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Toronto Bible College



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[No. 1

"THANK GOD"

That is the fitting and dominant note of recognition and gratitude these glad new days, now that the night of terror and anguish is passed, and the light of hope and peace has once more come to the world. Surely all our hearts join in the anthem of thanksgiving as in reverence we acknowledge God's mercy and deliverance.

It is significant that this act of worship is so general. Not only do those who are related to the Christian Church join in ascribing the praise to God, but the many who, for whatever reason, are outside its fellowship, are also lifting their voices in praise and thanksgiving. The relief from the burden is so great, the strain of endurance has been so long, the threatened danger has been so dreadful, that now being assured of victory, all hearts instinctively say "Thank God."

The sincerity of this expression of gratitude must not be questioned at the moment, and in view of the manifest interposition of the Lord in so many ways on behalf of the forces of the Allies through the course of the war, the full history of which is yet

to be written, we trust the fact will become permanent, and that in our new national duties and readjustments we will not fail to give the Lord His rightful place in our social and national affairs. It was just such a failure that Moses tried to avoid in his warning to Israel long ago, when he said: "Beware lest thou forget the Lord thy God, in not keeping His commandments and His judgments and His statutes, which I command thee this day: lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses and dwelt therein, and when thy herds and thy flocks multiply and thy silver and gold is multiplied—then thy heart be lifted up and thou forget the Lord thy God . . . and thou say in thy heart, my power and the might of my hand hath gotten me this wealth." (Deut. 8.) Human nature has not changed much since those days, and inasmuch as the people then did exactly what they were warned not to do, and brought upon themselves the inevitable consequence, it becomes the duty, as well as the opportunity, of all loyal subjects of the Lord to urge and insist that His claims be permanently recognized and that

men and women everywhere enthroned Him Lord of all. There is a significant marginal reading of Psalm 50: 23, which says, "Whoso offereth the sacrifice of thanksgiving glorifieth me, and prepareth a way that I may show him the salvation of God." If that is so we should take full advantage of the present situation and look for, pray for, work for a great revival, not merely of economic and industrial readjustment, but of deep, true, spiritual religion that will lead multitudes to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their present personal Saviour, and thereby give us further cause to **Thank God.**

It has ever been the purpose and policy of the Toronto Bible College to work to that end; all our approach to the Scriptures as the authoritative revelation of the mind and will of God, and the instruction of the students in their understanding of its message, have as their aim the recognition of Jesus our Lord as the only and sufficient Saviour of men, who alone is equal to meet the needs of human affairs, and who desires to work out His will on earth through the lives of those committed to Him. In that spirit we look out on the future with great confidence, and will welcome all who desire to share the advantages of the College to join us in it, and thus continually Thank God.

RECONSTRUCTION AND READJUSTMENT

The word that we most often hear now is "reconstruction." The state is addressing itself to the task of repairing the havoc wrought by the war in the system of human affairs. The churches are seeking to meet the call and opportunity of the hour by organizing advance movements. All these efforts are right and proper, but in the midst of them there is

danger of forgetting the one thing needful. Any real reconstruction, either in church or state, must be based upon a true relationship to God. Readjustment and not reconstruction is the primary need of the hour.

The real cause of the war, as has been often pointed out, was Germany's apostasy from God, springing from her rejection of the Bible as the Word of God. The real reason for the long continuance of the war, as many believe, was the failure on our part properly to recognize our national dependence on God. It was only after a day of national humiliation and prayer had been appointed and observed in America and in Britain that the turn of the tide took place. The victory was not delayed when we were ready for it, and it came in such a way that it was universally recognized to be from God.

It is readjustment to God that is still needed, such readjustment as will bring the power of God into our national and religious life. This is the ground of all genuine reconstruction, the secret of every true forward movement. "Talk about the questions of the time," said Mr. Gladstone on one occasion, "there is but one question—how to bring the truths of God's Word into vital contact with the minds and hearts of all classes of the people."

