

This is a complete transcript of the oral history interview with **Betty Burtness Knoedler (CN 514, T36)** for the Billy Graham Center Archives. No spoken words which were recorded are omitted. In a very few cases, the transcribers could not understand what was said, in which case “[unclear]” was inserted. If the transcribers were not completely sure that they had the words correctly, a “[?]” was inserted. Also, grunts and verbal hesitations such as "ah" or "um" are usually omitted. Readers of this transcript should remember that this is a transcript of spoken English, which follows a different rhythm and even rule than written English.

. . . Three dots indicate an interruption or break in the train of thought within the sentence on the part of the speaker.

. . . . Four dots indicate what the transcriber believes to be the end of an incomplete sentence.

() Words in parentheses are asides made by the speaker.

[] Words in brackets are comments by the transcriber.

This transcript was created by Bob Shuster and Emily Banas and was completed in April 2020.

Please note: This oral history interview expresses the personal memories and opinions of the interviewee and does not necessarily represent the views or policies of the Billy Graham Center Archives or Wheaton College.

Collection 514, Tape 36. Oral history interview with Betty Burtness Knoedler by Virginia Feldmann on February 6, 1995.

FELDMANN: This is an interview of Mrs. Betty Knoedler and she's being interviewed by Ginny Feldmann for the Archives of the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College. This interview took place on the 6th of February, 1995 at 3:15 pm. [telephone rings in background, tape recorder turned off and on] Okay, what is your name, your birth date and birthplace?

KNOEDLER: My name is Betty Knoedler and I was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, January 20, 1928.

FELDMANN: And what are the names of your parents and siblings?

KNOEDLER: I have a brother Thor[stein Jr.] Burtness who was born also, in Milwaukee, and went to Wheaton College, graduated in, I guess, the class of '50 after the service [in the armed forces]. And my father was Thor[stein Sr.] Burtness and my mother was Ruth Burtness.

FELDMANN: So, there are two of you kids...

KNOEDLER: Yes.

FELDMANN: ...at least? Okay. Could you describe the state of your Christian walk when you first came to Wheaton, or, if you were not a Christian, give us some...But you were a Christian though, I found.

KNOEDLER: Yes. I was. I had accepted the Lord when I was about twelve years old. And I would say that because of my Christian parents and grandparents and I went to Moody church in Chicago, where I had very good teaching, I was a Christian that was about normal for eighteen years old. I hadn't walked with the Lord very long or very deeply. But I was a Christian and I was thrilled to be going to Wheaton College [class of 1950], and just looking forward to being there and studying about the Lord and...and having a deeper walk.

FELDMANN: You did...did want a deeper walk with the Lord...

KNOEDLER: Yes, I did.

FELDMANN: ...at this time?

KNOEDLER: I did.

FELDMANN: Were all of your family Christians, then?

KNOEDLER: Yes, they were.

FELDMANN: Why did you come to Wheaton College?

KNOEDLER: Well, my father was on the board of trustees and had been for quite a few years. And I wasn't told I had to go there, but they...my parents definitely wanted me to go there. My brother had gone there before he went into the army and was going to return there to finish as soon as he was discharged. And I guess I never applied anywhere else or even thought of going anywhere else. It was just sort of where I wanted to go.

FELDMANN: What was your major?

KNOEDLER: Home Economics and Science

FELDMANN: Okay. How and from who did you first hear about the revival on campus [in the spring of 1950]?

KNOEDLER: I was there.

FELDMANN: You were there?

KNOEDLER: I was sitting in Pierce Chapel when it began.

FELDMANN: Do you recall being a part of prayer meetings to pray for revival beforehand? Was there an expectation on campus or was this a sudden...sudden thing that all of a sudden happened?

KNOEDLER: I don't remember specifically going to prayer meetings where that was the focus of our prayer. However, in December of the year before that, of 1949, my roommate, Phyllis Brattland (she was an ex-roommate, she...she and I had roomed together our first two years.) was killed on the highway. She was a wonderful person; she was a soloist for the Women's Glee Club. She was well known on campus. She was a very spiritually deep girl. Her parents were not believers. They were good people, but they were not believers. So, she had us all praying for them routinely. Well, when she was killed, they both became believers.

