Alumni Must Come Through

To the Alumni:

We believe "there is a time to build," and for Taylor it seems that time is now. We believe too that "Except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it." You would thrill were you on the campus these days to catch the note of expectancy and enthusiasm over the prospects of beginning the library building this spring. The Development Fund Drive is really underway here. We are believing that the Lord is going to scatter this vision of immediate attainment of our goal until you too will thrill as we report from time to time the response of our alumni. Did it ever occur to you that the Ayres-Alumni Memorial Library will be the first building on campus to bear the name ALUMNI? In no small way therefore the alumni must become responsible for its erection.

We have, according to Mr. Spear's records, about 1700 alumni whom we can find. In some areas not too far distant we will be asking through the Alumni Secretary the cooperation of some who will agree to do some leg work for us in the solicitation of funds in their immediate vicinity. Even where the alumni are relatively scattered, it is not going to be impossible to "win the one next to you" whose interest and response, through your becoming a field agent without portfolio, may result in the last bit of money necessary for us to realize our goal.

Faculty, staff, students and board members are pledging. The faculty are averaging almost $200 per person. Students have been surprisingly self-sacrificing in their giving.

Publicity material which has gone out already has announced the beginning of the library building on May 1st. If this deadline is to be met the Alumni must come through. I keep insisting that when the alumni see our situation they are going to be equal to the task. The spirit of loyalty they evidence will match all the sacrificial giving recorded from other directions. Here is one time when as president of your Alma Mater I'd like the privilege of shouting from the house tops your exceeding any quota—for quotas are generally reached by minimum giving.

You may be interested to know how we expect to reach the balance of $500,000. That secret lies with God. I'm asking you to become a prayer partner with those of us on campus that God will enable us to tap financial reservoirs everywhere. We must search for generous donors and hosts of friends. When we build I hope to say, "The Alumni response was sufficient, and that is why we were able to build."

Your servant at your Alma Mater,

Clyde H. Meredith
President
Fifty years ago Taylor University had the same physical setting for its library that it has today. Books have been added and more and more students have enrolled until today Taylor does not have sufficient space for either one. On evenings and Saturdays, students use the library, cafeteria style, standing in line waiting for some man or woman to vacate a place at the tables.

Realizing a good library is the heart of an institution of higher education, Taylor University has made the construction of such a building the first item of its development program. With a goal of $500,000 to be reached within two years, officials plan to use the first proceeds to begin construction on this needed building. May 1, 1949 is the date on which they hope to begin excavation work.

At the present time there is an amount in excess of $75,000 on hand. Almost $60,000 more is in sight to bring the amount available in the near future to almost $140,000. An additional sum of $60,000 will make it possible to let a contract. Another $100,000 will make it possible to furnish the building completely according to latest estimates of the architect, LeRoy Bradley of Fort Wayne.

According to Miss Alice Holcombe, librarian, the greatest improvement to come from construction of the new library will be additional space for both readers and books. At the present time many books are housed in spare rooms in the music hall. A separate room will be included in the new library for books on reserve for special classes. The periodical room for newspapers and magazines also will be provided for separately.

The present library makes no provision for students or faculty to study in the stack room. Several alcoves for this purpose are in the architect's plans.

Miss Holcombe said that present facilities for the technical aspects of running a library are inadequate. This work includes receiving books and processing them, repair of books, clipping periodicals, ordering and receiving and preparation of reports. There are now 12 people employed in the library. An expanded enrollment will require many more with a consequent increase in the amount of space needed in which to operate.

Audio-visual aids are becoming more and more a "must" in any type of education, said Miss Holcombe. Facilities for their use will include a lecture room equipped for such purposes with special blinds for windows and acoustically treated walls and ceilings. There will be a listening room for records. Storage space will be provided for films, slides, projectors, and other materials.

Many students and faculty members do research work requiring the use of typewriters. A special room is to be provided to meet this need. In addition there will be a faculty study room and classroom for instruction in library usage.

The library as designed by the architect will be of red brick with four white pillars at the entrance to harmonize with the seven other brick buildings on the campus. Dimensions are 151 feet by 67 feet. It will be located south of the administration building and west of the music hall.

A bronze tablet will be placed in the Atrium with the names of all those who contribute $100 or more. Donors of $1000 or more will be listed as Presidents of the Library.

$100 will have their names recorded in a permanent part of the library.

Our Goal
Dear Dr. Meredith:

The September Bulletin made an appeal that finally got under my skin. I expect to be back in the States soon and I want to make straight the path before I return so that I can look T. U. in the face and say my dues are paid up.

No, really, I have never been an active member of the “Foundation” but maybe this check will soften your heart enough to let me in on the floor of activities. In your recent letter you say you need 10,000 people to give the school $100 each. I think your ratio is wrong. It is my mind that at first you should ask for 1000 people to give $1000 each. I think that would some nearer working out, then after that ask for the $100's. Some of us might be interested in such a challenge.

I am glad to hear the good news from the school, and especially your letters. They are like a word from home. Yes, we continue to pray for you and the school.

Very sincerely,
John Wengatz

Dear Dr. Ayres:

Mrs. Snead and I join in hearty greetings to you in the glad fellowship of Christ Jesus our glorious Lord. We praise God for your life and ministry through all these years. I am very happy that I had the privilege of knowing you and sitting under your leadership and teaching from 1898 to the end of 1902. Your fellowship in the years since then has been precious to us and we rejoice in the goodness of the Lord to you in life and ministry.

