PLANS AND PRAYERS

It was in 1925, shortly after the death of William Jennings Bryan, that a nation-wide campaign was begun to erect a University as a memorial to him. The campaign, beginning propitiously, was brought to a standstill by the market crash in 1929 and the ensuing depression.

Work had begun on a magnificently planned building, which was to house an educational plant where Christian higher education might be made available to young men and women. Classes were begun in 1930. The administration of the new school, hoping, as did countless other Americans, that the turn of the road was just ahead, carried on. But income dwindled, and the salaries of the staff fell in arrears. Other expenses, necessary to operation, likewise could not be met. It looked like a dark day for the struggling new University.

June of 1933 came, and with it a plan that offered some hope. The staff of the school unanimously agreed that all running expenses should first be paid from the income and that then the balance—if any—should be divided among them in proportion to their stated salaries. By their actions, they thus testified to their faith that this was the Lord’s work, not man’s, and that they were willing to sacrifice for it. Their stated salaries were not high as compared to salaries for similar services elsewhere and the amounts they actually received—and are receiving—never rose much higher than 40% of those stated salaries.

What has happened since 1933? They have not been easy years, certainly, but God has proved Himself faithful. One of the difficult factors has been the necessity to advance along the whole front. Building, retiring debts, accumulating equipment, paying current expenses—all had to be done at once.

But, once committed to a plan of using wisely the income—however small—that the University received, results have come. Every brick and tile, every pound of concrete, every piece of equipment and apparatus—

(Continued on Page 3)

BIBLE CONFERENCE CAUSE FOR THANKSGIVING

It is with much thanksgiving that we briefly report the blessings received in the Twelfth Annual Bible Conference which was held the week of October 11th. There were seven visiting ministers and all were most definitely guided by the Holy Spirit in the selection and presentation of their messages. There was a wonderful unity about the entire conference and a progressive unfolding of the Word of God such as we have never witnessed in a greater degree anywhere. We are assured of permanent results. Many of our friends will rejoice to know that their prayers were so abundantly answered.

Almost at the beginning of the conference it was decided to cancel all class work not scheduled as a part of the Bible Conference Program. One or more extra services for prayer, praise, and testimony were held each night after students and staff members returned to the campus from the evening services downtown. One of these special evening services was for the girls in their dormitory. The special service for the young men was an outdoor breakfast meeting. The entire week was characterized by an atmosphere of happy but serious and wholehearted fellowship in the things of Christ.

Students and staff members were most responsive to the messages of all the speakers. Even when the time was too limited for invitations to be extended, decisions were made and announced at some later meeting. Many, who had not had an opportunity to do so previously, gave their testimonies at the Saturday night campfire service conducted by the Juniors, after the street meeting. The following testimonies are given as typical examples of blessings received in the conference:

Now Satisfied With Jesus

Many times I have sung that phrase, “I Am Satisfied With Jesus.” One day the Holy Spirit spoke to me saying, “Don’t lie to me, Jean, you know you are not satisfied with Jesus.”

(Continued on Page 2)

THANKSGIVING

A Call to Prayer

Our country at war, girding itself for the climactic struggle for victory over forces of aggression and anti-Christianity, must have God as Ally if she is to succeed.

Taking it for granted that He will be with us, as did the Israelites in the days of spiritual decline under Eli, will prove disastrous. We must know that GOD IS WITH US, and certainly without asking HIM to be with us as a Nation, we shall have no reason to expect His aid.

America on her knees in this tremendous conflict, or, to change the figure, “Holding up the hands of her leaders” by united prayer, is the only way we can have the aid of Omnipotence. God is with us while we are with Him.

Thanksgiving Day, when millions will be reviewing God’s mercies to them as individuals, and those He has shown to our great nation, PRAYER should be blended with THANKSGIVING in greater church services than we have ever known.

Let ministers and people set themselves to fill their churches with patriotic praying people on the coming THANKSGIVING DAY.

Ernest M. Wadsworth, Director GREAT COMMISSION PRAYER LEAGUE, 808 N. La Salle, Chicago.
THE NEWSETTE

Turk Wylie....Editor
Virgil Sorge. Make-up Editor
Peggy Hege. Circulation Mgr.
Henry Moeller. Secretary
Mrs. L.E. Fish. Alumni Reporter
Judth A. Rudd. Adviser

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NOVEMBER, 1942

THANKSGIVING IN OCCUPIED EUROPE

O God, our Heavenly Father, as we kneel to pray we look around us and we see havoc, desolation, ruin and destruction on every hand. We bow in humbleness and thank You, our Father and our God, for your everlasting Peace which in the midst of all this misfortune floods our hearts with thanksgiving.

Our sins are many, but, Father, Thy Grace is great enough to cover them all. We forgot Thee and put our trust in guns, planes, ships and them all. We forgot Thee and put our hearts with thanksgiving.

