

Please return to  
S.T. Ludwig, Bethany, Okla.

867-25

KANSAS DISTRICT  
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

1965  
WHAT THE CHURCH COLLEGE MAY EXPECT FROM ITS  
SUPPORTING DISTRICTS

I regret that Mrs. Ludwig's illness prevents me from being here in person and accepting the gracious invitation of this joint Preacher's Convention. I shall pray God's rich grace upon you all. I will appreciate your confidence and prayers.

I want also to take this opportunity to thank you each one personally for the wonderful way you have supported the VICTORY CAMPAIGN. Mr. Stockton, our beloved business manager and co-worker, will express publically the thanks of the College, its faculty, administration and student body. Your loyal cooperation together with that of ~~hane~~ other districts on the educational zone has made it possible to liquidate our indebtedness. It is a miracle of co-operation - plus God. Let us give Him grateful praise and humbly acknowledge His blessings.

Before I discuss the above assigned topic, I am reminded of a story I recently heard. A lady suddenly came into considerable wealth, whereupon she felt that she must have adequate social background and a pedigree commensurate with the money she had acquired. Therefore she employed the services of a competent firm that dealt in the business of tracing family trees and providing a suitable "coat of arms". But upon investigation it was discovered that an uncle not too far back had committed serious crime, was sentenced to Sing Sing and finally died in the electric chair. This was too much for the lady and she was ready to give up the whole project. The man replied, "never mind about that we have ways of fixing up little matters like that so folks will not detect it". In a couple of months he returned with a nice leather-bound volume containing all the information and an appropriate social register. Hastily the lady opened to the page where he uncle's record



appeared and read these lines:

" Mr. A -- occupied the chair of applied electricity in one of the leading institutions of America and died in the harness!"

This afternoon, if I am to be put in the "chair of applied electricity," at least I shall be assured of "dieing in the harness".

\*\*\*\*\*

Obviously, a subject of the importance and magnitude of the one assigned me, cannot be covered in an adequate or complete fashion in ten or fifteen minutes. What I say shall be in the nature of observations over a number of years and in a number of different colleges. I have been a teacher or administrator in four colleges of the Church of the Nazarene covering a period of 14 years. It is against this background that I shall speak out of my heart to you at this joint Preacher's meeting.

I. It is reasonable to expect<sup>that</sup> the constituency of the college shall look upon its church college as a CHILD of the church rather than an unwanted orphan.

Let it be said to our great credit that during the last four years the members of the church have gone a long way toward this goal. No better evidence need be sighted on this educational zone than the splendid cooperation we have received in the liquidation of our indebtedness. Furthermore this attitude has been amplified by the fact that six of our districts this year enthusiastically voted an educational budget for Bethany-Peniel College equivalent to \$1.00 per member. Yes, our people are beginning to realize that the church college must be adequately clothed and fed because it is "our child" and we expect to look after our own.

Unfortunately, this has not<sup>always</sup> been the attitude. As a result, our colleges were faced with the problem of maintaining what they had, build more buildings, secure the needed equipment for a growing college, meet the standards required of Liberal Arts colleges - and do it all on limited and sometimes wavering support. They had to be satisfied with the "crumbs" which fell from the church's table. This in part explains the reason for



incurred indebtedness, underpaid faculties and limited equipment with which the average college administrator of the church has had to deal. No<sup>w</sup> that we are "growing up" in our attitude toward the colleges of the church, we will see to it that the men and women of the church we have placed in positions of leadership, shall be adequately paid, commensurate to the training required and the cost expended to achieve it. We will see to it that adequate equipment shall be furnished both teachers and students so the training received in our colleges will be efficient, painstaking and thorough. This can all be accomplished if we support an adequate educational budget and pay it regularly.

II. I believe it is reasonable to expect that our people shall have an appreciation of the VITAL IMPORTANCE of our church colleges in the on-going program of the church.

The ultimate program of the church and the college are the same. You cannot divorce the two. The only reason we have to say the church and the college is because you cannot say "John" and "Mary" at the same time - it takes two words to tell the story. But there have been some people who seemed to think because we mention the word "college" it at once means we are set to do something different from the church. But that is not so. The call of evangelism is just as strong to our college men as it is to the pastor in his parish. We seek by prayer and fasting and nights of prayer and tears to bring about the salvation of those entrusted to our care. We do not cease our labors by day or night. We are "on call" at all hours of the 24-day period. If you were to follow the schedule of a college professor on any one of our college campuses and then go with him to the extra sessions and the midnight vigil (where he is trying to help some lad make an eternally important decision) - my guess is you would think he had a pretty full day and you would feel the intensity of the burden he carries for "our youth".

The fact remains friends, at Bethany-Peniel College we are not only



exposing students to fields of knowledge, but we are seeking to build holy character - and that is the task of the church. In other words, the colleges of the church must train the leaders of the church both in pulpit and pew - if they are to be given the Nazarene background and point of view.

