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# Toronto Bible College RECORDER

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## Learning how to do it

Rev. Andrew MacBeath

(Mr. MacBeath reviews the practical work of the College after his first year's service superintending Student Activities.)

It is well known that, next to its grounding in Scripture, the practical activities of Toronto Bible College constitute its outstanding appeal. This school is a beehive set in a wonderful flower garden. In the air there is a continual rustle of wings. There is a ceaseless passing to and fro of workers going out to the flowers and coming back heavy with pollen and nectar. It is by doing that our students chiefly learn what to do and what not to do. Whatever else we fail to achieve in this place, we rear and train workers for God's great harvest field. The practical activities secure for our students a poise and self-possession and withal a readiness of speech which launch them into effective service. When they leave us they mostly have learned what forms one of the main ingredients in the make-up of a public speaker: practical readiness and alertness.

It is a significant thing that two great preachers, Spurgeon and Moody, founded training Colleges. Their aim was that men who had tasted the grace of God and felt their hearts aglow with a desire to make it known, should be trained to tell out what their hearts felt. Therefore both Spurgeon's College and the Moody Bible Institute left completely on one side the training of scholars and experts (men who through much learning often become inarticulate), and concentrated on training men who would speak plainly, forcefully and winsomely of the saving power of Christ. To use the modern slang expression, the aim was that no graduate should be "dumb." Their ambition was to fulfil the Psalmist's prediction: "They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness."

As a background to the above quality of freedom in telling out the message lies the speaker's personal fellowship with God. The chief enrichment of the life of our students comes from the inspiration and stimulus which they receive in contact with their teachers, class mates and fellow-students. Nothing in the way of mere lectures or text-books can give a man an appetite for prayer, nothing so effectually as living fellowship with one or two or three personalities—be they teachers or students—who move in and out of the Throne-room with assurance and

joy, as those whose petitions are heard. It is pre-eminently of this particular enrichment of our students' lives—learning to be men of God—that we ought to speak as we review the past year. Yes, men of God and godly women! Nothing remains in the memory of the students so vividly as the lead given by the Student Cabinet and their continual exemplification of the command to "pray without ceasing." Whatever falls to be recorded from the session 1951-52, this comes first. The student body was a prayerful body. I cannot think of anything that I would rather see students learn!

One of the weaknesses of modern evangelism, as I have seen it, is the intrusion of noise and speed. The evangelism which overawes and overwhelms is an evangelism that is worshipful in its atmosphere. Like Job, a member of the audience ought to be shaken awake with a kind of dismay as he exclaims, "Now mine eye seeth Thee." He should feel, like Jacob, the trembling in conscience and heart which cries out, "How dreadful is this place! This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." When the preacher leads the congregation awe-somely into the presence of God, his own adoring attitude may dispose the unawakened to search their own heart, and it is men who will make their hearers aware of the pervasive and piercing presence of God by His Spirit that we desire to send from this House of Prayer. One of the biggest encouragements of the session 1951-52 was the fact that God gave us a great "lift" to the pattern which Christ showed us in the Mount. The fruit was immediately seen in that numerous men and women and children were brought to Jesus Christ.

It was in the consciousness of this helpful atmosphere of co-operation from the student body, and also with a desire to make experiment in a practical way with hopes of spelling out the corporate leadership of the Holy Spirit, that I ever dared to undertake this side of the work, even as a stop-gap. When Mr. Burns left us a year ago, it seemed little less than ridiculous that I should presume to fill his place. How can one who is a new-comer to the country, and how can one who lacks an inside knowledge of being reared within the family of T.B.C., ever even dream of taking over the Department of Student Activities? But there are some people who rush in where only angels ought to tread. The energy and drive of Mr. Burns, his wide-spread acquaintance with churches and ministers of most denominations, and his far-flung activities in preaching and evangelism and organizing throughout the province of Ontario, made him a man difficult to follow. The only straw at which I clutched was the conviction that a Department of Student Activities ought to be in essence what its name indicates—a sphere in which the students are active. We who have been missionaries realize that the national workers who must succeed us for the evangelization of their own people ought, above all things, to be encouraged to take the initiative and to assume responsibility. My chief aim, therefore, was to assure the students that they would have plenty of elbow room. I wanted them to have space to grow. It was on their initiative and enterprise and mutual co-operation that I was counting.

