

Higher Education and the Nazarene Inheritance

Christian College Sunday

RECENTLY I reviewed the life of Dr. P. F. Bresee, peerless founder of the Church of the Nazarene, as portrayed by Dr. Donald P. Brickley in "Man of the Morning," giving special attention to his educational interests. I was impressed anew with the strong emphasis of Dr. Bresee and his colleagues on the necessity of higher education for Nazarenes.

Prior to his organization of the Church of the Nazarene, Dr. Bresee was involved in college and university interests. In 1883, his first year in California, he was elected a member of the Board of Directors of the University of Southern California, serving until 1895. At the first commencement in 1884, Dr. Bresee gave the annual lecture on "The



General Superintendent Benner

Need of the Age—Men." Later he served as vice-president of the board, and became president of the Board of the College of Liberal Arts.

When the present Pasadena College was founded, while some others urged a lesser status, Dr. Bresee insisted that it be of college level. In fact, his longterm vision was that of a university. Just thirty-seven days prior to his death, reading to the Fourth General Assembly the Quadrennial Address of the Board of General Superintendents, he declared, "Higher education is of such a nature that the church which turns such work over to the state, or to others, will soon find itself robbed of its best inheritance."

In his final message at Pasadena College he said, "The work of education lies deep in the foundation of the work of this dispensation . . . We have not forsaken the old classics. We do not fear philosophy. We delight in mathematics. We cultivate the sciences. We undertake to know what we may of the Word of Life, to learn here to be learners, that God may teach us what is best for us to know."

If these ideals were the proper norm and goal for the Church of the Nazarene fifty years ago, how much more valid they are today in the midst of a world of almost fantastic development in all areas!

If we are to maintain our "best heritage," we must be prepared to support our institutions of higher education, both existing and in process of development. Nazarenes have the money necessary to do this adequately. The dual challenge: (1) to provide adequately for higher education; (2) to urge our young people, both ministerial and lay, to patronize our Nazarene colleges!

THE COLLEGES maintained by the Church of the Nazarene were begun basically as training schools for future ministers of the church. The founding fathers were themselves men who had brought to their new affiliation a profound respect for an educated ministry. To provide such leadership for the church they felt to be a first claim on their limited financial resources.

At great sacrifice training schools were established. In fact they were organized in such profusion that consolidation of many of these was inevitable. But their very proliferation in early days points up the depth of concern for education.

But the colleges were never restricted to the fields of Bible and theology. To be sure, these were areas of major emphasis. Stress was laid upon an education in the so-called liberal arts. Early Nazarene curricula, surprisingly enough, were laced with courses in languages both classical and modern, in history, philosophy, social sciences, mathematics, and (within modest limits) modern science. All of this was believed essential to the adequate education of men who were called of God to the preaching of the gospel.

This primary emphasis of our early days is still the prevailing one in our

as students without any clear call of God upon their lives and often without any settled Christian experience are led to a personal relationship to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Sanctifier. Later they receive a clear call from God into the work of the ministry. My observation has led me to the conclusion that the number of our young people who receive their call to Christian service during their college days is fully as great as the number of those who are aware of God's call before entering college. These are reassuring facts.

Training for the ministry has become more extensive and complex than it used to be. We are fortunate now to have an excellent seminary where candidates for the ministry pursue professional training. But I am heartened to observe that our colleges have not abandoned their basic responsibility in meeting this fundamental need of the church.

Alongside this historic role, the colleges have accepted the herculean task of training lay young people. The importance of education for life in the modern world is being emphasized as never before. It is not alone for the work of the ministry that an adequate education is essential. In modern industry, with its increasingly involved

and all of these require a basic training that only the liberal arts college can give

The most serious shortage of qualified personnel is in the field of public school teaching. More Christian young people are responding to the call for service in these varied areas. Here is a need which our church colleges must face seriously and meet to the best of their ability.

The departments in our colleges which have been undergoing most rapid development in recent years are those of physics, chemistry, biology, and education. To render adequate service in these departments, our schools have had to expand their facilities, often at staggering costs.

Yet it seems to me that our Christian young people who are not called to specific Christian work have as much right to the services of a Christian college as do those who are looking toward the ministry. We need Christian teachers and administrators in a public school system which is becoming increasingly secularized. We need Christians in medicine and law. We need scientists who are Christian and who can bear their witness to the saving power of Christ.

This is the new task which our Nazarene colleges must accept as their own. To meet this challenge involves no

NEW TASKS FOR NAZARENE COLLEGES

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colleges. Their basic function is still the preparation of men and women for the work of the Christian ministry.

Indeed, our colleges play a doubly strategic role in the production of ministers. On one hand, they receive students who are already aware of the call of God upon their lives. The college takes responsibility for guiding them through undergraduate work and seminary until they are ready, under God, to enter the ministry.