FELDMANN: Oh.

KNOEDLER: And Dr. [V. Raymond] Edman, who was the president at the time, had the...her memorial service. And I think her death had a lot to do with a lot of us thinking we didn't necessarily know how long we would be around. It got us rather serious rather quickly.

FELDMANN: Her parents, what made them come to the Lord? I mean, it was the death, but I mean....

KNOEDLER: She had been witnessing to them. And they had gone to church for years, to a Lutheran church in Oak Park, which is where Phyllis and I were both from. And I think they knew the way to salvation, but they just had never internalized it. And when they were...she was an only daughter they doted on. And I think they realized that if they were going to spend eternity with her, they had to make some decisions.

FELDMANN: Wow [pause]. This chapel you were in when it started, that was a required chapel?

KNOEDLER: No, it was in the evening.

FELDMANN: Oh.

KNOEDLER: It was an evening session. We had the special services then as now, where the chapel was required in the morning but in the evening, you could come if you wanted to. And it was well attended. I think one of the other things, too, that affected us (and maybe I am getting ahead here, but I'll say it while I think of it.)

FELDMANN: That's fine [laughs].

KNOEDLER: When...when the fellows came back from the service and were finishing up in '47, '48, '49, '50, during those years of classes, they were not your normal, ordinary freshmen right out of college...out of high school.

FELDMEN: Sure.

KNOEDLER: They had been in the war, many of them had seen their buddies die, right and left of them. They had been taken away from their homes and sent overseas to either the European theater of operations or into the Far East. And there was a far more serious way of looking at things. It's...it's hard to describe, because the kids these days feel like they are very serious and they think about world issues and they want to solve them and so forth. I think the seriousness that these fellows (and some women, but mostly men) felt was that we had to get busy about the Lord's work and quickly. There were not the options that there are today for graduate school and deciding this and that and the other thing. When you got out of college, you were into your career, whether that be missions or pastoring or nursing or teaching...

FELDMANN: Yeah.

KNOEDLER: ...which was my field, or whatever. And there was a seriousness of purpose that made people more ready, I think.

FELDMANN: Wow. What...what room was the chapel? It was Pierce Chapel?

KNOEDLER: Uh-huh. In the main auditorium, which hasn't changed a whole lot [chuckles].

FELDMANN: Hasn't changed. Okay. And how did people act? I mean, were there any...? You know, we read about old revivals that had some strange manifestations. But were people acting different or were they...? How...how were...?

KNOEDLER: No, not at all. It was the most normal thing that I can remember thinking back on, because we had a speaker from California and his name was Edwin Johnson. And he had...I am



not sure if he had even given the message yet or not. But at some point during the evening, Dr. [Clarence B.] Hale [professor of Greek] got up and went to the.... He was up on the platform. The faculty sat up on the platforming in those days. And he just said that he really felt that God did not.... I don't remember what his words were. But God did not have the best of his life and that he was not the strong spiritual person that God meant for him to be and that he could be. And if he had hurt anybody by not being more of a spiritual mentor, something, he was sorry and so forth. A couple of other people got up and asked if they could say some words. And one thing led to another. It was never noisy. It was always very quiet, very....people just felt profoundly moved to ask the Lord to forgive them for various and sundry things.

FELDMANN: The confession of sin was really a big part of it.

KNOEDLER: Yes, and I think that was the thing that was so amazing to everyone to have Dr. Clarence Hale get up, because he was looked upon as such a godly man. I think we all kind of thought, "Now, if Dr. Hale feels that way, where do I fit into this whole picture?"

FELDMANN: Was there a student who influenced you in the revival positively? Or...or it was mainly Dr. Hale?