One of the greatest leaders in the church made this statement recently from the platform of one of our district assemblies this fall, "If the church were to close her colleges today, it would not be a year before the church would be compelled to close some churches and start limiting mission fields. Keep that process up five years and it would be absolutely fatal to the church".

Just now we are challenged to give "one million dollars" for missions in 1944. I believe it can be done. I am convinced we ought to do it. We have been challenged to send out 500 missionaries in the next two or three years. I am sure the needs will require it. But from the Department of Foreign Missions comes the sad fact that if we had to send out fifty missionaries this year the church would be "hard put" to find that many trained and qualified youth. (Thank God, we have 18 called missionaries on our campus this year, but they are in the "process" and most of them will not be ready for two or three years.)

But for every missionary we send out we ought to raise up two or three pastors,<sup>s</sup> evangelists or Christian workers to establish new work at home and enlarge the home base. And for every minister or missionary God calls and the church trains, we should have at least ten laymen who likewise are trained and have the vision, purpose and ability to support the church in her far-flung field of battle. And so the circle WIDENS! Add this together and it sums<sup>up</sup> to this: the church college today and tomorrow must train a large reserve of workers if we are to match the opportunities awaiting us in the post war world. You can not have expansion of the church program without a corresponding increase of enrollments in our church colleges. Yes, the college is the right arm



of the church. If we have that viewpoint, the church college can be maintained in today's turbulent world!

III. A third observation I make is this: I ask you to have a sympathetic understanding of the peculiar problems confronting the college administrator today.

These problems are in many respects no different then the ones you have in your <sup>own</sup> home and in your local church, but they are considerably accentuated when you bring together 450 young people on one campus from that many different homes covering 20 different states. You do not have the advantage of a single home background or ~~an~~ homogenous culture. Some one has said that the ~~XXXXXX~~ college is the true melting pot of America. The problem would be considerably simplified if everybody would "melt" - for when they don't, you have problems to work out.

I am inclined to believe that a college president's job looks rather glamorous - "at a distance". Sometime we tend to over-simplify the problem by saying, "if they don't line up, kick them out". But there are some things you just can't "strike out" that easily - not when you are dealing with immortal souls. Cutting out ~~af~~ the body a portion of diseased tissue with the skill of a physician and a scalpel, after all, is simple compared to dealing with the complex and sensitive soul of an <sup>m</sup>ortal being.

I have two daughters in my home. I think they are about the finest in the land. But I must confess there are times when they do not see eye to eye with me. At times they bring me grief by their willfulness and even disobedience. But even so, I do not strike them off the list. I do not dis~~an~~herit them. Why? They are my own children. They are flesh of my flesh. I love them. I know that by correction and discipline, by prayer and example, by line and by precept(if I do my duty as a parent) God will help me to train them in the way they should go. And because I have a proper appreciation of the problem, I shall more readily find its solution.



IV. Not only must we understand the problems confronting us, but in the fourth place, there must be an appreciation of the task we are dedicated to accomplish.

One of the things that made Jesus at variance with the religious traditions of the Scribes and Pharasees was simply this: Jesus saw not simply apples on trees, but TREES in apples. That is another way of saying He saw people not only as they were, but as they could become. The particular task of Jesus was to make bad men good; weak men strong. And the church of the living God today honors herself insofar as she accepts that task from the Master and gives herself unselfishly to the winning of souls.

At the church college that is a continuous process. We, too, are seeking to bring unconverted students to the crisis of decision where Christ may become their friend and guide through the regenerating power of the gospel. And where believers may make a full surrender and consecrate their all to God for time and eternity. But after that <sup>comes</sup> ~~is~~ growth, development, maturity. That can not be achieved in a day or month or year.

A friend of mine owns a woodwork shop. Recently, I visited his place of business. As I entered I saw shavings on the floor, rough lumber piled in the corner and men cutting, trimming and planeing boards. In an adjoining room I saw tables, chairs, bookcases etc. ~~in~~ "roughed in" in varying states of completion. Finally, I was shown the "display room" where the finished product was good to look upon. I confess, that last room was a "far cry" from the first one I had entered. But by paitent toil, by cutting and trimming, by staining and dressing down - the result was a piece of furniture that was practical and useful. The analogy between that and what happens on a college campus is obvious. Suffice it to say that it takes the "craftsman's eye" whether you ~~build~~ make tables or build a life.



V. My last observation (and this by no means is exhaustive treatment of the subject) deals with the matter of CONFIDENCE IN LEADERSHIP.

At this point I would like to talk heart to heart. I wish I might converse personally with you in your home or office. I would like to take you in behind the scenes. I would like to show you the high spots, the low spots and the in-between-spots of a college president's life. It's a bed of roses alright, but don't forget that roses, too, have thornes and if you want the fragrance you must be willing to sustain the pin-pricks of the thornes. It all adds up<sup>though,</sup> to one great climax - we are all helping to build the Kingdom of God.

