes now that he had known more about the hill. He saved for it throughout the race, only to find "that it was nothing after running on Lookout Mountain."

Oh well, Sam, there's always next year.

### Pedaling homeward

Brian Bays and Tom Grady (remember them?) left the Saturday morning of commencement on a week-long bicycle trip from Lookout Mountain to Jacksonville and Sarasota, Florida. Part of the reason for the trip was "F & F" (fun and fellowship), but they both were hoping to do some work for the Admissions Counseling Office along the way.



Their itinerary included Gadsden, Montgomery and Dothan, Alabama; the southwest corner of Georgia; and Tallahassee and Jacksonville in Florida. They planned to drop by Jeff Wilkins' house in Dothan and to call prospective Covenanters all along the way.

### Whew! The front circle is done

The gardeners had barely finished cleaning their spades when the heavy commencement traffic started pulling up the front circle drive to Covenant. It was late Friday afternoon, the day before the twenty-third commencement, before the newly paved driveway was open.

The project, which lasted the last six weeks of the school year, completely changed the landscaping in the front of the college. An ample two-lane oval with concrete curbing and drainage system replaced the old road, and seeding of the lawn and planting of shrubs put a final touch on the area.

The next step will be the relandscaping of the walkway area between Carter Hall and the library.

This will include digging out parts of the old asphalt driveways by the library and the short piece in front of the music building. When the west bank is reseeded and steps are built, the present gravel walkway will be permanently paved.

### Starr picks up the slack

When Starr Slagle applied for summer work at Kelly Girl, Inc. in Chattanooga, she didn't expect the assignment she got: President Marion D. Barnes' Office, Covenant College. Nevertheless, on Monday morning May 8, Starr found herself sitting at the president's secretary's desk with plenty to do. Starr will be a senior at Covenant this fall.



### Airline personnel "fly" in for first conference

The first of many summer conferences at Covenant began the first week of the summer. It's almost as though the first group has an addiction to being in the clouds: they're the Fellowship of Christian Airline Personnel.

This year marked the third time the conference has met at Covenant, and they are always bubbling with excitement to be together and to be at Covenant.

The fellowship is an intra-airline involvement of Christian flight attendants, reservationists, mechanics, baggage carriers and pilots. Their president, Captain Joe Ivey, a 727 pilot from Atlanta, was as exuberant as anyone on the first day.

"This is a time when we come away to refresh ourselves, 'to charge our batteries.'" he said. "There has been a lot of seed sown—and we believe this year will be a harvest year."

A special speaker at the conference was Dr. Ray Stedman, pastor and author from Palo Alto, California, who wrote the well-known book *Body Life*. Other meetings included individual testimonies by airline employees, with a prodding by each to show Christ's love through whatever one's task is.

### A challenge for prayer and giving

With just over a month to go, there was still about \$100,000 to raise before the college could claim the \$210,000 challenge grant. Please continue to pray for this and for the Development personnel who are responsible for seeing the challenge met.