

Colleges - Pasadena

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HISTORICAL MATERIAL
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INNAUGURATION ADDRESS EXCERPTS—

Dr. Russell V. DeLong, President,
Pasadena College
(delivered Tuesday, October 8, 1957,
in Memorial Auditorium on the
campus of Pasadena College)

EDUCATION - CHARACTER - RELIGION

Mr. Chairman, General Superintendents Benner and Young, Chairman Coulter and members of the Board of Trustees, distinguished guests, Faculty, Alumni, Students and friends:

I have approached this hour with fear and trembling, and I trust with humility. Mixed emotions run rampant in my heart - joy and fear. The honor conferred upon me by the Board of Trustees is sincerely appreciated, but the responsibility laid upon me is correspondingly great.

Pasadena College was organized in 1902 by Dr. P. F. Bresee, the founder of the Church of the Nazarene. In a real sense the history of the Church of the Nazarene and that of Pasadena College are parallel and contemporary. The same conditions which demanded the new denomination also impelled the new college. The Church of the Nazarene was raised up by God to spread the gospel of full salvation to the ends of the world. Pasadena College was organized to implement this objective by bringing young people into a personal experience with God whereby their sins might be forgiven, their minds trained to go forth as Christian ministers and laymen to bring the great truths of the Bible to men at home and abroad.

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Pasadena College really started in 1902 as a Bible school under the general supervision of Dr. Bresee--Miss Leora Mavis being Principal for several years. Rev. C. W. Ruth, Rev. Isaiah Reed, Rev. L. A. Whitcomb, Rev. C. V. Fontaine, Mrs. Baldwin, Mrs. Bothwell, Mr. Leslie Gay, Miss Bessie Wood, Mrs. Armour and others were from time to time among the teachers.

During this period, Mr. Jackson Deitz of Upland gave the institution \$30,000 and put it on its feet for larger service. It secured a nine-acre campus and did valuable work.

In 1910, one hundred thirty-four acres in the northern part of Pasadena was purchased as a school site, at a cost of \$65,000. The Bible School opened with a college of liberal arts, and academy, a Bible course, and a music department. Dr. Bresee was President; Dr. H. Orton Wiley was Dean of the College; Miss Cora Snyder was Principal of the Academy; a faculty of College-trained teachers was secured, and the higher educational work of the Church was launched. . . .

The history and growth of Pasadena College has paralleled the phenomenal progress of the Church of the Nazarene. The present enrollment is close to 1,000 while nearly 100 occupy positions in the administrative staff or teaching. Over 1,800 graduates are scattered around the world. Scores of our graduates are Missionaries, hundreds are Ministers or Teachers, and many are doctors, lawyers, dentists, scientists, nurses, in fact, they are to be found in all the professions and vocations. . . .

First, let us look at the term 'Education' for a moment. It is very difficult to define what is meant by Education. The problem of definition arises from the fact that there are so many philosophies of life. Unless

thinkers can agree on what life is and what it includes, how can they agree on the objectives of living; and if they disagree on the objectives of living how can we hope for unanimity on the implements which should be used to achieve these diverse and possible conflicting ends? Unless we can agree on what intrinsic values are, how can we agree on instrumental values? The ends will determine and govern the means. It is all important to have a clear conception of what the ends or the goals are before we can talk intelligently about the means by which to attain such objectives. . . .

If man is only a body and mind, the sphere of training is extended. Likewise, if man is body, mind and spirit, education must provide for the entire personality. . . .

The twentieth Century during its first fifty years has revolutionized human living. The incandescent lamp, the automobile, the airplane, the movies, radio, television, vacuum cleaners, electric stoves, washers, deep freezers, and other modern facilities have reduced labor, increased leisure time and made life as a whole easier, physically.

We have reached new highs economically, scientifically, mechanically, medicinally, industrially, educationally and surgically. But— we have reached new lows religiously and morally. We have more murders, more suicides, more burglaries, more rapes, more Sabbath desecration, more divorces, and more irreligion than ever.

Scientifically, we are at the top; morally, at the bottom. Materially, we are exceedingly wealthy, but spiritually we are abject paupers. We have increased our things, but have debauched our souls. Someone has recently

declared that we are a nation of intellectual giants but moral pygmies. Another has proposed that we place a moratorium on Science until we can bring our morals abreast of our inventions. If not--we are on the road to world and race suicide. . .

