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Rev. R. H. MacKay, D.D.

The friends of the Bible College all over the world will have heard already of the death of Dr. MacKay, which took place just a month after the last graduation exercises, at which he had presided with his usual grace. He had gone to Woodstock, Ont., which is in the region of his early home, where he was to take part in a special service on the last Sunday in May. He was taken suddenly ill during the night before, and died early on Monday morning, the 27th. He was in his

eighty-third year. He had intended to preach on the resurrection, and the sermon he had prepared for the occasion was read at the funeral service in Woodstock. The public funeral which was held in Toronto two days afterwards under the United Church of Canada, was a remarkable tribute to a great church leader and a great Christian saint.



Dr. MacKay had served the Presbyterian church as Foreign Mission Secretary for more than a generation, but he belonged to no one denomination. His interests

were as wide as the cause of God. The evangelizing of the world, the deepening of the spiritual life and the revival of the spirit of prayer were ever upon his heart, and he was always ready to support any movement anywhere which helped to further these objects.

He was the inspiring centre of a group of brethren belonging to different denominations who for the past quarter of a century or more had been accustomed to meet together from time to time for the devotional study of the Word of God and for spiritual fellowship and prayer. Around him were gathered such spiritual leaders and teachers as Rev. Dr. Frost, Principal O'Meara, Canon Howitt, Canon Troop, Rev. Dr. McTavish, Rev. Robt. Pogue, and the late Professor Griffith Thomas and Professor Farmer. For the past few years some members of this group with some members of the staff used to meet in the old Bible College building on the last day of the year and spend the afternoon and evening in waiting on God in fellowship and prayer. Dr. MacKay al-

ways presided with his remarkable spiritual insight and wisdom.

Dr. MacKay's association with the Bible College goes back to the beginning. He was one of those associated with Dr. Elmore Harris in the early days of its history. For the past twenty years he has acted as Chairman of the Board of Governors, and, with very few exceptions, he has presided at every annual graduation during that time.

At the last graduation exercises it was noticed that he threw himself into the spirit of the meeting with more than his usual enthusiasm. He had taken a keen interest in all the plans for the new building, and he rejoiced in the manifest blessing and success with which they had been carried forward. He had been looking forward to the happy culmination of these plans at the dedication and opening services in September. At these services he was to have presided. The arrangements which have been made for them follow out suggestions largely made by him at a meeting of the Board just a week before he was called home.

Dr. MacKay as the Students Knew Him

Dr. MacKay was a familiar figure at all official functions of the College but never obtruded himself otherwise. Consequently our students did not have the opportunity of coming into close personal contact with him. This was characteristic of our late chairman. No doubt he felt that our Principal and those associated with him in teaching were responsible for moulding and fashioning the personality of the student and he graciously remained outside their field of service. Despite this, however, Dr. MacKay did exert an influence upon the student life, all the more powerful because indirect.

Toronto Bible College is known all over the world as a school of missionary enthusiasm, in which the world-wide vision is kept before the student. It was, therefore, fitting, that among its earliest and most respected leaders, a great missionary statesman should occupy the place of presiding officer. Dr. MacKay was a name to reckon with in the missionary circles of the American continent. He was known and honored among all the missionary leaders and was himself a "leader of leaders." Dr. MacKay had seen the vision of a world in need of Christ and he was able to impart his convictions to

others. Those who came into contact with him were influenced by this overmastering passion of his life. Toronto Bible College was favored in having such a man at the helm of its affairs—a man who was a living embodiment of the missionary spirit of the school.

Again, Dr. MacKay was a great saint. To appraise a life, one must know that life as it is when in the presence of God. And what a spiritual uplift we receive when we allow one of those on most intimate terms with our Lord to lead us into His presence. Well, Dr. MacKay practised the presence of the Lord and there exhaled from his personality an unconscious but penetrating influence which bore witness to the fact that he had been with Jesus and had learned of Him. Toronto Bible College bears witness to the reality of experiential Christianity. Our students have an experience of God's grace, of the indwelling Spirit. What a unique honor was ours to have these virtues eminently personified in the life of our chairman.

There are those who imagine that sainthood and scholarship are not on speaking terms, that they dwell at opposite poles. The life of Dr. MacKay, as of many another great saint, refuted that theory. Dr. MacKay maintained a keen and vigorous interest in all that concerned the Kingdom of God. Despite advancing years, his strength failed not, nor did his eye wax dim. In the problems of the present day, he was deeply interested. He was an omnivorous reader, a penetrating thinker, a keen observer, and a student of men. He was alive to modern difficulties and modern opportunities, and was greatly burdened with the need for revival. It has ever been the purpose of Toronto Bible College to produce men and women whose minds were thoroughly trained and whose hearts were thoroughly motivated, and the life and achievements of our late chairman and well-beloved friend present an ideal worthy of our emulation.

