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Dordt College

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July 1956

Dordt College Foundation Day September 1st

Our College In Retrospect

The first year of our existence as a junior college has come to a close. As we consider the many blessings which our heavenly Father bestowed upon us, we stand utterly amazed at the tremendous progress that has been made.

About a year ago, at this time, we wondered whether our college building, which was then under construction, would be finished on time. We were also anxious about student enrollment, housing for our faculty members, and boarding places for our students. We had resigned ourselves to the idea of beginning the school year with the barest necessities in the way of equipment and facilities. We needed lockers, venetian blinds, furniture for the lounging room, office equipment, and many other items necessary to run the college efficiently. No funds were available for any of these items and yet through the generosity of our people, all these items were provided, before the school year was well under way.

Many other problems had to be faced. The establishment of a library, the procurement of books and magazines, was a problem of major proportions. The faculty had to be organized, a school catalogue had to be made, and many other problems relative to the administration of the college were at hand. Faculty meetings were held once per week. Problems pertaining to accreditation, academic standards, student activity, discipline, student publication, promotion, standards for practice teaching, and a host of other problems and rules and regulations pertaining to them, have been made and established. A school catalogue was made and published.

Thirty-six students enrolled the first year. Problems pertaining to teacher-shortage in the Midwest influenced a dozen of our first year students to apply for teaching positions. At the close of the first year, the college already rendered valuable service to many Christian schools in the Midwest. Student enrollment for this coming year is very promising. Several students from as far away as California have finished their applications. Synod has again placed our college on the accredited list, recommending our school to all churches of our denomination for one or more offerings. A building has been purchased to serve as a dormitory. The college choir, under the leadership of Prof. N. Van Til, gave a number of programs in our churches.

Certainly indeed a tremendous amount of progress has been made during the first year of our existence. It is well for us to count these many blessings, that we may acknowledge the Lord our God in all the grace and mercy he has manifested unto us and that we may humbly thank Him, the Giver of every good and perfect gift. The remembrance of these things should encourage us to renew our efforts to go forward in the faith, to meet every problem with new zeal and resolution.

It has not yet become apparent what our college shall be, nor what special service God has in mind for our college in the wide sphere of His Kingdom. It is only by going forward in the faith and through dedicated service, that we will progressively realize that purpose. And in years to come, even the most faithful among us may be fondly surprised.

To express our gratitude for everything that the Lord our God has accomplished, the Executive Board decided to make the birthday of our college, the Foundation Day of our school. Foundation Day will be a perpetual institution in the history of Dordt College. Letters will be sent to all of our people throughout the Midwest, to give them an opportunity to express their gratitude in a tangible way.

When in the night I meditate
On mercies multiplied,
My grateful heart inspires my tongue,
To Bless the Lord my Guide.

At a recent meeting of the Executive Board it was decided to remember September 1, as Dordt College Foundation Day. The purpose of Foundation Day is to give all our people throughout the Midwest an opportunity to express gratitude to the Lord our God in making Dordt College a reality.

Perhaps some will ask why September 1 and not some other day? September 1, 1955, was the day Dordt College was dedicated to the service of God and His glory. Remember? To a large mass of people solemnly gathered to dedicate the college on that day, Dr. William Spoelhof began his wonderful address by saying, "We here gathered, stand poised at a great and significant moment. More consciously than ever before, we feel ourselves part of history."

Although we have enjoyed a very successful year, financially and academically, a new college continues to have urgent needs, which makes it necessary for the Board to make special appeals to the loyal supporters of the college. Foundation Day affords a wonderful occasion indeed, for all of us to express in a tangible way gratitude to God in making Dordt College a reality.

Last year, our dedicatory offering, which was received by mail, approximated \$4,000. Letters were sent to a large number of people in the Midwest. Many responded—others did not. May we appeal again to all those who sent in a dedicatory offering last year to remember the college on Foundation Day. We are confident, if all who failed to respond to last year's appeal would join us with a contribution this year, amazing results could be attained.