KNOEDLER: Well, he started it and after that.... We had...we had great class officers. Bud Schaeffer was class president and Dick Reed, many of these men went on into [Christian] service. Ed McCully and Nate Saint. Nate Saint was in our class. Ed and Jim Elliot, Dave Howard, that whole bunch of fellows. Plus, some women too. And I...I don't mean to say that the...the men were the only spiritual people on campus. That wouldn't be true. But they were the ones that got up and spoke publicly. Women didn't as much in those days. And they had been there and graduated, but none of us had forgotten their witness. And I...as I look back on it, I think that God was just preparing us by a lot of influences from a lot of different godly men and women.

FELDMANN: Wow. How long afterwards...? I do not remember the history....When were they murdered, these men? [Ed McCully, Nate Saint and Jim Elliot became missionaries to Ecuador and were killed by a group of Amazon tribesmen with whom they were trying to make contact on January 6, 1956.]

KNOEDLER: I just heard the date the other day in church. I think it was '56.

FELDMANN: Okay, So, it was six years after.

KNOEDLER: I think it was May of '56...

FELDMANN: Wow.

KNOEDLER: ...something like that.

FELDMANN: Okay. In my classroom, in which we study this, this course that I am doing this

for, there is that saying of...of Jim Elliot's...

KNOEDLER: Jim Elliot.

FELDMANN: ...on the wall...

KNOEDLER: Yes.

FELDMANN: ...So, I see that every day.

KNOEDLER: And Jim was a great...a great guy. But he was only one of...of many others who had come back from service, as I say. An...and then when Phyllis was killed, there was, I guess I would say, a softening. And I think maybe that's the groundwork that needs to be laid.

FELDMANN: Did...would you say that prayer was an integral part of the preparation for that or was it...

KNOEDLER: There may have been other people...

FELDMANN: more...?

KNOEDLER: ...I am sure there were other people praying for it. I don't know who they were. I don't think these things happen without a great deal of prayer. But exactly who they were, I don't know. It may have been some professors.

FELDMANN: Uh-huh.

KNOEDLER: And I think as soon as this started, there was as much prayer going on in the chapel (and it went on for hours and hours and hours) I think there was as much prayer going on as confessing. We weren't sure what we were doing, whether we were praying or confessing. It was all just a feeling of the Holy Spirit being there.

FELDMANN: A presence of God.

KNOEDLER: Yes.

FELDMANN: Were teachers also conf...I know at first Dr. Hale did, but were there other teachers...

KNOEDLER: Yes

FELDMANN: ...and staff....?

KNOEDLER: Oh yes.

FELDMANN: Because sometimes you get the impression in college revivals that the students get fired up and you don't hear about administrators and faculty being influenced.

KNOEDLER: Well, it's always been my...my feeling that there isn't anyone that doesn't need it.

FELDMANN: Uh-huh.

KNOEDLER: And sometimes...and I'm...I'm not a student of many revivals, I was only involved in this one. But I think that there would be the feeling that the people who had been closest to the Lord would be the ones that would catch the vision and the...the glimpse of the Lord working fastest. And I think it did bring...it did bring a lot of others round. And there were many who got up and said that they had come to Wheaton against their wishes. Their parents had said they had to come. And they were there, but they had been fighting it all along. And they really were not particularly...they weren't even sure they were believers. But they wanted to be believers. But they wanted to become believers and they realized that this was...this was bigger than any of us.

FELDMANN: Wow.

KNOEDLER: And it was...it...the word is overused today, but it was awesome.

FELDMANN: Wow. Well, that's in the real sense of that word.

KNOEDLER: Yes, yes.

FELDMANN: Full of awe.

KNOEDLER: That's true.

FELDMANN: Neat. What is your most vivid memory of the revival?

KNOEDLER: I think just in a physical sense it was staying there hour after hour after hour all night long. I am not sure that I have ever done that. We forgot about classes, we forgot about homework, we forgot about everything else. Occasionally we would go back to the dorm. There were very few people left in the dorms. Not everyone had been at the meetings, but when 10 came and then 11....We had hours [a curfew] in those years so we had to be back in the dormitory, I believe by 10:30. And when nobody had come back from chapel, a lot of people started coming over. So that the chapel was very full early on into the evening and into the night and well into the next day.

FELDMANN: Do you remember any particular Scriptures that were used?

