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## The Voice, January 1959

Dordt College

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January, 1959

## Foundation Day Offering

### - - An Analysis . . .

984 Returns - - - \$8,740.80

Compared with previous years, this offering was a real success. But when we consider the percentage of returns and the possibilities in the light of these returns, our Foundation Day offering falls far short.

The Dordt College office sent out approximately 8500 envelopes. To date 984 have been returned. That means there are 7500 who have not contributed. However, the total income from the 984 contributors amounts to \$8,740.80.

This is excellent! Last year about 900 returns brought a little over \$8000.00. So we have shown a gain this year.

We made a study of the 984 returns to estimate the possibilities and the potential of giving among our people. Interestingly, we discovered that the 984 contributors are fairly well spread over our entire area. No one district predominates to a great extent over another, percentage-wise.

Furthermore, while there are a few larger gifts, the majority of the gifts are \$5.00 and \$10.00. This is most significant, for by analyzing the contributions we are convinced that the 984 contributors do not represent a group who are better qualified to give than the 7500 who failed to send in their envelope.

For example, we received several letters with the gifts sent in which revealed that the contributors included many who were widows, or people with very modest incomes, and who had heavy obligations to the kingdom at home. Yet their feeling was that a few dollars from everyone would do wonders for Dordt College. We give you a sample of these letters. This comes from Pella, Ia.:

"Enclosed two dollars. We like to do more, but can't. Our needs here are many too. We sent this to prove to you not only our financial, but also our moral support and our prayer."

(Signature)

Conclusion: There are 7500 of our supporters who did not send a gift. Some, we know, simply cannot. Others have forgotten. Will all of you stop a moment and prayerfully consider how much could be accomplished if we all did just a little. If you have lost your envelope address your letter to Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa.

### A Candid Look At Our Library Problems

The Executive Board of Dordt College is faced with a problem connected with library facilities at the college. The problem is a critical one and is being given careful attention. As librarian, I have been asked to discuss the problem.

It has been said many times before that the library is the heart of a college. The statement seems too trite to repeat again, but the fact is that the library is an essential part of any college. It is for this reason that so much emphasis has been placed upon developing a good library at Dordt.

Because the library is such an important part of a college, we expect to face problems in its building and development. Basically the problems fall into four categories. 1. The development of the book collection. 2. Housing the collection. 3. Administration of the collection. 4. Faculty and student use of the collection.

We are faced with problems in all four areas. Attention is being given to all of these problems. However, our most pressing problems lie in the area of providing the necessary space to house our expanding collection and of providing the space students need to use the materials.

We have now placed as many book shelving units in our library room as the room will hold. These units will be adequate, on a makeshift basis, to house our present collection of about 4,100 volumes and those we add during the remainder of the present school year. However, with the present library budget and at the present rate of gift volumes, we add about 1,000 volumes to our library each year. If anything this number should increase. Our present facilities, then, will not be able to house the books we would normally add to our collection next year.

Our current (unbound) periodicals are at present very inadequately housed. At present we subscribe to some 120 periodicals and we receive a large amount of other valuable free periodical literature. The present display shelves were meant to handle perhaps one-third of this to-

(Continued on page 4)

## Editorial . . . .

## The Established Significance Of Dordt College

by B. J. Haan

At this time of the year it is profitable to engage in a little reflection. A good subject is that of the significance of Dordt College. This can best be appraised when the question is analyzed — where would we be without Dordt College?

This is an exceedingly vital question. For it is very obvious that without Dordt College we would already be faced with a critical situation in our Christian Schools. And it would be impossible for us to cope with the future growing demands and needs in the field of education. Dordt College is not merely a fine thing to have — a sort of educational luxury for the convenience of our constituents — but absolutely essential to our existence educationally. One stands amazed at the wonderful leading of God's Hand. In the face of innumerable difficulties and hindrances, He inspired and directed the efforts to bring into being at the right hour the college which now exists and flourishes.

Having said this we must warn against the tendency to consider the significance of Dordt College only in relation to the teacher shortage. True, this provided the crisis to stimulate interest, awaken concern, and initiate action. And this will continue to hold the central place for the justification of our college. However, there is something else, a basic something, that contributes solidly to the significance of Dordt College. We must never lose sight of the fact that our college is the natural fruit of the development and blessing of God's kingdom in our area. God led our fathers to this place, gave them increase in number, wealth, and influence. Through their church life and the Christian Schools He molded a generation that is conscious of its high calling, is dedicated to the service of God, and awake to its duties and obligations, ready to capitalize on the opportunities which present themselves.