Readjustment to God will restore the Bible to its rightful place among us as the authoritative Word of God. It is in this connection that the work of the Bible College lies so close to the heart of things. In training and sending out young people into the community who are possessed with a great conviction of the grace and power of Christ to meet the need of the world, and a working knowledge of the Bible as the word of the living God, the Bible College is making an important contribution to genuine reconstruction.

From the Bible College Family Scattered Abroad

The following extracts from letters received recently from former students will give some idea of the nature and extent of the influence which the Toronto Bible College is exercising in the mission fields of the world.

Miss Annie Soper (Lima, Peru). I want so much to thank you and the students for their letters. To say they were a help is altogether inadequate; they have come like the voice of God in the very moment of great need, bringing always a message direct from Him. Such a time have we passed through these last few months, that looking back it seems almost like the delirium of fever. The amount of work that has had to be pushed in, the continual fight that at times seems as deadly as the one in France, often so paralyzes one's thoughts and feelings that everything is done mechanically. At such times even my letters have been opened mechanically, and with scarcely sufficient concentration of thought to realize it was a letter, until some phrase has struck, and I realize God is speaking. Then I have awakened and read with real pleasure, and oh, God only knows what these letters have meant. How many times have I thanked Him for my friends in Canada. Strangely, or perhaps not strangely, the letters from the Bible College have always seemed to come at these particular times, bringing into intense reality the living presence of God. Not that for a moment one ever loses the sense of His presence, but the amount of responsibility that is put on one, together with the continual opposition, and the harrowing sights resulting from sin that are awful beyond description, brings at times a condition almost of insensibility.

This year has been specially difficult, for the Inspector who was in favor of nurses has been changed; now we have a strict Catholic, and one who sees no need of reform. I

think I told you also some time ago great efforts were made to get me into the Catholic Church. Special prayers were said, and books of all description forced upon me. When time permitted I read the books and endeavored to answer the arguments presented, until they gave me up as hopeless. Then they commenced an opposition that is now being carried to the utmost limits. Everything bad that can be said about the School, is being said. The nuns have great influence with the better class, and there they tell the people that if they send their daughters to the Nursing School, they will be lost forever, that it is bad, immoral, and, what is even worse, Protestant. Some of the girls are very much frightened when first they enter, but they very soon lose their fear. A short time ago the nuns sent an application to the Director asking that I and the School might be under their direction, or rather especially under the direction of the Mother Superior; and a special public function was arranged, when the Director came with great ceremony and informed us of the new arrangement. The whole school rose up in rebellion, and I could not submit for many reasons. I told them that under such conditions my services were unnecessary, and decided the best course was to leave. The Director, however, did not want that, and it has ended in my having the direction exactly the same as before.

Dr. Edward S. Fish (Grace Abounding Hospital, Anshun, West China). I must tell you of how wonderfully the Lord is caring for us here, and how He is providing for our many needs. For some time I

have felt that the premises were too small, and that much more could be done if it were possible to buy some additional property which is at hand. But I felt that the work was the Lord's, and that in His own time and way He would provide. Well, it pays to leave things in His hands. I have recently received a letter from headquarters that a lady in Philadelphia is willing to buy the piece of property in question. I will be able to have a place for my poor patients, my lepers, and a sort of refuge where I can take in cripples, the blind, etc., and care for them for a time at any rate, and at the same time teach them the story of God's love. My heart beats quickly as I think of it, and I could wish that it were ready now and all in use, but there will be many a worry before that is accomplished. But I do thank God for this and feel that it is from His hand. It surely means more responsibility and work for me, but right happily do I take them on, rejoicing that I shall be able in this way to reach more and yet more through our medical ministry.