KNOEDLER: No, I guess I don't. It was more.... And I don't remember what Dr. Johnson had been talking about. He had given several messages. And they were good messages, but I think

the ground was furrowed well and softened and so it didn't really matter particularly what it was. It...it wasn't like, "Now, we're going to have a revival. We're...I am going to speak on revival." I have no idea what he was talking about. But the revival came and I think it was just an...an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

FELDMANN: Wow. What do you think caused the revival?

KNOEDLER: I think that the revival then was probably caused by the same thing that any revival ever is and that is that people get serious about their walk with the Lord and realize it is not what it should be. And then if this is...if this is also reflected by other people, you can get easily caught up in something that perhaps isn't a revival. It's just a...a me-too-ism kind of a thing. But you would see the falseness of that I think rather quickly. Because people were saying things that they wouldn't normally get up and say. The confession time was an interesting time, because I don't remember hardly any specific thing that...where people were asking to be forgiven for. It turned into that and Dr. Edman put a stop to it quite quickly, because a student would stand up and say, "I have had harsh feeling toward so and so and so and so," and they would give names and dates and things. And then Dr. Edman got up and in his own inimitable way said, "This now needs to be dealt with in a personal basis. If you have something where you need to forgive a student, or you want to ask forgiveness from a student or a professor, or whoever, you need to go to that person privately and deal with it on a private basis. This should not be public." And so, I thought that was very wise.

FELDMANN: Yes.

KNOEDLER: Because it could have degenerated quickly into something very different and he did not allow it...that to hap...that to happen.

FELDMANN: That's wonderful. Was he the one who said in the end, "Okay everybody, back to classes [unclear]?"

KNOEDLER: Uh-huh. And I am sure it was a difficult thing, because there were long lines of people. People waited two or three hours to get up and just a few words

FELDMANN: Wow.

KNOEDLER: And it...as I recall, it was not...we weren't sitting there just waiting, you know, "Now what is this person going to say?"

FELDMANN: Uh-huh

KNOEDLER: It was, "What is...what is the Holy Spirit going to say that he is going to use this person's mouth?"

FELDMANN: Wow. You weren't looking at that person and thinking, "Well, that person has that problem. They probably will confess that now."

KNOEDLER: No, no.

FELDMANN: Wow.

KNOEDLER: And I think that was what Dr. Edman wanted to make sure did not happen.

FELDMANN: Uh-huh.

KNOEDLER: Because it could have happened. And as soon as there were people who got up....some of the campus leaders actually got up. Then it turned out a spiritual leader of young people, well-known and so forth, when he got up, he said, "I...I'm not even a Christian."

FELDMANN: Wow.

KNOEDLER: "I haven't been. But I am now."

FELDMANN: Wow.

KNOEDLER: So, there were confessions like that...

FELDMANN: Yeah, yeah.

KNOEDLER: ...as well.

FELDMANN: For you personally, what was the turning point? Was there a crisis in your own life where you changed in your spiritual walk?

KNOEDLER: During that time?

FELDMANN: Yeah.

KNOEDLER: [Pauses] I remember going back to my room.... I didn't do it in the chapel. But I remember going back to my room and thinking, in my own mind trying to decide the difference between having the Lord as your savior and as your lord. Was there a difference? Yes, there was a difference. Could you have one without the other? Yes, you could. And I felt that I really had, that He...He was my savior. There wasn't any doubt that. I hadn't had crisis of you know, maybe, maybe...

FELDMANN: Uh-huh.

KNOEDLER: ...I really wasn't a Christian. I knew I was. But I really had not ever really made Him lord of my life and decided that He would run things.

FELDMANN: You were about twenty-two at the time, twenty-one?

KNOEDLER: Yes.

FELDMANN: Yeah. Do you know any negative effects of the revival? Was there anything that...? What....You mentioned it could have degenerated and that was stopped. But was there anything...?

KNOEDLER: I think the only negative thing I can think of was the...the press, the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Daily News* which was in existence at that time (It no longer is). And they really weren't too bad. I'd...I'd be interested to see now what...what they wrote. But I remember at the time we.... If it hadn't been so real to all of us, we could've sort of felt that we were this little provincial religious school out on the west side of Chicago that were having these little...

