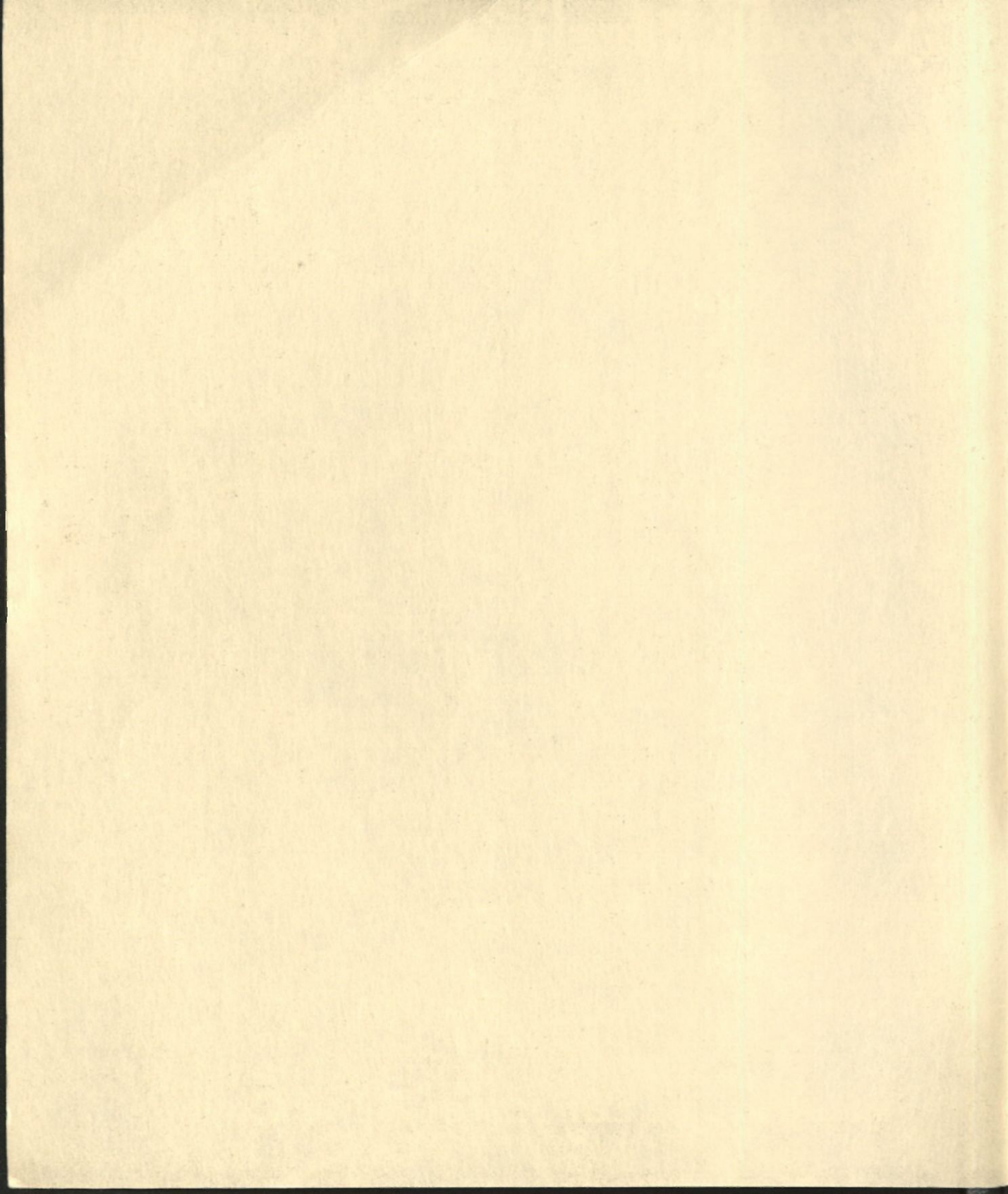


A Godly Heritage: 1933-1983



A History of Lancaster Bible College

by Thomas O. Figart, and Margaret E. Uhler





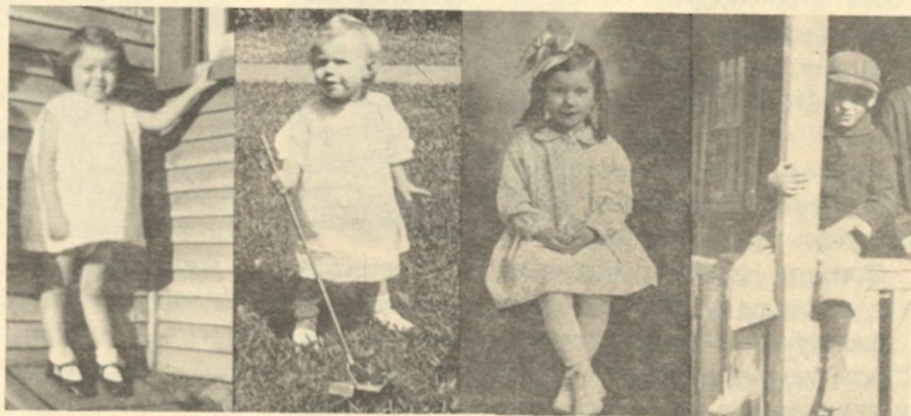
Headlines on the front pages of the Lancaster New Era in September 1933 carried items such as: "Machine Gun Kelly caught in Memphis," and "Son of Evangelist Billy Sunday leaps from eleven story building." The 1933 World Series featured the Washington Senators and the New York Giants. Butter was advertised at 25 cents a pound and coffee at 27 cents a pound. You could have rented a complete house in downtown Lancaster for between \$10 and \$25 per month!

A small item on the news page inside the paper read, "Bible school opens September 25. Daily sessions will be held at Convention Hall." This building, at the corner of West Orange and Pine Streets, housed an automobile showroom on the first floor, and had one large room on the second floor where the classes of Lancaster School of the Bible met for the first months of its existence.

By the way, where were *you* in 1933? Some of you may be old enough to remember. Here are a few of the people who are now employed at Lancaster Bible College in their 1933 look.

The Period of Organization and Incorporation - 1933-1953

The founder and first president of LBC was Dr. Henry J. Heydt, born in Hoboken, New Jersey, in May 1904. He graduated from Moravian College in 1927 and two years later received his Bachelor of Divinity degree from



Moravian Seminary. During his student days he attended Edgeboro Moravian Church where he met Margaret, a young lady in his youth group, whom he later married.

