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Milo Rediger Writings & Addresses

Milo Rediger

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Response at Chamber of Commerce Dinner

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How does one respond to this kind of overwhelming, undeserved description? One can say "thank you," but that is only as meaningful as his performance in the community has been. So, first I would thank God, and give the glory to Him. Next, I would acknowledge my family, and share the honor with them.

Then, I would recognize my colleagues, a changing group through the years, and share the honor with them, also. Finally, I would respond to the many friends in the community, both local and larger, with deep appreciation. In my inaugural response, eight years ago next month, I said we will strive to make Taylor University a good citizen of the community in which we live. An institution also has individuality-- a character and a personality. While this is generated by the composite input of the many people who make up the institution, still it has an identifiable uniqueness. Therefore, when you say Taylor, you identify

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an image of something in the community, something either good or bad or indifferent. I could reminisce and recollect a time when this was pretty negative, a time when it had been suggested that Taylor would relocate its citizenship in another area. Those, frankly, were very difficult years for me, a time when I found myself between conflicting forces, literally on the horns of a dilemma.

Then certain circumstances began to take on a providential aspect. Interstate 69 opened up avenues of access and communication that were very favorable to us. What had been a small single township public school was consolidated with two other townships into the Eastbrook district which could provide more adequate elementary and secondary educational opportunities for the children of our Taylor families. Leland Boren brought the Pierce Governor operation from Anderson to Upland, and Art Hodson assisted both him and me as we gave a new look and a new thrust to our "institutions," respectively. The town of Upland built a water supply and sewage disposal system that enabled us to transform what had been a serious eyesore into the beauty spot of the area.

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With all of this, and the positive action of the Taylor board of trustees, the new Taylor was on its way, and convincing evidences of this began to rise up out of corn and pasture fields. But the greatest of all are the purpose, the commitment, the devotion of the people, faculty, staff and students who are Taylor, and to this your response in the Marion area has been heart-warming.

~~Several times after traveling overseas--~~
I have attempted to be involved and active in the life of the city of Marion, and I have encouraged Taylor people to become involved in a supportive and meaningful way. I am aware of the economic and cultural impact of the presence of Taylor University on the people of Marion and Grant and Blackford Counties and beyond. I am not unaware of your warm acceptance and your helpful spirit. Together, I believe we have brought Taylor to a point at which the future is even more promising than the past has been productive.

~~Now Taylor is needed more than ever before.~~