

The President's Letter

JULIAN C. MCPHEETERS

The commencement at Asbury Theological Seminary on June the 1st completed a year of achievement for which we have cause for much gratitude to God and to the many friends of the seminary who have cooperated with us in the support of the work, both with their prayers and with their money.

Thirty-two degrees were awarded to members of the senior class, including twenty-nine for the Bachelor of Divinity degree, and three for the Master of Religious Education degree. The Reverend Don A. Morris, pastor of the First Methodist Church in Saginaw, Michigan, was awarded the Doctor of Divinity degree. There will be candidates for six additional degrees at the close of the summer quarter.

A number of recognitions worthy of note came to the seminary during the year. The seminary was accredited by the American Association of Theological Schools in June of 1946. An official relationship was established between the seminary and the Free Methodist Church in October of 1946. The John Wesley Seminary Foundation of the Free Methodist Church will maintain a divinity house, near the campus of the seminary, beginning with the fall quarter of 1947. The Dean of the John Wesley Seminary Foundation will be a member of the faculty of Asbury Theological Seminary. The seminary was approved by the University Senate of the Methodist Church in March, 1947.

The new building program had two lines of development. One of these lines of development was the purchase and conversion of additional properties near the campus at a cost of approximately \$110,000, providing a total of seventeen apartments, twenty G. I. families, room for fourteen single women, housing for three staff members and the addition of approximately three acres of land. Without this development more than fifty students would have been turned away for the academic year 1946-47. The other development has been the construction work on the H. C. Morrison Administration building and the Betty Morrison apartment house. The expenditure on these buildings for the year amounted to approximately \$100,000. Every effort is being made to complete both of these buildings for the opening of the fall quarter in September. It will take approximately \$200,000 to complete and furnish these buildings and erect the central heating plant.

The friends of the seminary are to be highly commended for their financial support. The total contributions for the year are as follows:

Building Fund	\$ 64,208.20
Scholarship Fund	17,322.37
Wills	32,188.02

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Student Loan Fund	500.00
Permanent Endowment from the Glide Foundation, to be administered on the basis of 4% yield for the seminary	200,000.00

The Board of Trustees has launched a victory campaign for the raising of \$200,000 for the completion and furnishings of the two Morrison Memorial buildings and the central heating plant. The first phase of this campaign was the commencement offering which amounted to over \$13,000 in cash and pledges. The Alumni Association of the Seminary launched at the recent commencement a campaign for a million dollars of living endowment through scholarships. The goal is four hundred annual scholarships at \$100 each, which will be the equivalent of a yield of four per cent on a million dollars. The alumni are taking hold of this campaign with enthusiasm.

A significant event of the recent commencement was the tribute paid to Dr. Fred H. Larabee, Dean Emeritus, on the occasion of his retirement from the faculty. The alumni banquet was the occasion for honoring Dean and Mrs. Larabee who have spent thirty-two years on the Asbury campuses. Dr. Larabee was Dean of Asbury College for a number of years before becoming Dean of the seminary. The influence of his long and effective teaching career is indelibly stamped in the lives of hundreds of his students who are today preachers, teachers, and missionaries unto the very ends of the earth.

There will be three additions to the faculty with the opening of the fall quarter in September. W. C. Mavis, Ph.D., comes from Greenville College to become the Dean of the John Wesley Seminary Foundation and head the Department of Pastoral Counseling. Claude H. Thompson, A.B., B.D., with residence work completed for a Ph.D., Drew University, will become Professor of Practical Theology. Mr. Thompson spent the past year in doctrinal studies at Oxford and Edinburgh Universities on the William S. Pilling Fellowship of Drew University. Rodney Long, A.B., B.D., will be an addition to the Music Department as Director of Chorus Work and Quartets.

The summary of enrollment, including the summer quarter of 1946, reveals that we had 177 men students; 58 women students, making a total of 235 different students.

Dean W. D. Turkington states that if we had housing, the enrollment for the fall of 1947 would be well over 300. If the apartment house can be finished by that time, the institution will be in a position to provide housing for 250 students including use of community homes.

The summary of the Christian service of the students for the year reveals the following items of interest:

Preaching Services 1218; Teaching Sunday School 349; Open Air Services 74; Jail Services 54; Singing (leading quartets, trios) 203; Youth Services 175; Personal Work—House calls 2034, Tracts given 3265, Hospital calls 307, Counseling (by students) 183; Conversions 352; Reclamations 38; Entirely Sanctified 42; Called into Christian work 2.

Unto God we give the praise and glory for these achievements and we request that our friends continue to pray for the work of Asbury Theological Seminary.