Rev. George Booth (Yunnan, China). What are the Chinese doing to-night? This is the great day of the year for the worship of their ancestors. I would just tell you what I saw as I took a walk out on the streets this evening. As I went out into one of the business streets, it being now dark, the first thing I noticed was the almost continuous row of incense sticks placed in front of each house or shop front at the street curb, and slowly burning away. As I went along and looked in the open doors, invariably there was the table with its brass ornaments, fruit, etc., and the incense sticks burning in there too. Time and again during the day and evening the people come before this little shrine, and, lighting some more incense sticks, go through their worship. Holding the

incense sticks with both hands in an upright position close to the forehead they bow their heads three times, then kneel down on the little straw mat and bow the whole body three times before their ancestral tablets, which are on the table. This is repeated three times, and then the incense sticks are placed on the table to continue burning.

What is all this for? Simply that by this honor and respect shown to their ancestors they might gain sufficient merit to get into heaven.

This applies to the Confucian religion, but there is no clear distinction between those who are Confucianists and those who are Buddhists. A great many of the people are both, and Taoists in addition. This leads me to the big Buddhist temple which is nearby. It is crowded with people. In the centre is a man gaily decked in bright colored robes, surrounded by several Chinese musicians, seated on a platform with a book and some other thing before him. For a little while he reads from his book in such a way that even a Chinese scholar could not understand. He has a most marvelous drawl, at the same time making passes with his hands and arms in all the most genteel curves and angles imaginable, while the people stand looking on in wonder. Then the bell rings and his band accompaniment starts up.

While this is going on we can pass around the crowd and see the three big idols that are in this temple. The biggest idol is all decked up in silk and satin to-night, but strange to say there are not very many people worshipping before him. The most of the people seem to be before this one on the side. He is a big ugly fellow and is blessed with the ability to use two pipes in his mouth at once. You notice that most of the worshippers are women; there are some boys, but very few men. There

is a woman now who is going to worship before this one. She has a fine face and looks like one who has a very strong purpose. With her bunch of burning incense sticks held close to her forehead she looks, oh with such earnestness and with real pleading, up into the face of that monster, bows her head three times, and then drops down on both knees and bows her whole body in worship to this thing. Standing up she again sends out that pleading gaze and then goes through the bowing again, when a third time she lifts up that face with a heart entreaty, "Oh, have mercy on me," and again pays homage to a thing made of straw and wood and plaster and paint. Does she hear those welcome words, "Thy sins be forgiven thee"? How can she? And she is just one of the millions who to-night are seeking to satisfy the hunger of that great void in the human soul which was meant for the Lord Jesus and which can be satisfied by none other.

There is more to see, but we must hurry back to the chapel for the Wednesday evening prayer service. Oh, what a contrast! As we near the place we hear the sound of the organ playing one of our Christian hymns, and as we enter, there are a large number of people quietly waiting for the meeting to start. Men and women who once bowed down to idols, but are now serving the living God and awaiting His Son from heaven. They are few in number compared with the crowds from which we have just come, but praise God the reaping days are upon us, and the visible church is growing, and is going to grow much more in answer to prevailing prayer.

Mr. E. Roy Baker (Honan, China). Everything at the Bible College will now be in full swing, and the new incoming students will have found their place in its various activities. The spirit and prayer life will have

now a working power in their lives, causing them to realize the bond of unity which unites us all, both present and absent, to the place we love so well. What a wonderful privilege is theirs! I believe it is only we who have passed through its walls and are now out in the world meeting its problems and difficulties, and sometimes sorrows and trials, that can fully appreciate what the spiritual life and atmosphere of the College means. I do not mean that I again would desire to enter upon its course, but having passed through, I can face the future, knowing the same blessed fellowship may be mine, even though alone, as when we were all together. I have often been specially led to render thanks and praise to our heavenly Father for thus so wonderfully guiding me to its doors. Before, I was a nominal Christian because I feared punishment, but afterwards it became so different. As the Word was opened before us day after day, a new light and life dawned upon my soul, and I saw things from such a different viewpoint. It was the love of Christ that drew, and I was constrained to follow on. With the passing of days and years, it remains ever the same, and is realized just as fully in seasons of private devotion as when one of your number.