Anything of worth that has been accomplished in the past year has come directly out of what the students put into it. The evangelistic and devotional committees of the Student Cabinet have worked with fine energy and have responded magnificently to the leadership of their own student companions. On my part there was abysmal ignorance: on their part there had to be the exercise of all gifts and graces, there had to be the fullest contributions in exactitude and enterprise. All this they have very delightfully supplied.

Back of all our public engagements with the allurements of an evangelistic choir or the fascination of singing in groups, I sought to stress the importance of two unspectacular forms of activity—hospital visitation and teaching a Sunday School class. Our conviction in this College is that while the world may need gifted and outstanding evangelists of the Billy Graham order, the more persistent and universal need is for thousands of faithful personal workers and teachers of the young. It is a pleasure to report that about 120 students regularly participated in the work of teaching in Sunday School, while 50 took part in the weekly Bible Clubs that feature on other evenings. In addition quite 70 students engaged under Mr. Hargrave in personal evangelism each Sunday morning at the Toronto General Hospital.

We did not this year, either in the Fall or in the Spring, conduct an evangelistic campaign. From many points of view we are the poorer for this. Yet the joy and rejoicing of my heart has been to note how, during all the year, there has been an insistent spirit of prayer and supplication. Our three expeditions within the city in door-to-door visitation were a valuable piece of training for ourselves, and a fruitful piece of witness in co-operation with three city congregations. But always, whether it were the hospital work, or the opportunities afforded to our evangelistic choir in 16 churches within the city and in Hamilton, or the weekly meetings taken in the Yonge Street Mission, the Railway Mission, Don Jail, Greey's Foundry, and other Gospel Halls—all have been literally steeped in prayer. Apart from the remarkable prayer activity which has been such an outstanding feature of the student year, my work would have been a sheer impossibility. If nothing else has been achieved in the session 1951-52, the students themselves have left an imprint by their habit of prayer and their appetite for intercession.

During the present summer we may visualize students, about to enter on their third year, as scattered across the Dominion. It is refreshing to think of 9 young men in summer pastorates. Three are in Saskatchewan, one in Alberta, one in Nova Scotia and one in New Brunswick. Among the girls who have ventured far afield doing mission work, three have gone to British Columbia and one to the New England States. Quite a score of others, both young men and women, will be labouring either in children's camps or in other forms of mission activity within our own province of Ontario.

As I look back and look forward what chiefly impresses me is the recollection of so many students either sitting down with groups of children, or else standing to lead their singing and tell them Gospel stories, or other students making human contacts anywhere and everywhere, or—most characteristic of all—approaching in little groups the Throne of Grace.

During a student's three years at College the aim is that he or she should cover the main activities in order to have a full practical training. It therefore seems essential that a student should learn to fascinate children and hold their attention with the Gospel story and lead them individually, by the steps of penitence and faith and surrender, to the Saviour. It is equally necessary to get close to a representative section of the religious or godless public one by one, and hardly any better field could offer to us than the wards of Toronto General Hospital. In many ways the above two departments of activity are fundamental, and great stress is laid on these. Mission halls and Bible Clubs, "plant" talks and foundry meetings all figure on the curriculum and all are important. Students, in addition, all learn the necessity for wise planning and co-operative arrangements, because they take part

in Committees on Tuesday, or in Cabinet activities. Such lessons in adaptation to the wishes and preferences of others, and sweet reasonableness, form an invaluable part of their training.

Yet with all this attention to "know how" (as it is now called), fluency is not everything. Youthfulness and personal charm are not the last word. It may even be whispered that in our time evangelicalism has become too genial, too chatty and too informal. What has encouraged me recently is the assurance of a safeguard, inasmuch as our students are aware that all must be undertaken (as indeed their studies too must be) 'as ever in their great Taskmaster's eye.'

The early experiments of young people in house-to-house visitation, or going from bed to bed in a city hospital, are perhaps the sweetest and most wholesome of all their endeavours. It is what we do "in fear and in weakness and in much trembling" that keeps us in closest touch with God and often has His richest blessing.

