Taylor University Bulletin (July 1933)
Taylor University
A Call To Battle

By DR. B. W. AYRES

For the past two years and more since President Stuart came into the difficult task of administrative leadership in Taylor he has made a tireless and heroic fight. By a personal visit to most of the larger creditors, whether commercial creditors, holders of mortgage bonds, or of annuity bonds, he was able to win the friendly co-operation of most of these. The most careful economy has been practiced in running the school. The year just closed, with all its handicaps growing out of the depression, witnessed, in operating costs, a budget almost balanced. The staff through our whole organization have graciously accepted salary cuts, and besides have carried the school's operating deficit in unpaid salaries. Let it be remembered, however, that receipts from students fell far short of operating costs. The results, mentioned above, were possible only by sacrificial gifts to supplement student fees.

What, humanly speaking, seemed an utter impossibility, as the task was faced two years ago, was achieved in keeping the school going. I marvel at the physical and moral endurance of the President in this hard fight to save the school, and avoid a receivership. Surely he has had the help of a POWER greater than himself.

While a large percentage of the creditors have been most kind, a few have been impatient, and in some cases the creditor firms themselves are in receivership, and the receivers are placed under obligation to use the courts, if necessary, to make settlement. The original holders of annuity bonds have, in some cases, died, and the person named in some of these bonds as a survivor beneficiary has not had the same benevolent attitude as the real donor. In other cases estates are held up in settlement by the school's inability to pay. After these months and years of fighting against such tremendous odds a receivership has been forced upon the institution. With all these complications, and others that might be mentioned, it seems that it was inevitable.

With the showing of the last two years as a basis of hope of saving the institution, to continue its great work, if it can be set free, there is a friendly attitude of the Court and Receiver, thus giving the school and its friends an opportunity to continue. This policy and attitude will inevitably mean more in material returns for all classes of creditors; and those who placed their money with the institution, not merely as a business venture but as a moral partnership, in a good cause, will feel that the investment has not been lost.

Now the friends and alumni of Taylor have come to their utmost test of loyalty and devotion. Under even a friendly receivership she must show her ability to pay her way as she goes. After turning over detachable property and assets to her creditors, and taking a new start while the receiver handles the problem of liquidation, she must show ability to finance herself for operating expenses. This cannot be done on good wishes: it will have to be done by active co-operation. As many as possible of the old students must return; new students must be sent; money or consumable goods must be given. Students and parents must do their utmost to keep bills paid up. Those of us on the staff must reduce our salary demands to the minimum.

With the deepest concern and regret for those who will be called on to suffer loss in this turn of affairs, and especially for those to whom it will mean extreme privation and suffering, I still say we must be "good losers." I say "we", for I shall be among those who are the heavy losers, and at a time of life when it could well be quite tragic. But I am determined not to grieve over my own losses, much as I am grieved for the losses of others. If I had had the savings of a life time invested in commercial enterprises as a mere business proposition, they would likely have been lost in this utter breakdown of the world's business order, and, in addition, if invested in some forms of securities (?), such as bank stock, would not only have been lost, but would have turned into troublesome liabilities.

May I, therefore, appeal to my fellow creditor-friends to take with resignation and good will, even if you cannot take "joyfully the spoiling of your goods" especially since it has not been done maliciously. Is not this a time for some of us to be Jobs who can say: "The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord"?

To my fellow alumni and my students of this third of a century in Old Taylor let me make this another "call to battle" in the interest of the OLD SCHOOL which has made such a rich contribution to our lives and to the Kingdom of God in the earth. Taylor can be saved if we only think so, and wish so, and WILL so.

Someone must plan and guide the way out. Let us thoughtfully but loyally fall in line as the call comes to us. Be alert to keep in touch with those charged with this responsibility, and when marching orders come let us march.
Give up? Quit? No, a thousand times, NO! With all the vicissitudes of our past history in memory; with a world in financial confusion, and the purses of most of the people who always bear the cost of positive spiritual work flat with losses and benevolent giving—reduced, it may be in many cases, to that copper souvenir keepsake coin—we still say "NO; we must not quit." We have had the victorious joy of coming, by prayer and work through too many tunnels, and over too many rough roads to say "Quit" yet. One great distinguishing power of the Christian religion is its transmutation of values: it has power to transmute material losses into spiritual gains. So, in this day of the world's material calamity, in which we and our much-loved institution have been overtaken, let us illustrate this power.

Only a few of the multitude that make up the entity which we call Taylor University, and which cannot go into receivership, are here on the ground, and, by this ordering of Providence on these necessarily is thrown the responsibility of rallying and reorganizing the friends of this work. If the great work of real Christian education, so badly needed in these days is to go on in this place made sacred to so many, we must have the practical loyalty which will act quickly in this time of crisis. Hesitation, fear, and delay mean failure.

Back to us, even from distant states, already comes, from those of the great Taylor constituency, who are bound to be the heaviest losers from this process of liquidation, the encouraging word "Taylor University must go on." With the fine morale in our staff and with the kind of deathless love and loyalty we find expressed in letters coming in, we dare to project a plan of action to perpetuate this work.

