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THE VANGUARD

... THE CHURCH IN HUMAN RELATIONS

Volume 3, Number 3

April, 1956

INSTITUTE ISSUE

Each summer since 1950 an Institute on Human Relations (race relations) has been held on the campus of Valparaiso University at Valparaiso, Indiana. The Institute this year is scheduled for July 13-15.

Valparaiso University, the only Lutheran university in the country, and the Lutheran Human Relations Association and its chapters will sponsor the Institute which is national in scope. Last year 180 persons from twenty-one states were in attendance. With ten organized chapters of LHRAA and an equal number now in the process of organizing, the Institute Committee has set a much higher attendance goal for this year.

All meetings will be held in the new \$800,000 Valparaiso Union building on the new campus where there is ample space for large assemblies, conferences, and committee meetings, as well as a modern and attractive cafeteria with a double serving line and facilities to accommodate three hundred persons at one time. Professor Paul Seehausen and his good wife will again extend the University's welcome to each Institute guest as he registers at Guild Hall and is shown to his room in that pleasant, well-ventilated, up-to-date dormitory.

In meeting rooms, cafeteria, and dormitory, as well as in the spacious Valparaiso Union lobby, a congenial atmosphere and close Christian fellowship across racial lines help to make the Institute a delightful annual experience which causes many to repeat their Institute attendance year after year.

1956 INSTITUTE MOTTO:

For Such a Time as This

The Institute theme is taken from the Book of Esther, where Mordecai tells his niece, the queen of the Persian Empire, in view of the opportunity afforded her to save her people, the Jews, from mass murder: "Who knoweth but what thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this."

Those who have been meeting on the Valparaiso campus each summer for this Institute are a group of serious-minded and concerned people who, with Christian eyes and with the determination that the victory of their Christian faith alone can supply, endeavor to look the world squarely in the face. They know that things are pretty bad and in some ways growing worse. When they meet this summer they will be conscious of what's happening on the seamy side of Tuscaloosa to keep Autherine Lucy from attending the very



WALTER MASON of Detroit, who will give dramatic interpretations.

university that is maintained by the taxes she is compelled to pay. They will be watching with intense interest the first major public expression, on the part of thousands of Negroes in one southern community, of dissatisfaction with discriminatory segregation imposed on them by local law and custom—the Montgomery bus boycott.

As these concerned Christian people meet, they will be conscious of the fact that they do not have specific answers for all questions posed for our nation and the Church by the national and international social tensions about which they read daily and which they hear discussed whenever thinking people meet and enter into informal conversations. These Institute visitors know that all answers will not be forthcoming from the Institute, nor will the Institute solve all of the social ills of nation and Church. They know, though, that those who plan the program are and for a long time have been ready to view with open eyes and Christian concern the racial ills of our nation and our church, to admit openly the mistakes we have made and the sins we have committed, and, as God gives grace, to look for the Christian remedy. The program for 1956 is designed to do just that.

INSTITUTE PROGRAM

Rise and Fall of Colonialism

Those who have attended the Valparaiso University Institute on Human Relations in the past will understand what we mean when we say that a real treat is in store for them because Professor John Strietelmeier is scheduled to deliver the main Institute essay.

(Continued on Page Two)



JOHN STRIETELMEIER

Professor Strietelmeier, a young member of the Valparaiso faculty, has not only attended Human Relations Institutes in the past but has been on Institute programs. This time he is to appear as the main speaker.

Mr. Strietelmeier is a geographer by profession. The topic of his essay, "The Rise and Fall of Colonialism," is in his own field and was chosen by him. But Mr. Strietelmeier is more than a geographer; he is a keen thinker, a forceful writer, and—a lay theologian. It seems to this writer that he is destined to become to the Lutheran Church what C.S. Lewis is to the Church of England. Those who know him as the writer does will anticipate his Institute essay to be more than a cold, academic presentation of certain historical facts; he will relate them to the life of our nation and the work of the Church; he will challenge the Christian conscience.

Segregation-Desegregation Controversy

What are the facts in the case? What is the Christian interpretation of these facts? These questions are asked by intelligent Christian people as they read the daily news accounts of the segregation-desegregation controversy now going on. A panel of men "in

the know" will discuss this subject. They are instructors in the Department of Government at Valparaiso University. Two of them are well known to those who have attended previous Institutes—Professors L. Albert Wehling and Victor Hoffmann. Dr. Wehling has on previous occasions acted as an Institute moderator and master of ceremonies. Professor Hoffmann is known to those who attended the Institute in '50, '51, and '52 as University Director of Institutes. He also served as the first editor of

The VANGUARD.

