

Note: This Work has been made available by the authority of the copyright owner solely for the purpose of private study and research and may not be copied or reproduced except as permitted by the copyright laws of Canada without the written authority from the copyright owner.

Recorder (Toronto Bible College), 62, no. 4 (November 1956)

Toronto Bible College

987-014
FC-REC-4

RECORDER

Price 10c — Vol. 62, No. 4



DR. JOHN McNICOL 1869 - 1956

Publication of TORONTO BIBLE COLLEGE
16 SPADINA ROAD, TORONTO 4

MEMORIAL ISSUE



JOHN McNICOL, B.A., B.D., D.D.

INSTRUCTOR T.B.C. 1902 - 1906

PRINCIPAL T.B.C. 1906 - 1946

PRINCIPAL-EMERITUS T.B.C. 1946 - 1956

MEMORIAL SERVICE

for

The Rev. Dr. John McNicol, B.A. B.D.

Principal of Toronto Bible College
1906-1946

Principal Emeritus, 1946-1956

at

TORONTO BIBLE COLLEGE

16 Spadina Road

ON

Sunday, September 9th, 1956

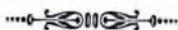
at 3.00 p.m

MEMORIAL SERVICE

It was a solemn throng that filled the College auditorium on Sunday, September 9th, 1956. But there was no sadness, save the sense of loss, the sweet sadness of memory, the nostalgia of days now past. There was a sense of exultation, a feeling of completion for a life. It was Dr. John McNicol's crowning day, a time of thanksgiving and rejoicing over one who had already heard his Master's, "*Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy of the Lord.*" It was a memorial service for Dr. John McNicol and it is recorded herewith.

Following a few words of welcome from Principal E. L. Simmonds, the service opened by the congregation joining in singing the hymn. "The God of Abraham praise!"

Order of Service



*The God of Abraham praise!
Who reigns enthroned above,
Ancient of everlasting days,
And God of love!
Jehovah, great I AM!
By earth and Heaven confest!
I bow, and bless the sacred name,
For ever blest!*

*The God of Abraham praise!
At whose supreme command
From earth I rise and seek the joys
At His right hand:
I all on earth forsake,
Its wisdom, fame, and power,
And Him my only portion make,
My Shield and Tower.*

*The God of Abraham praise!
Whose all-sufficient grace
Shall guide me all my happy days
In all my ways:
He calls a worm His friend!
He calls Himself my God!
And He shall save me to the end,
Through Jesus' blood!*

*He by Himself hath sworn,
I on His oath depend
I shall on eagles' wings upborne
To Heaven ascend:
I shall behold His face,
I shall His power adore,
And sing the wonders of His grace,
For evermore!*

*The whole triumphant host
Give thanks to God on high:
"Hail! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!"
They ever cry:
Hail! Abraham's God and Mine!
I join the heavenly lays;
All might and majesty are Thine,
And endless praise!*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

SCRIPTURE READING—Dr. E. G. Baker

Member of the Board of Governors

Psalms 34: 1 - 22 (One of Dr. McNicol's Favourite Psalms)

MEMORIAL MESSAGE—Mr. William Inrig

President of the College

MR. Simmonds, and dear friends of Toronto Bible College: In days to come it will be a matter of some satisfaction to recall the privilege of attending this Memorial Service of September, 1956. The Lord, our Heavenly Father, has released our beloved friend, Dr. John McNicol, from the bondage of earthly ties, and has called him Home for his rewards, and for that rest that remaineth to the children of God.

The name of Dr. McNicol has been co-related with that of Toronto Bible College for many years. He guided the course of the College, the conservative course of the College, for over fifty years, and he lived in the presence of a throbbing, pulsating student body, and often referred to it, and referred to members of it, as those who kept him young. They loved him. They would do anything for him. And indeed, they were a real influence in maintaining his quiet spirit.

Dr. McNicol stood firmly entrenched in the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith. He honoured the God of the Bible, Who Himself has established His Word. When Liberalism and a critical philosophy undermined, or sought to re-build the Bible, Dr. McNicol was content to wait until the critics would agree with him! He always rejoiced when archaeology brought to light some new evidence of the historical authenticity and reliability of God's Word. Dr. McNicol took the whole Bible, the King James Version, Old Testament and New Testament together, and he sought to bring it to the student body, and to give to them a thorough training in the knowledge of its message. He was a man of the Book. He believed that they who seek the Lord, the God of eternity, must first believe that He is, and that He is the Rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. Dr. McNicol would say, on many occasions, that true Christian thinking began when by faith one entered the Holy of Holies of God's Word and there considered what was God's relation to man. This teaching was absorbed for years by Toronto Bible college students, and as a result some 3000 of them encircle the globe, having gone out strong in faith, and they carry the message of God's love and redeeming grace to the peoples of this world who sit in darkness and under the shadow of death.

