

THE ALUMNI PAGE

Our Heritage

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Careful students of the life of St. Paul will agree that he was a strategist and a diplomat of more than ordinary ability. In his ardent desire for success in the propagation of the Gospel, he never failed to declare openly both his earthly and his heavenly citizenship. When questioned in Jerusalem as to his allegiance it was with a marked degree of pride that he said, "I am a man which am a Jew of Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, a citizen of *no mean* city." (Acts 21:39) This was perhaps not diplomacy, but a statement of fact, fortified by a fearless pride.

The city, or the institution, from which a person comes can be the means of embarrassment or of holy pride. Undoubtedly, there will be occasions when the facts **MUST** and **SHOULD** be stated. Whether those facts shall cause embarrassment or pride depends upon the city or institution in question and the individual concerned. Yet, the attitude of the person will determine which emotion shall be dominant. The Apostle gave the unmistakable impression of a glowing pride in the city of his birth. Had his spirit been one of hesitancy and apology, his argument would have been worthless and even contemptible.

The alumni of Asbury Theological Seminary have repeated opportunities for expressing to the world their feeling of Christian pride in the institution which prepared and sent them forth. Certainly its academic standing is above reproach, having been fully accredited by the American Association of Theological Schools and approved by the University Senate of The Methodist Church. Its consecrated faculty also stands well in the ranks of Christian educators and leaders. The scope of its curriculum, and the fearless facing of all philosophic issues and theories demands the respect of all. The truly remarkable material expansion and progress which is constantly in evidence, and that without aid of Church or other organization, signally sets it forth as being unique. From year to year its capacity enrollment and ever increasing list of application for admission, speak loudly of its growing popularity among those who are interested in Kingdom service. The insistent demand for its graduates, by District Superintendents and other Church leaders, is one of its highest recommendations. The wholesome spiritual atmosphere on the campus, always evident to visitors who possess any degree of spiritual discernment, is proof positive of God's blessings upon the school.

A careful evaluation of all these evidences leads to the inevitable conclusion that, as alumni of this institution, we have every right to be proud. Whenever the opportunity presents itself for us to reveal our educational allegiance, we can hold our heads high, and rejoice in the character of our *alma mater*.

This is just another way of saying that we should readily recognize the debt we owe, and by prayer and every possible co-operation support the institution which has made us. The best we can give or do will never equal the richness of our heritage.