Paul uttered a warning against appointing to an important task one who is "a novice." Life is a big task and a long test, and it is for workers who will "endure to the end" that our Master calls. Such workers also are what Mission Boards desire. There are plenty of starters, but our aim is to produce seasoned warriors undaunted by a long campaign.

It is when we remember this that the whole course of instruction and fellowship as planned at T.B.C. is seen to "mesh." For all we know the opportunity in our day may be short. The world scene is being transformed almost every month, yet no panic measures and no alarmist tactics will avail. A delightful letter received from one of last year's graduates expresses the writer's personal gratitude because some human complications amid the family of the redeemed had found him watchful and wary and prayerful—and all this was largely due to the awareness of the delicacy of the work with human souls which he had learned to appreciate while at T.B.C. With what joy he told us of the conversion of seemingly unlikely people! It is a pure joy to realize that some, at least, have gone forth with their eyes open. Of their own need of wisdom and of their Lord's full supply they have learned during the precious fellowship of these three years.

It is for patient and believing warriors who will "out-think," and "out-live" and "out-die" and "out-last" their adversaries that God is calling. The ferment of our time demands wise and skilful workers. With the Bible open to them and alluring them to ever closer and more loving study, and with their minds opened to tell forth their Saviour's praise, our students have gone forth. God grant that ears and hearts may be opened to receive their witness and believe!

## THE 59th SESSION

of the College will open with a devotional service

Tuesday, September 16th, at 10 a.m.

Graduates and friends are cordially invited.

## Toronto Institute of Linguistics

The third annual session of the Toronto Institute of Linguistics was held in the Bible College throughout the month of June. This Institute is sponsored by the Canadian School of Missions, several of the Interdenominational Faith Missions, and the Toronto Bible College. It provides an intensive course of training in phonetics for missionary candidates and missionaries. The officers of the Institute are: President, Dr. L. S. Albright, Director of the Canadian School of Missions; Vice-President, Rev. Wm. Tyler, Secretary-Treasurer of the China Inland Mission; Secretary, Rev. C. A. Armstrong, Registrar of the Toronto Bible College.

Thirty-two students were registered this year, including a few from the United States. The enrolment is kept within careful limits to ensure individual instruction for each student. The students represented the following Missionary Boards and Societies, listed alphabetically: the Africa Inland Mission; the American Baptist Foreign Missionary Society; the Bolivian Indian Mission; the Canadian Baptist Foreign Mission Board; the Ceylon and India General Mission; the China Inland Mission; the Evangelical Alliance Mission; the Spanish-American Inland Mission; the South Africa General Mission; the United Lutheran Church of America; the Women's Auxiliary of the Church of England in Canada; the Women's Missionary Society (W.D.) of the Presbyterian Church in Canada; the Women's Missionary Society of the United Church of Canada.

Keen appreciation was expressed of the work of the Instructors, Mr. Walter Lehn, M.A., and Rev. William Welmers, Th.M., Ph.D., both of whom came from Cornell University. Mr. Lehn, who was also with the Institute last year, was able to remain only a part of the month, but Dr. Welmers was with us for the entire period. His wide experience overseas not only furnished him with vivid material to illustrate his lectures but afforded him also not infrequent stories in a lighter vein that served to drive home the point with which he was dealing.

On Thursday evening, June 26th, the closing service of the Institute was held. Dr. L. S. Albright presided, and presented certificates of credit to successful students. Rev. Wm. Tyler conducted devotions; Rev. C. A. Armstrong gave a brief review of the session's work and presented the certificate-winning students; Rev. Canon L. A. Dixon, General Secretary of the Missionary Society of the Church of England, in Canada, offered the Prayer of Dedication. A solo was sung by Mr. Raymond Beaver, one of the student group, and Mrs. Donald MacKenzie (Doris Vance, '46) and Mr. George Porter ('52) spoke briefly, telling of what the course had meant to them in preparation for service overseas, the one on Lake Tanganyika with her husband (Don MacKenzie, '46-'47) and the other in Peru. The principal address was given by Dr. Welmers on "Christianity, Culture and Language." He held the close attention of the assembly by his masterly presentation of his theme, illustrating the importance of an essential knowledge of the culture of a people, including their religious beliefs and practices, based upon a sound working knowledge of their language, if we are to present the Gospel of God's grace in any way that is adequate to their total need. At the close of the meeting Dr. J. B. Rhodes pronounced the benediction. Adjournment was made to the Common room and while refreshments were served an hour's happy Christian fellowship was enjoyed.