According to student testimony concerning Dr. McNicol, the Holy Spirit at times seemed to move upon him, and within him. The Third Person of the Trinity was not to Dr. McNicol just an influence, but was the mighty, omnipotent, eternal Personality, co-existent with God the Son. He was with God the Father in time of creation. It was He that dictated the Scriptures to holy men of old, and was sent by God to indwell the believer, and seal him unto the day of redemption. Dr. McNicol reiterated this wondrous truth, and so established in Toronto Bible College, and with the whole-hearted acceptance of the student body, the corporate leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Dr. McNicol was very much interested in world-wide Missions. He was a member of the China Inland Mission for years, and in latter years was Vice-Chairman of the Canadian Council of that Mission. He was also a charter member of the Sudan Interior Mission. He implemented the Charter of the College not only in seeking to train young life in the knowledge of the English Bible, but in sending them forth to the mission fields of the world. His outstanding association, possibly, was his membership as one of the Governors of the British and Foreign Bible Society. In this connection he served for 65 years, and predated his connection with the Toronto Bible College. The British and Foreign Bible Society have printed the whole of the Bible in 200 different languages, and printed the New Testament in some 265 languages, and other portions of Scripture in two or three hundred different languages. Some of our own T. B. C. students out on the mission fields have produced translations of Scripture, and they would have found it quite impossible to carry on if it had not been for the co-operation of the B. & F. B. S. On September 7, 1953 in London, England, at a regular session of the Governors of the Society, they unanimously voted Dr. McNicol, recognizing his long and valued service, as a life-time Governor of the Society. We rejoiced with him on this occasion, and mention it now to verify the fact that honour comes eventually where honour is due, and on that occasion honour was placed on the head of Dr. John McNicol for his valuable services in that connection.

Dr. John McNicol was a scholar of recognized reputation. He studied at Toronto University, and graduated in Arts in the year 1891. From there he went to Knox Presbyterian College, and graduated in 1895, obtaining his B. D. degree. Knox College later, in 1936, honoured him in granting the D. D. Degree on him.

Dr. McNicol was interested in the Y. M. C. A., and in the Student Christian Volunteer Movement of earlier days. He wrote extensively and periodically for the Biblical Review of New York City, in which City he is listed with world biographies of notable scholars. It was in 1937 that Dr. McNicol published his book entitled "The Christian Evangel". It was an outstanding treatment of the subject of the ancient faith, and had a wide circulation. But most outstanding in his publications were four volumes on the subject of "Thinking Through The Bible". These were published in the year 1944, and they have become basic in the curriculum of several Bible Colleges. Fortunately they are still obtainable through this College, and also through the Evangelical Publishers on Bay Street. The Toronto Bible College Board of Governors published Dr. McNicol's Jubilee series of addresses on "The Bible's Philosophy of History", and some of his pamphlet publications on Bible topics. They tell me in the office that they receive letters for further copies of them still.

Our beloved friend had a good wife. Some remember Mrs. McNicol when, quite an amiable young lady of strong Christian character, she with her husband moved into the Toronto Bible College apartments in the College building on College Street. She indeed was a wonderful helpmeet to her husband, and a source of strong encouragement. She has been identified with Dr. McNicol throughout his whole College career.

In association with Dr. McNicol one became very soon conscious of the fact that Dr. McNicol believed in the reality and proximity of the unseen, spiritual world. Those of you who have known him intimately recognize this fact. In that respect he

was somewhat like Elisha. You remember the story of the King of Syria and his warfare against Israel, and how Elisha the Prophet prayed on behalf of his servant that God would open his eyes that he might see the unseen, to him, spiritual forces that surrounded him to deliver them and protect them from enemies round about. Dr. McNicol's strong faith was just similar, and he was always conscious of that unseen spiritual world, and conscious too of that great spiritual, angelic force that surrounds the believer and protects him; the Spirit of the Lord, the angelic hosts that become ministers to those who are heirs of salvation.

In a closing remark, may I say, for Dr. McNicol to live was Christ; to die was gain. He has had already a triumphal entry into the presence of the King of kings. He has already heard that "well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." His mantle has fallen upon another, and today we would rejoice and praise God for such a wonderful life of service. Indeed, we can "praise God from whom all blessings flow."

HYMN

HELP ME, O LORD!

Help me, O Lord, the God of my salvation!

*I have no hope, no refuge but in Thee;
Help me to make this perfect consecration,
In life or death Thine evermore to be.*

Help me, O Lord, to keep my pledge unbroken!

*Guard Thou my ways, my thoughts, my tongue, my heart;
Help me to trust the word which Thou hast spoken,
That from Thy paths my feet may ne'er depart.*

Help me, O Lord, when sore temptations press me!

*Oh, lift the clouds that hide Thee from my sight!
Help me, O Lord, when anxious cares distress me,
To look beyond, where all is calm and bright.*

Help me, O Lord! My strength is only weakness;

*Thine, Thine the power by which alone I live;
Help me each day to bear the cross with meekness,
Till Thou at last the promised crown shalt give.*

MEMORIAL SERMON—Principal E. L. Simmonds

THE passing of Dr. John McNicol from our visible midst has brought home again to our minds, as funerals always do, this matter of death, and of those whom we call dead. I am going to think with you for a short time this afternoon about this matter of death and the dead. I shall one day be dead. You too, will one day be dead.

