

A MID-YEAR COMMENTARY From Bethany Bible College

by C. E. Stairs, President

Believing that our people appreciate information on the condition of our school work, I have undertaken this brief, sketchy report. I trust that it will be sufficient to convey to you our feeling that we are having a good year in many of the respects that are of concern to our people. This is the consensus of opinion here.

A review of the first term brings us considerable satisfaction and occasion for thanksgiving to God. Some of the favorable conditions are these:

(1) Student conduct and attitude, generally speaking, have reached a new level.

The new policy on social regulations has contributed to this improvement. There is less occasion for disciplinary action, and consequently less reason for tension between the staff and students.

At the same time we have made an effort to bring about a greater measure of understanding between the staff and students. This effort has expressed itself in a number of directions, and has played a part in making a good year.

(2) Staff morale is good. Improved conditions within the student body have been an encouragement to the staff, and have helped to create a better and more promising working situation. The degree of understanding and co-operation between administration and staff is comparatively high.

(3) The spiritual state of the school, as far as we can assess, is average. A few youth are not making a profession. Happily, for some this has been a year of spiritual decision and conversion. For most students this is a time of spiritual instruction and development. Repetitious seeking at an altar is not to be desired nor expected.

(4) The academic program of the school is progressing reasonably well. Problem cases are fewer; the overall report indicates an improvement of work.

(5) The financial support of our churches, generally speaking, has been commendable. This is the second year that our churches have been asked to raise a twelve-thousand-dollar budget. At this point in the calendar, income from churches is beyond what it was last year. \$6300 has been received to date, only \$1200 less than the total due. This standing puts our churches in position to make Bethany Day what it was originally intended to be, a day for special offerings.

Of course the year has not been without its problems. Space permits mention of one only. The decreased enrollment has made a serious financial problem in our current operation. While our costs of operation continue at the same level, our income has gone down due to loss of student receipts. Thus we face the possibility of a sizeable deficit. (Parenthetically, seventeen of fifty accredited Bible colleges did not balance their books last year.)

We believe that we understand the factors causing a decreased enrollment, and we consider them to be of a temporary nature. We do not accept our present enrollment as indicative of future possibilities. Our Board and Staff anticipate the school's future growth. Mr. Charles Owens' statement in his article voices the faith of our Board and Staff: "The opportunity of working in a school with so much growth potential is stimulating to the imagination."

Nonetheless, we have our present problem. For this year, the hope of a balanced budget lies in special gifts from individuals and churches. Some Spirit-prompted, big-hearted giving is the need. May our Bethany Day giving be of this kind. Above-budget offerings could do much to "turn the tide" financially. Let us ask the Lord what our part is on February 16. Our Bethany staff is giving its best. Will you give yours?

The King's Highway



Why I Serve

at Bethany

by Charles Owens

I teach at Bethany because I was called. The call did not come from a burning bush or a clap of thunder. It came via a long-distance telephone call. A need was presented to me. This need was recognized, and its challenge was accepted.

Previous to the acceptance of this position at Bethany, the wider call of God for control of my life was also recognized. We are told in the Scriptures that we are to present ourselves as a "living sacrifice." It is not until we are fully committed to God that we are ready to hear, understand, and obey His call for service. This was true in my life.

From personal experience, in various levels of education, it has become clear to me that the public educational system does not meet the needs of the whole man. I am thankful for the opportunity that I had of going to a Christian college. It gave me an opportunity to establish patterns of Christian living. Each young person of our church should have the same opportunity so that he might be prepared to "affect" the society in which he lives rather than to be affected by it.

The opportunity of working with young people who are interested in finding God's best for their lives is rewarding. The opportunity of working in a school with so much growth potential is stimulating to the imagination. My prayer is that of Thomas à Kempis: "Help me, O Lord God, in this my good purpose, and in Thy holy service; and grant that I may now this day begin perfectly, for that which I have done hitherto is as nothing."

WHAT CHURCH LEADERS ARE SAYING ON EDUCATION

From The Wesleyan Methodist

Dr. Roy S. Nicholson in a guest editorial refers to a statement made by the first General Conference Committee on Education in 1844: "The world — our work especially — is demanding an educated ministry. If we can not supply this demand, others will." This same report included "Resolutions" which stated that "the supposition that the Scriptures do not require Christians, and especially Christian ministers, to study and become truly learned, when circumstances permit, is a great and dangerous error."

From Pilgrim Holiness Advocate

"We must give attention to our schools, for there it is that our young people are guided in their spiritual and intellectual disciplines. There we are determining, under God, the attitudes, the theological concepts, and the spiritual depth of our churches a few years from now."

Dr. Stephen Paine

"Christians have insisted, as did Augustine, that the river of truth is ultimately one and that all truth is God's truth. The Christian, then, as joint-heir with Christ is the proper owner of all truth . . . The Church has through the centuries been the greatest single repository of general learning, the most active builder and nourisher of schools."