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Milo Rediger Writings & Addresses

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Expectations #2 (chapel talk)

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EXPECTATIONS #2

by

Milo A. Rediger

Welcome to all who are new to Taylor, and a re-welcome to you who were here last year. Then I talked to you about expectations, mainly what you and I would expect of each other. I would re-underline all that I said then, but will not repeat the sentences. This time I will emphasize some expectations you and I should have of our Father God, of His Son Jesus, and of Their plan for us and the whole human race. Often, the effectiveness and the outcomes of our expectations of each other depend largely on the clarity and vitality of our individual expectancies of Him.

My own expectations were deepened and clarified this summer when Velma and I participated in Lausanne '74, the ICOWE in Switzerland. (Some of you were there, let me see how many. In fact, we had a Taylor Club meeting with most of the 75 Taylor-related people who were in attendance.) Four thousand evangelical Christians from 150 countries came together in a spirit of unity unparalleled in history. This number, of course, included people from most, if not all, of the 3rd world nations. This is why Lausanne will be much more significant than were Berlin '66 and Minneapolis '70. There will be follow up of world-wide proportions because almost every nation on earth was there. It was like a modern Day of Pentecost, when "every nation under heaven" was represented. I am very optimistic provided you and I make ourselves available to the Holy Spirit for whatever He says and however He leads. Remember the exhortation of Jesus' mother to His disciples during the emergency at the wedding in Cana of Galilee, "Whatever He says to you, do it." This I believe is crucial, and we have our great opportunity to become a part of the eternal plan of God for "all the earth." Here I caution myself by reaffirming the fact that we are a Christian college, not a church, etc. So I'm not suggesting that Lausanne implies we should all become evangelists and missionaries while we are in college. But we can have the heart and spirit of evangelists and missionaries while we cultivate the Christian community that fosters our growth as we become true disciples of Christ.

Consummation of God's Eternal Plan:

Let me relate Lausanne and Upland, and the Congress and Taylor University. Evangelization is to Lausanne as Christian education is to Taylor at Upland as system is to God's world plan. God has had a "system" from the beginning; its purpose is expressed by Lausanne for the late 20th century; and its implementation is through individuals and institutions like Taylor University.

God explained "His system" in the book of Exodus in the Old Testament

". . . that you, my people, may know that I am God." (See Ex. 6:7, 10:2)

". . . that the Egyptians, your enemies, and mine, may know that I am God." (Ex. 7:5)

". . . that all the earth may know that I am God." (Ex. 9:16)

This was God's word, God's voice, at the beginning, and the theme and slogan of Lausanne was

"Let all the earth hear His voice." Exodus and Lausanne were so beautifully tied together by the Holy Spirit that I became convinced that it is a once-in-history opportunity for evangelicals to become the implementers of God's plan for the end of the church age, toward the return of Jesus Christ. I plan to make myself available, and I hope you will join me in and through any one-to-one or small group or large group opportunities the Holy Spirit may choose to use in these last days. How could there be a more appropriate opportunity and vehicle than a Christian university with a systems emphasis throughout its program? Evangelization is the *modus operandi*, the motivation and the method for its fulfillment and consummation. An educational experience at Taylor University is how you and I can come to know God's plan, and how to become a participant in the action.

Students and faculty involvement expectations: Mt. 6:30-33; Mt. 18:20

You have a right to expect us who teach to relate our faith and learning in ways that are visible to you, in honest answers to your honest intellectual questions. You may also expect us to have exemplary lifestyles, exercising love for all people, on campus and around the world. You may furthermore expect us to demonstrate a compassionate use of the accumulated resources with which God has blessed us.

How can we create this opportunity, this kind of community, here at Taylor University? We can't do it very effectively, except occasionally, in the chapel service. We should do it as often as we can. But let me suggest another possible format. I will devote "free lunch hours" (the free here refers to time, not to cost) to this effort in the Braden Room. Students and faculty members may join us by bringing food trays to the room, in groups of up to 15, 20, or 25 (or even 8 or 10 would do). This could become an effective sharing community and a follow-up of Lausanne. It's only an example of one way, but if you want to make yourself available and become a participant, write your name on a slip of paper and send it to the president's office or drop it off there. Let the Holy Spirit be your guide and prompter. I look forward to this with eagerness and expectation! It is only a small part, but who knows what the Holy Spirit might develop from a small beginning. After all, He is even more creative than the most creative member of this student body and faculty!

The end of the church age: Acts 1:11, John 14:3; Mt. 24:44; I Cor. 11:26; Rev. 4:11

Last spring as I spoke to the seniors on the night before their graduation, I challenged them to be "the kind of persons you have here had the opportunity to become." This is the best way to "usher in the kingdom." The motive-thrust for this is anticipation. The effect is constant readiness for the coming of Christ. During World War II a detail of men, including a sergeant in charge, was separated and isolated for a number of days. Later, when a captain-led search crew found them, they were ready to leave immediately. All was prepared and packed. When the captain expressed his almost surprised approval, the sergeant said, "Every morning I said to the group, 'Men, get your things together; the boss may come today'." Without expectation and anticipation we will never be ready for the rapture of Christ's true church. I urge this expectation, without

setting any dates, but with the recognition that it could well be within your freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior year at Taylor. Jesus is coming, and He said, "Be ye therefore ready." I don't know the details, but I know that you and I have no alternative to being either

victors in it with Jesus Christ, or
victims of it with the anti-Christ.

Again, I emphasize that I am not a time-setting prophecy preacher, but I am hopeful about Christ's return and excited about being involved in what the Holy Spirit yet wants to do in the world before Jesus comes. Right now I'd like to sing together "Jesus is coming to earth to reign; what if it were today." Take your hymnals and we'll just do it. (Sing 1st stanza and chorus.) And now, one more expectation.

Power after prayer: Acts 4:31

In large meetings or in small cells, I'd like to be part of a prayer network over this campus (and extended throughout the family of parents, alumni, and other friends) that would empower and control Taylor University for its greatest year in 129. Some of this will happen spontaneously just because of who you are. But we can expand on that by careful attention and sensitivity to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

There is the story of a church in New York City that was dedicating a new organ with a special service. There was a printed program, including a Scripture reading and prayer. During the prelude something went wrong with the organ hook-up, and the power was off. They were not unprepared; there was a technician on the job. Hurriedly, notes were passed among the presiding minister, the technician, and the organist, as the service proceeded without interruption. As the Scripture reading was finished, and just before the prayer, the technician, having located the trouble, sent a note to the organist. It read, "After the prayer, the power will be on." I believe that for us, too, after the prayer, the power will be on!