In broad outlines our plan is this: We propose to organize and incorporate an education association, the exact title of which we are not yet announcing, but which will be properly significant, such as The Taylor University Educational Association or The William Taylor College Association, for the purpose of embodying and making effective the ideals cherished by this institution named for the great Christian leader whose name we bear. A legal entity may be terminated by legal process, but the spirit, the purpose, the ideal it embodied, if heaven-born, will find for itself a new body.

We are calling on all who want the institution to go on with its great work—alumnus or other friend, man or woman, boy or girl—to become a member by paying now, or, if this is impossible, by August 15, ten dollars membership fee for the first year, with the purpose, if possible, of keeping membership alive for some years to come at the same rate. We believe that if such organization is projected now, incorporated, and supplied with a reasonable sum of money, the part of the school properties pertaining directly to the school process may be handled by this new organization, which, in such an event, would become the holding corporation of the University.

Space will not permit us to give the details of the plan of organization, but the wisest counsellors from among available friends, together with able legal talent will be called in and have a part in working out the Articles of Association and By-Laws and in setting up the official personnel.

Besides those who pay this cash minimum of ten-dollar membership fee, it will be necessary for us to find many friends who will put into the hands of the officers of this new organization gifts of large sums. This is a life or death proposition for this great educational institution, and there must be no shifting of responsibility upon others. Hundreds who at first thought will say, "I can't do it," will, if determination is strong to do it, find a way. You may have to do it with borrowed money, as Mrs. Ayres and I are doing to become members, both of us, in this new venture with God in this great cause. If you haven't the money, some good friend may let you have it; to be paid back, a little at a time, if need be. Again, if the ten-dollar fee cannot all be paid, send in the amount you can pay now and tell when you expect to send the balance; but remember that in saving the school cash will be required. Let every one do his utmost to pay not less than the ten dollars; but the widow's mite, as a gift in the name of the Lord, will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

Let all who are interested, whether able or not to become members on this basis, become active in securing members. Church denominational lines are not drawn in this company, whom we wish to be a united body in Christ for the purpose of supporting a college where young men and young women may find and maintain the fullest life in Christ while securing their intellectual training. This is our "Gideon's fleece" thrown out to the many whom we can reach through The Bulletin. Your quick and joyous response or your delay and inaction will have to determine the life or death of old Taylor University. We have faith that you will join us in this super-human task uniting prayer and faith with works. Since we have the permission of the Court and the advice of the Receiver to go right ahead with our plans for school for next year, we are compelled to find money with which to carry on our heavy correspondence, our field promotion work, pay for printed matter, and to make necessary repairs, clean and get the buildings ready for school and many other items, for which the Receiver will find it difficult to furnish money—and of course, he cannot borrow for this purpose.

It is easily seen that it is going to take more activity on the part of our office force, and on the part of all our body of students than under ordinary conditions. We are, therefore, calling on all the friends of Taylor to act promptly and assuringly in getting students.

What has been said above reduces to this as a condition we are facing in regard to necessary funds for active promotion: we must appeal to you to send us financial help now to get this work done "while it is day." Of course all payments on old bills and pledges should be carefully designated as such; for these must be turned over immediately to the Receiver.

New gifts to help carry on our promotional work and preparation for next year, or money for membership or gifts for the new Educational Association set forth in this article, should be sent to Robert Lee Stuart or B. W. Ayres. Proper accounting for the same will be kept.

Now, as in my boyhood days I used to hear the men say at log rollings, when they had a heavy log to heave to the top of a pile, "All together, he'oh he'!"

B. W. AYRES.
From These Letters You Can See Why Taylor University Has Had 87 Years of Glorious History

Taylorville, Ill., July 4, 1933.

Dear Dr. Stuart:

Yours of the 21st at hand and will say that our heart goes out to you in sympathy in this great financial struggle you are passing through. We believe that you are doing your best and that is all God requires of any one.

We can not believe Taylor University will pass into OBLIVION. NO! NEVER! Too many prayers are going up to God. Some ONE will touch the Throne and some one of God's children will step in and save Taylor University.

If we never receive another cent of interest we would never regret what we have put into the school. We consider it well invested for only the judgment day will reveal the fruits of our investment. Surely some SOUL has been led to Christ through the few thousand we have put into the school and that would more than repay us. My only regret is that I can not do more.

Why not call a day of PRAYER? Prayer does wonderful things.

Sincerely your sister,


(Such a day of prayer is being called for July 25th.)

From A $5,000 Bond Holder—Florida

"I as one of the bondholders would like to see Taylor go on. I am an old man and need $5,000 but would rather take a smaller investment—and scale down with others and see Taylor continue. I think the only way you could go on was to do what you have done."

From A Bond Holder In Michigan—

"I am sending you the bond as a gift. I hope that it will help you. Also hope that the future will be kind to you and that you will be able to settle your affairs with little loss.

"I wish that you would make my gift in memory of MOTHER for I am sure if my Mother were living at the present time she would approve the course that I have taken in this affair."

