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College Notes-Chapman College

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CHAPMAN COLLEGE

I appreciate the opportunity of making a record relating something of the history and ideals of Chapman College which I trust will be occasionally read by students and friends, that they may know something of the longing, motives and sacrifices of its founders and supporters.

No institution has been better born than Chapman College. It was conceived in the hearts of good Christian people and born of a longing desire to prepare our young people for Christian service and create in them a willingness to sacrifice for Christ and His Church.

The first tangible statement looking towards the establishment of a College was made by my offer of \$50,000.00, which was the occasion of a hilarious demonstration at the Convention of 1912, assembled in the old Long Beach Church. Not only were there repeatedly long outbursts of applause, but men jumped to their feet, joyously shouting, and finally burst forth in singing the "Doxology". As I stated, the good people for many years have cherished a longing desire for a Church College and prayed that God would, in some manner, open the way for the realization of this dream. It seemed to them that the time had come and that the way had been revealed.

Immediately committees were named to crystalize the sentiment into a tangible plan. Sights were investigated and methods for raising funds discussed; then came the days of disappointment. The World War burst forth, affecting every enterprise, except those whose object was the production of weapons and means of destruction of life and property. Everything else had given way to this hellish business of war.

Immediately after the War, we organized a campaign for raising money, formed a legal corporation, bought property, prepared plans for improvements, secured the faculty, and this part of our dream was beautifully realized. However, an

institution must have more than land, buildings and personnel; it must have ideals, and Chapman College has ideals that are exalted and far-reaching in their outlook. I cannot conceive of ideals loftier or that more fully meet the divine approval than those we have for our College.

Chapman is a Liberal Arts College, is free from political control, and is a type of an educational institution needed in our cultural program. Its aim is to educate and discipline our capable young people for positions of leadership in life, preferably the life of the Church.

The Bible is our chief textbook. We want to so study it from various angles that we shall see new beauty in it, new light, new truths and glory, ever being revealed by it. There are in it rich, inexhaustible mines yet unexplored; so we at Chapman College will earnestly, honestly and painstakingly study ^{d its} sacred pages that we may develop this rich storehouse of divine truth.

Character building through education is the main objective of a Christian College. As we have stated, Chapman has been born of a Christian impulse, has been thus far financed by the members of the Disciples' Church. We are delighted with the religious environment, the spiritual atmosphere that the students find here. The teaching at Chapman offers a unified approach to life's problems. The sciences, the arts and the personal contacts are important, but religion is fundamental.

Students here take a deep interest in search of truth, a fine appreciation of the achievements of the past, a tolerant attitude towards others holding different views of religion, politics, social and cultural standing, and toward other races.

The cultural education which we offer prepares students for a richer life, deeper interest in truth, higher appreciation of the achievements of the race, a more tolerant attitude toward others, a greater responsibility for community

welfare and for both local and National government, and the creation of a willingness to serve in a needy world.

After the close of the War, people having returned to a normal way of living, the College enterprise was again taken up, even with enlarged vision and prosecuted to a most successful conclusion. I had made several propositions to our church people at the conventions, but in 1919 I made my final and biggest challenge. This was that I would give \$400,000.00, provided our church members of California and Arizona would contribute a like amount.

This financial campaign among the churches was most successful. F. M. Rogers, who was in charge of the campaign, made his report in which he stated, "This challenge of Charles C. Chapman made in the summer of 1919, whereby the long-deferred dream of having a Christian educational institution of high grade has been triumphantly met." There were 4,440 individual subscriptions made, aside from mine, the total amounting to \$828,542.00.

After investigating locations for the College, a five and a half acre tract was purchased on North Vermont Avenue, and immediately buildings were erected; first was named Harris Hall in honor of Mrs. Maria Harris of Santa Ana, a consecrated Christian woman who made large contributions to the College, ^{and} served as trustee until her death.

The College opened its doors first in the Wilshire Boulevard Christian Church, September 13, 1920 with two professors and ten students. The teachers were Cecil F. Cheverton, our present President, and D. A. Russell, formerly Dean of Berkeley Bible Seminary. The remarkable family life and spiritual atmosphere that was created that first year has ever since pervaded the campus. In 1921 the second College year opened in Harris Hall.

In 1922 the name was changed from California School of Christianity to California Christian College. This was also the first year that a class was graduating. In 1934, in my absence at all College meetings on account of illness, and without

my knowledge, the name was changed to Chapman College. This was done not only to honor me, but also because the trustees and faculty believed it would make a more understandable appeal to prospective students, as it was so generally understood that the College was only for ministerial students or religious workers.

I am pleased ^{with} ~~at~~ the splendid educational program that has been developed, giving students mental, physical, spiritual and social training all in an atmosphere charged with the spiritual. Many of those graduated here have gone out in the world and are now holding important positions, aside from those in the ministry.

I see a bright future for Chapman College. From what it has accomplished in a few years, from its high educational standing, the splendid reputation it has made, from its scholarly and consecrated faculty, its exceptionally fine student body, its beautiful buildings and the thousands of friends it has, I am fully justified in predicting for it a remarkable future.

May this institution never barter its ideals, its principles and its high educational standard for needed money. May our Church people realize the value it is and will increasingly be to the Church, the splendid advantages it offers for the higher education of their children in a spiritual atmosphere, ^{and} joyfully take a deep personal interest in its ongoing and support it generously with their financial contribution is my sincere prayer.