D.A.B.

Opening the New Building

By the time this issue of the Recorder reaches its readers the building will in all probability be fully ready for occupation. We have already moved into the offices and these words are being written there. The building will be dedicated and formally opened at the beginning of the session, in the third week of September.

On Monday evening, the 16th, will be held the special service of dedication. As the capacity of the Assembly Hall is limited, the attendance will be confined to the members of the Bible College family and the friends whose gifts have helped us to erect the building. The Board's de-

sire has been to make this service as representative as possible, and they have invited Rev. Dr. Inkster of Knox Church, Rev. Dr. MacNeill of Walmer Road Church, Rev. Prof. Mercer-Wilson of Wycliffe College and Rev. Principal Gandier of Emmanuel College. All these brethren have kindly consented to take part.

On Tuesday evening, the 17th, a public meeting will be held in Walmer Road Church which has been graciously granted by the deacons for the purpose. This meeting is intended not only for the Bible College family and friends, but for the general public as well. As the speaker of the evening, the Board have in-

vited Dr. J. Campbell White of New York City, one of the great missionary leaders of America. He was formerly General Secretary of the Laymen's Missionary Movement, and

is now associated with the Biblical Seminary in New York. Dr. White is an inspiring speaker and he will have an inspiring subject in Biblical Christianity the Hope of Humanity.

Alumni Conference

Graduates and former students of the school in many places have been eagerly looking forward to the Alumni Conference of 1929. We are happy to be in a position to state that all arrangements have been completed for a morning and an afternoon meeting on Tuesday, September 17th, the opening day of the session.

At 10 o'clock, our Principal will conduct the opening devotional service of the term, at the conclusion of which, about 11 o'clock, the Alumni will open its annual conference. Some items of business will be presented for consideration together with a report of the Alumni campaign for \$10,000.00. There will be a season of prayer and an address by Rev. Robert Pogue, of St. Enoch's United Church, Toronto. In the afternoon, the Secretary will conduct a conference and addresses will be delivered by Mrs. Veary of Central Africa, and Rev. Andrew Imrie of Kitchener.

Between sessions we shall adjourn to the new dining hall to continue

our fellowship while we partake of the good things our Heavenly Father shall provide for our physical needs.

On the evening of the same day at 8 o'clock, in Walmer Road Baptist Church—the place in which the school was cradled—a great public service will be held to mark fittingly the opening of this new era in the life of the College. Dr. J. Campbell White, of New York, has kindly consented to give the address at this meeting, and the College choir is to render special music.

We believe this will be a day of great spiritual uplift. Many are praying for a fresh infilling of the divine Spirit for new tasks. We invite every graduate and former student to pray very definitely for the opening services of the school as we enter our new home, and we ask all who can be present to meet us at 16 Spadina Road, Toronto 4, on Tuesday, September 17th, at 10 o'clock.

D.A.B.

Christ, the Wisdom of God

An Address delivered by Mr. C. Ernest Tatham at the Graduation Exercises on April 26th

In the early ages of man's history, Job asked, "Canst thou by searching find out God?" And the question comes echoing down through the centuries until it falls on the ear of the greatest New Testament exponent of Christianity, the Apostle Paul, who sends back the answer, "The world by wisdom knew not God." Thus we see the inadequacy

of human wisdom alone in attaining a real knowledge of God.

If we take a look backward over the annals of man's history, we see God from time to time revealing Himself. The agent of that revelation is One whom we recognize as the eternal Son. As we study the revelation which God has given us in His Word, we learn that Christ is,

ever has been, and ever shall be the personification of the Wisdom of God. It is His voice, for example, that we so readily recognize in that wondrous 8th of Proverbs, which takes us back into the eternity gone by.

1. There we see Christ as the Pre-Incarnate Wisdom.

Let us listen to His voice:—"The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning or ever the earth was. . . . When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: when he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: when he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: then I was by him, as one brought up with him: (or, as a master workman:) I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men."

Before the foundation of the world He was with the Father, the centre and object of heaven's adoring host. "In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God. The same was in the beginning with God." Isaiah, in a vision of the heavenly temple which entirely revolutionized his life, "saw his glory and spake of him." (Jno. 12:41). Creation was the work of His hands, "for all things were made by him, and without him was not anything made that was made." "By him were all things created, that are in heaven and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created by him and for him. And he is before

all things, and by him all things consist." (Col. 1.)