Dordt College arose out of this background of kingdom blessings and development. It arose not merely to provide teachers to keep one aspect of the kingdom machinery (our Christian Schools) in operation, but Dordt College came into being both as an expression of the total development and activity of God's kingdom and for the purpose of answering to the total needs and responsibilities of that kingdom. Our college must be looked upon as a mighty kingdom

force. We ought to think of it as providing the opportunity for hundreds of our local youth to make an academic beginning in preparation for more specialized service in the kingdom. The very presence of this institution, with its competent faculty, fine students, and energetic board, should serve to keep us awake to our kingdom obligations and to provide the leadership and machinery to fulfil them.

What implications does this have for our people? First, and all important, is that we actually see Dordt College in its kingdom significance. True lovers of God's kingdom should be thrilled by this. Their eyes should be open to the marvels of that kingdom found right in their own backyard. They must exclaim, "Jehovah is in this place," even though they may have to confess "and I knew it not." And the grandeur and the potency of this fact should open up a world of possibilities before their eyes as they exclaim, "this is the gateway to heaven." We do not mean to imply that Dordt College is exceptional in this. No, every kingdom project must be observed in that light. God is working through them. We must see this. And with each kingdom endeavor there are infinite possibilities.

A second implication that follows from the kingdom significance of Dordt College is that our people rally behind it with their moral and financial support. This comes readily once men recognize the real spiritual value of Dordt College. That is why there is a constant growth in the number of our supporters. We experience more and more the effectual prayers of our constituents. Surely we need this.

There is one implication, however, upon which we like to place special stress. Now that Dordt College has made its beginning, has gone through the process and struggle of becoming a sound, respectable institution of learning, has justified its position in the kingdom, we believe our people should encourage their sons and daughters to attend this college. Think of our first students. What a wonderful spirit of devotion was theirs. In the face of all kinds of questions, criticisms, warnings and uncertainties, they identified themselves with the hopes and aspirations of a new venture in Christian education. Some may call this a risk, a foolish gamble. Those who understand the workings of the kingdom know better. It will be interesting

to watch the future of these first students of Dordt College. Our conviction is that they will not suffer from their associations at this institution. Rather, we believe there will be great profit, measured in that which characterizes true spiritual kingdom enjoyments and accomplishments. Should there be some who spurn these early experiences at Dordt College, though in a measure it could be justified, in the main it will be evidence that the course of life has robbed them of some of the deeper and finer ingredients which mark the true child of the kingdom.

If we admire the quality of consecration exemplified in these first students of Dordt College, what about our responsibility today when our school is far advanced on the road toward academic soundness? We need not talk about the risks anymore. Now we confidently speak about the advantages. There are some. One cannot always put his finger exactly on these advantages. You see, they include those many intangible blessings that are attached to cooperation with kingdom enterprises. Besides these there are other obvious advantages. Think of the close relationship between student and teachers, among the students themselves. Consider the opportunities for participation in school activities, such as music, dramatics, athletics, student publications. Parents have the advantage of both building a kingdom project and at the same time sharing more closely in the college life of their youth who are in those tender, formative years. A college such as we have is ideally qualified to help students find themselves academically. So many students, lacking incentive and purpose in high school, suddenly show interest in college training. A multitude of perplexities fills their minds as they enter college. What will they study? What are their chances to survive? Many other questions vex their minds. Such students need close contact with friends, parents, and faculty. They need a sympathetic environment. True, the unqualified must eventually learn the sober truth. But this too must be conveyed with love and kindly advice. Dordt College likes to believe that all these advantages are found in her.

Therefore, we ask our constituency to send us their sons and daughters. Every law of the kingdom lends support to such a procedure. Not that there are some, who, because of the course of study they are pursuing, ought to attend another college. Dordt College is not qualified to give preparation to pre-medical students, for example. That is, not yet. But we are prepared to give the majority of college entrants adequate preparation in their courses of study.

(Continued on page 3)

# Second Semester Begins Monday, Jan. 26

## Teacher Certification Procedure

For several reasons the question of teacher certification is one that is frequently discussed of late. Many times, too, people ask us or our students questions as to the role Dordt College plays in the process of teacher certification. Questions as these are asked — What certificate does Dordt give? To whom does Dordt College grant a certificate? Can Dordt students get temporary certificates if they don't complete two years of college? etc.

I believe that before any further remarks are made, it should be pointed out that Dordt College does not grant teaching certificates. No junior college or senior college may grant certificates. All certificates are granted by the Iowa Department of Public Instruction. This department establishes the requirements for each type of certificate.

Each college that trains teachers is expected to submit, for State approval, its prescribed teacher training curriculum. This curriculum must provide for the minimum State requirements. If the curriculum is approved by the State, the college is allowed to submit the standard recommendation forms for each student that has successfully completed the program. For the past two years

Dordt has had a two year teaching program approved which permitted the students to receive the Professional Commitment Certificate. This is the only two year certificate granted in Iowa at this time.

Students who receive this certificate are those who complete our approved program which includes a number of education courses, practice teaching, and a majority of general education courses to make a total of 62-64 college credits. The College will recommend only those who complete these hours with at least a "C" average.

