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## ABI: AN EXCITING EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**apostolic BIBLE institute**

St. Paul, Minnesota 55128

# Student Activities

Panska Ball Field, on our 40 acres, was the scene of great excitement during Orientation Week. Singles, marrieds and children joined in an action-packed softball game, concluding in an all-school cookout.

If you've never taken a ride in a limosine, you ought to. The Youth Group under the direction of Ann Grant, chose this unique method of meeting ABI guest speaker, Rev. Norman Paslay II, at the International Airport. During his last message to the student body, he admitted he has not recovered from the banners, the grandiose welcome and especially from the limo ride.

Welcome Day is a very special day at ABI. And this year was no exception. After a beautiful service, including outstanding choir songs under the direction of ABI Music Director, Henry Bennick and an inspiring message on "Preparing For Battle" by Rev. Norman Paslay, guest speaker, the Freshmen were greeted by hundreds of balloons and a delicious lunch prepared by the Upperclassmen.

A Corn Boil! The news of such an event spread with great excitement through the halls of ABI. We all gathered at Battle Creek Park and had a great time of food, fun and fellowship!

"What a way to start the year!" These words were heard time and time again as the students saw, for the first time, the beautiful carpeting that has been added to the ABI hallways. The Gertrude Dunn Ladies' dorm has also been recarpeted, repainted and wall paintings have been added.

Practical, sound advice. That's what the ABI Marrieds wanted and received during a special session with Rev. Norman Paslay following the Welcome Day services. Special sessions are being held this year for the married couples.

Recreation has taken on a whole new air this year. Under the direction of Tony Ducklow, this weekly event witnesses almost 100% student participation. Stiff competition contributes to student eagerness to attend these exciting sports times.

Leaf Day at Como Park was an exciting day. The Upperclassmen soundly defeated the Freshmen in the annual football game.

Pictured on Cover: L-R: ABI/American flags; B. Bellew, faculty, P. Gold, IN, C. Jaeger, WI; C. Stewart, WI; B. Stoner SC, T. Breeden, IN; Rev. G. Grant, faculty; ABI Children join ABI Choir; The Louis Philbrook family, Puerto Rico; D. Pollock, TX, R. Quist, IA; Andrea and Mark Fowler, OH; T. Reed, WY; C. Spencer, IL.



Part of the ABI Wives' group that meets weekly for prayer under the direction of Mrs. G. Grant, Faculty.



Some of the 1989 Freshmen class pose under the balloon "ABI"



Welcome Day speaker, Rev. Norman Paslay II, OH, with Rev. G. Grant.



ABI Ladies handed out name tags for ABI Welcome Day: L-R: D. Costa, NJ; B. Quist, IA, D. Flemming, MN; D. White, WI; D. Hassebrock, IN; C. Moore, WI.

# Ezekiel, The Trail Blazer

Ezekiel was a great man because he was good. Very few men become great just because they are good. Men triumph in achievement. They win battles, they build skyscrapers, they tunnel through mountains or under rivers, they make Wall Street tremble, they inspire others to follow their successful paths. They are trail-blazers. All these are like the plow that digs into the earth. Their crops and rewards live and die with them. Their shadows are material wealth.

Ezekiel was a different kind of a trail-blazer. He blazed a more difficult trail. His objectives were not earthly but heavenly. He left us a rich heritage! He brought God closer to man! His story makes interesting and inspiring copy. Let's go back six hundred years before Christ and see what we can learn from Ezekiel, the prophet of God.

## The Story of Ezekiel

He was born in Jerusalem and lived during the reign of Kings Jehoiakim and Jehoiachin of Judah. Both kings did evil in the sight of the Lord. Ezekiel was surrounded from infancy by a backslidden nation, threats of war, and frightening rumors of mighty Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. How could a young man have any faith at all in God and His cause under such adverse circumstances? It seems almost like a dream.

We eulogize Washington at Valley Forge, with scant provisions and his soldiers' feet wrapped in burlap sacks. Yes, Washington was a trail-blazer.

We praise Lincoln with his intense desire for study and with little encouragement but pine knots and pioneer candlelight. These men became great because they helped to build an empire out of shambles and discouragements.

Ezekiel also built an empire - a spiritual empire. Not in Jerusalem, for it was too late for that. Jerusalem was about to fall. Ezekiel built an empire for the name of the Lord in Babylon! It doesn't sound possible, does it? But it's true, nevertheless, a spiritual empire was built in Babylon!

