

Alumni Page

JOHN C. BLACKFORD

The joy of the returning alumni of Asbury Theological Seminary at the 1948 Commencement is well expressed by a stanza in an old hymn by Charles Wesley, which reads:

And are we yet alive, And see each other's face?
Glory and praise to Jesus give, For His redeeming grace.

The Commencement season, climaxing the twenty-fifth year of the Seminary, was most auspicious, being marked by many significant events. At the graduation exercises Dr. J. C. McPheeters awarded the degree of Bachelor of Divinity to fifty-five men and three women. In addition three women received the Master of Religious Education degree. At the close of the summer session nine degrees are to be awarded, including five M.R.E. and four B.D. degrees. This is the largest class in the history of our Alma Mater. When we consider the fact that eight years ago there were less students enrolled than graduated this year, we must exclaim: "What hath God wrought!" Honorary degrees were conferred upon Bishop Dionisio D. Alejandro of the Philippine Islands, and upon Bishop Shot K. Mondol of India. The Commencement speaker was Bishop Ralph S. Cushman, who spoke challengingly on the subject, "The Centrality of Christ."

One of the highlights of Alumni Day, which was held on Monday, was the meeting of the Alumni Association with Dr. Don A. Morris presiding. Although only in its second year, the Association is thriving, and is making a noteworthy contribution to Asbury Seminary. The meeting was attended by a large number of graduates, and it is believed that the change of Alumni Day from Saturday to Monday will make it possible for many more to be present in the future. The climax of Alumni Day came during the Alumni Banquet in the evening in Larabee-Morris Hall, at which time over one hundred guests honored Dr. and Mrs. Frank Paul Morris, who are retiring from the faculty after a quarter of a century of consecrated service. Dr. Morris recounted some of the memorable experiences in their teaching ministry, much to the edification of those in attendance.

At the banquet Dr. McPheeters spoke of the need for loyal support by the alumni of the Living Endowment Campaign in order that four hundred one-hundred-dollar scholarships may be secured each year. There are over four hundred of us, and we alumni will be able to carry out successfully this important project if each of us will be responsible for one scholarship. Dr. McPheeters' fertile mind has brought forth the idea of an Alumni devotional book which would be made up of daily devotional selections for the year contributed by Seminary graduates. You will be hearing more about this matter soon.

The future of Asbury Theological Seminary is bright, for Dr. McPheeters is taking up his residence in Wilmore and will give his full attention to the affairs of the Seminary; there are new additions to the faculty; enrollment figures are high; and the new buildings are almost completed. Pray daily that the rich blessing of the Lord shall continue to be with our beloved Seminary.