

The Sabbatical Communique of
Thomas V. Taylor,
distinguished member of the Biblical faculty and
raconteur par excellence and the author
of these words of tribute

Number 4

March

1987

At the moment this communique is written I should be at Word of Life where I seek to cover the whole course of church history in a two-week lectureship. It is not a possible task so I become even more superficial than I am at Biblical (if you think it impossible you should hear it once), generalize ferociously, and tell as few stories as possible. Word of Life is a good program and I am glad to have a small part in it. But students at Biblical sometimes ask about it and I note that it is like going back to another level of instruction. Note how it goes. The question is... "Did St. Augustine have a first name of John?" Grade-school answer: "No, his first name was Saint." High School answer "It's none of your business, you nosey kid. Get to work and stop finding ways to waste time." Bible College answer: "Absolutely not..don't think of it again." Seminary Answer " It is true that some have supported the unlikely notion that the learned Augustine had a surname given after that of the Beloved Apostle but the general consensus of scholarship is that such opinion is without factual presentation and most likely represents the immature thinking of a Johannine cell working in connexion with a mobile tradition of Biblical minutia and therefore in response to the question our answer is that the proposition is very likely not sustained in fact." I am not sure but I think this response was taped in the recent class on the early church fathers and it indicates the freedom one has at a place like Word of Life. Suddenly I am an authority and pronounce! It is, I am happy to say, a fine program and I feel privileged to be part of it.

But as I noted in my last communique, I have been privileged to be acquainted with some other striking events in the last few months. I had detailed for you my meeting with a curious hitchhiker and a bit of the unlikely story he told. I must hasten with these facts, the quarter is only so long and when I get back to the desk again I will not be able to take such leisure to report on these situations. So there I was, alone in my house with the package of curious tablets and a missing dish, mixing spoon, etc. A deep suspicion came over me with regard to the tablets and I put the box in my desk drawer hoping to ponder its fate later.