Our homes are no more, ravished by a despicable foe who respects no man's right save his own. Food is scanty and clothing practically impossible to find, but, Oh, Father, how we thank you for what we have. How undeserving we are, Freedom, our freedom, was snatched away, but the freedom that You have given us can never be taken away and shall be satisfied with Thy likeness.—Jean Nieff.

PROVOKING GOD

For over a year I had been disgusted with myself for not being able to depend on the Lord, and for not having my life in the center of His will. Selfish pride also kept me from seeing that I could be provoking the Lord instead of myself only. But praise the Lord, His Holy Spirit started speaking to me even before our Bible Conference, and when on that eventful Tuesday night Brother Schmeiser asked us to open our Bibles to Hebrews 3:16, I looked at this verse. The word "provok" fastened itself in my mind. From that moment until the end of the sermon the Holy Spirit used every word Brother Schmeiser spoke to show me that I was not provoking myself but I was provoking the Lord. In closing, Brother Schmeiser said the Lord offered us the challenge of living a true life for Him so as not to provoke Him. Upon hearing these words, the Holy Spirit said to me that I should yield my life to the Son in His strength and to live from day to day in His strength. Now, praise His Name, that night I did yield my life to Him and I am now living His life in His strength.—Richard Langford.

PRETENDED THAT HE WAS A CHRISTIAN

God has Hs own way of dealing with each individual. When I heard that Bryan University was a Christian school, I did not want to come; but reluctantly, under the pressure of friends whom I did not wish to disappoint, I came. By mocking and imitating Christians, I concealed the fact that I was unsaved, but under the Christian influence I became convicted and accepted the Lord as my personal Savior. By God's grace, I now pray that His will may be done in my life.—Clyde Simmons.

BIBLE CONFERENCE

(Continued from Page 1)

The third afternoon of our conference the speaker asked us to raise our hands to say if we wanted satisfaction in Christ. Just to be satisfied with Him was the prayer of my heart. He is the God of our salvation, and praise His Matchless Name, He is the God of my satisfaction. How? I do not know, but I know that every part of my body, soul and spirit is satisfied with Jesus. I say with David, "As for me I will behold thy face in righteousness and shall be satisfied with thy likeness."—Jean Nieff.

Not Yours, But You

What an unlovely picture is self when revealed by the very hand of God! Such a picture did my eyes behold during the recent Bible Conference.

Prior to this time I had been busy in the Lord's work. I enjoyed being busy for Him and He had blessed abundantly, yet, in spite of all this, there would come times in my life when I would wonder why I could not know victory in my own life as others knew it. I could not quite believe that the trouble lay within my own self. The Lord was blessing my work too greatly and there were too many open doors—nothing could be a barrier in my own life, I thought. But God had many lessons for me to learn. Just this last summer this "much doing" for Him was interrupted by a period of illness, which at the time, I thought would break my heart. Surely then, God didn't want my service, but what did He want? May I answer in the words of St. Paul on his third appearance to the Corinthian Church when he said, "I seek not yours, but you." No, God did not want my service—He wanted me. I had been busy in His work, but I missed Him. My quiet times with Him and His Word had been too limited. How unreasonably one can drift into such a state! Still, I was not too eager to face facts until October 13th, during the Bible Conference, the Lord spoke to me again through Rev. Schmeiser. The message that morning entitled "It's of God" found lodgment in the very depth of my heart. From that message I learned anew that not only my recent illness, but also other things that had been allowed to come into my life had been "of God." I knew then beyond a doubt that which I scarcely believed a few months before. Therefore, I yielded again my all to Him, and now my satisfaction is complete in Him and with Him.—Beatrice Batson.

"I BELIEVE"

I believe Jesus Christ to be the Son of God. The miracles which He wrought establish in my mind His personal authority, and render it proper for me to believe whatever He asserts. I believe, therefore, all His declarations, as well when He declares Himself to be the Son of God as when He declares there is no other way of salvation than through the merits of His atonement.

—Daniel Webster.

Bryan University
Commoner Staff

At a recent meeting of the Junior Class the members of the 1942-1943 Commoner staff were elected. Those selected to have charge of the production of the year-book are as follows: Samuel Hemberger, Editor; Virgil Sorge, Assistant Editor; Albert Wylie, Business Manager; Joseph Sullivan, Advertising Manager; Clyde Brogan, Art Editor; Henry Moeller, Photo Editor; and Peggy Hege, Circulation Manager.—Albert Wylie.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S MOTION

In 1778, at the meeting of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, Benjamin Franklin made the motion to those assembled that the Convention should not proceed without an opening prayer each day. Said he:

"I have lived for a long time, and the longer I live the more convincing proof I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured in the Sacred Scriptures that 'Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.' I firmly believe this, and I also believe that without His concurring aid we shall proceed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel."

Prayer was the foundation stone in our country's beginning. There should be more national prayer today.

—Our Hope.