Dordt College does not recommend students for Temporary Certificates. There is no approved program to handle this type of certificate. It is what the term implies, an emergency or temporary type of certificate which the State grants in the light of local conditions. Before such a certificate is granted, however, the State requests a transcript of credits completed and our opinion in regard to the standing of the student. In this case we send the transcript and indicate that, as a college, we consider a "C" average to be the required passing grade for our approval.

D. Ribbens

Dordt students will be taking their first semester exams beginning Thursday, January 15. The exam period will extend through January 22.

Registration of students will be carried on during the week of January 19. New students may come to the college at any time during the week to register. New students who can not register during the registration week may still do so on Monday morning, January 26.

Classes will begin in regular session beginning at 7:50 on Monday, January 26.

solo artists. By performing publicly on several occasions these organizations have reached a high degree of excellence.

Dordt has been faring well in athletics this year. Its basketball team, under the direction of coach Sjoerdsma now boasts a 5-1 record. Dordt won all four conference games, placing it as one of the two teams in Iowa to remain undefeated in conference play. Iowa's junior college conference includes a total of twenty teams.

Witnessing the beauty of Jesus in all spheres of life creates deep satisfaction. Reservation, nonetheless, is desirable; and so it is hoped that these things of lesser importance may not loom to obscure the superior.

C. Christians

## EDITORIAL . . . .

(Continued from page 2)

In conclusion, we invite our constituency to consult our students. We know that they are happy at Dordt College and justifiably proud of her academic standards. They can give you the true picture of the spiritual life and emphasis at our institution. We invite our people to visit our college and to correspond with us. We always stand ready to represent Dordt College among you whenever requested.

## STUDENT ACTIVITY

"What sculpture is to a block of marble, a Christian education is to the soul." This statement made centuries ago has still retained its tremendous import. Therefore, in the interests of developing the entire student, Dordt has designed an extra-curricular program worthy of commendation. Revolving in a Christian atmosphere, these activities benefit incomparably the personality of Dordt's scholars.

An air of gay formality prevailed on the evening of December 17 as Dordt College staged its annual Christmas banquet. This event has become an established tradition and provides a unique setting for the celebration of that great day in the Christian church. The faculty members, students, and friends who attended were highly entertained and richly inspired.

Some weeks ago Dordt performed before hundreds of interested friends as it sponsored a fine arts program in the College auditorium. All was arrayed with dignity and stateliness and a rare variety of talent was displayed. The proceeds will be used to help defray the expenses of the proposed choir tour.

Dordt's drama club and pep club have been very active this year. They have contributed a great deal relative to school spirit; and the drama club, especially, has boosted appreciation for the finer things in life. At this time a Calvinism club, chess club, and literary club are in the embryonic stage.

In music, Dordt boasts a choir, pep band, instrumental ensembles, vocal ensembles, and some outstanding

## Woden Young People Visit Dordt

Something of special interest happened at Dordt College, recently. The minister of the Woden Christian Reformed Church, the Reverend John Maas, and his wife, made arrangements to take their young people for a visit to our school. This group included those who are prospects for college next fall. They spent the morning with us, visiting a few classes, attending chapel, and enjoying the noon meal with us.

Rev. J. Maas led our chapel service that morning. After dinner the group met with Mr. Ribbens and the President of the college for a period of consultation and discussion. This was a very enjoyable and profitable meeting.

We write about this because it reveals a fine interest in Dordt College on the part of our ministry and it suggests a good way for our leaders to get their young people acquainted with our school. Our administration will gladly receive visiting groups of this kind. We will give special service to them and they will be our guests for dinner.

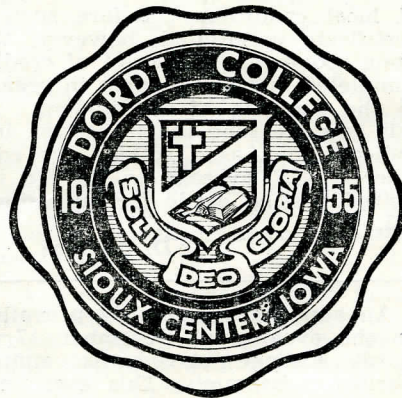
# Society Support For Dordt College Library

The appeal to the societies for help in building up the library at Dordt College has had a very encouraging response. We like to believe that this is just another evidence that Dordt College is already finding a warm welcome in the hearts of our people. God is blessing our cause and our people evidently are rejoicing with tangible fruits of thanksgiving.