During his student days, Henry attended Montrose Bible Conference where he posed many questions to Bible institute students he met there. He felt the answers that he received were not satisfactory because it appeared that the students were simply lectured to and did

not have the opportunity to study textbooks for themselves or discuss theological subjects. When the time came to establish Lancaster School of the Bible, he wanted the students to be exposed to more than just lectures. His feeling was that they needed to be grounded in the original language and to be taught logic in order to enhance their thinking process.

On August 1, 1933, Henry Heydt resigned from the pastorate of the Lancaster Moravian Church to become the founder and first president of Lancaster School of the Bible. According to Mrs. Heydt, "He felt that if there were twelve students, he could start a school (because the Lord had twelve disciples), and twelve students were in the first class." According to the first Lancaster School of the Bible yearbook published in 1949, some of the first day school students were: Harold Byler, Robert Duffey, Mildred Landis, Wilbur Martin, Amos Nissley, Daniel Rife, Helen Unruh, and Jonathon King. It is also interesting to note that the first evening school enrollment numbered fourteen students.

Some of Heydt's philosophy is reflected in the practices of those early days of the school.

Salary — No faculty received a stated salary. There were offering boxes for contributions to various needs and sometimes Dr. Heydt received between one and three dollars per week for his ministry. He conducted a Bible conference ministry to supplement his income. In addition, Dr. Heydt was pastor of a church, known as The Lancaster Tabernacle, which at that time was associated with the school.