What About Death?

Our human reaction, our immediate response, (and I have found that this is true both in young people just at the beginning of life, and in those who, chrono-

logically, we would say are very close to the end of it) is to dismiss death from our thinking; to refuse to consider it at all. We are something along the line of the proverbial ostrich, who sticks his head in the sand and pretends he isn't there. We cannot do that with death. I do not think it is right for the Christian to do that sort of thing, to ignore death, close his mind to it, refuse to consider it.

The Christian is the one person who can face death in all its horrors, look it in the face, and see it as terrible as it can possibly be, and having looked at it, turn from it, realizing death has no sting. "Oh death, where is thy sting? Oh grave, where is thy victory?" There is no sting. "Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory." I think we need to remind ourselves again and again that death has been conquered. The last enemy to be conquered is death, but he is a conquered enemy.

The Dead, Where Are They?

We talk of them as dead, and think of them as dead. But God who put us in families and gave us hearts of love, knew that we would be concerned about those who are gone, and so in the Book of Revelation, He, as it were, pulled aside the curtain and let the beloved disciple look through to see those whom we call dead. There in Revelation Chapter 7 is what John saw.

We believe this afternoon as a group of Christian people, that the Lord is among us, we who are alive. We have faith to believe that He is here. We cannot see Him, and some of us may even have come into His presence without acknowledging He was here, without considering it. But those whom we call dead in Him do not need to exercise faith. They see Him as they stand before the Throne and before the Lamb. We *believe* He lives and is seated at God's right hand. They do not need faith for they can *see* Him.

When Christ died upon the cross for us, He began to undo the work of sin. God made us at the very beginning because He is love, and He loved us. He created us to be with Him, to enjoy His presence eternally. Then sin came in and separated, and God had to put away man from His presence out of the Garden, and had to put the flaming sword at the entrance, to keep him from going back and eating of the Tree of Life and living forever. Then Jesus Christ, promised before the foundation of the earth, even crucified before the foundation of the earth, came, and He took the sin that separated and cut man off from God. He paid the penalty, and made it possible for us to be restored to a relationship with Him. Who is of too pure eyes to behold iniquity. When we have been born into His family we can call Him "Father". His Spirit dwells within us, and that is the beginning of it all. But oh, the glorious climax when the separation of sin will be gone entirely! When there will be no more questions, or moments of doubt or discouragement! We shall see Him face to face, and shall be before the throne and before the Lamb!

We are tempted, as we continue to fight the good fight of faith, to think of loved ones as gone. Let's not think of them as gone, but rather as having arrived. They are there. They have fought and finished the good fight of faith. They have pressed on. They have achieved. They are there just ahead of us, waiting until we step through the door, and join them in that blessed place, in the presence of God Himself. That is where they are, and the Bible does not talk about death in that connection. The Lord Jesus said, "Whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall

never die." The Bible speaks of death, not as laying aside our physical bodies, but as going to eternal and everlasting separation from the presence of God. That's what the Bible means by death. But to step from here into His presence is to die? No! He says such ones shall never die. They are with Him, seeing Him face to face.

Then we wonder, as we let them go and they leave us,

Do They Remain the Same?

We think of the changed body. We wonder what is going to happen to them as they pass from our presence. Will they be the same? Will we know them on the other side? Yes, we shall. We are not going to be absorbed into some vague infinity, and lose our identity. Each one of us is an individual, made after God's own image, and yet different from all the others. I am myself—I can never be another. You are yourselves always, for time and for eternity. And they who are gone remain the same.

I love the story of the transfiguration, where the two worlds come together for a moment, and people could see them there together. There was the Lord Jesus, who belonged to both worlds. There were the three disciples: Peter, James and John, who belonged to this world. And there were Moses and Elijah, who belonged to the other one. Moses and Elijah had both been dead for many years, and yet the three from this world did not need to be introduced to these men from the other world. God did not have to say: "Peter, James and John, meet Moses and Elijah." They just knew who they were. And while we cannot be sure of this, yet I believe when we get to the other side, we "shall know as we are known". We will not need to be introduced, and our loved ones will be there and we shall be with them. Separation just for a time, and then together forever! We shall know them and they will know us, and the love that we have one for another on earth will be there, too, on the other side, but more marvellous and better than we have known it here on earth.

What of the Body?

It is so still and so unresponsive when what we call death comes. It chills us as we look at that form which so recently responded to our love, acknowledged our fellowship, and shared our life. Then suddenly it is still, and the response is gone.

What of the body? God has a future for this body too. As far as we know, we human beings are unique in the sense that we are the only ones who are a combination of the material and the spiritual. Angels, as far as we know, are purely spiritual, like God. They are spiritual beings. The animals are just bodies, material beings. But we have a living soul made in God's image, and an earthly body in which that soul dwells. God didn't just put them together for a time. They are going to be together forever.