Thank God, there is a cure, a complete cure, a double cure. My sins can be forgiven and my sin can be purged. Both the center and the periphery can be healed.

This is what the Church of the Nazarene stands for. It was founded and raised up to spread the glorious news of full salvation from all sin for the whole race. That is the task and primary purpose of Pasadena College--to carry out the vision of the Church.

CHRIST IS THE ANSWER, THE ONLY ANSWER

Basically, man is concerned with three things:

1. What is True?
2. What is real?
3. What is valuable?

It is a strange coincidence that these three questions divide philosophy into its three major fields of study--

1. Epistemology--Theory of Truth
2. Metaphysics--Theory of Reality
3. Axiology--Theory of Value

It may seem to be a fallacy of simplification, but it is true that in Christ we have the ultimate answer. He said:

"I am the Truth"--epistemology.

"I am the Way"--metaphysics.

"I am the Life"—axiology.

Christ is the fountainhead of all truth (epistemology). He is the ground of all that is real (metaphysics). And He is the fountain of all value (axiology). He meets the need of the mind, heart and the will. . .

One of the appalling paradoxes of our contemporary scene is that at the height of our educational emphasis we are also reaching new heights in crime. J. Edgar Hoover recently reported that there were 2,563,150 crimes in 1956, a new all-time high, a 13.3% increase over 1955. Since 1950 the increase in crime reached 43% while the increase in population was only 11%. . .

A few days ago Police Chief Parker of Los Angeles pointed out to the City Council that major crime in this area has increased 30% over last year, while population rose only about 2%. . .

The citizens of America have poured billions of dollars into Education in the past quarter century and we have witnessed the world's worst war, the greatest depression and the highest crime rate.

The fact is that education alone does not solve these major human difficulties. Education can either be a useful tool or a destructive one. It all depends on the character of the individual how he will use his training, whether to achieve worthy goals or commit dastardly crimes.

One of the great problems confronting American education is how to link education with character. It seems apparent when we observe present conditions that character does not naturally follow education. "Knowledge is not virtue", as some ancient philosophers taught.

Is character possible without Religion? Can a social ethics be constructed which shall have sufficient dynamic to impel one to right

action when he confronts a moral situation?

Immanuel Kant said, "All morality is based upon three postulates-- God, freedom and immortality." . . .

We have reached a place in America where religion in education is practically taboo. We give a small infinitesimal fraction of atheists the same rights as we accord the great majority of our citizens. It was never the intention of our founding fathers to abolish religion from our public schools, only to exclude sectarianism. Today we teach History, Mathematics, Sciences, English, and omit the most important subject in the development of a child's life, Religion. If this cannot be provided in public schools it is essential that we provide it in private schools, in church-owned schools, or else we shall develop a generation of pagans with no regard for anything but satiation of our animalistic appetites.

In many of our schools prayer is forbidden--reading of the Bible has been stopped--and religious ideals have no place. Recently at Edgewater Park School in New Jersey the pupils were forbidden to voice this prayer before lunch:

"God is great, God is good

And we thank Him for this food.

By His hand we all are fed

Thank Him for our daily bread." . . .

In the past the scope of Science has been merely to discover facts. It has been the prerogative of Religion and Philosophy to interpret and evaluate these discoveries. Science reveals the "What" and "How" while Religion and Philosophy deal with the "Why." But whenever Religion and

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Philosophy deny metaphysics all we have left is physics. So--the Scientists, apparently sensing that these other branches have failed, now are tempted to step out of their field and become metaphysical physicists or chemical metaphysicians. The lesson is--We need both Science and Religion; facts and interpretations; scientific experimentation and philosophical evaluation. . . .

In the past ten years the volume of "known" space has been enlarged fifty times. The Sky Map completed after seven years with the Big Schmidt telescope at Palomar has penetrated one billion light years of space to photograph entire systems of millions upon millions of galaxies--each containing hundreds of billions of stars like our sun--never before seen. . .