FELDMANN: Yeah. Happy meetings or something [both laugh].

KNOEDLER: ...having these little meetings where we said God was there and so forth. But I remember that they were not as critical as I would have thought they would be. I think they were a little surprised too. There was no behavioral problems, there was nothing to...there was nothing for them to report in the way of behavior...

FELDMANN: That was strange.

KNOEDLER: ...that was strange. Nobody was acting or saying strange things. It simply a lot of people in their own way from where they were at in their lives.

FELDMANN: Do you see in your own life the long term effects, a positive effect on your own spiritual walk from that revival that maybe even now is with you?

KNOEDLER: Yes, I think so. I haven't...I don't think about it a lot.

FELDMANN: Yeah.

KNOEDLER: But now since I've talked to you and knew you were coming, I have thought about it a bit. And then when Mary Dorsett talked with me, I thought about it too. I think when you go through something like that, you are very aware that something like this can happen when you are not expecting it, because we were not expecting it. I was not expecting it. I don't believe anybody was. On the other hand, I think we always need to be ready for it. And even now when I pray for revival on the campus, I think that, you know, my faith should be stronger. I should be waiting for it every day. Probably when it happens, I'll think, "Oh wow! It happened!" When I have been praying for it for years and I should instead say [in a very calm voice], "It's finally happened, what I have been asking for." But I do think the Lord uses all sorts of experience and that certainly was one in my life. But I think in terms of today, I think the Holy Spirit does kind of lay the groundwork and get people listening to Him more. And sometimes that's done through tragedy and sometimes it's done through world events.

FELDMANN: Yeah

KNOEDLER: He doesn't have to have anything. He can just do it. But I think He often does use experiences where we realize we have very little if any control over what goes on.

FELDMANN: Yeah.

KNOEDLER: We only have control over our own reaction to what goes on.

FELDMANN: Yeah.

KNOEDLER: And it's probably one of the things I've learned, although I've been learning it for the last forty-five years.

FELDMANN: Did music have a...a part in the revival at all?

KNOEDLER: Yes, Dick Reed (I believe it was Dick) was our song leader for the revival meetings. And whenever we sing the song, I think back to...I can put myself right back in Pierce Chapel. And...now I cannot think of what the hymn was. It is one of the old hymns. But we sang it. And we sang it. And we sang it. And sometimes when things had gotten very, very emotional, Dick would get up and he'd say, "Let's sing some...." We sang *Wonderful Grace of Jesus*. My mind is pulling a blank. There are three or four others that we did sing, many times during those hours. And they were...and they have become very special. Like I say, I can't remember which ones they are, but as soon as I hear them, I know.

FELDMANN: You know that was one of them.

KNOEDLER: Yes, yes.

FELDMANN: Was it organ music accompaniment or what?

KNOEDLER: It seems to me we had someone on the piano and someone on the organ.

FELDMANN: Uh-huh. And those people must have gotten tired too [chuckles] from all the hours of [unclear].

KNOEDLER: Well, they did, but nobody seemed to be tired. That was...that was the amazing thing. Nobody seemed to be tired. Nobody seemed to think of...nobody thought of going home.

FELDMANN: Wow.

KNOEDLER: They didn't want to miss it.

FELDMANN: Didn't you get any sleep? I mean....

KNOEDLER: Not that night.

FELDMANN: Wow.

KNOEDLER: No, Not that night.

FELDMANN: And how many days later did classes resume. Was it...?

KNOEDLER: I'm sure that that would be somewhere in...in a dated...

FELDMANN: Yeah, actually, I think...

KNOEDLER: ...archival writing and I am not sure that I can say that. So if this began on a Wednesday evening, I...I think classes didn't begin until Friday.

FELDMANN: Wow.

KNOEDLER: And there were...there were a few people in the library. It was a volunteering...it was a volunteering kind of thing. Nobody felt like they had to be there. Nobody felt this was something they were coerced into doing. They just simply wouldn't be anywhere else.