On August 1 letters to all of our people in the tri-state area, Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota, will be placed in the mail. A self-addressed envelope will be included for your convenience. May we urge you to give this request your immediate and prayerful attention. We are hopefully looking forward to the opening of the new school year, encouraged by the response of our people to this appeal.

Editorial

Secular Education II

You may recall that in our previous article we discussed the anti-theological character of Christian education with reference to those who are to be educated. We placed Christian education and secular education at opposite poles. The former finds its reason for existence in the ideal of covenant-keeping, the latter is bent on covenant-breaking. To carry the discussion a bit farther, we should also look at the various methods by which divergent aims in education are presumably validated.

Broadly speaking, we may say that all education aims to give the student an entrance into the good life and makes some attempt to define the good. This may not be obvious when we observe the results of modern education but the point scarcely has to be argued. Granting this premise, it should also be apparent that the aims of education are determined by the ethical bent of those who are concerned with their formulation. Here the antithesis immediately breaks through to separate those whose hearts are turned in worship towards their Creator from those who have turned in worship to the creature.

The Greeks under the influence of Socrates defined virtue or the good in terms of a life in keeping with right reason. If a course of action could be shown to be logical then there need be no further question as to whether it was right. The educational sequel to this argument declares that virtue is teachable. If only the student can be taught to depend on the deliverances of his reason, virtue is guaranteed. In other words, if you think right you will live right.

The Greeks fell into this error because they artificially divided the human personality into three parts and gave the ascendancy to the intellect. They also projected the idea of intellectual ascendancy into the cosmic order and deified reason forthwith. In a sense, as Christians we also believe that virtue is teachable. It would seem that this is implied in the admonition, "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." However, we believe that the heart is the center and transcendent core of human personality. Out of it are the issues of life. The heart must be turned in right relationship to God. This is not to say that the intellect is not involved in this turning, but the intellect is not the prime mover.

The Greek idea fell into error by absolutizing the reason but withal

it had an absolute. In our day secular education will not traffic in absolutes. Progressive education, following the impetus of John Dewey, has used the pragmatic or problem solving approach in determining the aims and ends of education. A solution is good if it gets the job done. Transferring this idea to ethics, that is good which coincides with the workable solution. Workability may be determined by the need of the moment, tomorrow, or even future years. But there is no appeal to an absolute, timeless, transcendent reference point. Man must determine his own ends. God is left out of the considerations which are used to validate an ethical judgment.

There are many in contemporary philosophy who argue that ethical judgements are merely concerned with semantics. It is largely a question of understanding what we mean. For some it is a matter of attitude. Arguing along this line, Professor C. L. Stevenson of the University of Michigan maintains that when I say it is wrong to steal, all I really mean to say, I disapprove of stealing. Obviously, if this were the only basis for our ethical judgements, everyone could reasonably do that which is right in his own eyes.

Theodore Brameld of New York University's School of Education wants to set up what he calls a reconstructed philosophy of education. For him, the good is not to be determined by the individual separately but by the widest possible consensus of the majority. Punishment, according to Brameld, is a group-determined penalty for the violation of group-imposed regulations. In his education, the student will only concern himself with questions which the group has agreed to ask. It follows that the individual is only bound by the group-accepted ideas of the good. Brameld is outspoken in his opposition to any kind of absolute.

This limited view of three different non-Christian attitudes towards ethics should readily disclose the fact that they share a common idea. They all want to free man from God-given ethical demands. When we ask ourselves what the proper end of education must be, we are asking, What is man's ultimate good? When we ask about man's ultimate good we are asking, To whom is man responsible? All the non-Christian answers imply that man is responsible only to himself. In hypostatizing an Absolute for himself, the idealist is just as egocentric as is the pragmatist because the Absolute is bound by the reason of man.

In the work of Christian education it will not only be our task to define the good in terms of God's revelation, but it will be our duty to set forth the non-Christian ideals

for what they are. It is relatively easy to show up the non-Christian character of a crass materialism or a hedonism given to carnality. It is more difficult to convince the youthful inquiring mind that the idealist's conceptions of the good, the true, and the beautiful are basically just as pagan. Many attractive worldly ideals are artfully camouflaged so as to give them a Christian appearance. For this reason it is sometimes difficult to convince well-meaning Christians of the necessity of Christian education.