We have just returned from our Alliance Conference in Puerto Rico and in the mail that was awaiting me on my return I find the Taylor University Bulletin for December with the fine photograph of you and the well merited column concerning your life and work.

We are praying that the Ayres-Alumni Library will be built this year and every need supplied.

Cordially,
A. C. Snead

Dear Rev. Sparks:

We received your interesting letter concerning the Taylor University Development Fund.

I think it is a good letter. I hope everyone will answer you.

Sincerely yours,
Rev. and Mrs. J. Harvey Brown

Dear Mr. Lamey:

I am in full sympathy for the work Taylor is doing. The two years I spent on the campus were of immense spiritual value to me. I know my ministry since that time has been richer because of Taylor. Last spring I attended the week-end Youth Conference and had a car-load of young people with me. On our way home all of us were agreed that it was the richest week-end spiritually that any of us had ever experienced. As one person said, “That is the closest to heaven I have ever been on earth.”

Sincerely,
C. W. Hamm.

Our Alumni Write

We pledged and paid $100 to the new Library fund some months ago. Taylor is in our thinking constantly, so when you set before us such urgent needs there we feel as though we can give some more.

You will find our pledge and check enclosed. You may be sure we will follow along with good wishes and prayer for full success in this splendid program.

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Sincerely yours,
Q. WHY A DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM?
A. For several good reasons. 1. Our material equipment is inadequate for the present and future enrollment. 2. Taylor will be overcrowded until her present equipment is supplemented. 3. Our present buildings deteriorated during the war years. 4. God is leading in the direction of an enlarged program.

Q. WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES?
A. We hope to achieve gains in all fields, including: 1. More effective Christian education. 2. Accommodation of more students in an effective Christian college. 3. At least two new buildings—Library and Men’s Dormitory. 4. Improvement and modernization of present buildings.

Q. IS A NEW LIBRARY NECESSARY?
A. Yes, for the following reasons: 1. The present library is housed in the Administration Building with classrooms above and below. 2. The stack rooms, reading rooms, and filing rooms are crowded. 3. We must have a new Library as a part of our good standing with the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. 4. Floor space in the Administration Building, now used for the library, is needed for other purposes.

Q. IS A NEW DORMITORY FOR MEN NECESSARY?
A. Our present large dormitory is partitioned to accommodate both men and women. This arrangement meets an emergency, but is unsatisfactory for a permanent program. Besides, our present dormitories are overcrowded to the extent of seventy-five to one hundred students. Rooms built for two are shared by three. Houses on the campus now being used for student rooms are needed for staff members.

Q. WILL THIS CROWDED CONDITION LAST?
A. Since Taylor is now a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools and a member of the Association of American Colleges, we have every reason to believe that her growth will continue if proper provisions are made to accommodate her students.

Q. IS TAYLOR A DENOMINATIONAL COLLEGE?
A. No. Taylor is an interdenominational college with no one church group back of the program.

Q. WHAT IS TAYLOR’S FINANCIAL GOAL?
A. The Development program is based on $500,000.

Q. IS TAYLOR UNIVERSITY IN DEBT?
A. Taylor University owes nothing beyond her present current bills.

Q. HOW MUCH MONEY IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM?
A. We have about $75,000 in cash and about $60,000 in substantial subscriptions.

Q. WHERE CAN TAYLOR LOOK FOR FUNDING?
A. Taylor’s is seeking help from the following four sources: 1. The present Taylor family—students, faculty, staff, and Board of Directors. 2. The Alumni Association. 3. The William Taylor Foundation members and other contributing friends. 4. The neighboring towns and cities.

Q. WHAT STANDARD OF GIVING IS SUGGESTED?
A. Sacrificial and small gifts are deep- ly appreciated.

Q. MUST I MAKE MONTHLY PAYMENTS?
A. You may pay quarterly, annually, or as you prefer: but since monthly payments enable most people to pay for homes and other improvements more easily, monthly payments are highly commended.

Q. WHAT FINANCIAL CLAIM DOES TAYLOR HAVE ON NEARBY CITIES AND TOWNS?
A. It is estimated that the Taylor family, students, faculty and employees spend about $400,000 annually within a small radius of the school. This much business is a real asset to any community.

Q. WHAT IF I CAN GIVE BUT LITTLE?
A. Sacrificial and small gifts are deeply appreciated.

Q. HOW MAY I PAY MY SUBSCRIPTION?
A. The subscription card provides for your convenience. We suggest: 1. As much as possible before May 1, 1949. 2. Twenty monthly payments to begin May 1949. 3. Any other payment plan that suits your convenience.

Q. MUST I PAY CASH?
A. No cash is required, but it will be welcome.

Q. CAN I CLAIM INCOME TAX DEDUCTION?
A. To encourage gifts to worthy institutions, the government will exempt from income tax whatever you give up to a total of 15% of your personal income and 5% of that of corporations.

Q. WHAT IF A CONTRIBUTION IS SACRIFICIAL?
A. Aware that the donors to Taylor are people interested in higher education, we feel each donor is capable of setting his own standard of giving. Hosts of Christians contribute 10% or more of their incomes for church purposes.

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