FELDMANN: Okay. What percentage of the College community would you estimate were involved in the revival?

KNOEDLER: This would be a pure guess, but I would say [pauses] three quarters of it. Now whether all of them had a...a deep spiritual experience or not, I...I can't say that. Although I didn't talk to any of my friends (and I was involved in a lot of different things) that hadn't been in some way effected by it positively.

FELDMANN: Did you meet your future husband at Wheaton?

KNOEDLER: Yes.

FELDMANN: And was he also...were you dating at that time?

KNOEDLER: Yes, yes. I believe he was playing the piano part of the time, because he played for the chapel choir quartet and they sang some numbers. I don't remember being there with him at all. I remember being there with my girlfriends for the evening, so...so, those details escape me. We were both there, but....

FELDMANN: It wasn't important at the time...

KNOEDLER: No, not at the time.

FELDMANN: ...I guess. That's neat. Did preaching play a role at all? I mean, you mentioned Dr...what was his name?

KNOEDLER: I believe his name is Edwin Johnson from California.

FELDMANN: Okay.

KNOEDLER: Yes, I think it did, although he was not, as I recall, he was not a firebrand preacher. He kind of talked to us.

FELDMANN: Uh-huh.

KNOEDLER: Chatted with us and.... I don't think....

FELDMANN: Was it a Spiritual Emphasis Week?

KNOEDLER: Yes, oh yes it was. It was Special Services Week, yes.

FELDMANN: Uh-huh. Were people confessing mostly one particular sin, like pride or...? Do you remember that?

KNOEDLER: There was a lot of that.

FELDMANN: Yeah.

KNOEDLER: A lot of that. Probably that was the self-satisfaction, smugness, spiritual... perhaps arrogance. Some of the things that are the most hurtful to the Christian walk. And subtle, but there.

FELDMANN: Yeah. Do you see some of the same conditions here that were like pre-revival then now?

KNOEDLER: Yes, yes. And I think that this is why a revival is such an interesting phenomenon because there is no room for pride or arrogance or look what I've done. That is the last thing that anyone thinks about, how great they are. And the emphasis is on how great God is. And how small we are.

FELDMANN: So, God is given the glory.

KNOEDLER: Yes, yes. And I feel like that that was one of the hallmarks. I've not really been involved in another so I can't compare. Except that I've read and...but it.... God...God got the glory from the very first until the very last. And I don't think anybody.... There was no idea of someone getting up and, "Can you top this?" in confessions, for example, "So, I am prouder than you are. Watch me...watch me confess" [both chuckle]. It was just a heartfelt sorryness that we...we were not more what God wanted us to be.

FELDMANN: How do you think that we could...? I mean, I think we would all say we would love to have revival again. Do you think there is something we can do or is totally a work of God

that He just decides to send revival?

KNOEDLER: Well, I don't...I don't know. That's a tough question. It certainly is His work. I think that we don't pray enough for it.

FELDMANN: Yeah.

KNOEDLER: I think if enough people prayed routinely and regularly and fervently for revival, I...I think the Lord would...would...would send one, because certainly it's His will. And what holds it off, I don't know. You know, I'm not a theologian.

FELDMANN: Yes.

KNOEDLER: I don't know about these deeper things. But I think what holds it off is people's unwillingness to get serious with Him. I think that He would be willing...I can't imagine that He wouldn't be willing to visit a revival on any group of people that wanted it any time. On the other hand, as you look through the history of the church, going through the [Billy] Graham Center [Museum] and seeing the various revivals that have taken place, there's no cycling of them. I mean, there's no, where after a certain number of years or if this event takes place or that event takes place. But I...I guess I would have to say that we don't pray enough for it.

FELDMANN: That's right.

KNOEDLER: Because every....You know, sometimes I think, "I am going to pray for this regularly." And then I do for a while and then there are so many other needs and I am thinking about this, that, and the other thing and then I think, "Well I haven't prayed for it for a long time now."

FELDMANN: Yeah, yeah. [Pauses] You haven't been involved in other revivals, you said.