## BABYLON CONQUERS JUDAH

If ever a young man should have given up and turned his back upon religion, it should have been Ezekiel. How would you like to have lived in Jerusalem with the armies of Nebuchadnezzar surrounding your city for three years? Prayers were not answered. Help did not come. The heavens were brass. God had written ICHABOD over Jerusalem's door. Finally the Babylonian soldiers broke down the walls and swarmed over the city. Men were killed like animals; thousands had already died in the streets from starvation. Here is part of the record,..."And Nebuchadnezzar carried away all Jerusalem and all the princes, and all the mighty men captive, and all the craftsmen and smiths none remained, save the poorest sort of the people of the land."

These captives were driven like dogs to Babylon. Their beautiful Temple of Solomon was destroyed. The walls of their city were made heaps of rubbish. Their kings were disgraced. The Lord answered no prayers. The average Jew being driven along that sandy and dusty highway from Jerusalem to Babylon would have lost all faith in God. The Bible would have closed its last pages six-hundred years before Christ if it had not been for Ezekiel! This young man was nourished on affliction. He breathed in defeat all around him, but his heart churned out faith - almost impossible faith which flourished when the nation's religion hung by a thread. Instead of allowing the thread to break, Ezekiel wove it into a cloth and wrapped Israel in its warm folds, so that she should not die on the cold walls of Babylon.

## Five Years of Prayer

The first three verses of Ezekiel's Book would make a fitting epitaph on his monument if one had been erected. The record states simply that he was among the captives by the river Chebar in Babylon; that the heavens were open...that the word of the Lord came to him... But this did not happen until the fifth year of the captivity. These few words have great meaning. The suffering of Valley Forge gave birth to this great nation...the pine knots and poverty of an Illinois back-woods farm



Rev. S. G. Norris  
President

boy created patience and understanding to the heart of an awkward and bashful Lincoln, making possible a nation to live when it was trying to die. So also, the weary heart and the heavy steps of Ezekiel trudged for FIVE SORROWFUL YEARS to the lonely banks of Chebar, falling on his knees in the sands of a godless Babylon, looking ever heavenward for a Jehovah, who seemed to have gone on a long journey. Five weeks, no answer. Five months, no answer. On and on, like Columbus trying to find an America. Ezekiel prayed and prayed. If God did not answer, Israel would die in a heathen land.

Then the heavens did open! God began to speak again - but expressly to Ezekiel. He opened the heavens. He was the first man in centuries that God spoke to in a foreign land. He would not give up, although Solomon's Temple was destroyed and Jerusalem lay in a heap of ruins. Ezekiel was a trail-blazer! He taught us a great lesson. He brought God to Babylon and if God would answer prayer in Babylon, then anyone can touch the hem of His garment. Ezekiel resurrected a religion which apparently was dead. He inspired the first synagogue to be built. He built a SPIRITUAL EMPIRE in a foreign land. His faith pulled Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego out of oblivion and made possible their exploits. His faith inspired Zerubbabel, Haggai, and young Zechariah! It even flowed generations later into the hearts of Ezra and Nehemiah. Oh, my friends, if Ezekiel could find God, then every man should take new hope. No situation could be more bleak than the cold banks of the River Chebar.

The world we live in is another spiritual Babylon. Take courage! God still answers prayer. The wonderful Lord that helped Ezekiel patiently waits to help you.



# Alumni at Conference 1989



Row 1 - L-R: H. Foster, MN; Rev. & Mrs. Vigil Cox, LA; Rev. and Mrs. Ray Robinson, OH; Rev. and Mrs. Jeff Norris and son, Brazil; Rev. Larry McCuan and Rev. Mark Hatter, OK; Rev. & Mrs. Alan Demos, Germany.



Row 2 - L-R: Rev. & Mrs. (Ophelia Estopy) Victor Desha, IL; Rev. & Mrs. Oliver Spencer, MI; Rev. Jess Starr, OR, Rodney Pruitt, MI, Debra Perez, NM; Rev. & Mrs. Barry Carey and daughter, PA; Mrs. William Schmidt, IN.



Row 3 - L-R: Rev. Arthur Hodges III, CA and Rev. Arthur Hodges II, LA; Rev. and Mrs. Wade Jones, IN, Margot Jones, IN, Rev. and Mrs. Ward Jones, IL; Mrs. Gerald Truman, DE, Rev. Robert McFarland, MO and Victor Gomez, IL; Rev. and Mrs. Michael Seymour, Chile; Rev. Robert Stroup, IN.



