

My fellow alumni, in the fall of 1942, Dr. J. Maurice Trimmer <sup>in Virginia</sup> and Dr. Wade H. Bryant, without conference with each other, conceived the idea of challenging the alumni of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to memorialize their love for Alma Mater by raising \$250,000 for the erection of a memorial chapel on the campus. In deepest gratitude I congratulate the alumni for success in that venture. They actually raised the \$250,000. To the disappointment and grief of all, building costs doubled between the time the campaign was launched and consummated. <sup>the time it was</sup> This meant that the chapel which we could have built for \$250,000, if we had had the money at the right time, would cost \$500,000.

The leaders of the movement faced this situation frankly prior to the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis. They recommended to the southwide alumni group at their breakfast in the Third Baptist Church, St. Louis, that the administration <sup>of the Seminary</sup> go forward with building plans just as rapidly as possible and <sup>that the alumni</sup> commit themselves to raise the additional \$250,000. That same spirit was in evidence at the Memphis Convention when the alumni again authorized the administration of the Seminary to build.

Today we are building the chapel. We have completed the excavation for the <sup>cloud</sup> foundation, poured the foundation, placed the order for the <sup>and price</sup> steel, and moved much building material to the site. The time has come, yes, it is urgent, that we raise the additional amount of money necessary to complete this much-needed building.

Surely, Mr. J. A. Field's generous gift <sup>of approximately about \$5,000</sup> which made it possible for us to purchase three acres of land in the northeast corner of the campus should inspire us to throw ourselves wholeheartedly into the



chapel campaign to bring it to a successful conclusion by January 11. This piece of land gives us an ideal site for the chapel and will add greatly to the material value of the Seminary campus.

The need for this chapel is urgent. We have no way of computing the actual loss that the Kingdom of God has sustained throughout the history of the Seminary for the lack of an adequate and beautiful place of worship for the faculty and students. No pastor would hope to maintain a high level of spirituality among his congregation if we did not have a meeting place for the people to assemble for divine worship. In our Seminary family we now have 2,007 souls. These are human beings who have <sup>divine</sup> ~~the same~~ need for worship that ~~any other group of similar size would have.~~

May I say that the consistent and continuous criticism of the Seminary through the years has been that it lacks spirituality. The criticism has been just for it has lacked spirituality, but the lack of spirituality has been due largely to the lack of a place of worship.

The building will be known as the "Alumni Memorial Chapel." This means that every alumnus should have some part in building it. When it is finished, a completed building standing among the gorgeous beech trees, I trust that every living alumnus will be able to say that he had some part in building it.

To raise approximately \$250,000 in cash and good pledges by January 11, 1949, seems a colossal undertaking, but in the light of our numerical and financial strength, \$250,000 is a bagatelle for such a worthy cause. ¶ Every man will use his own originality in securing money to supplement his own personal gift. I wish I had time to tell you what many men have done in connection with this chapel campaign.

A small-town pastor who accepted a goal of \$175.00 has sent to the treasurer \$996.45. He says there is more to come. *amissionary*

If we do not have to hold up our building program for lack of funds (and I know you will not allow that to happen), *for an unfinished building would stand over the campus of Alma Mater* in all probability we can hold the 1950 March Conference in ~~this~~ *the* beautiful ~~building~~ *auditorium of the New Chapel.*

It is thrilling to anticipate a ~~veritable~~ throng of alumni gathered on the campus from all parts of the world for the dedication of the chapel and to attend the greatest conference ever held upon the campus. ~~We can well afford to suspend classes for that week that we might give ourselves unreservedly to prayer, praise, and consecration.~~ Would it not be wonderful if the revival which our world sorely needs should begin in the *Alumnae* Memorial Chapel ~~during that week!~~

Let us here and now resolve under God and covenant with one another to close the chapel campaign on Founders' Day, January 11, ~~1949~~, by crowning our efforts with success. ~~The founding fathers, Boyce, Williams, Broadus, and Manly, and all the noble men of God who have served on the faculty, will rejoice with us in this great victory,~~ *other* ~~and~~ *on Founders' Day* ~~and~~ *and* ~~we can! We will!~~ *we do believe!*

*I now have great joy in presenting our dynamic leader and generous contributor, H. C. Osborn of Houston.*



*memorial to the  
100th anniversary of  
the chapel*