

Pacific Lutheran College Bulletin

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PRINCIPLES — PROGRESS — PROBLEMS — POSSIBILITIES

Taking Stock after a Depression

In our November BULLETIN four years ago, as the depression was getting under way, we took stock, so to speak; we checked up on the reasons for our existence, the tasks before us, and the evidences and possibilities of progress.

Now, as the depression is beginning to recede, we take stock again. We check up on principles, progress, problems, and possibilities.

I. PRINCIPLES

A. First Things First

Pacific Lutheran College is, of course, a community asset, a servant of society, an educational institution, a power house of the Church; but, first of all, it is a *Christian* institution. In the last analysis we can justify its existence only in terms of the will of God, revealed by the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. He said to His disciples: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Matt. 28, 19-20). He said to those who took thought for food and raiment: "Take no thought" for these things; "but seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6, 31-33). It has been hard to keep these commands truly normative for our thinking in these days of depression, when economic worries have so generally demanded first place in our thoughts and when even Christians have challenged our right to identify our work with the will of God; but, by His grace, the honest effort has remained ours truly to put first things first, even in our secret thoughts, and to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. If God does not want Pacific Lutheran College, who are we that we should try to carry it on and forward?

B. Accredited Work Only

Pacific Lutheran College wants its work to be "acceptable to God and approved of men" (Rom. 14, 18). Hence the principle, Accredited work only. Through the depression we have steadfastly held to this principle, in spite of strenuous advice to forget about it under the stress of emergency. We have found the accreditation authorities of our State reasonable and helpful. They have shown due appreciation of the results of honest work. We are nearly ready to seek additional recognition through wider accreditation than that afforded by the Washington State authorities.

C. Pitiless Publicity

"Pitiless publicity" seems a cruel phrase. It is not original with the writer of these lines. We use it here to designate a principle which the present President of Pacific Lutheran College insisted upon when he arrived at his original understanding with the Pacific Lutheran College Board of Trustees in 1928, namely, that the President shall have full right and freedom to tell the whole truth about the College at any time, and that he shall not be asked to conceal anything. The principle here

designated is intended to give to the administrative officials of the College the right and the ability to say with Jesus, "In secret have I said nothing" (John 18, 20). We have striven to apply this principle in harmony with Christian love.

D. Rumor-Destroying Field Service

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue" (Prov. 18, 21). The tongue is "an unruly evil, full of deadly poison" (James 3, 8). But "a wholesome tongue is a tree of life" (Prov. 15, 4). Therefore we need rumor-destroying field service at all times. Pacific Lutheran College has suffered greatly since this service was curtailed.

E. Lutheran Co-operation

Because of certain economic advantages inherent in co-operation, the principle of Lutheran co-operation in the maintenance of Pacific Lutheran College has been emphasized through the depression. The practical difficulties involved in the reconciliation of divergent views and trends have also come into prominence as a result of the economic strain. Pacific Lutheran College remains fully committed to the principle of Lutheran co-operation within the limits permitted by synodical loyalty. Furthermore, because the Lutheran Church, with its respect for the individual conscience, is not a proselyting church, Pacific Lutheran College continues to offer service to all Christians and to all who profess respect for Christianity and for the Bible as the Word of God. The College thus becomes a unifying influence rather than an agency for propaganda. "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men" (Rom. 12, 18). "Let brotherly love continue" (Heb. 13, 1).

F. No Backward Step

Because of the depression psychology, we have gradually become accustomed to the negative formulation, "No backward step," of the principle whose positive form, "Forward with Christ," was the convention theme of the Third Triennial Convention of the Young People's Luther League (Minneapolis, 1925). We adhere to this principle out of loyalty to the final command of the Savior before His ascension, "Go ye!" (Matt. 28, 19). We mean by this loyalty to face our full responsibility at Pacific Lutheran College, to put our hand to the plough and not look back, because Jesus said: "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9, 62). Dealing with young people especially, we realize how supremely important it is to emphasize the command of the Lord to His people: "Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people; and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you" (Jer. 7, 23); and we ponder the consequences of disobedience: "But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward" (Jer. 7, 24). The practical consequences of obedience constitute true progress.

II. PROGRESS

A. Increase in Christianizing Influence

Deeply mindful of our weakness, imperfections, and limitations, we let others speak of Christianizing influence in education. Said Dr. J. C. K. Preus, Executive Secretary of the Board of Education of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, before the American Lutheran Conference Convention at Des Moines, Iowa, on November 15, 1934, regarding Pacific Lutheran College: "It is generally agreed that this school is of vital importance to the future of Lutheranism on the North Pacific Coast. What is more, those who are most thoroughly familiar with the work and influence of the Church in that territory maintain that Pacific Lutheran College, with its joint constituency of approximately 30,000, bids fair to become, if it is not al-

ready, the greatest Christianizing force in that entire territory.” (Luth. Herald, XVIII, 1112.) In this connection, the reader is respectfully urged to read and ponder carefully the sympathetic and convincing address of Professor Frederick E. Bolton, Dean Emeritus of the School of Education of the University of Washington, as delivered at the meeting of Independent Colleges, at Spokane, Washington, on April 2, 1934. (School and Society, Vol. 39, pp. 689-694.) And this year it seems that we have the finest student body yet.