CLUBS ORGANIZE

At the first meeting of the Journalism Club the following students were elected to serve as officers for the coming year: Albert Wylie, President; Virgil Sorge, Vice-President; and Joyce Brubaker, Secretary-Treasurer.

The membership of the Club for the coming year includes the following students: Beatrice Batson, Betty Birch, Frances Reed, Peggy Hege, Gwen Hay, Norma Rankin, Henry Moeller, George Birch and Clyde Brogan.

At their first meeting of the year the Camera Club of the Bryan University elected the following members to serve as officers: Manford Cain, President; Henry Moeller, Vice-President; and Miss Agnes Fay, Secretary-Treasurer. Professor Lloyd E. Fish was re-elected to serve as Faculty Advisor for the organization.

MODERN DESIGN IN STUDENT STREET MEETINGS

A recently provided sound amplifier system has enabled Bryan students to add "modern design" to their witnessing for Christ in the city of Dayton.

For some time many of the students, and staff members as well, have desired a loud-speaker system to be used in their weekly street meetings. These meetings are conducted by the students each Saturday afternoon and night, giving them experience in practical Christian service by singing and preaching the gospel, personal witnessing and tract distribution.

On October the twenty-fifth University students had the joy of seeing their prayers answered when they used for the first time a sound amplifier in street meetings held that day. The system was provided through the kindness of the Rev. G. T. Byrd, pastor of the Trinity Methodist Church of Dayton. The Rev. Byrd has given the University the privilege of using the outfit in all the street meetings, placing it in the care of three of the students, two of whom have had experience in the operation of sound apparatus.

The system finds its greatest usefulness in overcoming noise occasioned by street traffic. It gives effective coverage in a radius of from one to two blocks, amplifying a normal speaking tone clearly and distinctly. The amplifier includes two loud-speakers of the box-baffle type and is designed to accommodate two microphones.

Through the kindness of friendly officials the use of the spacious courthouse lawn was obtained for afternoon "broadcasts." The night meetings will be held in the usual place—an alley entrance on the main thoroughfare. Convenient power outlets were also secured.

It is hoped that by the use of this sound system the students may increase the effectiveness of their witnessing to lost men and women concerning the grace of God. We ask our friends to rejoice with us and to pray that the use of the amplifier will result in an increase in the harvest of precious souls.—Henry Moeller.

BRYAN SAID

"The humblest citizen of all the land, when clad in the armor of a righteous cause, is stronger than all the hosts of error."
Dear Folks:
Keep on praying. We had a won-
derful Bible Conference in October, thanks to your prayers. October gift receipts were better, too. Let’s fill the Thanksgiving basket to overflowing in November.

Yours for victory on all fronts,

[Signature]

Sam

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Dear Folks:
Keep on praying.

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October Gift Receipts

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Total: $1337.25

Receipts to October 31...........$5,259.30

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Who’s Who

Known as the only national means of recognition for honor students devoid of initiation fees and dues, and recognized as a definite aid to students and business men who desire the best in students as potential employees, the National Organization of Who’s Who in American Colleges and Universities has added five Bry- anites to its membership. Three Sen-

iors and two Juniors comprise the list.

Richard Langford of Clendenin, West Virginia, a Senior, was chosen for his academic achievement and extra-curricular activities; Ruth Clement, also a Senior from Spencer, Ohio, was elected for scholarship. The third Senior, John Harper, from Steton, New Jersey, has made records scholastically and is now substi-
tuting as instructor in the Rhea Central High School in Dayton, Tenn.

Samuel Hemberger, Atlantic City, New Jersey, is president of the Jun-
ior Class and Editor-in-Chief of the school year-book, the Commoner.

Beatrice Batson, from Charlotte, Tennessee, has been secretary of the Junior class for three years and is recognized for scholarship and leadership in extra-curricular activities.

Two Bryan students in attendance this year were awarded this honor last year. They are Eileen Hartschuh from Akron, Ohio, and Leonard Win-
stead from Hardy, Arkansas.

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CLASSES ORGANIZE

The Juniors elected Samuel Hemberger to be their President; Nellie Stover, Vice-President; Beatrice Batson, Secretary; Manford Cain, Treasurer; and Professor Fish, Faculty Sponsor.

The Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors met separately to elect their officers and faculty sponsors for the ensuing year.

Elected by the Seniors were John Harper, President; Leonard Win-
stead, Vice-President; Eileen Hartschuh, Secretary; Manford Cain, Treasurer; and Professor Hoyt, Faculty Sponsor.

Those elected to lead the Sopho-

more were Sumner Wemp, Presi-
dent; George Birch, Vice-President; June Lykens, Secretary-Treasurer; and Miss Fay, Faculty Sponsor.

Those elected by the Freshmen were Lester Pifer, President; Robert Collitt, Vice-President; Alberta Henderson, Secretary; Grace Theobald, Treas-
urer; and Mrs. Pettit, Faculty Spon-

or.—George Birch.

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The Newslette