Miss Catharine Mangan (La Paz, Bolivia). I am busy most of the time nursing among the English and American colony. I take all kinds of cases. We have a good deal of typhoid and typhus fever here, some very hard cases, too. Sanitary conditions are very poor; in some parts of the city it is so bad that we foreigners cannot pass through. The salvation of the city is the hills, and when it rains it helps to clean the city. I am both doctor and nurse, so you see the responsibility on my shoulders is great. I enjoy the private work to some extent, but

how I long to get busy with the mission work. I will not be able to get at this work until I have the language, and I cannot get the practice in speaking any Spanish among the English speaking colony. On the other hand I cannot see my fellow countrymen needing my services and not go to their aid; they have more confidence in English or American trained nurses than in the native doctors. As I have said time and again here, if a patient turns an eyelash the wrong way, these doctors get scared.

Miss Hope Wallis, Mr. and Mrs. F. X. Stanley (Northern Nigeria). Look, what is that procession winding its way along the narrow African path, between the tall grass and trees which stretch for miles and miles on either side? It is the Gaegi missionary party. Yes, that lady in the hammock, and the man walking close behind, with a hand outstretched to steady the hammock when it has to pass a difficult and dangerous place on the road, are the same who left by this road almost two years ago. But what is that in the curious looking basket on that man's head? If you were to peep beneath the canopy of mosquito netting, turkey-red and black cloth, you would see a tiny baby girl. And who is that on horseback? It is the new worker who has come to the field.

As they enter the town of Gaegi, through which they have to pass on their way to the mission hill, the people begin to come out from their round, grass-thatched mud houses to see what the unusual stir is about. As they catch sight of their old friends the missionaries, their expressions of welcome and good will are numerous and hearty, and more than once the feeling is expressed that God has been good to them in giving them the baby.

As they climb the long stony hill, and at last reach the mission house,

it is with feelings of deep thankfulness to God for His journeying mercies. Scarcely have they had time to remove a few of the traces of the journey when the people begin to come up from the town to salute. Among the foremost of those to come is the old Chief, now getting somewhat feeble, bringing with him his present of yams and olive oil. After a few days some of the native musicians from the town come up, followed by a number of others, and for about an hour they sing their songs of welcome, accompanied by their music. And so once more the work of Gaegi is taken up. Then comes the chance to go among the people in their homes to salute them, and as it were return their visits, which is a great help both in winning the confidence of the people and learning their language. For although their welcome is so hearty, they are a timid people, and their confidence has to be gradually won.

Mr. and Mrs. Silas Fox (South India). We were preaching in some 61 villages on a recent tour, and we have five times as many yet to do. As some have never heard of Christ even, and another country adjoining ours is absolutely destitute, without one worker or Christian, and contains about 90,000 souls, we are trying to reach all these at once, and so are preaching in each one and leaving one Gospel or portion behind in the hand of the eldest to read and tell to the others. In one village there were a large number listening, and I can see yet one old man's face, full of intense desire, he himself not being able to read, but so anxious to know what more of this WAY that little book contained that he said to me before we went away, and before them all, "Will you (addressing the man we gave it to), read it to us?" Oh, think of it! Whole counties of souls are without one worker, and in so many cases, without one Christian.

"WHAT MY BIBLE TRAINING COURSE HAS MEANT TO ME"

Last August "The Sunday School Times" published a symposium in its columns under this title. Nine testimonies were given from different quarters. Only the initials of the writers were signed to them, and the name of the particular institution was in no case definitely stated. We could not but recognize, however, the first and the last of the nine testimonies as coming from graduates of the Toronto Bible College. We quote their statements here. They are from Miss Abbie Garbut, of the class of 1909, and Rev. George Arman, of the class of 1905.

The Sign Over the Door.—Some years ago, when on a visit to Toronto, Canada, I was walking down one of the streets and saw a young woman with Bible and note-books in hand enter a building with the words "Bible Training School" above the entrance.

This aroused a desire that I might become a student in such a school. In October, 1907, that desire was realized.