Let me conclude with an illustration. The parents of two children decide that children need vitamins to maintain their physical growth. The parents of the one child send it to a medicine cabinet where the vitamins can be clearly distinguished from any death dealing poisons. The poisons are clearly marked by the traditional skull and crossbones. The parents of the other child send it to pick its own way amongst a host of bottles which bear similar labels yet some contain deadly poison. In the latter instance, it would be difficult to conclude that the parents had the best interest of the child at heart would it not?

N. Van Til

The Lantingas

At the Executive Board meeting held July 12, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Lantinga were selected to fulfill the position of supervisor of our dormitory.

Mr. Lantinga was born in Bemis, South Dakota, and Mrs. Lantinga in Orange City, Iowa. The Lantingas were united in marriage the 22nd of February, 1927 at the Bethel Christian Reformed Church, Sioux Center, Iowa. With the exception of a few years spent in Michigan and Iowa, they have lived on a farm at Bemis, South Dakota ever since.

Mr. Lantinga has served as elder and deacon of his church. They are very fine Christian people, have pleasing personalities, and are fully capable for their new responsibility.

The Voice

Another issue of The Voice will be published before school opens for the specific purpose of informing all prospective students pertaining to registration, housing, etc.

Synod

The Synod of the Christian Reformed Church, held during the month of June again decided to recommend Dordt College for one or more offerings to all the churches of the denomination.

Subjects Offered at Dordt College

From time to time we are asked which courses will be offered at Dordt College during the next school year. It will interest you to know that our work at Dordt College is organized into three basic categories:

1. Pre-Seminary Course
2. General College Course
3. Two Year Teacher Training Course

The following courses will be taught during the first semester of the school year.

ART 202—Art for Elementary Teachers — (Mr. Ribbens)	2 hours
BIBLE 105—Old Testament History — (Rev. Van Schowen)	2 hours
BIBLE 201—Reformed Doctrine — (Rev. Van Schouwen)	2 hours
BIOLOGY 101—Biological Science — (Mr. Pals)	3 hours
DUTCH 101—Elementary Dutch — (Rev. Van Schouwen)	4 hours
EDUCATION 111—Children's Literature — (Mr. Ribbens)	3 hours
EDUCATION 213—Teaching Reading — (Mr. Ribbens)	3 hours
ENGLISH 103—Freshman English — (Mr. Haan)	3 hours
EUGLISH 201—American Literature — (Mr. Haan)	3 hours
GERMAN 101—Elementary German — (Dr. Van Beek)	4 hours
GERMAN 201—Second Year German — (Dr. Van Beek)	3 hours
GREEK 101—Elementary Greek — (Dr. Van Beek)	4 hours
HISTORY 101—Growth of Western Civilization — (Mr. Van Til)	3 hours
HISTORY 111—Soc. and Econ. Hist. of U.S. — (Mr. Van Til)	3 hours
LATIN 101—Elementary Latin — (Dr. Van Beek)	4 hours
LATIN 201—Second Year Latin — (Dr. Van Beek)	3 hours
MATH. 101—Advanced Algebra — (Mr. Pals)	3 hours
MATH. 103—College Algebra — (Mr. Pals)	3 hours
MUSIC 211—Elem. of Music for Teachers — (Mr. Brummel)	3 hours
PHIL. 201—Logic — Mr. Van Til)	3 hours
PHIL. 203—Perspectives of Philosophy — (Mr. Van Til)	3 hours
PHY. SC. 205—Introduction to Physical Sc. — (Mr. Pals)	3 hours
PSYCHOLOGY 111—Education Psychology — (Rev. Van Schouwen)	3 hours
SPEECH 103—Principles of Speech — (Mr. Ribbens)	2 hours

All student will be given work in PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

Students will also have the opportunity to try out for the CHOIR.

