

Dr. J. C. McPheeters as I Know Him

Z. T. Johnson, Sr.

My first contacts with Dr. J. C. McPheeters were as a member of the Board of Trustees of Asbury College when he was Chairman of the Board. At that time he made the trip from California annually to preside at the Board Meetings and to lend what assistance he could to Asbury College and Asbury Seminary.

When it became necessary for the College and Seminary to separate so the College could become accredited, Board Members were given a choice of deciding whether they wished to serve on the College or on the Seminary Board. Dr. McPheeters chose to be on the Seminary's Board of Trustees because he felt that at that time the greatest need lay in that direction. He graciously resigned and was voted an honorary membership on the College Board of Trustees with an invitation to attend whenever he found it possible. This gracious Christian attitude made a vivid impression on me which I have never forgotten.

My most vivid impression of Dr. McPheeters, therefore, is that he is a Christian gentleman of the highest caliber. In many dealings with him since he became President of Asbury Theological Seminary, I have found this Christian attitude to hold. He has always recognized the fact that Asbury Seminary grew up as a part of Asbury College and calls Asbury College the "Mother Institution."

Associations with him have been intimate in the field of sports. I have fished with him in Kentucky and Tennessee, hunted with him in South Dakota, and traveled with him on different occasions. He has always been positively Christian, always enthusiastic in his sportsmanship, and greatly appreciative of the fellowship of his Christian friends.

I have been impressed with his great physical stamina. We have fished together, sat around the fire after a delightful fish supper, talked about many matters, had family prayer, and have gone to bed late at night. After three or four hours of

sleep he was ready to get up and go again, and was always the first one awake. He has been a man of boundless energy.

In the field of hunting, he has always stayed with the crowd. He has walked with the younger men and at all times carried his share of the load of duties connected with the hunting party, always with great enthusiasm. Around the table after the day's hunt was over, he has laughed heartily at the stories and incidents of the hunting trip and enthusiastically shared in the good humor.

I have never heard Dr. McPheeters speak ill of anyone or criticize anyone. I have heard him pray many times for people who in my judgment needed definite prayer, but he always did so in a constructive spirit rather than in a "preaching-type of prayer."

I have recognized his brotherly spirit and his deep devotion to Christ. I have found in him a man of boundless faith and one who believes in "a prayer-hearing and a prayer-answering God."

Sometimes he is slow to catch the point of a joke, but when he does he laughs heartily, even if the joke is directed at him. He is a man among men; a friend of friends; a man of God.

We salute you, Dr. McPheeters, on your retirement from your duties as President of a great Seminary. We know that with your physical vigor, your mental alertness, and your spiritual enthusiasm, you will continue to promote the work and serve the cause as only you know how to do.