

Alumni Page

DON A. MORRIS

A Methodist minister of my conference recently came to visit me, with this pointed question upon his lips: "What can you tell me about Asbury?" I undertook to tell him, as directly and thoroughly as I could. When the reply was finished, I sat back, waiting for his reaction. His reply was, "It is as I expected." It developed that he has a son who is ready to begin preparation for the ministry. But the father does not want his son to attend his own *alma mater*, the name of which I will not disclose, and for reasons I will not enumerate. And when I pressed him for the reason that he was deciding to send his boy to Asbury, he said in substance this: "My son feels the call to the ministry. I want him to attend Asbury because there they will give him something to preach." With this I heartily agreed.

Would not all of us who are alumni, or who are acquainted with the institutions, agree? To those of us who studied there, Asbury gave "something to preach." It projected a message into us. Many things have made me rejoice that I was privileged to attend Asbury. The thing, however, which stands out in my thinking over and over is that my preaching message came to me from there. I have now been out of school long enough to feel and know the need of a vital preaching message. Spiritually hungry people in my parishes have waited for that Evangel. As I have looked into their upturned faces, again and again I have found myself saying, "Thank God for a message to give them!"

With the beginning of this new school year, two hundred eighty-one young men and young women have enrolled in Asbury Theological Seminary, anxious to receive that preaching message, eager for that equipment which will make them ready to go out to fulfil their divine call. Asbury has the message for them and will give it to them. We who have gone from her halls are not yet out from under some clear responsibility to our *alma mater* and those new students that enroll each year. We shall always be indebted there.

It becomes our high privilege, then, to contribute to the successful ongoing of the institution that has meant so much to us. We can pray; we can share our financial means. We can "talk Asbury" everywhere and thereby enlist the prayerful support of others who may hear. Let all alumni determine so to do, for God, for Asbury, for the students there, and for souls in all parts of the world that need the vital preaching message which Asbury imparts to those who study within her walls!