The Toronto Institute of Linguistics is now well established, and under God's Providence we trust that it will serve to introduce successive classes of Christian workers to the fundamentals of language training in preparation for missionary service overseas.

J.B.R.

## Alumni Conference

Tuesday, September 16, 1952

### AFTERNOON

- 3.00 p.m. Business Meeting  
 4.00 p.m. Conference of Alumni Branch Representatives  
 6.00 p.m. Supper (charge 75 cents)  
 (Please make reservation by Monday noon,  
 Sept. 15, RA. 5808)

### EVENING

- 7.45 p.m. Song Service  
 8.00 p.m. Farewell to Outgoing Missionaries;  
 First-hand report from British Alumni  
 Branch—Miss Sylvia Smith;  
 Message by Rev. John McNicol, B.A., D.D.  
 (Letters of announcement will NOT be sent by mail)

## Graduation Testimonies

Because of a national emergency, military training occupied three years of my experience. Many lessons were learned while in association with men of all types. Following discharge from the forces, I completed my course in engineering at the University of Toronto. Along with this study, two years spent in the employ of a manufacturing company taught me many things concerning the material world in which much of our life is centred. Now I am to graduate from Toronto Bible College. What outstanding lesson has God taught me through this School?

I believe that while I have been at the College, God has shown me that the basis of all right relationships is love. From the commandments of God we clearly see that He wants us to love Him. Yet we cannot, nor do we care to love Him, for we are sinners. "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." I accepted this love and entered into fellowship with God as my Father. Systematic Bible study has shown me more of His love and led me to love Him more.

"Beloved, if God so loved us we ought also to love one another." The fellowship between students, and between lecturers and students, is an example of the outworking of this exhortation. Many times in life at the College it has been proven to me that "love never faileth." Yet only as the Holy Spirit controls the corporate and individual life in the College will this love be manifested.



DAVE WHITFIELD, '52

There is presented at Toronto Bible College a challenge to exercise this love in proclaiming the message of God's love. It is absolutely necessary to have the love which God can give to do the practical work of the College. Also, the missionary emphasis at school shows the necessity of love to be the motivating force. It was love that brought the Lord Jesus Christ to save men.

"Out of the ivory palaces  
Into a world of woe,  
Only His great eternal love  
Made my Saviour go."

Yes, I have learned that love is the most practical and important factor in life. When all else passes away, love will remain, for God is love. Therefore, it is my desire to proclaim the message of the love of God in Christ to all men.

The greatest discovery in my life is the reality of the Lord Jesus Christ. This reality challenges all nationalities, races and creeds. For this I am thankful because of my Ukrainian, Greek Orthodox background. Early in my 'teens the burden of sin weighed heavily upon my conscience. Not long afterwards the enlightenment of God's salvation became an actuality and Christ left within my heart the inexpressible joy of sins forgiven.

A few years later I entered hospital to train as a nurse. During this period emphasis was placed on the physical life, but God instilled within my heart the importance of the spiritual life. Having completed my nurse's training, and still feeling the need of a better understanding of God's Word, I came to Toronto Bible College. God has graciously allowed four members of my family to graduate and, tonight, I am completing our family circle.



NELLIE GAVERLUK, '52

It was during the past three years that a new world was opened to me,—the world from which God speaks. Commencing to study the Bible, Scripture began to unfold its theme before my eyes. Christ seemed to step out of its pages. I saw vividly the picture of Christ in touch with the men and women of His day: His tender compassion on the widowed mother: His hands on the heads of children, blessing them: standing at the grave of Lazarus, sharing in the sorrow of Mary and Martha. I also saw Him as the Way, the Truth, and the abundant Life. He goes with me everywhere. No longer is Jesus just a name to me. He is a real, living Person.