The genius of the Church of the Nazarene is so far as her polity is concerned is based in her CONFIDENCE IN LEADERSHIP. If you study the workings of our church in comparison with most of the leading denominations you will find it relatively simple. We have no great cannons or laws which surround or maintain our leadership. For the most part, leadership is elected by the people and because they are thus elevated to position we give them our confidence, our love, our support. And therein lies the success of our movement from the human point of view.

All life is based on confidence. That dollar bill in your pocket is "confidence" money. Let any great proportion of the people loose confidence in the government or its ability to pay and the "greenback" becomes worthless.

Likewise the home is based on confidence. When that is absent you do not have a home, but simply a house where two irreconcilable forces meet. Mrs. Ludwig and I just celebrated last week our 17th wedding anniversary. I am going to make a confession. I am afraid it would be pretty hard sledding for anyone here (or anywhere for that matter) to undermine my faith in her. Why? Because it is based on two unshakable pillars, namely, LOVE and TRUST (or confidence). Now that does not mean that we see things always alike. Neither does it suppose that we always agree. But regardless



of the individual notions or ideas we may have, in the ESSENTIALS there is unity and that unity is bound together in confidence and love. To break through that "wall of defence" is well nigh impossible! And that is as it should be - as God ordained. But that "wall of defence" is not simply negative to keep things out - it is a mighty POSITIVE <sup>factor</sup> ~~force~~ to strengthen, channel and give force and meaning to life's every action.

Apply that to the church and see what happens. Suppose, now, you fortify your pastor with the confidence and love of his congregation. Rumors will come. There are always those who are desirous of the "good name of the church" and they seek to promote it by saying something about the pastor or his family. There are always those who say, "It has been reported to me" or "I heard that this was going on and the pastor does nothing about it". Let the bars of "love and confidence" down and you open the flood gates for all sorts of things. Hold your "defence" intact and your faith still directs your heart and brain to work for God and the church and the Kingdom. And if matters continue, you will go directly to your pastor because you have confidence in him and discuss matters incident to the good of the kingdom. And out of mutual understanding of the total problem there will come a deeper love for God and a greater willingness to sacrifice for Christ and the church. And that same attitude goes throughout the whole church. At least that is the way I see it. Maybe this is not practical, but I have a feeling it applies to our colleges <sup>too,</sup> ~~to~~ our administrators, our faculties and our students.

I want to thank the leaders of this convention for their kind invitation to share in this discussion. Their loyalty to Bethany-Peniel College and the ideals for which we stand have been again demonstrated by their ~~loyalty and~~ support of the Victory Campaign. I want to thank them personally before this convention. May I close by giving three brief instances which indicate the work Bethany-Peniel College is endeavoring to do.



First, we have closed what I believe was the best college revival I have ever seen or had a part in. Dr. Russel V. DeLong was the human instrument, but the Holy Spirit was the evident leader from the beginning. There was more prayer, more power in the altar services, more seekers finding victory and more consistent and lasting work <sup>done,</sup> than I have seen in many a day. But it has always been my contention that we should live so close to the Lord that He could ~~break~~ break in any time on a college campus and thus have frequent outpourings of the Spirit. Two weeks before the revival we had such a scene in the chapel. After a brief message souls came to the altar. Prayers were heard all over the building and shouts of victory rang out. When we had finished, twelve or fifteen had prayed through to victory and life decisions had been made.

\*\*\*\*\*

Second, a few months ago one of our chaplain's, a graduate of B.P.C. wrote from the flaming fields of battle in North Africa during the <sup>Tunisian</sup> ~~Tunisia~~ campaign as follows: " You will never know what Bethany-Peniel College has meant to me. I have just come from talking to my men. In a few moments we will face the enemy and God alone knows what.... In response to my earnest exhortation and prayer I saw hundreds of my men lift their hands for prayer. I have reason to believe that many of them accepted Christ as their Savior. If I never come back and should this be my last battle, I want to leave my testimony that Jesus means everything to me."

\*\*\*\*\*

And third: I came last night(Sunday evening) from a missionary service in which several students from the college participated. One of the young ladies, a student from one of the districts participating in this convention, said to me in substance, " Bro. Ludwig, I never learned to take Jesus into all the minute details of life until this year(her sophomore year).Why,I would be afraid,now, to go through a day without first committing it to Him and asking Christ to "take over". It's wonderful to know Him".



That is your church college in action! Does Christian education pay? If only one boy or girl were saved and started toward heaven during the 35 years of B.P.C's glorious history, it would be worth all the sacrifice, the tears, the money and the prayers we have put into it." But isn't that pretty costly, you say, and my answer is, "No, not if it is your boy or my girl that is saved!" But in THAT DAY thousands shall rise up and call us blessed because we had a part in building the colleges of the church.

And let us not forget - CHANGED MEN will CHANGE the world!

----- S. T. Ludwig, President.