Row 4 - L-R: Brian Starcher, OH, assisted in the UPCI Children's Evangelism booth; Rev. Leroy Buller, Kimberly, John and baby, Nathaniel Wilson, OH; Rev. and Mrs. Carl Trapani, WI and Rev. Robert Trapani, OH; Rev. Ronald Newstrand, OH and Rev. Ernest Breithaupt, IL; Mrs. Nathaniel Urshan, MO.



Row 5 - L-R: Tammy and Scott Webster, OH and Rev. Fred Brown, CT; Rev. and Mrs. Bill Chapman, FL; Herschel Foster, MN and Rev. and Mrs. Bill McElhaney, TN; Rev. and Mrs. Gary Reed, Middle East; Rev. J. Hugh Rose, OH.

# MEN OF VALOR

by Rev. Gerald Grant Exec. Vice President

In John 2:4, we read Jesus' words, "Woman, what have I to do with thee? My hour is not yet come." This, on the surface, seems to be a harsh response made by our Saviour. He was attending a marriage feast at Cana when He was informed by His mother, Mary, that the wine had run out. He answered, "Woman, what have I to do with thee?"

Jesus, in this setting, was on the brink of a very important decision. Everyone of us stand at crossroads in life where we must make important choices. Will these decisions be in the best interest of the Kingdom of God? His decision was similar to the one we face: are we going to give our lives wholly to God or would the reward of another type of lifestyle be better?

The devil does not want us to serve the Lord. He places ideas of procrastination in our minds - "I'll commit myself later, when..." He places fear of change in our minds; we are all reluctant to change. We become comfortable with the status quo. We may wonder if we have what it takes to really become something for God.

At the wedding in Cana, Jesus was at the point in His life where He had to decide if He would begin the ministry that would lead Him to Calvary. Hebrews 4:15 tells us that Jesus was tempted (tested) in all points like we are tempted (tested). The event at Cana was a major test in Jesus' life. This is reflected in His answer to Mary when she announced to Him, "They have no wine." Jesus' answer, "Woman, what have I to do with thee? My hour is not yet come," was not a disrespectful answer. "Woman" was the highest respect that could be given to a lady in Jesus' day. The rest of His statement means: "I need to think about this a little bit; I have some thoughts of my own." He had to make the decision as to whether He would fulfill the mission He had come to earth for. If He miraculously supplied wine for the wedding feast, He would be taking the first step on the road that would lead to Golgotha. For the next three and one-half years, He would be clamored after, day in and day out, by those who needed help. His only time for prayer would be while others slept! The road would also lead Him to the palace of Herod Antipas to be slapped in the face...to the palace of the High Priest to be mocked...to the quarters of the Roman guard to be beaten. His action at Cana

would determine if He would go to Calvary! No wonder He said, "I need to think about it. I have thoughts of my own!"

You may be at this same place deciding if you will give all of your time to help others. Empty lives need to be filled. Needy people are waiting for you to make the initial step that will deliver them from sin.

There was a man in the Old Testament who lived during the "Roller Coaster Period", approximately 1400-1300 BC. During this time, Israel was either on the "high" or "bottomed out" in defeat. This was the fifth time Israel had backslidden since coming to the Promised Land. Their land was overrun by the Midianites. They had to hide their crops and even hide in caves. This was at an all-time low - Midianites were as thick as grasshoppers. Israel needed deliverance.

An angel appeared in the land. He did not come to Judah, although this tribe had been pointed out as the tribe of kings. He did not appear to the tribe of Levites, which were responsible for spiritual leadership. The angel came to the obscure tribe of Manasseh. Gideon was not the patriarch or eldest son. So when the angel appeared, Gideon told him that this was a poor house and he was the least in the kingdom. The angel called Gideon "a mighty man of valor." The ironic thing about this is that Gideon, at this point, was hiding out of fear!

Even in your fear, if God has spoken to you concerning a ministry, you are a great person of valor. You just need to take the step to be a deliverer for our society. Do not pause or wait.

God told Gideon to go in might and deliver Israel. Gideon DID deliver Israel. God wants you to deliver this generation from the clutches of the devil. We know victory is promised for God's people. We know that we will win!

Gideon did pause when faced with this challenge of commitment. He asked for time, but ultimately, he did accept the challenge. God needs you like never before.

Gideon's first challenge: when the Midianites took over, they took all the grain that could feed the animals. Flocks and herds had to be reduced. Joash, Gideon's father, had only two bullocks left. God told Gideon to take one of these and sacrifice it. God told Gideon that his father had his own special idolatrous altar out among the groves where the people worshipped. He instructed Gideon to tear down the altars.