Our body: we love it, we have become so used to it. We know no other form of life except in the body, and God has a future for it. It is going to be laid aside in the grave. There comes a stage when, as Paul says, "we are absent from the body", like an old suit about to be disposed of. It is lying there in the earth, but not permanently, not forever. One day it will be awakened. There will come a day of glorious resurrection. This body has a golden future for it in the eternal plan of God.

The Church of Jesus Christ very early in its Creed, said, "I believe in the resurrection of the body." Even that body that we lay aside, that goes down into the grave and back to the earth and the elements from which it came, that would seem to disappear forever: one day the Lord will say to it: "Arise", and the dead will come forth, even as in the story of Lazarus. We know that it is so. "Our citizenship is in heaven from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall change our body that it may be made like His glorious body."

This body is limited, it is restricted, it gets tired and worn out. And the Lord Jesus said to His disciples, as He still says to us, "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." One day we shall no longer know limitations. The spirit will be willing, and the body too, to do exactly what our renewed spirit will want. There is no tragedy in laying aside temporarily the earthly body, because one day it will be buried as the farmer sowing his seed, and he does not mourn because he does not rise, even more marvellous than before. Paul, in I Corinthians 15, speaks of the seeds that are gone, but he is thinking of the harvest, and he plants so that there will be that glorious harvest. God has a glorious future for the body.

What of the Soul?

It is completely cleansed. In Hebrews 12 where the writer is contrasting the old dispensation and the new, he says, "For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched . . . but ye are come unto Mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem." He adds: "to the spirits of just men made perfect." "Just men"—that means those who are justified through faith in Christ. The spirits of those who are Christ's will be made perfect.

Those of us who are seeking to be like Christ, and to be useful in His service, many a time we get down before Him and confess our sins and say, "Oh Lord, forgive me." How often we fail in our relationships with one another. We have denied Him, because we have not presented a Christ-like approach. How often we must ask to be cleansed. But one day there will be no more possibility of sin. "The spirits of just men made perfect." What does it mean? "Perfect" means to us usually something impossible or unobtainable. As soon as we hear "perfect", we relax and give up, because we feel we cannot attain to it. But John says it is practical: "Beloved now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when He shall appear we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."

It won't happen while we are in the flesh. It cannot. The door-way is death. Well, why fear death? Open the door. Let us in soon, so that we can get our glorious body and be purified in the soul, and be like Christ! That is why Paul said: "I have a desire to depart and to be with Christ, which is far better," because he knew what was waiting for him on the other side, and he could scarcely wait.

I remember a story of a man who was visiting a very sick friend, and it was expected that he would, as we say, "pass away" at any moment. The visitor did not think that he would see his friend alive again. He went in to see him and on finding he was still alive, he said with much surprise: "Oh, I see you are still in the land of the living!" The sick man answering him said, "No, you're wrong. I am not in the land of the living, I am in the land of the dying. But I am *going* to the land of the living!"

Our friend, Dr. John McNicol, is there. And I believe God's Word is our assurance for it. I believe by grace through Jesus Christ, I too, am going there, and I am looking forward to it. It is going to be, as Paul says, "far better."

Let us think of something else:

Would We Want Them Back?

Suppose we could bring them back, would we do it? I am sure they would not want to come back. You just imagine someone for whom the battle is over; someone who has heard the "well done, thou good and faithful servant;" someone who has felt the cleansing and purifying of the Spirit; someone who knows it won't be long before a glorious body like Christ's is to be inherited. Would he want to come back down here again? No! And if we were able to speak to him, and say to him: "Come on back", he would say, "No. You come on up here." And it won't be long. We should think of it in those terms. God help us to see it in those terms, to dwell upon these things.

I remember a lovely story which will help us to get the idea. A woman lost a little child. Perhaps the saddest deaths are those of little children. We do not seem to feel as badly about those who have lived their full life. It is more to be expected. But a little one . . . Well, this woman lost her little child, and in the funeral service the minister told the story about a shepherd who had to get his flock of sheep across a swiftly-moving stream, and they were afraid. He tried to push them and call them, but it didn't work. Finally he took up a little lamb and carried it across, the little lamb's mother went too, and then the whole flock followed. And the minister said in his message, that that is very often the way God gets our hearts across to the other side. He picks up a little lamb and takes it over, and then we are willing in mind to go too. The little lambs, the older sheep: they are there, if they have died in Christ, and the Lover of the sheep, the Good Shepherd, He is there too, and the flock is on the other side and they are all with Him, see His face, and rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

*On the resurrection morning
Soul and body meet again;
No more sorrow, no more weeping,
No more pain!
Here awhile they must be parted,
And the flesh its sabbath keep,
Waiting in a holy stillness,
Wrapt in sleep.
For a space the tired body
Lies with feet toward the dawn;
Till there breaks the last and brightest
Easter morn.
But the soul in contemplation
Utters earnest prayer and strong,
Bursting at the Resurrection
Into song.*

*Soul and body reunited
Thenceforth nothing shall divide,
Waking up in Christ's own likeness,
Satisfied.
O the beauty, O the gladness
Of that Resurrection day,
Which shall not through endless ages
Pass away!
On that happy Easter morning
All the graves their dead restore;
Father, sister, child, and mother,
Meet once more.
To that brightest of all meetings
Bring us, Jesus Christ, at last;
To thy Cross, through death and judgment,
Holding fast.*

One other word. We might be tempted, because of our love for Dr. John McNicol (and I believe there were few people loved as much and as widely as that man. I would like to feel that one day I would become worthy of as much love, by as many people). Because of that love, there is the temptation, that as we have gathered together today, we might go away content with having been a bit sentimental and sad. I don't think he would want that. I am sure he would not.