Library — For the first twenty years of its existence, Lancaster School of the Bible did not have a library. Students had to depend upon Dr. Heydt's extensive library which he



made available to them, together with a number of books which his grandfather had left him. In those days, students were required to buy their textbooks and were encouraged to build their own libraries for future ministry.

Student Recruitment — One early catalog states that Lancaster School of the Bible "is, and purposes

to remain, a small institution." Because of that, student recruitment did not exist as a planned program, and people became aware of the ministry of the College simply through Dr. Heydt's Bible Conference ministry and a girl's trio that traveled with him.

Finances — No appeals were made for money while Dr. Heydt was at the school, and no registration or tuition fees were charged. However, during his last year as president, there was instituted a "faculty fee" of \$50 per semester from each day school student and \$15-\$30 from each evening school student, depending on the number of credits taken. Beginning in 1952, each new student paid a registration fee of \$5, and room and board was \$12 per week.

Curriculum — Lancaster School of the Bible was to be "a Biblically grounded and scholastically efficient institution." The original curriculum was a two-year program to which was later added a third and a fourth year, but degrees were not given. The ideal of giving a standard theological three-year program to students who had not yet completed college was recognized as a problem, and at times the objectives of Biblical grounding and scholastic achievement were achieved and other times they were not.

Regarding those first years, Mrs. Heydt recalled, "Many mornings my husband left without breakfast because there was not enough

food in the house for all, and because of this, and not eating lunch, he was so weak he had to lean on the lectern while he taught his morning and evening classes." She further recounted, "Paul Flory would give us a receipt for the rent of our little house month after month when we could not pay the \$25 per month rent, but all praise is due to Him who has promised to supply every need." These were years of beginnings and a time of great trust.

Early Affiliation with American Theological Seminary

George J. Apel, Jr. on September 6, 1934, wrote Lancaster School of the Bible offering them an affiliation with the American Theological Seminary of Wilmington, Delaware. He said, "This affiliation would entitle your directors and teachers to a vote in our Seminary corporation."

Dr. Heydt replied four days later by saying, "We have continued in prayer and are praising the Lord for the open door in affiliating with your Seminary . . . and it is a matter of great encouragement to us after the deep waters of the last year." A seven-point proposal for affiliation was signed on December 17, 1934, by the directors of the Lancaster School of the Bible and was approved by the American Theological Seminary under the signature of Dr. Albert Hughes.

This affiliation was barely in force long enough for a two-year diploma to be granted. The first commencement folder of Lancaster School of the Bible, dated June 5, 1936, lists five recipients of that diploma. They were

James Colbert, Jonathon King, Mildred Landis, Amos Nissley, and Helen Unruh. In addition, there were eight students who finished a more rigorous two-year diploma program from the American Theological Seminary. These were S. Elmore Byler, James Hall, Snowie Hall, H. Elvin Peters, Susan Shenk, Verda Unruh, Ethel Wilson, and Pauline Zarfoos. Seven students also were awarded the Evangelical Teacher Training Association diploma, and seven others received one-year certificates in Biblical education from the Seminary. Early commencement

speakers included Dr. Will Wrighton, Dr. Rowan Pearce, James R. Graham, and Dr. Robert Fritch.

The end of this affiliation with the American Theological Seminary came one month later, on July 9, 1936. Correspondence between Dr. Heydt and the American Theological Seminary in that period of time seemed to indicate that the dissolving of the relationship between the two

schools hinged on the role that the church Dr. Heydt was pastoring, Lancaster Tabernacle, was having in the ministry of Lancaster School of the Bible. Dr. Heydt took a strong position regarding the existence and operation of the church and even strongly advised students against affiliating with other churches in the vicinity. He continued as pastor of the church and president of the School.