Gideon convinced ten young men to join him in tearing down the idols of Baal and cut down the groves. They were very fearful and risked their lives because they did this at night.

You may ask, "How can I do something that will subject me to ridicule or risk my security?" Sometimes you have to take the step that you feel God has led you to take and trust that He will defend you.

The men of Ophrah found out that Gideon had cut down the groves. They told Joash to bring out his son and they were going to kill him for tearing down the altar. Joash responded, "If Baal is a great god, let him speak for himself."

If you take the step, God will defend you. God told Gideon it was time to deliver Israel from the enemy. Gideon put out a call and 32,000 men responded. Gideon knew the Midianites would greatly outnumber them. God told him 32,000 men were too many. If this many men fought, they would think they had delivered themselves. All of the fearful went home. Ten thousand remained. Gideon took the ten thousand for a walk. They stopped at a brook. These men went through a test because God felt some of them should not go to battle. He told Gideon to divide the men into two categories: those who got on their knees to get a drink of water and those who stooped down. There were 9700 men in one category and 300 in the other. God told Gideon to take the 300 men to battle. God has a way of cutting us back. We must accept this as God's hand and go forth in Jesus' Name. That day, Gideon and his men won a great battle in God's Name.

Jesus made the decision that day at Cana to fill the water pots and turned it to wine. He ended on the cross, crucified. Why did He do it? "For the joy that was set before Him."

We must look at the rewards, not in this life, but in the life to come. Jesus looked ahead to the day when He would bring "many sons into glory."

Wine is a type of the spirit of God. Our world needs this. We need to take this new wine to the people. Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel." He also said, "Look ye on the fields for they are white to harvest."

It is time to give ourselves to the Kingdom of God. The Lord wants us to commit our lives to Him. When you place your life into the hands of the Master, you are a man of valor.

## New Staff



Tony, Sarah & Suzannah Labunski

Joining the ABI team are Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Labunski, AR. Anthony, '86, is campus buildings foreman. Already he has been instrumental in installing carpeting in the ABI buildings. Sarah is the ladies' dormitory supervisor. Her sweet, quiet spirit is a great asset to the student body.



Cindy Wurch

Coming to us from Dryden, Ontario, Canada is our new cook, Cindy Wurch, '88. Her talents extend to the music field where she directs the ABI choir, gives piano lessons, and assists ABI Music Director, Henry Bennick. We welcome Cindy to our staff!



Rhoda Odum with L. Espana, NM

In charge of ladies' employment is new staff member, Rhoda Odum. A graduate of '89, Rhoda graduated as elected honor student. She also assists in the kitchen and in the ABI office.

Mark Fowler, 89, Newark, OH, joins our staff as coordinator of the ACE program. His previous musical ability highly qualifies him as the director of the ABI orchestra. Mark also works with the ABI recruitment program. His cooperative spirit makes him a great asset to ABI.



Mark Fowler

## Alumni News

Congratulations to REV. and MRS. R.D. EASTMAN on the dedication of their church in Onalaska, WI. DAVID WILLHOITE is youth pastor in REV. RONALD BROWN'S church in Jackson, TN. REV. and Mrs. RICHARD COLLINS and their congregation in Dublin, OH, have purchased a new church building. Mr. and Mrs. JESSE REDDOCH are working in a Christian School in El Sobrante, CA. JESSE received his local license in the Arkansas District. DENISE JUSTICE is working in a Home Missions work in Santa Teresa, New Mexico. REV. and Mrs. JAMES TURKINGTON, Australia, report a great revival in their work. DENNIS and JENICE EASTMAN are assisting in Onalaska, WI. JAMES WARDEN assists in Panama City, FL. JENNIFER WOLFE is teaching in a Christian school in El Sobrante, CA. REV. and MRS. WARD JONES are pastoring in Benton, IL. DAN and THERESA (SAMANIEGO) GOEBEL work in a Christian school in Modesto, CA. Congratulations to REV. BARRETT CHURCH, Oshawa, Ontario, Canada, on his 25th church anniversary. Please pray for REV. ERNEST and RUBY MERRILL, Orange, CA. Both have cancer.

### MARRIAGES

JOYCE COOPER to James Porter, FL. LAURA BAKER to Gene Moore, AR. SETH GOODINE to Laura Howland, N.B., Canada. REBECCA MITCHELL to Brian Cummings, B.C., Canada. CONNIE CORDER to Donald Schmoil, OH.