WHAT WOULD HE SAY TO US, SUPPOSE FOR A MOMENT HE COULD COME BACK?

I am going to use my imagination. The first thing that he would say would be this: "The Gospel that I preached while I was here, the things that I taught you of the realities of heaven and hell and eternal life, they're all true! And again I would remind you of the Cross and of the One Who died there in love for you."

Then he would say to each one of us individually and separately, talking to us lovingly and earnestly, "Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour? Are your sins forgiven? Have you eternal life? And if not, do you believe now?" My, what earnestness he would put into that appeal, because he knows—he has been there, and has seen. "Put your faith in Christ as Saviour, and be cleansed and washed and born again, and become an inheritor with the saints in light."

Then there is something else he would say, "That Word of God that I taught and preached and believed: it is true, absolutely true. Heaven and earth may pass away, and for me earth has passed away, heaven is the only reality now, but the Word of God is going to abide forever. It is true. It is God's eternal Word, and we should love it, believe it, proclaim it, so that it will go unto the uttermost parts of the earth." And I am also sure as he would think of proclaiming that Word, he would most earnestly say: "Do you know there are parts of the world that have never heard? There are parts of the earth where they could not have a service such as this, and think upon heaven and salvation. They do not know. And those who die there go out into outer darkness." He would say: "Go and tell them. If you cannot go, then pray for those who do go, and give, so that those who want to go, can go." I am sure he would say something like this.

Then lastly, he would add, "Love the Lord Jesus. Love Him. He it is Who made you, who gave you the Word, Who saved you, and Who one day is going to welcome you to His right hand, where I am now. He is wonderful. He is inexpressibly wonderful . . .", and I believe he wouldn't have words, anymore than we have words, to tell us what Christ is like. But he would say: "Love Him. Love Him. Love Him. He is worthy of all your love and more."

Is that what he would say? I believe it is. And so, as we finish our Memorial Service, in order that it might not just be empty sentiment, that we might not go away and forget, I think it would be a good time now, and I am sure Dr. McNicol would approve of it and want it, for each of us to re-dedicate our lives, to say, "Lord Jesus, I love You. Give me more faith and more love. I want to give my life completely and entirely to Thy service. Accept my gift of myself afresh. Take me and use me more than ever before." Let us take a moment, each one of us, in silence, to give ourselves afresh to Jesus Christ, that we may live for Him, and die with Him."

PRAYER—Rev. William Tyler
President of the Alumni Association

HYMN:

JESUS SHALL REIGN

*Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Doth his successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till suns shall rise and set no more.*

*For Him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown His head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.*

*Peoples and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their young hosannas to His name.*

*Blessings abound where'er He reigns;
The prisoner leaps to lose his chains;
The weary find eternal rest,
And all the sons of want are blest.*

*Where He displays His healing power,
Death and the curse are known no more;
In Him the tribes of Adam boast
More blessings than their father lost*

*Let every creature rise, and bring
Its grateful honours to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth prolong the joyful strain.*

BENEDICTION—Rev. Dr. Stewart L. Boehmer
Member of the Advisory Council

"THERE WAS A MAN SENT FROM GOD WHOSE NAME WAS JOHN . . ."

ONE is not wresting or perverting Scripture to apply the introduction of John the Baptist to John McNicol: "*There was a man sent from God, whose name was John . . .*" For as surely as the founding of T. B. C. was of the Lord, so was the choosing of John McNicol, first as instructor, then as Principal of the School. For over half a century his association with the School has been unique, and his own contribution to evangelical Christianity outstanding.

John McNicol was the son of a school teacher who later entered Government service in Ottawa. The eldest of eight children, he doubtless learned early to teach and exhort those who came under his "elder brother" wing. Perhaps this home life was projected into the larger family of T. B. C. Whatever the early influence, the character and personality of Dr. McNicol has been irremovably woven into the warp and woof of the College.

In Ottawa he joined St. Andrews' Presbyterian Church, and it was there he dedicated his life for Christian service.

For those who knew the older dignity and graciousness of the Principal, it is almost difficult to picture him as a student at the University of Toronto, keen, eager, athletic, industrious, brilliant.

Sport interested him, tennis and cricket receiving most attention. And to the end he was interested in baseball, football, hockey and chess.