Twenty-seven-year-old Legislator, Banquet Speaker

The Hon. Paul Simon, a young Lutheran and member of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois, is scheduled to be the banquet speaker. Mr. Simon is the son of a Lutheran pastor, Dr. Martin P. Simon, editor of *The Christian Parent and My Chum*. Paul is also an active member of the Board of Directors of LHRAA. He not only sees the relevance of Christianity to the modern race issue, but is committed to the development of Christian thinking and action in the field of race relations. This young man of great promise for our country and the Church will no doubt stir the consciences of those whose privilege it will be to hear him.



PAUL SIMON

Dr. Martin H. Scharlemann To Preach

Dr. O. P. Kretzmann, President of Valparaiso University, recently favored the editor of *The VANGUARD* with this compliment: "This is just a little note to tell you how much I enjoyed the most recent issue of *The VANGUARD*. I believe it is intelligent and thoroughly Lutheran. I am happy to see that several members of our staff ... are doing such a fine job in this increasingly significant part of our society." We pass this note on to our readers for what it may be worth to them, with the added thought—and that's why we are bringing *The VANGUARD* into this discussion—that Dr. Scharlemann is a member of the editorial staff and is now contributing a regular column. To favor us further, he has consented to preach the Institute sermon this year.

Dr. Scharlemann is Professor of New Testament and Director of Graduate Studies at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. He is a scholar and a man of courage.

We have often wondered what has conditioned him to be willing to devote much of his time to the cause of LHRAA. (Besides writing regularly for *The VANGUARD*, he attends LHRAA Board meetings when he can; he was also the main essayist at our 1953 Institute.)

Part of the answer may be found in the fact that Dr. Scharlemann served as a chaplain in the Armed Services, not only in the United States, Italy, and Australia, but also in New Zealand, India, Egypt, Libya, Tripoli, Tunisia, and a half dozen other countries of predominantly non-Caucasian population. This contact with people of other racial groups, plus a goodly portion of the grace of God, no doubt helped to make of him the sympathetic and courageous Christian leader that he is.

His Institute sermon theme will be the theme of the Institute: "For Such a Time as This."

Story of the 'Montgomery Bus Boycott

A grass-roots movement of Negroes of the Southland (perhaps the first of its kind in our history) has been in progress since December 5, 1955. Not only Mont-

gomery and Alabama and all of the Southland, but the nation and the world are watching its development. Will it succeed and will it establish a pattern that will ultimately overthrow Jim Crow?

The dynamic leader of the bus boycott is the fearless young Baptist minister with a Ph.D. from Boston University, Dr. Martin Luther King. He has been asked to speak at the Institute.

A Panel from Los Angeles

It is one thing to theorize about integration; it is another thing to practise it. Although their number is still very small, there are some churches in racially mixed communities now carrying out a complete program of integration. Hope Church of Los Angeles is one of them. This tri-racial congregation is planning to send a delegation of members to Valparaiso to appear on a panel to discuss among themselves, for the benefit of the Institute, the integration process as it is being carried out in its cosmopolitan community and church.

Panels of communicant members of integrated congregations have in the past proved to be a highlight on the Institute program. This year the panel is to travel several thousand miles to attend the Institute and to share its experience with us.

For Pastors in Changing Communities

A special feature of this year's Institute is a program of study and discussion for pastors of churches in changing communities. The Rev. Ralph L. Moellering, pastor of First Immanuel Church in Chicago, an integrated congregation, will lead a discussion on the topic "Toward an Enlightened Social Conscience." Other features of this special program will be announced later.

The Institute Committee is of the opinion that **July 16**, the day set aside for pastors in changing communities, should be productive of much good. This will not be merely another meeting to discuss things that have been discussed and studied many times before. It will rather be the climax of a two-and-a-half day Institute which

(Continued on Page Four)

A LOOK AROUND

By Martin H. Scharlemann

IT WILL BE ROUGH

This thing is getting rough! It becomes increasingly evident that all kinds of social and political obstacles will be thrown in the way of peaceful integration. Sometimes, perhaps, we fail to realize how serious the agitation against integration has become. To make this point very clear we quote here from an editorial in the Jackson, Mississippi, **Daily News**. The editorial was written by Frederick Sullens, who is in fact a native of Missouri. He wrote in "Mississippi's greatest newspaper" as follows:

The Supreme Court decision is a just subject for righteous man, yet too many citizens in all parts of our nation are calm, apathetic, indifferent and don't seem to give a..... They are mentally lazy or intellectually unable to grasp what the ruling means to the American way of life..... Mississippi's real leaders in this fight against miscegenation, mixed marriages, mongrelization and wholesale bastardy are out in the open and waging war on two battle fronts -- in Washington and here in our home state. These leaders are our governor, our two senators, our six members of Congress, our citizens' councils, and substantial citizens, both men and women, everywhere..... Christianity has nothing whatever to do with it. This is a fight for sane existence, for perpetuation of the purity of the white race. Our beloved South and the traditional and firmly-established Southern way of life confront the gravest danger they have faced since reconstruction days. It is true -- true as Holy Writ. In this fight you are either for us or against us. There is no middle ground.