(There will be a name plate in memory of this precious Mother put on one of the rooms in the new dormitory. What a beautiful and fitting memorial this is!)

One of Taylor's friends in Detroit said he would turn back his $4,700 in bonds to help save and secure Taylor University for the future generations.

From New York Bond Holder—

Dear Dr. Stuart:

"I could hardly keep the tears back when I read in your letter: 'We are sorry that we were not able to hold the line any longer.' Your struggle has been a noble, sacrificial one. You have not mentioned it in your letters but I could read between the lines."

From A Dear Man of God from West Virginia—

"Does it mean that the school may close? Does it mean the school may change its ownership and control? I sincerely hope that both of these things can be avoided."

BELOVED PLEASE, PLEASE POUR OUT YOUR HEART TO GOD in prayer that Taylor University may be saved and that these sacred obligations to annuitants, bond holders and creditors may be cared for in a way that will leave Taylor's name untarnished.—The President.

Day of Fasting and Prayer for Taylor University July 25th

We may not all be able to respond to the call for immediate financial aid, but every one of us can pray. Let every friend of Taylor go to their knees and give God a chance to work.

Pray that Taylor's financial problems may be solved and that when school opens Sept. 13, that Taylor's buildings may be filled with students. Many students want to come but find it difficult to get the funds to pay their way.

Pray that God's spirit may be mightily poured out on the STAFF at Taylor University so that every single teacher and worker may be all that God wants them to be. Taylor is proud of her accreditation as a standard college of liberal arts by the great state of Indiana, but along with this Taylor must have the personal presence of the Divine Christ.

Pray that every spiritual and financial need of Taylor University may be supplied by our heavenly FATHER.

Pray, Faculty, Alumni, Legal Hundred, Parents, Students, and friends that real definite victory may come to Taylor University.

WHAT A CHOICE FACULTY TAYLOR UNIVERSITY HAS! How it would stir your heart to see this splendidly trained faculty sacrificing in order to carry on at Taylor University. You would have a hard time finding a place where a dollar could do more for Kingdom building than at Taylor University.

While making your gifts these days do not forget the folk on Taylor's campus. Send at once your gifts whether large or small.

President Stuart's report to the Legal Hundred and Alumni Association was received with commendation by both bodies.

The following motion, made by Dr. Harold Paul Sloan was unanimously carried: "Having heard with deep appreciation the report of the President, I move that his report be received, and we express our complete confidence and joy in his leadership."
Seven Weeks In T. U. Oasis

An unexpected return from our mission field, our arrival during the dark days of the moratorium, discouraged Boards, finding pastors and people almost in despair, brought a measure of sadness and depression to our hearts. Shortly after our arrival we had a message from Dr. Stuart inviting us to Taylor for the pre-Easter services. We accepted gladly, for we felt sure that here we would find the Water of Life flowing, even though the burning heat of the times had produced a barren desert elsewhere.

It was a call from God to a week of close communion with our Christ, that we might live again the week with Him who freely went to the Cross and there shed His blood for us. Good Friday was a day never to be forgotten, a pentecost in which the Holy Spirit came to reveal Him, who is invisible, as the real Visible, Present Master. Jesus at Taylor that week was indeed, "A Rock in a weary land, a Shelter in the time of storm." Coming out of the turmoil and heaviness that lies upon the world Taylor with its consecrated staff and the wonderful student body, whose faith triumphs over depression and sings songs of praise in the midnight of the world's sorrow brought the comfort of the world's Comforter to many hearts.

The way opened for us to spend seven weeks in the school. Seven weeks of teaching, praying, and conferences. A time of fellowship and we hope mutual helpfulness. It is our hope that we have been able to help some of the students and faculty even as they have helped us. We discover that here is a group of American and Foreign youth seeking not, "What shall I do with my life?" but, "What does God want me to do?" It is not a question of self with this body of students but a question of finding God's plan.

The seven weeks of our sojourn closed with Commencement. Until the end the power of the Spirit was upon the most of the students. As they stood outside the doors waiting for the breakfast gong to ring there were seasons of praise and testimony, the devotions in the morning, the victories of the students as reported each Monday as they returned from their Sunday work, all indicated that there was a faith which triumphs over all.

Even in the stress of the examinations, final class meets, elections, contests and games which close the year the power and fervency did not cease. Who can ever forget the last Vesper Service, the last program of the Volunteer Band, the final Prayer Band Meeting, the end of the year in the Preacher's Association, the morning watch services of the Classes who like the Master went early to pray, and that last service of the Holiness League when Dr. Clarence True Wilson called the Student body to a William Taylor walk with God, and which was met with an almost unanimous response. No, the fervent spirit of devotion did not reach every heart but the average was well up toward that among the disciples. The disciple can never surpass his Lord.

We are grateful that the opportunity to drink of the waters has been ours. And as scores of these young and devoted students have asked: "Pray for us that we may be in Taylor again in September." We beg you to join with them in the prayer.

In Him.

J. F. COTTINGHAM.