B. Excellent Reputation

Public confidence in Pacific Lutheran College, its work and its product, has been definitely on the increase year by year. This is particularly true of Greater Tacoma and Western Washington. “To know this school is to love it.”

C. Growing Circle of Friends

More than nine thousand two hundred friends have made one or more contributions to the Pacific Lutheran College Development Association, whose slogan is “At least a dollar at least once a year.” The original goal of ten thousand friends, at first perhaps considered fantastic, is definitely within reach. Every continent except South America is represented in this growing circle of friends. The College binds these friends more closely together, particularly within the Pacific Northwest membership of the constituent synods of the American Lutheran Conference.

D. Intensification of Prayerful Support

“Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord,” says David (Ps. 130, 1). In these hard times many have thus cried in behalf of Pacific Lutheran College. This became particularly evident in connection with the serious illness of the President of the College last winter. And “the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5, 16). “Prayer changes things.” Funds will follow. The following extract from a recent letter from a delinquent endowment fund subscriber reveals the spirit which truly sustains our work:

“Your card I received a few days ago. And it’s with an aching heart I answer your request. It is not negligence on my part that I haven’t paid up what I pledged. I believe in supporting and doing what we can to promote every good cause and especially the Gospel and Christian schools. But what can we do in these times? I have a little farm, but all my property is mortgaged, and it’s hard to meet my payments and other bills to keep the mortgage clear. * * * * I can’t see any way to make any payments this winter. I hope by next fall if I live I shall be able to do better. I am a Christian, and it’s my prayer and hope that the Lord shall help me to meet my obligations to every man. Thanking you for bearing with my shortcomings, with best wishes for the success of your school, yours faithfully,—”

E. Growth in Regional Solidarity

The depression has brought us of the West closer together. Strong influences in the Middle West have looked with favor upon this growth in regional solidarity. The feeling that we of the West can and should carry our own load and solve our own problems is on the increase, although the day is not yet here when this feeling becomes translated into victorious action. The years of depression have been a testing-time. The conviction grows that any institution that weathers these years must be truly worthy of survival. We are coming to have a truer respect for that which is our own and for those visions of our fathers which gave us our legacy. The celebration of the fortieth anniversary of *Pacific Lutheran University* at Parkland on October 14, 1934, was a poignant reminder that we of the West are coming to have traditions of our own. These traditions, properly transmitted, will make for deeper understanding and greater unity among those who should work together.

F. Institutional Growth

Pacific Lutheran College has enjoyed a steady increase in number of students enrolled year after year through the depression: 1929-30, 214; 1930-31, 237; 1931-32, 262; 1932-33, 264; 1933-34, 281. The figures for 1934-35 promise to continue this increase.

The scope of the work has not been curtailed; on the contrary, the curriculum of the Normal Department has gradually been extended from two years to three years since 1930; the Liberal Arts Courses have been enriched, and the offerings of the High-School Division have been revised to meet changing needs.

The teaching staff remains intact; the minimum accredited setup remains undisturbed, despite many demands for urwise retrenchment.

The financial load carried by the Development Association for current operating expenses in 1929-30 was \$16,747.73. At present two-thirds of this load has been properly shifted to the shoulders of the three Church bodies that subsidize the College: the American Lutheran Church, the Augustana Synod, and the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.

The annual income from the Endowment Fund has increased 37.5 per cent since 1930, while the size of the Fund has increased 27 per cent during the same period. (See PACIFIC LUTHERAN COLLEGE BULLETIN, August, 1930, and August, 1934.)

Minor campus improvements have been made. The development program has not been abandoned. The three urgent items (girls' dormitory, library building, new athletic field) will receive attention as soon as financial conditions permit.

This growth has been made possible by the support and sacrifices of loyal friends, by the efficient work of the business manager, and especially by the sacrificial cooperation of the teaching staff, whose salary budget is 39.52 per cent smaller now than it was three years ago.

III. PROBLEMS

Space permits only the barest mention of the most urgent problems now confronting the Board of Trustees and the administrative officials of Pacific Lutheran College: A. How to achieve a balanced budget without unchristian economy. B. How to secure further and wider accreditation. C. How to utilize *Pacific Lutheran Herald* most advantageously. D. How to keep public sentiment healthy at least expense. E. How to cement our greater Lutheran unity. F. How to meet the demands for expansion.

IV. POSSIBILITIES

We urge the careful consideration and study of the following possibilities for Pacific Lutheran College:

A. The definite assumption of financial responsibility for current operating expenses of the College by the individual congregations in our Western territory. Plans are under way.

B. The reorganization of the corporation (The Pacific Lutheran College Association) so as to permit other Lutheran synods to share in the actual ownership of the College. This action has been authorized.

C. The development of *Pacific Lutheran Herald* into an all-Lutheran organ for the Pacific Coast, under American Conference auspices.

D. The increase of the Endowment Fund to \$500,000.

E. The aggressive pursuit of the authorized development program.

F. The speedy lifting of the intolerable financial burden from the shoulders of the self-sacrificing teachers.