

# Missouri Baptist College

OF SAINT LOUIS

## NEWS LETTER

1966

Vol. 1, No. 5

L. A. Foster, President

September, 1966

### WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

Perhaps never in history have there been so many speaking their minds concerning Baptist higher education. Though there are many differences of opinion concerning specific issues there is nevertheless noteworthy agreement concerning the need and importance of what Baptists are doing through their schools.

Dr. Manning M. Pattillo of the Danforth Foundation, speaking before Southern Baptist leaders at the first National Study Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, last June indicated that a time of "soul searching" had come for Baptists concerning their colleges and universities. In his opening remarks he voiced his confidence in the future of Southern Baptist Higher Education. Dr. Pattillo went on to say that Baptist institutions have special problems of their own, one of which is the establishment of proper relationships with the State Conventions. Parenthetically it may be noted that from the very outset Missouri Baptist College has worked closely with the Missouri Baptist Convention. The leadership of the college has no idea other than that the school shall be a vital segment of the ministry of our Missouri Baptist Convention. The relationship between the trustees of the college and the State Convention is a complex one and, though there is no easy solution, one matter seems crystal clear--there must be the utmost confidence between the college Board and the Convention.

Dr. Duke K. McCall, president of our Southern Baptist Theological Seminary said recently that "of all times this is no period when Baptists should withdraw from higher education. Baptist colleges must become the research and development departments of our denomination." He went on to say that "I am convinced that in the end it is the Baptist Institution which must answer the question, how can an intelligent Christian handle the new culture ...how can authentic spiritual life permeate modern man?"

Dr. McCall, in the climax of his message before the recent BEST conference on "the Baptist role in universal higher education," said, "Let us begin by measuring ourselves by Him (Christ) and measuring our institutions by the transforming good news of the gospel, and then we shall deserve and get the involvement of churches in Baptist higher education because they will understand that it is their life which is involved in the continued living of our institutions."

Another sectional study group participating in the recent BEST study conference spelled out and agreed upon a number of axioms related to Baptist higher education. Some of these were:

1. "Christian education is not an optional interest of the church, but an important function of its mission. Baptist churches have established and continued to support colleges because they are important to them in the pursuit of their objectives."
2. "Both the college and church share in the ultimate purpose of the redemptive plan of God for mankind, but there is distinction between the immediate purpose and function of the local church and the immediate purpose and function of the college."
3. "A Baptist college places emphasis on developing the individual student in an environment of Christian nurture."
4. "A Baptist college should witness to the faith, provide strong ministerial and lay leadership to churches; perform in its own right a leadership role in the Convention and serve the local community."

Dr. W. R. White, president emeritus, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, in a paper written in support of the Biblical basis for Christian education has made a number of significant and pertinent

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nent statements. "Again and again Christianity has lost heavily by neglect in the fields of Christian education. There is no effective substitute.

"The great Christian awakenings in history have in the main originated in the schools or with men of the schools. Luther, Wesley, Whitfield, Zinzendorf, Edwards, Judson and Rice of the haystack prayer meetings in Williams College are good examples.

"The inescapable imperatives facing us: we must maintain a strong witness and impact in the field of higher education or lose most of our influence in the thought currents, leadership and dominant culture of our day.

"Without higher Christian education there will be no complete higher education in the American system. The confluent stream coming from the two sources will be gone. This has been and still is America's glory. These two react on each other, producing a mutually beneficial result.

"Southern Baptists must adjust to a stubborn situation and that with no thought of surrender. By adjusting we mean that we must major on quality to stay in business. By the thought of "no surrender" we mean that we must not surrender our place in the field of higher education. We mean also that we must not surrender the basic principle of a free church in a free state."

Every day brings us closer to the realization of a dream, i.e., a Baptist college in St. Louis. Every week sees some significant action. Though remarkable progress has been made there is much to be done in the area of involvement. Perhaps one of the most significant happenings at present is the tremendous increase in the number of those participating in the birth of this new college.

#### PHASE TWO, FAITH AND SUCCESS!

Whether the first or the last dollar of a campaign is the most important dollar would be difficult to decide. A good beginning is helpful--a good ending is necessary...and as everybody knows, it takes a lot in between to make things meet!

#### PHASE TWO (Cont.)

We are on our way! Baptists in the St. Louis area have accepted the responsibility of raising \$1,250,000 to found a top-flight Baptist college--serving this area--and that last important dollar is just ahead! 72 of the 99 churches in the St. Louis Association and 23 of the 83 churches in the Phase Two area (Cuivre, Franklin County and Jefferson County Associations) have reported a Development Fund pledge or plan of gifts. The Development Fund now totals \$1,129,196.42.

On the basis of these commitments and confident of help by other area churches, St. Louis Association has voted to borrow the money needed so construction can be started.

Although the area associations have not been asked to assume legal obligation, their pledges and gifts are an important part in making this action possible.

To subscribe the remaining \$120,803 needed for the minimum \$1,250,000, it is hoped that the rest of the churches soon will adopt a goal for their part in this area project (when every church does share in the Development Fund, we will go beyond the \$1,250,000--but not beyond what we want to do for our Baptist youth and our Lord in Christian Education!)

After church action setting a plan of giving, please report this to the College Office, 3526 Washington, St. Louis, Mo. 63103. Money for this cause should be sent to this address and designated for the Development Fund.

Material, conference leaders and speakers are available to help in presenting this matter to the churches. A note or call to the College Office, JE 5-5656, will start these on their way to you.

If you are one of those pastors who has been intending to lead your church in support of founding Missouri Baptist College, but let it get side-tracked, will you make this request a matter of prayer in the light of tomorrow's Christian Witness to youth? Your church's part in providing that last important dollar can make Faith Successful!

Virgil L. Vaughn, Director  
Phase Two Campaign