At the University of Toronto, he was always at or near the top of academic life, as can be seen by the following calendar:

- 1889-90 Vice President of the Executive Committee of University College.
- 1890-91 On the "Varsity" editorial staff. (An honour which he shared, incidentally, with the famed humorist and economist, Stephen Leacock; and G. Howard Ferguson, later a Premier of Ontario. W. L. Mackenzie King was also a classmate at this time.) Historical Secretary of University College Literary and Scientific Society.
- 1891 - Received his B.A. degree from U. of T. with honors in Classics.
- 1892-95 At Knox College, where he received his B.D. with first class honors in the largest class in the history of the College. During this time he also served two years as Secretary of the University Y.M.C.A. Was interested in the Student Volunteer Movement. He "volunteered" his life in 1892 when the movement was at its height. He was turned down for the foreign field, but in his lifetime has helped train hundreds of others who have gone instead.
- 1896-1900 Minister of the Presbyterian Church in Aylmer, Quebec. He also devoted a great deal of time in special work among the churches for the deepening of spiritual life.



- 1902 - Two important events: Married Louisa Burpe. Called to Toronto Bible Training School to teach.
- 1903 - Re-appointed to the Bible School staff.
- 1906 - Appointed for one year to act as Principal, on the resignation of Dr. Wm. Stewart.
- 1907 - Appointed as Principal for another year.
- 1908-46 Principal of Toronto Bible Training School, later Toronto Bible College.
- 1935 - Honored by Knox College with the degree Doctor of Divinity.
- 1946 - Principal-Emeritus of T.B.C. loved and revered by thousands of God's people, (alumni, ministers, friends) around the world.
- 1956 - Called of the Lord to higher service, and to an eternal reward so richly deserved.

Put down as a calendar, this life does not seem impressive. Nor would he want it to appear that way. But who can calculate the worth of a man, who, for over half a century, taught and tenaciously held a strong, evangelical, conservative theology; who ever held to the inerrant infallible Word of God, and sought to teach others also? While many did not agree with him in the oft-discussed prophetic position, none could dispute his gifts, his devotion, his spiritual depth and his uncompromising adherence to the Bible as the Word of God.

Criticism did not move him, praise did not spoil him. Rather he was ever the exemplification of the T. B. C. banner, and the T. B. C. motto:

"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom!"
"Holding Forth the Word of Life."

His evident successes were the criterion of the man: His four volumes of "Thinking Through the Bible" epitomize his teaching of the Word of God and his volume on the "Christian Evangel" issued by the American Tract Society, is one of the finest expositions of evangelical Christianity in print. Apart from these two major works, he contented himself with articles and lectures that carry with them the breadth of his own scholarship and the depth of his devotion to Christ.

His commentary on Luke was used in the New Bible Commentary (I.V.C.F. publication) when the compiler, Dr. F. Davidson and his associates were seeking the best material for this important work.

"The Bible's Philosophy of History" and scores of articles in the T. B. C. Recorder, The Evangelical Quarterly, The Biblical Review, and other religious periodicals, all attest to the spiritual calibre of the man.

Dr. McNicol's associations were not limited to T.B.C., although he never permitted anything to interfere with what he knew to be his life-calling of God. Such a man had much to give to others, and he became a charter member of the councils of both the China Inland Mission and the Sudan Interior Mission.

His own desire to become a foreign missionary (to China) was thus channeled by the Lord into this opportunity to help others to go. His counsel was wise and spiritual, and he did much to help in the growth of those two organizations, which grew to be the largest "faith" missions in the world.

Another interest that aligned with foreign missions, was the British and Foreign Bible Society which he served so long and faithfully, and culminated in that honored society making him a life governor in appreciation of his life-long interest.

Carrying such a load, working so long and faithfully, it is surprising that he continued in such good health and mental vigor to the end of his long life. He exemplified his own motto: "In quietness and confidence shall be your strength." As he gave up the class room, he still paid almost daily visits to his office, with its outstanding collection of books. A fall in May of 1956 fractured his hip, but even from this he was recovering, and had returned to the hospital for examination and therapy, when the Lord called him home. He went peacefully, in his sleep, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side!

As a fitting close to this brief tribute to a faithful, fruitful life one could do no better than to turn to the writings of the immortal dreamer of Bedford, John Bunyan, and to set down a record that was just as true of this modern Mr. Valiant-for-the-truth.

"After this it was noised abroad that Mr. Valiant-for-the-truth was taken with a summons, by the same Post as the others, and had this for a token that the summons was true: that his pitcher was broken at the fountain. When he understood it, he called his friends and told them of it. Then said he: I am going to my Father, and though with great difficulty I am got thither yet do I not repent me of all the trouble I have been at to arrive where I am. My sword I give him that will succeed me in my pilgrimage; and my courage and skill to him who can get it. My marks and my scars I carry with me to be a witness for me that I have fought His battles, Who will now be my Rewarder.

"When the day that he must go hence was come, many accompanied him to the riverside, into which as he went he said: Death, where is thy sting? And as he went down deeper, he said: Grave, where is thy victory? So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side."