KNOEDLER: No, I haven't.

FELDMANN: Do you have any other comments or, yeah, anything else you would like to say?

KNOEDLER: Well, I hope that the Lord does decide to send.... Or maybe that is not the right way to put it. I hope that He does send a revival. I think it is something I would like to have every person, every Christian have the joy of being involved in one. It isn't pure joy, because it is very humbling. And yet it's a...it's a...it's a wonderful experience and I wouldn't have...I wouldn't trade it for anything. On the other hand, the down side of it is that the Lord does ask you to make some changes.

FELDMANN: Do you think that people followed through, you know, with their commitments and maybe with the confess...reconciliation and things like that, restitution? [Telephone rings in background.]

KNOEDLER: I think that for the most part they did, yes. [Recording is stopped and restarted.]

FELDMANN: There we go. Okay, how did the revival end?

KNOEDLER: As I recall the last part of it was that when Dr. Edman just said, "Now we are going to have a couple more...." [Phone rings several times] (I am just going to let that ring.) "We will have a couple more people giving their testimonies and then we are going to close this and we are going to continue on with our normal activities." And then we had other meetings. It seems to me that we just had one tie up meeting then. And I don't even remember what that was like, but I am sure it was a...a wonderful meeting, yes. Yes [voices in background].

FELDMANN: Did you...? What about your...your homework assignments? I mean, they must....

KNOEDLER: Well, you know, it was such a part of campus. Everyone was there.

FELDMANN: Yeah.

KNOEDLER: Profs were there, students were there. I don't recall missing any tests or anything like that. We just kind of picked up and went on.

FELDMANN: Wow. Okay. I think that's all my questions. Do you have anything more to add? Is there...? Oh, I was going to ask one more thing. Is there any way that we can...anything that we can do to prepare to really seek....You mentioned before prayer. Any way we can facilitate a revival coming again?

KNOEDLER: I would...I would wish so. I don't really know what the...what preparation there would be. I think...I think perhaps what you are doing, looking back into something like this. You know, it is a...it is a spiritual warfare that we are fighting and I think when you go back into something, into historical data like this and see what it was, what happened. I think that you are concentrating on an important issue. And I...I...I guess that prayer probably is...is the most important thing that we can do. But also, I think in our own hearts.... now this was a revival of many hundreds of people. But we have revivals in our own hearts any time we want them.

FELDMANN: Amen. I was reading a little about the....I am doing a paper on the Korean revival [of 1907] ...

KNOEDLER: Uh-huh.

FELDMANN: ...how even to this day there is so much vitality in the Korean church.

KNOEDLER: Uh-huh.

FELDMANN: And I am sure that the prayer has a...a big role to play. But also, that persecution before...before it ever came.

KNOEDLER: Yes.

FELDMANN: They were persecuted. And they had to stand firm in their faith. And I was wondering, do you think there is a connection there between persecution and revival?

KNOEDLER: Well, yes, I think so. And I think in this...in the case of the one in '50, it wasn't persecution, but I don't think there was any question but the fact that Phyllis being killed...

FELDMANN: Right...right.

KNOEDLER: ...and the whole campus being rocked by that event was something that...Plus, the fact that a lot of the students were older and they had seen life. They were not neophyte, eager eyed little college kids, which....

FELDMANN: They had seen war. They had been in war.

KNOEDLER: They had been in war, they had seen death and illness and maiming and all the rest of it. And that makes you grow up in a big hurry. And I do think that the Lord does...does soften us up, if you will.

FELDMANN: Right

KNOEDLER: But I think...I think too, we were not looking for it. I don't think anyone was looking for it in those days. I...I can't say that I wasn't, I know that. And yet, I think that is something that we should be looking for. And when we see things happening in the world, for example the people in Kobe just recently... [The Great Hanshin earthquake in Kobe, Japan on January 17, 1995]

FELDMANN: Yes.

KNOEDLER: You know, yes, they lie on a fault. But the same thing could happen here.

FELDMANN: Right.

KNOEDLER: We could lose that many people from other sources. There's nothing that's sure.

