

Dr. MacRae Interviewed by Jim Neher

7-30-79

You asked why there were so many outstanding graduates during our first few years. Joe Baley had an article in ETERNITY in which he spoke as if many seminaries had had outstanding graduates in their first few years, and wondered why that was. We've had some outstanding men later too! Quite a few.

Perhaps there is something in the person who has the get up and go to help in starting a new school, who comes because of convictions. Perhaps there is something to that. For instance Francis Schaeffer and Douglas Young had both faced the situation at Westminster, and both decided they were not getting there what they wanted. They had very definite ideas and were ready to jump in and really help, getting out school under way.

Perhaps you draw people of that type when you start. I don't know. I was surprised when I first heard that suggestion made by Baley who of course came a few years later. He's had quite a career. He was with Inter-Varsity for many years. Was editor of their magazine for a while. Now he is vice-president of David C. Cook Co that publishes religious literature and books. He's published some books.

Vernon Grounds was already preaching in a church up in N.J. He was outstanding. One of our friends who was a good friend of his persuaded him to come to seminary. He came our very first year.

Schaeffer, of course, helped us get under way Tremendous help in all our plans at the beginning.

I mentioned to you last time something about this book by Jack Rogers I've been going through. He calls it CONFESSIONS OF A CONSERVATIVE EVANGELICAL. I've finished the book and started again. I think the name conservative fits his background more than the term evangelical. I think evangelical in the proper sense means one who thoroughly believes in the gospel of salvation through Christ. I've found much in it how conservative his background was and how he understood these were the things you do and these were the things you don't do.

He always went to church; spent lots of time praying; lots of time studying the Bible. He would not engage in drinking when most of the others did. You get the impression of a good ~~xxxx~~ solid Christian type of life. He was in that ~~xxxx~~ type of life and went through it but whether it ever really struck his heart in the sense of realizing he was a sinner and needed a Saviour? I can't say it didn't because I only know about him what I read in the book. But the impression I get in the book is a sort of a good steady conservative fellow who tries to carry on in the line he was brought up in and to go in the direction in which he was taught.