

The President's Letter

JULIAN C. MCPHEETERS

The combined commencement programs of Asbury Theological Seminary and Asbury College, May 29th-June 1st, attracted visitors from almost every section of the United States. Both institutions had the largest graduating classes in their history. The college had 205 graduates and the seminary had 71, including those graduating during the summer quarter.

The combined baccalaureate service of the two institutions was held in the Hughes Auditorium on Sunday morning, with Dr. Ira M. Hargett, pastor of Fourth Avenue Methodist Church, Louisville, Ky., as the preacher.

Dr. Joseph Owen, pastor of St. Marks Methodist Church, Atlanta, Georgia, was the speaker at the commencement program of the seminary on Sunday evening. The Doctor of Divinity degree was bestowed by the seminary on Rev. George W. Amos, pastor of the Methodist Church in Clifton Forge, Virginia, and Rev. Samuel A. Maxwell, pastor of the First Methodist Church, Oxford, N. C. The college commencement was held on the following Wednesday, at which time the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity was bestowed upon Rev. Hugh Townley, pastor of the Ames Methodist Church, Saginaw, Mich., and Rev. L. E. Otter, pastor of the Furman Methodist Church, Syracuse, New York. The degree of Doctor of Humane Letters was bestowed upon Mr. C. Kildow Lovejoy of Lexington, Ky.

Dr. Paul Rees, pastor of the First Covenant Church, Minneapolis, delivered the commencement address for the college.

The Alumni Day program for the seminary was on Monday. Dr. Harry Denman, Executive Secretary of the Board of Evangelism of the Methodist Church, was the speaker at a mass meeting at 11 a.m. The annual meeting of the Alumni Association of the Seminary was held in the afternoon, at which time Rev. Dee Cobb was elected as president to succeed Dr. Don Morris, whose term had expired. The Alumni Association voted an undertaking of \$25,000 for the alumni in connection with the present fund-raising campaign of the seminary for two new buildings, a chapel and a library building. The alumni banquet was held Monday evening.

Dr. Roy Nicholson, President of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, was the speaker at the Alumni Day mass meeting on Tuesday at 10 a.m. Mr. C. Kildow Lovejoy is the president of the College Alumni Association. The annual meeting of the association was held on Tuesday afternoon. A banquet was held on Tuesday evening which crowded the large dining hall on the college campus to capacity.

The Board of Trustees of the Seminary, at the annual meeting, voted unanimously to launch an expansion program, involving the raising of \$600,000. In this program is included the new chapel and the new library building. The campaign was launched at the seminary commencement on Sunday evening. In the launching of the campaign gifts were announced in the amount of \$100,000 as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Floyd C. Estes, \$75,000; the Kresge Foundation, \$25,000. The commencement offering in cash and pledges totaled \$10,200. Groups pledging

undertakings on the campaign are as follows: Board of Trustees, \$30,000; Faculty, \$25,000; the Alumni Association, \$25,000; the Senior Class of 1949, \$2,400.

The expansion program of Asbury College which has been launched by the Board of Trustees calls for the erection of five additional buildings within the next five years at a cost of \$585,000. The ground-breaking for the new student center building was held during commencement. This building has been named the Doddridge-Holland building, in honor of Dr. and Mrs. W. W. Holland, who have contributed \$25,000 to the building fund. Dr. and Mrs. Holland are members of the college faculty. The completion of this program will expand the capacity of the college from 900 to 1200 students.

Rev. Robert Fraley, who graduated from the seminary at the recent commencement, has joined the field staff of the seminary as assistant to the president. The president now has three assistants in the field, Mr. Carl F. Ashe, Rev. H.H. McAfee, and Rev. Robert Fraley.

The Asbury Seminary *Advance* is a new publication of the seminary which is an attractive four-page publication issued monthly. The first issue appeared in May. The Asbury Seminary *Advance* will be sent free of charge to all contributors and friends who may be interested in the work of the seminary. It will carry factual news concerning the progress of the seminary from month to month. The *Advance* is edited and published by Mr. Walter E. King, our publicity director.

The summer school quarter of the seminary opened on June 8th with an enrollment of 110, which is an increase of twenty-two percent over the same period of one year ago.

The closing paragraph of the President's Report to the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees points to the future with confidence: "The overall picture for the future of Asbury Theological Seminary is quite encouraging. Large numbers of people are looking to us in every section of the nation as an institution that has been raised up under God for such a time as the present to which we have come. Many new friends have been secured during the year who are substantial financial supporters of our program. Many have also been enlisted as supporters of our program in prayer. Our chief mission is to spread Scriptural holiness over the earth. We believe that it is for this that God has raised us up and only this justifies our existence. If we fail here, our failure is colossal. If we are true to this sacred trust, then we can face the future with courage and confidence, realizing the full meaning of the words of the Apostle Paul when he said: 'He that spared not his own son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?'"