

The
Imperative
Necessity
of Continued
Church
Support



Texas Christian University
Fort Worth Texas

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TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY is born and bred a "Church School." Its founders and moulders were ministers of the Gospel, who established the school, then gave it to the church. Individuals who were representative members of the churches have borne the heat and burden of the financial battle for its survival and growth through these years. To those who were devoted to the church, and in its name have the appeals for support been made in times of stress. The leaders and spokesmen of Texas Christian University have reiterated, from generation to generation, the principle that its reason for existence is that it offers a Christian education, distinctly and avowedly. Its name has ever been taken seriously.

Now, in 1923, came unexpectedly the magnificent gift of the Mary Coats Burnett Estate, which began to be available in 1925. This was such a sudden blessing, and dealt in figures so large that it created an astonishing state of mind among the supporters of T. C. U.

The first feeling was "Texas Christian University has now enough money to meet all its future needs." The immediate result of this feeling was that large numbers of brethren delayed or even declined to pay the pledges they had previously made toward the liquidation of the indebtedness. The next result of

the feeling was that the regular calls on the churches for contribution to the current budget, as well as calls for permanent improvement were little heeded.

A second feeling has found timid expression. Perhaps it is too temporary and too preposterous a feeling to merit mention; and it probably would not be voiced here, but for its influence in diminishing contributions; and the fact that having been thought at all it should be thought through. That feeling is the suggestion, that since Texas Christian University has received such a large sum aside from the church, she will gradually pass out of church control and support. The facts that make this notion absurd and impossible are so clear and compelling to those familiar with college history and finance that it seems useless to set them down; but it is done for the sake of those not so familiar with the details of college management and in fairness to all the friends and supporters of the institution.

It might be enough for the present trustees and administration to give assurance of what is their complete conviction that such a thing not only is not contemplated, but would be unwise and impossible. Such an assurance might not satisfy the future, for the personnel changes with time. Attention is called therefore to conditions and facts that do not vary with changing personalities, but rather compel individuals to follow.

The possibility of letting T. C. U. pass out of church control because of the Burnett gift, or any other gift, is preposterous for these reasons, to mention only the outstanding ones:

1. The two millions of this estate is far from adequate to enlargement beyond the present. This amount would be only a drop

in the bucket for independent schools such as Yale, Harvard, etc. T. C. U. was operating a program, before this money came, that required three millions of endowment, hence this money has financed only the expansion already attained. To think of cutting loose from or drifting away from the church, its Mother, now, would be equivalent to the insanity of a man resigning his position because he had received a bequest large enough to give him a salary for a month.

2. The following figures represent the endowment of some of our independent universities. These figures will show how far Texas Christian University is from any danger line of separation, even if such a move were even thought of, which it is not:

Harvard University	\$69,689,540
Columbia University	57,456,803
Yale University	41,641,983
Leland Stanford University.....	28,012,830
University of Chicago.....	31,992,620
Cornell University	19,900,000
Johns Hopkins University.....	19,295,199
Carnegie Institute of Technology	15,346,000
Princeton University	14,000,000
Rochester University	25,500,000

These schools with such large endowments and with millions in gifts for special buildings and equipment find it difficult to maintain an independent existence and probably would not be able to do so, except for the tremendous work and help which they receive through their alumni assets. "Inherited endowment, wearing the richest dress of outward civilization, has failed repeatedly, in race, families, individuals, to be the source of an enduring higher

civilization." (Henderson.) The above quotation from Mr. Hansford Henderson is indeed a truth. It is just as true that endowment alone would never make a university. Texas Christian University would be indeed "trading its birthright for a mess of pottage" if it were so foolish as to feel that any endowment would be of more help and benefit than its constituents in the Disciples of Christ.

3. A constituency is worth more than an endowment. Any sane administrator would prefer a devoted, growing constituency, giving thousand every year, to a cash endowment with no particular group concerned for the future. This is all the more true because a sum that seems tremendously big today will prove hopelessly inadequate in the next generation. Only a few decades ago a million-dollar school was a marvel; now it is a minimum necessity. An endowment alone is static, limited, capable of no growth in itself, and the school that has it alone will soon be outstripped and left behind. A constituency, such as a great religious body, is alive, growing, capable of meeting new situations and larger days. To prefer an endowment and lose a constituency would be to take the one egg and kill the hen, to destroy the fountain in getting one drink. Texas Christian University would better dispense with endowment than its brotherhood backing.

4. The by-laws of Texas Christian University require that each Trustee shall be a member of the Christian Church in good standing. No better assurance of the loyalty of the school to its Mother, the Disciples of Christ, could be given. To those who may fear "the so-called independence of separation" from the Church, the unanimous answer of the Chris-

tian men and women who compose the Board of Trustees, and the Faculty of Texas Christian University; would be, that there can be no independence in separation from the ideals of our Brotherhood and the Christian principles that are its motives.

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

The present financial condition of Texas Christian University is encouraging. The Indebtedness Campaign which was put on in 1923 resulted in \$343,000 being secured in notes. All of these notes have been collected with the exception of \$90,000. The Burnett gift has made these collections more and more difficult because of the growing impression among our brethren that Texas Christian University's financial problem was solved.

Three significant facts should be borne in mind by the Disciples in their thoughts concerning Texas Christian University's finances:

First, Texas Christian University had in 1923 an enormous debt of \$330,000. A large part of this has been paid, but not a cent of the Burnett money can be used to pay the remainder of these debts. And the completion of the collection on the Indebtedness Campaign is our only source of revenue for this purpose.

Second, the Burnett Trust income is restricted entirely to teachers' salaries and scholarships. Many wrong impressions have been received concerning the size of this gift. It was originally nearly \$3,000,000 and the settlement which had to be made with the heirs took out of the estate nearly \$1,000,000 of its very best securities, leaving only \$2,000,000 of which \$1,000,000 is in lands. The only definitely assured income for all time from this estate amounts to between \$70,000 and \$80,000 per year.

Third, the annual deficit of Texas Christian University has been large because of our attempt to keep charges to students down to the minimum and because of the large number of students working their way through. This burden is heavy because student help is seldom economical; partly due to lack of training, partly due to lack of the proper sense of responsibility. Our student payroll (for students working their way through college) runs approximately \$30,000 annually. This is a great contribution to the cause of education, but it is also a tremendous burden. Buildings and equipment wear out; grounds must be maintained, high standards require better equipment. Therefore, it behooves us to curtail all expansion and be very careful in our expenditures. So, if the Brotherhood wants to see Texas Christian University develop into the wonderful school that it can become it must get under the financial burden.

T. C. U. would much prefer to have a million dollars from the 75,000 disciples in this territory than a million dollars from any one individual. And we must disabuse our minds forever of the idea that the Burnett gift has settled our financial problem, or the other idea, that Texas Christian University ever expects to be, or ever wants to be, separated from its Mother, the Disciples of Christ.