
Editorial Note

by *Melvin E. Dieter, Editor*

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“Open doors are everywhere and they are open to you Wesleyans today. The cross will not permit you to push Wesleyanism too much. The only permission I have is to use my tradition as a bridge . . . so that another person can cross over and I can cross over to him or her in Jesus Christ.” — Kivengere

“Holiness and perfection cannot exist in a vacuum. It’s a movement . . . that must express itself in continuing right and loving relationships in society. And this takes you right out into the society of the world in which we live with all its problems, and it takes us out there with a social conscience.” — Crutchfield

“We can go out and stake out our claim and say we’re going to practice exactly what our God teaches us to do. We are going to love the Lord our God with all our mind, heart, soul and our neighbor as ourself . . . We’ll make a difference even in this big twentieth century society. We’ll bring the life and the love back into it.” — Colson

“Managerial methods are important only as they lead to redemptive results and internal reconciliation is essential, but only as a base for advancing the Gospel and serving human need.” — McKenna

The above quotes gather up the pervasive tone of the addresses given on the occasion of the April 16, 1983 inauguration of David L. McKenna as the fourth president of Asbury Theological Seminary. Revolving around the general themes of the biblical meaning of servanthood and leadership, each speaker calls for renewal of vision and an expansion of Christian service in response to the challenge of the moment pregnant with potential.

An Anglican and a Methodist Bishop joined a Southern Baptist layman to remind a new seminary president and the Asbury community of the contemporary responsibilities of those who stand in the Wesleyan-Methodist tradition and of their unique opportunity for ministry in a tormented and divided world. But the ultimate appeal of each is to a new vision of Christ and the Gospel. All aspirations to servant leadership and world leadership become viable and authentically Christian only in Him and the demonstration of His redemptive love in the hearts of men and women and the society in which they live.