D.C.P.



DR. J. McNICOL'S Grave in Mount Pleasant Cemetery.



When speaking of Dr. John McNicol, one cannot forget the one who has been at his side for more than half a century. Mrs. McNicol (College "Mother" to more children than she can keep track of) has been the ideal helpmeet for such a man, and she has her own niche in the hearts and affections of hundreds of graduates. Here she sends a message to the T.B.C. "Family".

FROM "MOTHER" McNICOL

IN the early years of the College it was not thought of as a "family". About 1930 when we came into our new building at 16 Spadina Road, somebody started calling me "Mother", which of course pleased me very much, and from then on I was known as "Mother McNicol". It was then that it seemed the natural thing to think of the College as the Bible College Family. Dr. McNicol was also pleased to hear me called Mother, but naturally he did not like the word "Father" used for him, but he did like the word "Teacher". I rather imagine that if you were asked whether you thought of Dr. McNicol as a father or as a teacher, most of you would say teacher.

Now our beloved teacher has gone from our midst, for he was my teacher, too, I am glad to say. I think you will agree with me that one of the finest things he did was to get his students to "think". A professor once said, "The purpose of education is not to fill the minds of students with facts, or to make them expert technicians in

any field, but it is to teach them to think, and to think always for themselves." I feel sure you would agree with me that Dr. McNicol had this in mind when he wrote his books, "Thinking Through the Bible".

Now may I write a few words about my beloved husband's accident. It was an accident, but as we know, nothing "happens" to a child of God that is not permitted by our Lord, so all must be well, even though we may never know why.

As he walked out our back door, he forgot for the moment that there was a step and walked into space getting a very bad fall. The shock from the fall, and from a slight concussion caused many complications, which had to be attended to before the broken hip could be operated on. However, after a couple of weeks of much suffering and discomfort, the bone specialist performed the operation which was quite successful, but of course, time was needed for everything to heal. Each day we committed his body to the Lord, knowing that

"He will bring it to pass For He worketh."

About that time, I read a short comment to Dr. McNicol on Psalm 37:4, 5 and we were struck by the following sentence: "Remember that all God's great processes must work in circles and cycles of time."

"Wait thou His time, so shall thy night
Soon end in glorious day."

We little knew then, that in a few weeks time, those words would be literally true.

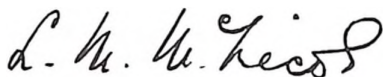
Dr. McNicol was in the hospital for almost four months, and the nurses kindly allowed me to sit by his bedside most of that time. We talked together of the way the Lord had led us and over-ruled in everything through these happy 54 years.

X-Rays were taken from time to time, the last one on August 13th. They showed that the wound had healed and the bones had knit perfectly, and now he must learn to walk. A course of physio therapy was started at Mount Sinai Hospital and he was making progress when suddenly his heart stopped, and he quietly slipped away at midnight, in his sleep, "to be forever with the Lord". "The Lord gave, the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord."

I had left him about 6:30 that evening, with no thought that the end was near, but shortly after midnight I received a phone message to say my dear one had gone.

Will you please continue to pray for Dr. McNicol's co-worker that I may find some small corner in which the Lord can use me? Would you like me to continue the ministry of correspondence with our graduates?

We both say "thank you" for upholding us in prayer all through these many years.



THE JOHN McNICOL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

THE late Dr. John McNicol was a scholar, an omnivorous reader, and author of no little repute. It seems fitting therefore, that the Board of Governors should approve the suggestion that the

JOHN McNICOL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

should be established at T.B.C. as a memorial to the man who left such an indelible mark on the institution that he was associated with for 54 years, and which he led for 40 years.

The present library is inadequate for the advances that T.B.C. is making, and it was one of Dr. McNicol's last requests to Mr. Simmonds that: "I hope you can do something with the library." Now it can be done if the friends of Dr. McNicol and T.B.C. will take it upon their hearts.

In the T.B.C. South Building, the large South Chapel is to be adapted for this Library, and the friends of Dr. McNicol and T. B. C. are invited to share in the Memorial.

Much has to be done to equip the Library for use. An artist's sketch is shown overleaf. The Board of Governors thought that individuals, groups or graduating classes might like to take on a specific project in the preparation of the Library. Or merely to subscribe to the "John McNicol Memorial Library Fund" for the purchase of equipment or books.

We would commend this memorial of love and respect to the prayerful interest of our friends and alumni. The library was close to the heart of Dr. McNicol, and his own personal library, willed to the school, will have a central place in this one that will carry his name.