Before the 1934 spring term ended, Lancaster School of the Bible moved to new quarters at 211-213 North Duke Street. While the building had small rooms, it did enable several classes to meet at the same time, which was not true in the former location. The



School functioned there from April 15, 1934 to May 15, 1939. This location is presently in use as an apartment building in Lancaster.

During those years the students had to live off campus since no dormitory space was provided. Wayne Gehman came in 1938 and gives this perspective on student life:

Four of us lived on Green Street in the Seventh Ward in an old bakery and had a little mission there for the children of the area. We heated the two former offices with an old wood burning cook stove and did our cooking with it. We cut firewood in the area of Farmersville.

I recall one of my jobs was to go to the local bakery and get day old products. They came to know us as students and really gave us lots of products. I'd simply ask for 25 cents worth of day old bread. Bless that lady! She would throw in pies, buns, bread, and fill up the sack. She knew we were hungry. Jobs were hard to find. For example, we would walk three and four miles out to the farms during haymaking and wheat harvest to make a few dollars to help make our way through school. I worked in a dental supply house, ice cream factory, peanut butter factory, Armstrong Cork, Pennsylvania Railroad, cooking at a summer camp and so on. We held a lot of street meetings, and we would visit taverns on Saturday night to give out tracts and say a word for our Lord. We would ask the bartender for permission to do so and were never denied the privilege. I suppose most of them were so shocked at having a young person come up and ask for this privilege, that they could not turn us down!

During 1939, three significant events occurred. First, the School moved to 128-130 North

Mulberry Street. Mr. Robert H. Wright of New Holland took a mortgage on that building for \$3,000 with interest at 4½ percent. Then in December of 1939, there was a resolution that the property be purchased from Dr. R.D. Becker and Mr. Paul D. Flory, who had privately purchased the property for the use of the School and the church.

The second important item was that Lancaster School of the Bible became officially incorporated as a non-profit organization in the State of Pennsylvania, on November 25, 1939. The new Corporation was made up of the following men: Dr. R.D. Becker, H.J. Heydt, Robert



Kircher, Elwood Baer, Kenneth Miles, Paul Wilson, and J. Hoffman Gerber. Now the question of tax-exemption on the building came up, and it became necessary to place the property under the name of the School.

A third significant item was the changing of the name of the church from Lancaster Tabernacle to Lancaster Gospel Center.

The very next year, the boards of Lancaster Gospel Center and Lancaster School of the Bible met and reorganized themselves into a Board of Deacons, also known as a Board of Directors, which was responsible for overseeing the business affairs and the affairs of Lancaster School of the Bible, and a Board of Elders, appointed to oversee the spiritual matters. This, in essence, became a unified organization with two separate functions be-

ing cared for by a Board of Deacons and a Board of Elders. The term Board of Trustees is also used for the first time in December 1941 in reference to the Board of Deacons of Board of Directors. Dr. Heydt was a member of both boards, president of the College, and pastor of the church.

Because of this unique relationship, another special and unusual event occurred. Between 1937 and 1955, Lancaster School of the Bible ordained 28 men to the ministry. This special church-School relationship made this possible as the ordination certificates indicate. The pastorate was not the only thing in view as there was a great passion for overseas missions at the School as well. Alan Heckart writes:

In September 1940, Brother Paul Wilson offered to teach Spanish in a special evening class if any were interested. The class was composed of Alice Hull, who went to Costa Rica; Alice Martin, who went to Chile; Mary Kaufman, who went to Venezuela; and my wife Mary and myself, who went to Paraguay. Brother Wilson left the class after a few months and soon went to Cuba as a missionary to set us a good example. It is rare for students and the teacher all to go the mission field, even in missionary training classes.

Another interesting item from the congregational report for 1941 was the question of Dr. Heydt's heavy responsibility with the two organizations. He did consider resigning from the pastorate to give full time to the School, but Hiram LeFever was hired as an assistant pastor to help with the visitation for the church and to teach at the School. The LeFev-ers were also involved as houseparents at the newly acquired dormitory. Of those days, Hazel Boyles writes:

In the fall of 1939, I came to Lancaster. In those days there was no dorm.