Throughout my college days I was deeply impressed with the reality of Christian fellowship. Christ is recognized as our unseen Lord and Head. His Spirit is given the place of leadership in every aspect of our college life. Although the student body comprises a vast variety of different nationalities, different denominations with different objectives, we are all one in Christ Jesus; even as He and the Father are One. Self discipline is brought under the great spiritual principle of vital Christianity, namely, of letting self go and letting Christ take control. "Not I, but Christ liveth in me." The Lord Jesus Christ is tonight, SUPREME in my life. "For me to live is CHRIST."



## PERSONALS

Emma Sullivan, '36, left in July to join the forces of the C.I.M. Overseas Fellowship in Malaya.

Rev. John Crook, '36, is working with the Canadian Sunday School Mission at Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Rev. Hector, '38, and Mrs. Goodall (Esther Campbell, '35) are in charge of the Associated Gospel Church in Welland.

Rev. Douglas, '39, and Mrs. (Adah Beech, '40) are serving a number of United Churches in the Huntsville area.

Rev. Donald, '42, and Mrs. Powell left for Kobe, Japan, in July, to work among Koreans under the Presbyterian Board.

Mrs. David Rough (Nettie MacDonald, '27) sailed in July to join her husband in Nigeria, in their work with the Sudan Interior Mission.

Joyce Troyer, '47, is working in Northern Ontario with the Rural Life Mission.

Ruth Patterson, '48, is studying French in Belgium, preparatory to work in the Belgian Congo with the Christian and Missionary Alliance.

Rev. Archie, '50, and Mrs. Cameron are serving the United Brethren in Christ in Honduras.

Norma Flewelling, '50, graduated from Grace Hospital on June 11. She received the Proficiency Prize and delivered the Valedictory address.

Josephine Skalik, '51, left in July to take up work in Nigeria with the Sudan Interior Mission.

Nellie Gaverluk, '52, has spent the summer months assisting at the United Church Mission Hospital at Bella Coola, B.C.

Norman McPhaden, '52, spent the summer months with the Shantyman's Christian Association in Northern Ontario.

Lenore Sharpe, '53, has served a United Church summer mission field at Emsdale.

## BIRTHS

On March 28, a daughter, Mary Ann, to Mr. David, '49, and Mrs. Cameron.

A son, John Craig, on April 15, to Mr. Harry, '51, and Mrs. (Una, '48-'50) Edwards.

To Mr. Maurice and Mrs. (Ruby Pembleton, '44) Buckrell, on April 16, a son, Allan John.

To Mr. Walter and Mrs. (Bessie Gaverluk, '45) Driver, on May 11, a daughter, Elizabeth Gail.

A daughter, Barbara Lynn, in May, to Mr. Cyril and Mrs. (Doris Leonard, '45) Weller, at Victoria, B.C.

On May 30, a daughter, Evelyn Christine, to Dr. Franklin and Mrs. (Hilda Bennett, '37) Miles.

To Mr. Harold and Mrs. (June, '50-'51) Martin, on June 13, a daughter, Lorelei Lee.

## MARRIAGES

On May 31, at Waterloo, Vera Hallman, '18, P.G., '22, to Abram Hunsberger of Bridgeport.

At Calvary Gospel Church, on May 31, Jessie Mair, '49, to Leslie Lack of Waterloo. Rev. John Mair, '42, officiated and Anne Mutkala, '48, was one of the bridesmaids.

Leona Friesen, '52, to Allan Lauder of Jamaica, on June 21, at Calvary Gospel Church, Beamsville. Rev. Robert Chubb, '36, officiated, Adele Radke, '53, was one of the bridesmaids and Mrs. Marion Newby, '50, sang.

At Lorne Park on July 5, Elsa Lundgren, '47-'48, to Rev. Fred Jewel of Toronto.

Beth Culbert, '51, to George Daley, '49-'50, at St. George's Anglican Church, Ilderton, on August 9.

On August 9, at Bethel Baptist Church, Peterborough, Helen Smith, '46, to Norman Bigelow of Hamilton. Rev. Grant Wright, '49, officiated, Mrs. Marion Newby, '50, was soloist and Mrs. Douglas Percy (Betty Willis, '35) played the wedding music.