FELDMANN: Right. I think in this generation especially, we have just not seen a lot of tragedy in our own lives and we're...we're sort of real naïve, you know, about...about life...

KNOEDLER: Uh-huh.

FELDMANN: ...and we kind of think, "Well, if I try hard, I can do anything." That's the prevailing attitude...

KNOEDLER: Uh-huh.

FELDMANN: ...in society, it seems to me.

KNOEDLER: Now that's youth, that's the idealism of youth.

FELDMANN: Yeah.

KNOEDLER: And it's probably a good thing [Feldmann laughs] because when you get to be my age you get a little jaded and you realize you do not have a whole lot to say about much of anything. The way things are going to go, we have very little control, frighteningly little control of what goes on. But as I was speaking to a friend this morning who is going to have very serious surgery tomorrow, we do know that the Lord has control.

FELDMANN: Yeah.

KNOEDLER: And I think that as we look for the Lord to work in our own lives first....Maybe one of the things that deters the revival from happening is that we expect it to happen in somebody else's life. Somebody else is going to start it. Someone else is going to be brought closer to the Lord and so forth. And I think maybe we need in that one way be introspective in that we look, "It could maybe begin with me. It maybe should..."

FELDMANN: Yeah.

KNOEDLER: ...begin with me." And I think if we could get the idea off other people...

FELDMANN: Yeah.

KNOEDLER: ...and get it on ourselves and where we need to be, then God would have us in the position where...

FELDMANN: We could change.

KNOEDLER: ...we could change. Yes. And I think that revival does bring change.

FELDMANN: Yeah.

KNOEDLER: And it's certainly for the Lord's glory, but it's for our good but it isn't always without pain, because we have to give up rights to ourselves.

FELDMANN: That's right. Maybe that how we need pray, as we pray, you know, seeking God to say, "I'm willing..."

KNOEDLER: Uh-huh.

FELDMANN: ..."I'm willing..."

KNOEDLER: Uh-huh.

FELDMANN: "...to change. Please soften me," and that kind of.... And also...

KNOEDLER: And then look out.

FELDMANN: ...point out...point out....

KNOEDLER: And then look out if you pray like that [chuckles].

FELDMANN: Look out, yeah [laughs]. Well, thank you very much Betty. It has been a good time.

KNOEDLER: Yeah, it's been wonderful thinking about it because it's not one of those things that you think about a lot.

FELDMANN: Yeah.

KNOEDLER: But it's wonderful to reminisce back to....

FELDMANN: Yeah, and this is I think a really good exercise. I wish almost every student could take this kind of class and...

KNOEDLER: Uh-huh.

FELDMANN: ...do this kind of thing. It does.... You know, some of the books I have been reading really are convicting.

KNOEDLER: Uh-huh.

FELDMANN: And there are things in my life that I have thought...

KNOEDLER: Oh, you don't have to look very far at all.

FELDMANN: ..."I've got to confess this." No.

KNOEDLER: We don't have to look very far. And I think the Holy Spirit is happy to show up...show us...us those places where we need to be brought up short. But we are so...we're so caught up in...in every day's activities. Everyone is so busy and so involved. That's good, but...but it does keep us, I think, away from those times of just doing nothing but concentrating on the Lord.

FELDMANN: Yeah.

KNOEDLER: Then all of a sudden He breaks into history and says, "You will think about me."

FELDMANN: Just one last thing occurred to me.

KNOEDLER: Yes.

FELDMANN: You said you did not think about...you didn't sleep. Did you miss meals too? Were you hungry or did you fast as well? I mean, maybe not.

KNOEDLER: I don't think we went to eat. I don't remember eating.

FELDMANN: [Laughs] Yeah. Interesting.

KNOEDLER: No, I don't remember.... I'm sure the dining halls were open. And there were those who did, you know, people with illnesses or diabetes or something like that could not go for a long period of time...

FELDMANN: Right.

KNOEDLER: ...without eating. I don't frankly remember going to the dining room. I don't remember not going. It was just....

FELDMANN: That was not....

KNOEDLER: It was a non-issue.

END OF TAPE