2. Next we view Him as the Wisdom of God Incarnate.

"When the fulness of time was come God sent forth his Son." "The word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." These simple but profound words epitomize the wondrous truth that God Himself has come down to earth. If this excites our wonder, how much more do we marvel when we see that it is not as the transcendent Jehovah that He comes, but as the babe of Bethlehem. And that He took His place not among earth's aristocracy, but among the humblest and the poorest. He was born of a peasant mother, and welcomed first by a few Judean shepherds. How contrary to all human thought! How different from all human wisdom!

As we trace the footsteps of the Child of Nazareth and the Man of Galilee, we see displayed in a most unique fashion the supreme wisdom of God. He had voluntarily assumed a Servant's form, and as such was distinguished by a Servant's obedience. In Him, too, righteousness and mercy found perfect balance. With what scathing denunciation did He expose the hollowness of a decadent Judaism! And yet with what superlative grace did He attract the publicans and sinners, the weary and heavy-laden to Himself!

There was in His life a conspicuous absence of human aspiration or selfish ambition. Instead of that, we find a marvellous humility, a tender sympathy, an exceptional patience, and a singular piety. He is perfectly human, but His humanity is unique. God has thus displayed in a human life the full-orbed expression of Himself.

3. But the highest display of the

Divine Wisdom can be seen only at Calvary. There all human wisdom is laid in the dust. We think of the Man who could say of His own life, "No man taketh it from me: I lay it down of myself" voluntarily bowing His head, and dismissing His spirit in death.

And no ordinary death was His! It was "even the death of the cross." Here is a sinless Man being numbered with the transgressors, made sin, and forsaken by God! The whole scene bears the appearance of disgraceful failure. But it is just here that grace triumphs, and this is made the occasion of an exhibition of a wisdom which transcends all thought. Against the dark background of man's hostility to Him, God displays His own boundless love. At last His own heart is unveiled, and the age-long question is answered, "How should man be just with God?" In Christ we see God "reconciling the world to Himself." In the cross we see how He can "be just and the

justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."

Are we then surprised at the apostle's glowing words, "We preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block and unto the Greeks foolishness; but to them which are called—Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God"?

4. And now as the Risen and Glorified Man our Lord Jesus Christ is the One "in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Here is hidden treasure indeed! All the vast resources of wisdom, all the springs of life, light and love are resident in Him who sits at God's right hand. And as we sit at His feet holding intimate communion with Him, we lay all human wisdom aside and exclaim: "Oh the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and his ways past finding out!—For of him, and through him and to him are all things: to whom be glory forever. Amen."

Called Home

The Bible College family has suffered the loss of three others, besides Dr. MacKay, since the last Recorder was issued.

Mr. R. G. Struthers, one of the most valued members of the Advisory Council, who had been identified with the work of the College since its early days, passed away the same day as Dr. MacKay. His interest in the world's evangelization was very deep. Almost his whole family have become foreign missionaries. Two of his sons are serving as medical missionaries of the United Church in China, and the third is going out this fall. Miss Helen Struthers, who graduated in the Bible College in 1915 and would be in China if she could, is in the Toronto office of the China Inland Mission.

Rev. J. W. Mitchell, D.D., a retired Presbyterian minister of Mitchell, Ont., and a warm friend of the Bible College, died early in the summer in his 90th year. His daughter, Mrs. R. C. Halliday, is a member of the second graduating class, the class of 1897. Dr. Mitchell was one of the last of those ministers of an earlier generation, who combined fine scholarly culture with deep evangelical piety. The church is much poorer for their loss.

Rev. Lloyd Rist, a missionary of the China Inland Mission, who graduated from the College twenty years ago, died of typhus fever in Kansu province, about the 9th or 10th of July. The news came by cable and particulars of his illness have not yet been received. Last

winter Mr. Rist made the long and laborious journey from the coast back to the terribly stricken famine area in the north west of China. As typhus accompanies famine conditions, Mr. Rist has no doubt fallen

a martyr in the midst of his labours among the suffering millions of Kansu. Mrs. Rist is now at Tientsin and her three children at Chefoo School. They need our special prayers at this time.

A Visit to the Summer Prayer Meetings

Civic holiday week-end is a trying time for city churches. All who can get away for a few days' holiday seem to concentrate on this particular period of the year. The result is that church services are poorly attended and many week-night meetings are discontinued. It was refreshing, therefore, to drop into the Bible College prayer meeting at the Mission Union, Laplante Ave., on August 6th, and to discover upwards of twenty young people gathered for prayer and spiritual fellowship.

And what a catholicity of spirit was evidenced in the many requests presented at the throne of grace! The bereaved families of missionaries were brought to God and tenderly remembered before Him; the needs of many of the fields were definitely prayed for; requests dealing with the

problems at home were specifically dealt with, and the instructors of the College graciously upheld. We wondered if our friends out in the harvest fields of the world were conscious of this constant stream of prayer arising, on their behalf, from those at home. Surely on the resurrection morning we shall discover that "as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff; they shall partake alike."

