The Alumni and The Seminary's Motto

J. Harold Greenlee

The motto of Asbury Theological Seminary, “The Whole Bible for the Whole World,” has today an increasing significance. It is not that any increase of obligation to “the whole world” has recently been laid upon the shoulders of us who claim an evangelical faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; it is rather that international events are demonstrating with awful and increasing clarity that the world’s alternatives are “Christ or chaos.” Furthermore, the remotest corner of the earth is now but a few hours away from us; and we are surely without excuse if we rest content with a life service which means anything less than “the whole Bible for the whole world.”

We rejoice, therefore, in the recognition that through the years Asbury Theological Seminary and her alumni have had the vision of a responsibility which extended even to the remotest regions of earth. Yet there is a more immediate part of “the whole world,” and one before which we and our fellow evangelicals have too long tacitly acknowledged our helplessness. This is the increasing number, especially of younger people, who have become confused by the assumptions of a naturalistic philosophy and have come to believe that enlightened intellectuality and vital Christianity stand in irreconcilable opposition to one another, and that naïvité and obscurantism are necessary constituents of a vital faith in Christ as Savior and Lord.

To the tremendous task of meeting these challenges our seminary has set itself; and we who are her alumni are inescapably bound up with her in responsibility. Our prayers and gifts are needed, but also our own informed personal interest must be manifested. We believe that the administration is properly fulfilling the seminary’s responsibility to the world in its enlarged program for training men and women in sound intellectual scholarship combined with consecrated evangelism. Let us give our full support, and we shall share its benefits. Let us to that end unite our efforts with our fellow alumni through our Alumni Association, that we and our seminary may mutually be aided in meeting our responsibility to the world.

One of the ways in which we can keep ourselves informed concerning the progress of Asbury Seminary is to take advantage of Alumni Day every Commencement. In 1947, Alumni Day is Saturday, May 31. We are fortunate in having secured President Clyde Meredith of Taylor University as the Alumni Day speaker. Let us make it a reunion day for every graduating class! Asbury Seminary has without doubt been raised up “for such a time as this”; let us, her alumni, “rise up and make her strong”!

—Secretary-Treasurer,
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