Out-of-town students lived in homes. It was with great joy and enthusiasm that the students received word we would be acquiring the property on West Chestnut Street for a dorm. I had returned to Lancaster that summer to take a job. As soon as we could, we all started cleaning. There was lots to do to get it ready to move in — windows to wash, floors to scrub, painting — but it was so much fun. We would sing and laugh and be so tired when we finished the day that we were silly, but we slept really well. Our first houseparents were Mr. and Mrs. Hiram LeFever. Grace Clark was in charge of the kitchen and Emma Musser was in charge of the dining room. All students who lived in the dorm were set up on a weekly schedule to help serve and do dishes. Oh, the memory of those days! I'd like to live them over again!

The war years — 1940-1945 — were difficult ones with enrollment dropping from 33 students in 1939 down to 19 students during 1942 and 1943, and then back up to 21 in 1944-45. Lucille Torrey, wife of the late Dr. Frank Torrey, tells about her time at Lancaster School of the Bible:

It was a three-year course during those years and everyone took one course (there was no choice of special course or majors like there is today). Everyone took three years of Greek! The teachers were excellent and we learned much from their ministry to us. There was no tuition; we just had to buy our own books and supplies. Room and board at the dorm was \$3.00 per week. I worked at the Central Market on Tuesday and Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings and earned \$10.00 a week for my twenty hours. After paying my room

and board, I had ample funds left to care for my school expenses, buy my clothes and personal needs, and was self-supporting on \$10.00 a week! At that time, I was happier than I had ever been, even though I had accepted the Lord at the age of nine. They were wonderful years, and I will ever be grateful to the Lord for the privilege of attending and graduating from Lancaster Bible College.

In spite of the low enrollment, the process of "organizing" went forward. In 1944, the Office of Academic Dean was established with a comprehensive list of eleven areas of duties and responsibilities, which remained virtually unchanged for the next twenty-five years. Wayne Gehman became the Dean of the School.

A name change, to Lancaster School of the Bible and School of Theology, occurred in 1944. The purpose of the name change was to accommodate two different diplomas that were being granted. One diploma was for students who studied Greek and certain special theological subjects. The other diploma did not require these disciplines. In 1960, the School returned to the original name Lancaster School of the Bible, again due to curricular revisions.

The post-war years of 1945 to 1950 were years of slow but steady growth for the School. In 1947, there was correspondence concerning the establishment of a branch school in Springfield, Missouri. The proposal went so far as to draw up a name for the school, a faculty, and a board, but the vision for outreach apparently did not succeed. Paul Rambler describes some of those post-war school experiences when he writes:

I had a taste of the Word of God in Memphis, Tennessee, where I was stationed for a year. I was eager to get

into the Word and learn how to study it in a systematic way. A few days of classes soon proved that I was in the right place. I appreciated the depth of teaching from men like Mr. Heydt and brother Kraybill, not to mention others. I also remember the good times we had, along with Mr. Heydt's humor. I remember his sternness and firmness in some things. Even though I was fresh out of the service, I found the need for much discipline . . .

We had quite a few opportunities to minister at Saturday night youth rallies. Those days the entire student body went to the meetings and many took part. Everyone was expected to go along unless there was a good reason for not going. (Mr. Heydt decided on the reason and let us know if it was good or not). I had a 1930 Dodge which we would pack to capacity and I will not attempt to describe some of the other vehicles in the caravan. But we were a family and we had great times in His service.

The Deacons and Dr. Heydt supervised the school and the church until 1948, when William Randolph became pastor of the church and served until 1953.

The Alumni Association got its start in 1950 with the first officers being elected in June of 1950 and the name "Alumni Informer" was added in 1951, later

changed to "The Alumni Courier."

The first insignia on the School catalog was a seven-branched candlestick with seven stars above it, obviously taken from Revelation 2:13-16. Inscribed on the base of the candlestick was the following: "LSB — Not I, But Christ."

