

Taylor University

## Pillars at Taylor University

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Milo Rediger Writings & Addresses

Milo Rediger

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### Taylor Today and Tomorrow

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## TAYLOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

The aims of Taylor University as stated in the catalog have always included the dual emphasis on academic excellence and spiritual values. At times in the past the emphasis on spiritual values has been sadly misinterpreted by the public. It has distorted our image into meaning that Taylor is a school which trains only preachers and missionaries.

It is nevertheless true that spiritual values in this context have always had, and still have, a special meaning for the Taylor program. We have maintained a conservative evangelical position with reference to the Christian church and have set our pattern of interpretation in a Wesleyan frame of reference. Our philosophy has been distinctly interdenominational, not non-denominational or undenominational and certainly not anti-denominational, but the emphasis has been on inter. The Taylor program is and should be broader than any one denomination. There are 799 church related colleges in the United States, but our place is unique among these colleges and our program should be sustained and nurtured in this climate.

As we have projected our program into the future and have anticipated the problems of the ~~1960's~~ and the 1970's, there have been times when it has seemed almost essential to find some kind of anchor in the nature of a parent body for Taylor University. In the recent past there have been times when it seemed to be a danger that too much of a community anchor would be created or cultivated. At times it has seemed that it would be wise to cultivate a stronger and more highly organized church anchor, but I think any of these are desirable only on the condition that the uniqueness of the Taylor program can be maintained and that the distinctly spiritual quality of this program of higher education can be perpetuated. Anything which would hinder this or become a serious obstacle to it would certainly be undesirable on the part of both the <sup>governing</sup> ~~trustee~~ board and the administration of the university.

Our working relationship with the North Indiana Conference of the <sup>United</sup> ~~Methodist~~ Church and with several other denominations has been helpful and meaningful in the direction and the



strengthening of our unique position. We should not overlook the possibility of combining with this a more careful cultivation of our immediate and larger communities, our broad alumni contact and our friends around the world. We should not overlook the possibility of adding to our trustee membership dedicated men from Upland, Marion, Hartford City and other towns in our larger community. We should continue to strengthen this board of trustees, especially in view of the fact that it is in reality a governing board and is the real "parent body" of the university.

With the cooperation of many people we have been able to "mop up" the Indiana Northern University default and the Fort Wayne project with good results. An ambitious development program has been advanced and the prospects for its implementation seem realistic and hopeful. Now we can proceed to continue the projection of what has been Taylor University's history into the future and make its benefits available to an increased number of young people. The building program which has been projected for the next five to seven years would enable us to accommodate up to a possible enrollment of 1700 to 1800. These prospects are exciting and are a continuation of what was projected by our advance planning committee of the early 1950's.

It is in harmony with these religious and philosophical commitments, and with these ambitious projections for the future that the present faculty and staff of Taylor University has been recruited. It is this to which they committed themselves when they agreed, many at some material sacrifice, to join hands with us and give their best effort to this program. It is a deep commitment with them that we should serve the evangelical segments of many denominations, for this is educationally as well as religiously preferable. This unique climate at Taylor University is attested to by many, if not all, of the guests and examiners that visit our campus.

It will be necessary for us to do better in the future than we have done in the past in the matter of welding these evangelical segments of various denominations into a constituency. I believe we can organize for more effective service in this area. I know of men who would be willing to join us in a sincere effort to bring this to pass. I feel that it is necessary for us to do



a similar thing with regard to industry and business. We have men who are familiar with this area and whose ministry could be very fruitful for us in this respect. Since the Associated Colleges of Indiana have ~~not seen fit to~~ admit <sup>ed</sup> us to membership, I am confident that we can ~~still~~ gain our proper stature with industry and ~~in so doing we can also gain the respect and confidence of the~~ *the business community of Indiana* ~~Associated Colleges.~~

My own personal commitment is to this kind of program. Faculty recruitment, student selection, public relations, curricular offerings, co-curricular activities -- all of these must be conceived in this framework of intellectual and spiritual meaning. It is this that will enable us to be true to our heritage, to perpetuate the norms of the Christian faith, to practice Christian higher education in a religious atmosphere, and to produce in our graduates a kind of leadership which is desperately needed by our society and the Kingdom of God.

Milo A. Rediger