D. Ribbens

Registration

Many people think that the work of registering college students is done in a relatively short period of time just prior to the opening of school. However, practically all colleges have a series of application forms which must be sent in well before the opening of school. It is felt that the information from the applicatin forms is needed, first of all, to determine the acceptability of the applicant as a college caliber student, and secondly, to enable the registrar to give adequate guidance in the selection of courses. Such advance figures also enable the college to determine the facilities that will be needed to handle the prospective enrollment.

Dordt College has also set up such a procedure for gaining admission to the school. All students who expect to enroll next fall should follow the instructions given in the College Bulletin. This involves send-

ing in the following information:

1. Personal application blank
2. Pastor's recommendation
3. Health record
4. Transcript of high school record.

The College has standard forms for the first three items. These should be obtained from the Office of the Registrar.

Many students have already sent in one or more of the necessary forms. However, there are also a large number of students who do plan to come to Dordt who have not sent for the needed information or who have not sent in the completed forms. We would urge all of you to send in your application forms to Mr. Ribbens, the Registrar.

Perhaps there are still some students that are undecided about coming to Dordt College. If there are any questions in regard to the College or in regard to the courses which we offer, send such questions

to the Registrar and they will be answered.

It is, of course, too early to determine the enrollment for next year, but all indications seem to be favorable. We have already collected part or all of the information from 25 beginning students. These students come from all parts of Iowa, Southern and Northern Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, New Mexico, California, and Wisconsin. And even though 12 of our teacher training students have accepted teaching positions after one year at Dordt College, it appears that about half of our freshman class will return for the sophomore year.

D. Ribbens

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Part-Time Jobs

In view of the fact that very few factories are found in the Midwest, it will always be a problem to get part-time jobs for students attending Dordt College. Instead of large manufacturing plants and large residential sections, we of the Midwest have our wonderful farms. Iowa is known as the bread-basket of the United States. Food of all kinds is raised in great abundance.

Perhaps in this respect, something could be done, to reduce the cost of education for students coming to our college here in the Midwest.

Many times farmers have surplus garden products, as tomatoes, potatoes, beans, etc. Instead of allowing these to decay in the field, they could be brought to the dormitory. In other areas canning-bees are held annually to provide large amounts of canned food and vegetables for institutions they support. If we in this area cannot provide sufficient part-time jobs, we can make Dordt College appealing to students by reducing the cost of room and board to a minimum. Our pastures are filled with hogs and cattle, our fields are covered with grain, we have food in abundance.

Nothing official has been decided along these lines. We are just beginning our dormitory venture. We are only offering a few suggestions. The Executive Board did, however, decide to run the dormitory on a cost-basis for the student. Along the lines suggested the cost of board could be reduced considerably. We would be very happy indeed, if our constituency would respond favorably to these suggestions.

C.V.S.

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Boarding

All boarding places are assigned through the Housing Committee of the college. Address all requests to Prof. N. Van Til, Dordt College, Sioux Cnter, Iowa.

Ostfriesland District

Being Planned

We are happy to inform our people that the Executive Board has given authorization for the forming of a new district in the Ostfriesland area. This action of the Board came as a result of several requests among our friends in the Ostfriesland area for such a district. It has been known for some time that there was sentiment for an organizational connection between this group and the Dordt College.

In view of the fact that Ostfriesland was foremost in the original action to initiate the present Junior College movement, one wonders how it was that Ostfriesland did not figure in on the initial organization. This was certainly not due to a lack of interest among the people of that area. Nor was it the fruit of any desire on the part of the present organization which operates the Dordt College to exclude Ostfriesland. From the day that the Steering Committee was appointed to make serious work in bringing a Junior College into reality in this vicinity, Ostfriesland has been very much in the picture of our planning.

The only reason, worthy or not worthy, that Ostfriesland was not contacted for the formation of the society which was to begin the Junior College is that this society was called together by the Christian School Alliance. Ostfriesland does not belong to our district of the Christian School Alliance. For that reason also the Pella area was not contacted.

