

# The President's Letter

JULIAN C. MCPHEETERS

The enrollment for the fall quarter of 1947 at Asbury Theological Seminary shows a substantial increase over the fall quarter of 1946. The enrollment for the present quarter is 224 as compared to 188 a year ago.

An analysis of the enrollment for the fall quarter reveals the following items of interest: New students 84; students returning after absence of one or more quarters 13; veterans 48; B. D. candidates 195; M. R. E. candidates 24; Auditors and special 3; not working toward degrees 2; states 33; countries 7; denominations 23; colleges and universities 66; seminaries 9.

The new H. C. Morrison Memorial Administration Building was occupied for classes in October. The administrative offices of the seminary were moved into the new building in November. The official dedication of the new building has been postponed until the Ministers' Conference in February. The new building represents an investment of \$240,000, exclusive of lot and furnishings. The library has been moved into the dining hall of the building, pending the erection of the new library building.

The Betty Morrison Memorial Hall, an apartment house for married students, which is now under construction, is approximately two-thirds complete. Failure to have this building completed for the fall quarter made it necessary for us to disappoint quite a number of applicants for admission, for lack of room.

The architect will submit the plans for the bids for the new Estes Chapel about the first of March. The new chapel will have a seating capacity of 700. There will be a small prayer chapel as a wing to main chapel which will become a focal point in the prayer life of the seminary.

The old administration building of the seminary has been named by the Board of Trustees, "Larabee-Morris Hall." The new name is in honor of Dr. F. H. Larabee, Dean Emeritus, and Dr. Frank P. Morris, Professor of Doctrine. This worthy tribute to two of the most honored members of the faculty was hailed with enthusiastic approval and applause when the announcement was made at a chapel service, on October 22nd.

Dr. R. P. Shuler, Pastor of Trinity Methodist Church, Los Angeles, delivered the sermon at the inaugural ceremonies for five new professors on October the 22nd. Dean Charles Lynn Pyatt, Executive Secretary of the American Association of Theological Schools, brought greetings from the Association. The new professors inaugurated were W. C. Mavis, M.Th., Ph.D., Dean, John Wesley Seminary Foundation, and Professor of Pastoral Counseling; J.

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will have more or less disappeared.<sup>6</sup>

From the foregoing, it appears that Christian religious education faces a trinity of foes in naturalism, liberal ecumenicalism, and secularism; and that these three are in their essential tendency *one*. Moreover, the threat from these viewpoints is acute primar-

<sup>6</sup> Eakin, Mildred Moody, and Frank, *The Pastor and the Children* (New York: MacMillan, 1947), pp. 164-65, 171.

ily because they are espoused by those within the church. They are being utilized as shaping principles in the education of leaders for religious education, both lay and professional. To those who espouse and love the historic Christian faith the situation emphasizes the demand for a clear and vigorous evangelical theory and strategy, and for alertness lest the faith which has been committed to the saints be pushed aside without their realizing what is taking place.

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Harold Greenlee, B.D., Ph.D., Professor of New Testament Greek; C. Elvan Olmstead, B.D., Ph.D., Professor of Christian Education; Claude H. Thompson, A.B., B.D., (Resident work completed for Ph.D., Drew University), Professor of Doctrine; James D. Robertson, Ph.D., Professor of Practical Theology.

The Thanksgiving offering for the building fund of the seminary was initiated at the chapel and inaugural services on October the 22nd, when the faculty, student body, and friends contributed approximately \$3,000. This offering was preliminary to the annual Thanksgiving appeal through the Pentecostal Herald.

A twenty-four hour vigil of prayer was held by the faculty and student body on October the 15th. We request the friends of the seminary to remember us daily in prayer. We need money for the building program and other urgent needs of the seminary, but more than money, we need prayer.

The annual Ministers' Conference will be held February 24 to 26. The Lizzie H. Glide lectures for the conference will be delivered by Bishop Fred P. Corson and Bishop L. R. Marston. Reservations for entertainment should be sent to Dean W. D. Turkington, Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Ky.