In remembering Dr. McNicol, you will also know that you are assisting in the work to which he dedicated his life: the thorough training and equipping of men and women for the service of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let this be a living memorial to the "Prince in Israel":

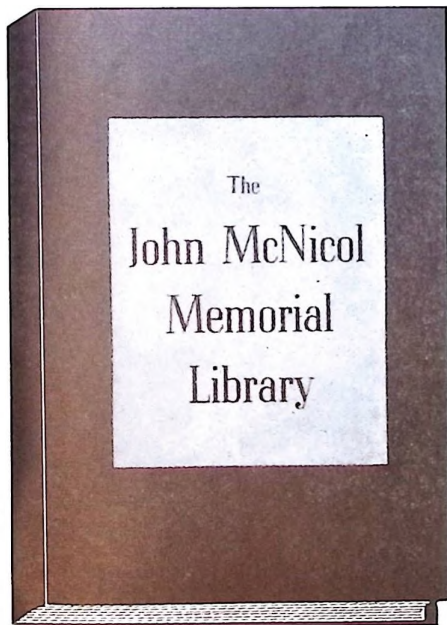
DR. JOHN McNICOL

An attractive folder (as illustrated) will be sent to all who contribute to

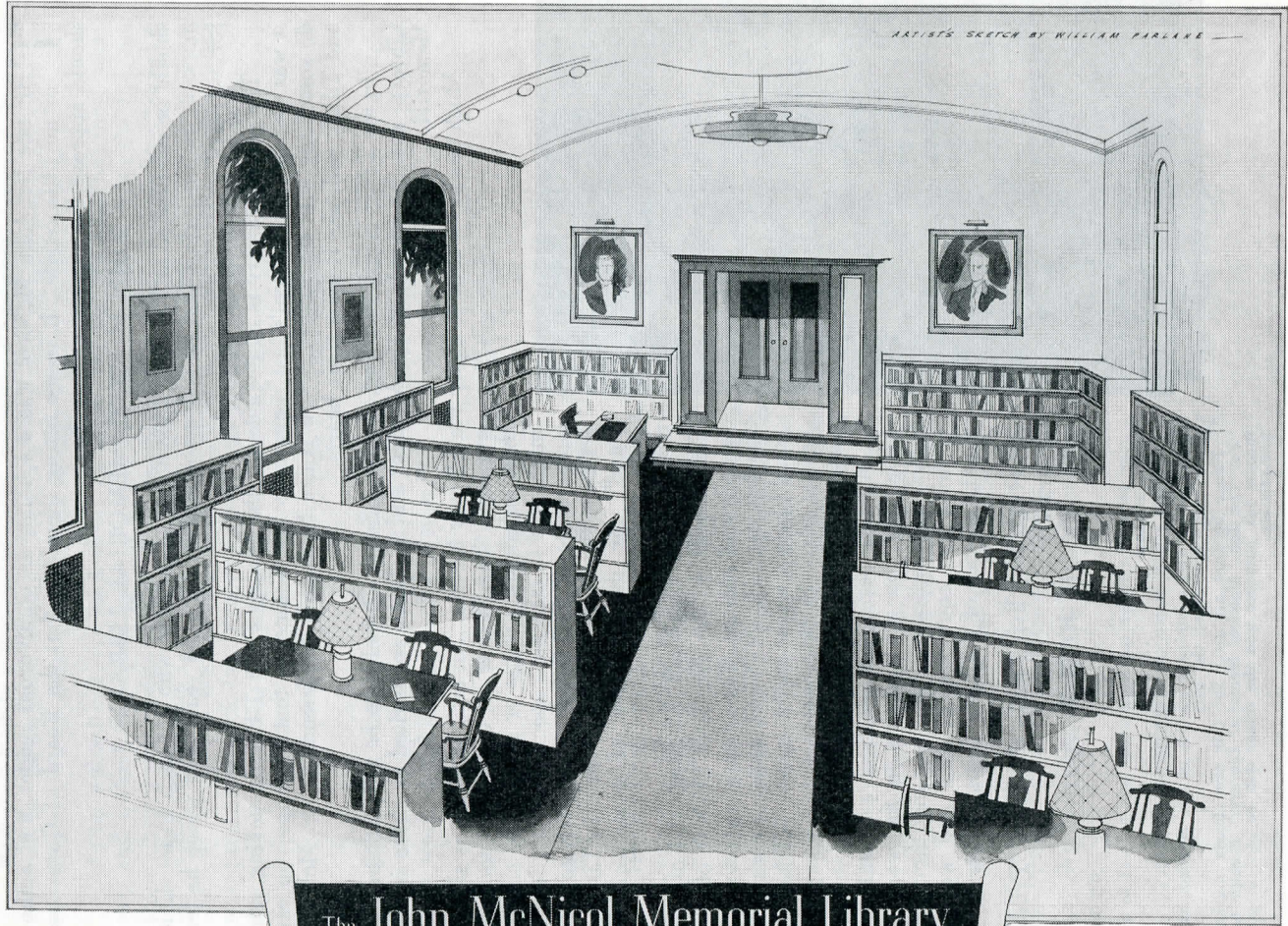
THE JOHN McNICOL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The folder also contains a picture of Dr. McNicol and an acknowledgment of the gift.

Please be sure all gifts for this are clearly marked "For The John McNicol Memorial Library." Receipt for income tax purposes and the folder will be sent to you immediately.



ARTIST'S SKETCH BY WILLIAM FARLANE



The John McNicol Memorial Library