Pasadena College is primarily an educational institution in the broadest sense. Too often the word education refers only to mental processes. It has little to do with the heart or will or soul. We believe that all parts of human personality must be considered if a person is to be fully educated. EDUCATION, CHARACTER and RELIGION must be connected if we would produce a strong, moral person.

Our predecessors laid a solid foundation and have produced phenomenal results in the first half-century of the history of Pasadena College.

It is estimated by competent authorities in the field of education that the college enrollment throughout the nation will double and possibly treble between now and 1970. Pasadena College within the next decade will need \$3,000,000.00 to provide facilities for at least two thousand students. We must have increased dormitory space in order to accomodate hundreds of additional students. We must have a new Science Hall, a Fine Arts building, a Student Union building, plus dozens of additional lecture

rooms. If we would take care of our share of young people who will be clamoring for admission we must make plans for increasing our facilities.

It is quite probable also that our own denomination, the Church of the Nazarene, will double and possibly treble its membership between now and 1970. Our Alumni will be increased by hundreds. We trust also that our friends will multiply. With these additional constituents we have faith to believe that gifts will keep pace with our expanding needs. In order to meet the pressing demands of increased enrollments, we must have:

1. OUTRIGHT GIFTS. For buildings, furnishings and endowment.
2. BEQUESTS. We earnestly hope that all the friends of Pasadena College will include the institution in their wills for at least "A TITHE OF THEIR ESTATE." Those without immediate heirs, we solicit larger bequests.
3. ANNUITIES. We feel certain that there are hundreds of friends who would make gifts of capital funds to Pasadena College if they could receive monthly income as long as they live.
4. LIFE LOANS. There are many who would make substantial gifts to Pasadena College if they could be assured of a constant income, and also with the knowledge that in case of an emergency, part or all of the loan could be returned.
5. STUDENT LOAN FUND. We could use \$20,000 to \$30,000 to help worthy students with small loans to complete their work. I am proposing that we name this special fund The P. F. Bresee Student Loan Fund. Already, ~~one~~ man has indicated he will contribute the first thousand dollars.
6. SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS. We need to augment our present scholarships

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with many more. A good percentage of our students come from homes from which they can expect no financial assistance. They are worthy and need help through scholarship grants.

7. LIVING ENDOWMENTS. We must continue and increase our Living Endowment income from our churches and friends. . . .

There are four things we need to maintain, conserve and increase: first, the confidence of our own denomination, the Church of the Nazarene; second, the respect of educators; third, the friendship of civic leaders; fourth, the enthusiastic backing of our Alumni. Pasadena College will attempt to escape emotional fanaticism on the one hand, and empty sterile formalism on the other. We hope to maintain sane heads, warm hearts, and willing hands to serve God and society. Pasadena College is committed to a set of beliefs and a code of ethics. Although the institution is church-controlled, we are not sectarian.

We now have approximately 1000 students who represent 28 religious denominations in our student body. As administrators and faculty members we have freely chosen to be academically free within a freely-chosen set of doctrinal standards, purposes and objectives. Of course, this is nothing new, for our Roman Catholic, Lutheran and other church institutions have followed such practices for centuries.

Pasadena College desires to participate in educational associations and make its contribution to the betterment of our nation, state, and community. We are members of the Association of American Colleges, Western College Association, North Western Association of Colleges, Association of Independent Colleges of Southern California, and the Association of Independent Colleges

of California. We shall assume our responsibilities of membership in these associations and make whatever contribution we can toward their success. . . .

Let Pasadena College, situated in the fastest growing area in our nation, in the most ideal climate, radiate rational scholarship, emotional richness and volitional activation in the building of the Kingdom of God among men. May God grant that with His help we may build a large institution numerically; a stable institution financially; a friendly institution socially; a helping institution civically; a nation-informing institution politically; a loyal institution ecclesiastically; a dynamic institution spiritually; a world-changing institution evangelically. . . .

While diligently striving to maintain these ideals this first half century, the Church of the Nazarene and Pasadena College have enjoyed steady growth. . . .

In the last chapel service that our founder, Dr. P. F. Bresee, attended on September 2, 1915, he finished his address with these words, which I, too, use in closing, "May the Lord of Glory lead us on and make us worthy of the cause that God has given to us. So let it be."