While the greater part of the time of these services is devoted to prayer a brief message is given by some friend of the College. We were glad on our recent visit to listen to the interesting talk given by Miss Foster concerning her work among the Cree Indians of our own northland.

D. A. B.

News of the T. B. C. Family

A son was born on May 28, at Toronto, to Dr. and Mrs. Arnold Vokes (E. Louise Hoskin, R.N.). Their return to China is forbidden by Dr. Vokes' health and they are now settled at Dungannon, Ont.

A son (John McNicol) was born at Vareysburg, N.Y., on June 20, to Mr. and Mrs. John Harvey (Jessie Manning, '28).

On June 5, Mr. Howard C. Phillips ('28), of the Benalto Baptist mission field, Alberta, was married to Miss Frances Irene Shields.

Rev. F. C. Guyatt ('23) who is now minister of the Friends Church in Newmarket, Ont., was married on

June 25 to Miss Lucille Drysdale of Carthage, Indiana.

On July 3, Miss Grace E. Fitcher ('24) was married to the Rev. Harold E. Buchner, B.A., ('23) of Trenton, Ont.

On July 4, Miss Helen Paton Lindsay ('27) was married to Rev. Wm. J. Jones, M.D., B.Th.

On July 11, Mr. Reuben Harold Chappell of the evening classes ('26) was married to Miss Isabelle Mary Metcalfe, also a former student.

On July 26, Miss Florence Mildred Steen ('27) was married to Mr. Duncan MacDonald, Toronto.

The marriage of Miss Beulah D. Northey and Mr. C. Ernest Tatham, both of the last graduating class, is announced to take place on September 2.

The marriage of Miss Ruth Ashwood to Mr. Fred. Kendal who is working among the Jews of Toronto, is announced to take place on September 7.

Miss Dorothy Whiting ('28) has entered St. John's Hospital.

Miss Janet Vanderwell and Miss Margaret Nash, both of the last graduating class, are entering St. John's Hospital in September.

Miss Annie Wright ('28) has been accepted by the Heart of Africa Mission and expects to sail for England in January.

Miss Irene Cowan ('28) has accepted an appointment to the All People's Mission in Edmonton, a work carried on by the United Church among foreigners.

Rev. Walter R. T. Romain, B.Th., ('22) has accepted the pastorate of the Community Center Aid Church of Canada, Winnipeg.

Mr. R. D. Guthrie ('28) was ordained to the ministry in the Baptist church at Courtland on June 4. His marriage to Miss Mabel Olive Jennings is announced to take place on September 10.

Mr. Wm. McLean ('24) was ordained and inducted in the Presbyterian Church at South Mountain, Ont., on August 9. He finished a special course at McGill University last spring.

Rev. Ernest E. Smith ('23) received his B.A. degree this spring from the Baldwin Wallace University of Berea, Ohio, and his B.D. degree from the Northern Baptist Seminary, Chicago. He is pastor of the Montclair Baptist Church in Chicago.

Rev. C. Edward Burrell, LL.D., D.D., ('96) has left Farmville, Virginia, and is now pastor of the Baptist Church in Christiansburg in the same state.

Mr. George Page ('23) is in the Home Mission work of the United Church in connection with their hostel at Norval, Ont.

Miss Annie Zimmerman ('28) and Miss Florence Fisher are engaged in mission work at Charlton, about 400 miles north of Toronto, under the Shantymen's Christian Association.

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Griffin sailed for England in June on their way to their field of service in Central Africa, under the Board of the Regular Baptist Churches.

Mr. and Mrs. Mervin Ganton have had to return from Brazil on account of their health. They have suffered very much from malarial fever.

Miss Inez Botterell ('20) who has been home on furlough for the last year, sailed from Montreal on June 7 for South Africa; and Miss Jessie Jack ('21) sailed for San Francisco on June 14 on her way back to China.

Rev. Leslie Garrett and his wife (Mary Gomme, '24) with their three boys have returned to their work among the Indians at Trout Lake, under the Anglican Church. They travelled from Hamilton to Sioux Lookout by railway. At 7 a.m. on July 1, they left Sioux Lookout by a Western Airways aeroplane and arrived at Trout Lake, 600 miles farther north, in a little over three hours. This journey formerly took them three weeks. Two days afterwards Mr. Cain and Capt. Maxwell arrived to sign the treaty with the Indians. Mr. and Mrs. Garrett signed as witnesses. Capt. Maxwell reports the Trout Lake Indians as being the most orderly and generally the best lot of Indians met with on their trip.