The study of the text-book of that Training College (the Bible itself), with instructors who believed in it from Genesis to Revelation as God's inspired Word, gave me a connected knowledge of the sixty-six books as one. It revealed to me the story of Redemption in the Old and New Covenants. I gained a broader and more sympathetic outlook on all the people of the world, and thus have realized their need of the Gospel of Christ.

It has enabled me to pray intelligently and to give systematically. The organized Evangelistic Society gave the opportunity to present a Gospel message, to witness, and to do personal work with individuals.

I learned the blessed privilege of intercessory prayer on behalf of our co-workers in distant lands; of pleading for the unsaved and of lifting up my heart in praise and thanksgiving to the Giver of all gifts.

The Christian fellowship and social intercourse with instructors and students enriched my life; the friendships formed at the Bible College have been one of the richest assets of my life.—A. G., Spray, N. C.

Just "What the Bible Teaches."—

It was my privilege for over three years during my ministry in a Canadian city to be a day student in a Bible college. I cannot begin to tell of the value and enjoyment I got out of it. No "ologies," no "isms," neither "arts" nor "science," but "what the Bible teaches."—G. O., New Brunswick, Can.

PERSONALS

Rev. Thomas Bucton ('13) of Stephen, Minnesota, was married on June 5th to Miss Louise Hood of Emerado, North Dakota.

Mr. and Mrs. Duncan McDonald, of Central India, returned during the summer for their first furlough. A son was born to them on Sept. 16th. Mr. McDonald is taking a course of study in Knox College.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Storey returned last month from the Argentine, South America, and will be in Toronto for the winter.

Miss Alice Munns ('18) and Mr. Ivory Jeffrey ('15) expect to sail this month for the foreign field. Miss Munns goes to Central India under the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and Mr. Jeffrey to South China, under the Christian and Missionary Alliance.

Miss Edith Code ('18) is the secretary of the Young Women's Christian Association in Saskatoon, Sask.

COLLEGE NOTES

The Bible College has entered upon its twenty-fifth session. During all these past years it has done an important and far reaching work. Its graduates have gone out into all the world and they are witnessing a good confession. The blessing of God has been resting on the institution all along. While it has not grown in any large way it has been carried through difficulties and preserved from danger. In all this we give praise and thanks to God.

But the work of the past ought not to be the measure of our expectation for the future. The Bible College has surely a larger place to fill in the life of this country and in the work of the Church of God. In view of the twenty-fifth anniversary, which it is expected will be held next fall, we would ask the friends of the College to unite with us in prayer that all our plans may be under the direction of the Lord and that those steps may be taken that are in accordance with His will.

Some fifty students are in attendance in the Day Course, and a hundred and seventy have enrolled in the Evening Course. While the influenza prevailed in the city the evening classes and all evening meetings were discontinued. At the beginning of the epidemic the services of the student body were offered to the Health Department, and ten or twelve of the young women gave up their work in the College for the time being, and went out to help as nurses in needy homes. Besides this two of the young men gave their time to attending those who were lying ill in the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association. This continued for nearly three weeks. We are thankful to say that there was no serious case of illness among the students of the Day Classes.

IN MATERIAL THINGS

We are thankful to say that in the midst of the problems of the high cost of everything the material needs of the Bible College continue to be supplied through the thoughtful ministry of our friends. But as is true in all such experiences, there are some who in other days were constant and regular contributors to this institution, who through changed circumstances, or having been called to their reward, are unable further to share in the maintenance of the College. We look for and expect others who appreciate what this College is doing in the preparation of young men and women for lives of active Christian service, to take their share in investing their gifts in this way and thereby make it possible to continue the advantages here offered to those who feel called of God to devote their lives to His work. Contributions may be sent to the Treasurer, Mr. J. N. Shenstone, or to the Secretary, 110 College St., Toronto.

RECEIPTS FOR GENERAL FUND

Donations received from May 1st to November 13th, 1918:

No.	1.....	\$50 00	No.	34.....	\$ 5 00
"	2.....	10 00	"	35.....	25 00
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"	26.....	10 00	"	59.....	100 00
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