### BIRTHS

MR. and Mrs. TONY LABUNSKI, MN, a daughter, Suzannah. MARK and ANDREA FOWLER, OH, a daughter, Gabrielle. MIKE and Jodi GREENE, MN, a son, Austin. REV. and MRS. (KIM BUTCHER) JACKY WILLHOITE, ME, a daughter, Vanessa. SUSAN and Chad WEISBROD, MN, a son, Douglas. REV. and MRS. ROBERT FRAKE, IL, a daughter, Gabrielle. MR. and MRS. RANDY GILES, MN, a son, Calvin. Hugh and JULIA (TRAPANI) ROSE, OH, a son, David. MARK and LISA BALL, OH, a daughter, Emily. MR. and Mrs. LAWRENCE THOMAS, IL, a daughter, Kayla. PAT and BILL ROOS, MN, a son, Timothy. KIM (BUTLER) and John Wilson, OH, a son, Nathaniel.

### DEATHS

George Anthony Sievers, infant son of GEORGE and BETH (DEMERCHANT) SIEVERS, AL.

## 1989 Conference Alumni Breakfast

The largest group in years gathered at Louisville, KY for an exciting, enjoyable breakfast. Faith Schmidt, Jean Urshan, Mark Edge and Lois Newstrand, Micky Mangun and Gary Reed sang and played so beautifully. The presence of God was precious.

Alumni from every decade since the 1930s were present, with a large group from the '70s and '80s. Former cook, Ophelia Estopy-Desha and dorm supervisor, Sister Phillips were with us. Sister Kelly, who never misses, has had three generations in ABI and now, great-grandson, Steve Hatter.

It was a thrill to see Missionaries Alan Demos, Gary Reed, Kenneth Reed, Michael Seymour, Mrs. Bennie DeMerchant, Patricks and Jeff Norrises. Rev. Steve Drury, Bill Connell, James Lumpkin, Anthony Mangun and Arless Glass addressed the crowd. The Bible quiz game was won by Bill and Dolly McElhaney's table.

Rev. Hugh Rose took the largest ABI Scholarship offering ever received - \$8000.00. He even returned \$50.00 to one table which gave the most. ABI offers a \$600.00 scholarship to the Freshmen with matching funds. Scholarships in colleges are so readily available that this is a necessity. The alumni want young people trained at ABI. The churches want this kind of a worker.

Steve Drury, MS, has over 20 ABI employees at Tupelo-Children's Mansion because they are stable, do not just work from 9-5, but finish the job.

Rev. Gerald Grant stressed the need of people preparing for the ministry. The denominational churches are suffering a dearth of ministers. The Eli Lilly Company spent about \$5 million to investigate this lack in the Episcopal Church.

This dearth can be prevented in Pentecost with alumni like we have. ABI gives top priority to teaching God's Word.

At the Breakfast, alumni kept coming, tables were added and it was so good to be together with such wonderful people!

# ABI SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE

Who is going to fill our pulpits? "Less than 1% of our Pentecostal youth attend our UPC Bible Colleges."

There is a shortage in the entire church world of Christian workers, ministers, missionaries. The Eli Lilly Company spent \$5 million to investigate this lack in the Episcopal Church.

Will this shortage happen in Pentecost? Will high-tech jobs, top salaries, parental pride of these secular jobs result in empty pulpits and empty pews?

God is still calling men and women today!

ABI SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE! ABI Alumni and Friends are furnishing \$600.00 towards the tuition cost of Freshmen who have matching funds.

ABI Alumni and Friends want you to receive a solid Bible training and are contributing to this cause. Our graduates are in demand!

Give God top priority - STUDY HIS WORD. WIN SOULS.

Send today for your free literature:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ High School Graduate \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Married \_\_\_\_\_ Single \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Apostolic Bible Institute, 6944 Hudson Blvd. N.  
St. Paul, MN 55119 (612) 739-7686



## WE USED OUR BIBLE SCHOOL EDUCATION THIS SUMMER!

Beth Hassebrock, Senior, (left), taught her Bible Morality notes to a teen class all summer in Sarasota, FL. Don Pollock, TX, Upperclassman, was invited to be part of a Summer Missions Team, sponsored by UPCI Home Missions, in Baker, OR. He, along with alumnus, Rodney Pruitt, helped in a new church program through all aspects of outreach. Rosalie Peever, Manitoba, Canada, and Pam DeMerchant, Manaus, Brazil, were appointed under the AIM program of the Foreign Missions, UPCI, to go to Manaus, Brazil, where they spent many hours in teaching. Denise Justice, '89, MT, was appointed in Summer Missions to Santa Teresa, NM and Debra Perez, '89, NM, to South Carolina.

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