Below is a list of the many contributions sent in since August:

Young People's Society, Bemis	\$10.00
Ladies Aid, Bunde	60.00
Men's Society, Colton	15.00
Mary Martha Society, Corsica	10.00
Mission Guild, Des Moines	20.00
Ladies Aid, Emden	50.00
Esther Circle, Harrison	25.00
Men's Society, Harrison	10.00
Ora Et Labora, Hartley	25.00
Esther Circle, Hills	30.00
Men's Society, Holland, Minn.	10.00
Priscilla Ladies Aid, Hospers	15.00
Men's Society, Hull, Iowa	10.00
Ladies Aid, Ireton	15.00
Young People's Society, Ireton	40.00
Ladies Aid, Kanawha	10.00
Ladies Aid, Lebanon	5.00
Ladies Aid, Lebanon	30.00
Mary of Bethany Society, Leighton	10.00
Young People's Society, Leighton	10.00
Golden Hour Circle, Leota	25.00
Young People's Society, Minneapolis	20.00
Young People's Society, Mountain Lake	10.00
Girls' Society, New Holland, S. Dak.	120.15
Dorcas Society, Ocheyedan	10.00
Sunshine Circle, Ocheyedan	25.00
Christian Fellowship Hour, Orange City, First	25.00
Faith, Hope and Love Society, Orange City, First	25.00
Ora Et Labora, Orange City, First	10.00
Men's Society, Oskaloosa	5.00
Bethel Bible Hour, Oskaloosa, Bethel	30.00
Young Men's Society, Pease	10.00
Sr. H. H. Society, Pella, First	25.00
Ladies Aid, Peoria	12.50
Queen Esther Circle, Peoria	20.00
Excelsior Study Circle, Platte	10.00
Golden Hour Circle, Platte	5.00
Magdalene Ladies Aid, Platte	10.00
Ladies Aid, Prinsburg	50.00
Ladies Aid, Purewater	10.00
Dorcas Society, Rock Valley, First	25.00
Martha Society, Rock Valley	25.00
Friendship Circle, Sanborn, Iowa	16.80
Golden Hour Circle, Sheldon	50.00
Ruth Society, Sibley	14.50
Golden Hour Circle, Sioux Falls	10.00
Ladies Aid, Sully	10.00
Men's Society, Sully	20.00

Ruth Circle, Sully	30.00
Young People's Society, Sully	15.00
Ladies Aid, Vesper, Wis.	50.00
Dorcas Ladies Aid, Volga	25.00
Emanuel Men's Society, Volga	22.55
Young Calvinist Society, Volga	30.00
Queen Esther Circle, Wellsburg, First	25.00
Ladies Guild Society, Wellsburg, First	15.00
Willing Workers, Wellsburg, Second	15.00
Young People's Society, Woden	23.00
Ladies Aid, Woden	25.00
Willing Workers, Worthington	25.00
Girls' League—(Corsica, Harrison, New Holland and Platte)	25.00
Southwest Minn. Consistorial Conference	25.00
West-Central Minn. Men's League	124.77
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,514.27</b>



## Protestant Reformed Students At Dordt

We are happy to report that several families from the Protestant Reformed churches, Classis West, are sending sons and daughters to Dordt College. From the very beginning we have enjoyed the support of many from this group. And each year Dordt College has numbered on its enrollment some from this denomination.

Last summer the Executive Board informed Classes West of the Protestant Reformed Churches that we would apply the same tuition rates to their members as applied to members from Christian Reformed Churches, provided that the churches of the Protestant Reformed group would take one or more offerings each year for Dordt College. This is obviously understandable

Classis West adopted this proposal at its last meeting in Pella, Iowa. May the Lord bless this cooperative effort in the area of distinctive, Reformed education. We plan to send our publication **The Voice**, to the churches of this Classis.

Here is a report on offerings already received from Classis West:

Edgerton	\$25.40
Hull	43.70
Oskaloosa	69.72
Pella	31.06

## A CANDID LOOK AT

### OUR LIBRARY PROBLEMS

(Continued from page 1)

tal. As a result our periodicals are not properly utilized as they would be if all were properly displayed. In addition to this, we do not have nearly enough space to store the back issues of unbound periodicals.

To handle the studying and reading space for our students we have crowded ten library tables and sixty chairs into our library room. The tables are actually meant to seat four students in normal study conditions rather than six. As a result, during many periods of the day seating space is at a premium even though many students are in another room which is used as a reading room.

At present we have no special tables on which more bulky reference volumes as the **Reader's Guide** can be stored and used. We have no reference area where reference materials may be used conveniently.

Because we have been using temporary quarters until this time, no provision has been made for adequate book circulation and book processing. As the library increases in size more books circulate. Each of the books added must be processed. We are now at the point where it is necessary that we provide for a proper circulation area and for a work and storage room for book processing.

We must face the fact, therefore, that we must provide for the needed shelving space for the thousands of books we will add in the next few years. We must provide adequate seating space for at least 100 students in a reading and study area in addition to the space provided to do reference work. Finally we must have work and storage space for library book processing.

D. Ritbens