That there is real trouble in Mississippi is further demonstrated by the fact that the University of Mississippi withdrew its Religious Emphasis Week invitation to Alvin Kershaw of Ohio, after this Episcopal Rector announced that he would devote part of the money he won as a jazz expert on the "\$64,000 Question" television show to Negro organizations. Very happily, the local clergy could not be persuaded to



MARTIN H. SCHARLEMANN

replace the individuals who withdrew from the program of this Religious Emphasis Week. As a result, the University set aside these days for meditation and prayer.

Another little item from Mississippi: When the Council of the Protestant Episcopal diocese of Mississippi abandoned its annual dinner, which for almost thirty years had been the only such interracial function at Mississippi religious gatherings, and Negroes were not invited to the Laymen's League banquet, President Milan Davis of Okolona College said: "If you hate me because I am ignorant, I'll educate myself. If you hate me because I am dirty, I'll clean myself. If you hate me because I am pagan, I will become a Christian. But if you hate me

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because I am black, I can only refer you to God, who made me black."

Well, there we have it! It will be a long, long struggle to accomplish in some areas of our country the vision represented by the Supreme Court. Happily, these areas are not extensive. For instance, there are at the present time three Negro students at the University of North Carolina. There has been no particular difficulty on that campus, even though newspaper reporters have attempted to stir up trouble. The University administration, however, has kept its head and has refused to take the bait that has in a few instances been offered to them by irresponsible journalists and reporters.

INSTITUTE ISSUE

(Continued from Page Three)

will have in it the emotional appeal to put sound academic theory into evangelical practice. The days of the Institute will give these pastors opportunity to rub shoulders with Christian people of several racial and cultural groups, to eat with them, to be housed with them, to engage in friendly conversation, to see how Christian people of other groups react emotionally to certain theories and practices. Pastors will meet with people from every section of the country, all interested in the same specific problems and opportunities. With this background, the special meeting of pastors in changing communities should be an exciting experience that will

clarify thinking, sharpen consciences, deepen conviction, and lead to new insights and new ways of happy Kingdom building.

There will be no extra charge for this additional day to those who attend the entire Institute.

Kingdom Emphasis

While a good deal of Institute time will be devoted to a discussion of race relations in the world and in the nation, the chief emphasis will be on the Kingdom of God and the Church. Neither the individual Christian nor the Christian Church lives in a vacuum, but in the world, a very real and a very wicked world. They are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. They are never to take the attitude of the priests in the Temple, "What is that to us?" The problems of the world are their problems; the challenge of these hectic times is in a special way a challenge to those in whom the Spirit of God dwells. All to the glory of His most adorable Name and to the extension of the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is a kingdom of salvation from sin, a kingdom of eternal life in heaven through Him.

MISCELLANEOUS INSTITUTE INFORMATION

The usual charge of \$18.25 set by the University for an institute of this kind will be made. This will cover attendance at all sessions, lodging, banquet, and a copy of the Proceedings. A second member of the family may register for \$10.00. Registration cost for the third and fourth members of the

same family is \$5.00 per registrant.

If possible, registration should be made on or before July 6th and should be accompanied by a down-payment of no less than \$5.00.

For further details, see the May issue of **The VANGUARD**, or write VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE ON HUMAN RELATIONS, VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY, VALPARAISO, INDIANA.

ANNUAL MEETING OF LHRAA

The Lutheran Human Relations Association of America, co-sponsor of the Valparaiso University Institute, and publisher of **The VANGUARD**, will hold its annual meeting at the time of the Institute banquet. A brief report of the year's activities of the Association will be given by the Executive Secretary and elections will be held. All contributing members of the Association, as well as contributing congregations and societies, are entitled to vote.

Some of the regular features of **The VANGUARD** have been omitted in this issue so that more space could be devoted to this summer's Institute.

All unsigned articles and other items are by the editor.

1956
Valparaiso University
Institute on Human
Relations
July 13 to 15

LUTHERAN HUMAN RELATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana

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