Prior to World War II, the various Classes of Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota were working on the problem of higher education. Ostfriesland and Pella were very much in the picture in this planning. The late Rev. D. Pleescher was particularly active in this venture. However, after the war, a variety of circumstances led to the placing of this matter into the hands of the Christian School Alliance. Naturally, when the organization was set up, it was deemed a part of wisdom and of obligation to work for the time being with those who were officially connected with the Alliance.

Yet, in the original constitution provision was made for the addition of other districts, should our venture prove successful. Ostfriesland was uppermost in our minds when this early provision was made part of our constitution. We did feel that our own area should establish a measure of success before appealing to others to go along with us. It gives us grateful satisfaction to be able to invite our friends into a movement

Classis Ostfriesland

People belonging to the Ostfriesland Churches are invited to attend an organizational meeting to be held at Iowa Falls Christian Reformed Church, August 1, Tuesday, at 8:00 P.M. The purpose of this meeting is to organize the

Ostfriesland area into District 7 of Dordt College. At this meeting officers for the district will be elected and delegates will be appointed to represent the district at the regular board meetings of Dordt College. Rev. H. C. Van Deelen, Rev. B. J. Haan, and Sy Hogan, representatives of Dordt College will be present. Let us have a good turn out at this important meeting.

that enjoys a modest history of achievement under God's blessing.

Naturally, already much preliminary contact has been going on between the Board and Ostfriesland. Two years ago Rev. C. Van Schouwen and this writer made official contact with the Classis Ostfriesland at which meeting the Classis recommended the Junior College for moral and financial support. Last year one of our students came from the Ostfriesland area and for the coming year already six from the area are enrolled in our school. Lately, Mr. Sy Hogan, the Field Secretary, has been visiting with consistories and ministers in Ostfriesland. He reports an excellent spirit of cooperation and is now busy working his way through the congregations for financial assistance for our school. It is particularly through Mr. Hogan's efforts that plans are materializing toward the formation of a district.

The meeting for the purpose of organizing a district is set for August 7, Tuesday, at Iowa Falls Church. Time will be at 8:00 p.m. Rev. H.C. Van Deelen, Rev. B. J. Haan and Mr Sy Hogan plan to be present for this meeting. We look forward to meeting with our supporters and friends at this time and are awaiting with eager anticipation the day when delegates from Ostfriesland territory will join us at our Board meetings.

Rev. B. J. Haan

—V—

Reformation Day

We are very happy to announce that Rev. R. B. Kuiper, President of Calvin Seminary, will be the main speaker at the Reformation Day Mass Meeting, to be held in the High School Auditorium of Sioux Center, Iowa, October 31, 1956.

Financial Report

May 1—July 14

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GENERAL FUND

Receipts:	
Offerings	\$1,044.21
Quotas	1,075.82
Societies	353.72
Individual Donations	101.00
Membership	4.00
Den. Offerings	2,038.90
Collection, Sy Hogan	807.00
Tuition	748.75
Adv. in Voice	10.00
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	\$6,183.40
Bal. on hand last report	3,345.76
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	\$9,529.16

Disbursements:	
Teacher's salary & employment	\$5,660.31
Utilities	322.89
Telephone	25.67
Freight and Postage	25.59
Adv., Printing	501.11
Mileage	53.10
Bank charges	2.00
For Library	49.00
Office Supplies	22.29
Janitor Supplies	2.55
Equipment	3.00
Tuition change by check	5.00
Accrediting expenses	7.06
Choir, received through Classis	52.00
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	\$6,728.57
Balance on hand July 14	5,800.59
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	\$9,529.16

BUILDING FUND

Receipts.	
Classis:	
Sioux Center	\$ 221.75
Orange City	135.25
Minnesota South	242.50
Minnesota North	
Refund on Payment to Vis, for trees	25.38
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	\$ 624.88
Bal. on hand last report	3,412.82
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	\$4,037.70
Disbursements:	
Options	\$ 100.00
Lawn seed	195.00
De Stigter Bros.	81.00
W. Nienhuis, shrubery	5.25
Furniture for lounge	51.25
Trees, H. Vis	141.21
Bank charges	2.00
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	\$ 575.71
Balance on hand July 14	3,461.99
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	\$4,037.70

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