On the other hand, many who enter

technology, scientific training is extremely important. Christian young people must qualify themselves for playing responsible roles in these burgeoning developments.

There was a time when young people sought doctorates in the various sciences only to engage in college teaching. But today industry is employing Ph.D's trained in science to a far greater extent than do our colleges and universities. Christian young people are being challenged to enter the various professions,

abandonment whatever of our timehonored responsibility for the training of candidates for the ministry. These two undertakings can and do proceed side by side.

Thus our colleges are seeking to serve all of our people, laity and ministry alike. These new outreaches of our colleges are as essential and as Christian as any we have ever undertaken. They deserve our best efforts and our consecrated support in prayer, in loyalty, and in sacrificial giving.

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE DAY

April 25, 1965

"On National Christian College Day in 1965 we reaffirm our confidence in the relevance of Christian values to the search for knowledge. Our time is one of continuing crises in which error may be catastrophic. Our decisions as a nation must be based not only on knowledge but also upon wisdom. Intellectual integrity and Christian faith constitute the combined commitment of the Christian college. Through such a commitment the Christian college strives to combine knowledge with wisdom. On this day may both churches and colleges ask a divine blessing upon this venture."

JAMES M. GODARD, President Council of Protestant Colleges and Universities

4/21/65

AN INCREASE OF 960 STUDENTS . . .

Enrollment Up 14.1 Percent in Colleges

By DR. WILLIS SNOWBARGER Secretary, Department of Education

Fall semester enrollment figures for Nazarene colleges totalled 7,731, an increase of 960 students, or 14.1 percent above comparable figures in 1964, according to reasonably complete reports from college registrars.

The percentage increase is almost double the 8 percent increase anticipated in colleges across the United States.

A breakdown of the enrollment in the six U.S. liberal arts colleges, Canadian Nazarene College, British Isles Nazarene College, and the Nazarene Theological Seminary is as follows:

 610 students enrolled for programs above the baccalaureate level;

● 7,028 students enrolled in undergraduate college level work;

93 students enrolled in specialized

subcollege programs.

British Isles Nazarene College and Trevecca Nazarene College show the largest percentage gains over last year: 24 and 23 percent, respectively. The seminary had an increase of 21 percent, and Bethany Nazarene College an increase of 19.6 percent.

The largest numerical increases were Bethany Nazarene College, 275; Olivet Nazarene College, 196; Trevecca Naza-

rene College, 130.

Further analysis shows there are 4,169 men (54 percent) and 3,562 women (46 percent) enrolled. There was an inpercent) enrolled. There was an increase of 13.2 percent (822) in college-level students, but an increase of 34.9 percent (158) above-college students.

Fall semester totals, along with percentage increase or decrease, are as fol-

College	Enrollment	Percentage Increase
Bethany Nazarene College	1,678	19.6
British Isles	21	24.0
Canadian Nazarene College	126	-9.3
Eastern Nazarene College	971	5.4
Nazarene Theological Seminary	189	21.0
Northwest Nazarene College	1,050	12.6
Olivet Nazarene College	1,626	13.7
Pasadena College	1,377	13.8
Trevecca Nazarene College	693	23.0

Construction on new buildings has been completed or is well under way on seven campuses. Bethany Nazarene College is nearing completion on Broadhurst Physical Education building. Eastern Nazarene College has a student center under construction. Northwest Nazarene College dedicated, September 29, Thelma B. Culver Hall, a women's residence, and a science lecture hall. Olivet Nazarene College is completing Reed Hall of Science and Ludwig College Center.

Pasadena College is completing a new men's dormitory, and construction is progressing on two dormitories at Trevecca Nazarene College. Trevecca recently completed a smaller men's dormitory. Other work is being started, and plans are being drawn for more, on

several campuses.

Canadian Nazarene College has begun work on its new facilities near the University of Manitoba, and hopes to occupy them this winter. HH ///17/65 Timetable for New Colleges Projected

The General Assembly of 1964 authorized the establishment of two new colleges for the Church of the Nazarene, to be started as junior colleges and expanded to the full four years as soon as feasible.

In harmony with this action, the General Board voted to set off two new educational zones, temporarily known as Zone A and Zone B, beginning May 1, 1966. The new zones will be created by a realignment of existing zones.

Zone A will include the assembly districts of Akron, Central Ohio, North western Ohio, Southwestern Ohio, Eastern Kentucky, and West Virginia Zone B will be comprised of the owa,

Kansas, Kansas City, Joplin, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota districts

South Dakota districts.

The Virginia District will be transferred to the Eastern Navarene College zone, and the Colorado District will be-come part of the Northwest zone in the new alignment.

Initial boards of control for the new colleges will be composed of trustees from these districts serving on the original college boards at the time. These boards will be authorized to begin their work after the 1966 date.