Another first for the School was the initial broadcast of "The New Life Hour" on January



12, 1952, over station WGCB, Red Lion, Pennsylvania. In October of 1952, WLAN in Lancaster began to carry the broadcast and though the times and formats have changed over the years, the College continues to broadcast. Today "Reflections" is heard each weekday over WDAC-FM in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

The library got its start in 1952 and began with an initial gift of \$36.75 given by Miss Arlene Wolfe to be used for the Lord's work at the School. The Alumni Association officers voted to give this to the School for the purchase of books for the library so that by January 1953, Dean Paul C. Wilt could say in his Annual Report that "today we have over 700 volumes in the library." This was providential because one month later, Dr. Henry Heydt submitted his resignation and his personal library went with him.

Dr. Heydt had always been interested in the ministry to the Jews, and for three years had taught at the Jewish Missionary Institute under the American Board of Missions to the Jews located in New York City. In his letter of resignation, presented to the Board of Trustees in February 1953, he wrote:

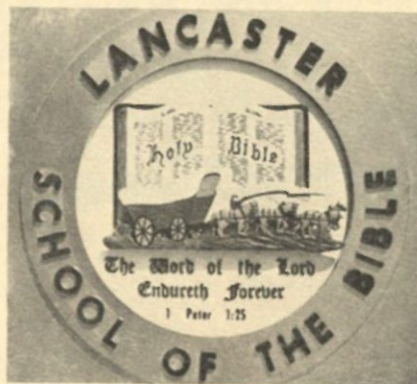
The invitation has now come from the Mission for me to give them full-time service. During the last three years, the Lord has laid the same burden on my heart at various times. Since the work here has now reached, under the hand of God, such a period in its development that my withdrawal would not cause any undue hardship, I hereby tender resignation as President and faculty member of the Lancaster School of the Bible and School of Theology.

The Period of Stabilization and Relocation — 1953-1961

From February 5 to November 30, 1953, the Board of Trustees carried on the business of the School while seeking a new president. Paul Wilt worked closely during these months with the board. For a brief period, Dr. Stuart Garver served as counselor to the Board of Trustees and Acting President. On April 8, 1954, William J. Randolph accepted the invitation to become the President of Lancaster School of the Bible. Mr. Randolph was an alumnus of the School and a pastor of the Lancaster Gospel Center from 1948 to 1953. During the time that Mr. Randolph was pastor, the name of the church was changed from the Lancaster Gospel Center to Grace Fellowship Church and retained this title until 1957 when it adopted the new name, Grace Baptist Church. A tie to the church remains to this day, as the second student ever registered at Lancaster School of the Bible, Mildred (Lendis) Peters, and her husband, also a graduate of the School, as retired missionaries are members of the church.

A number of academic changes occurred under Mr. Randolph's administration. A newly revised curriculum was instituted which required a minimum of 100 semester hours to receive a diploma in Bible. A minimum of 130 semester hours was required for a diploma in theology. In addition, a minimum of 132 semester hours was needed for a diploma in music. In addition to all of this, a thesis containing 5,000 words for a diploma in Bible, and 10,000 words for a diploma in theology or music, had to be approved by the faculty.

In a practical way, this meant that a student was required to complete three years of study for a diploma in Bible and four years for the theology and music diplomas, with the theology curriculum requiring two and a half years of New Testament Greek and three years of



Old Testament Hebrew.

Missions was extremely practical with courses offered in photography, typing, technical drawing, engineering, surveying, building, water supply, and sewerage, with auto mechanics, cooking courses, and even a medicine course added later. Some of these courses, taught by Paul Sebastian, were held in the newly-built photographic facility in the basement of the Esbensshade farm on Eden Road.

At a special Corporation meeting on February 8, 1954, J. Martin Esbensshade offered to sell his farm property to the School. The School, however, did not feel it was in a position to move ahead in this area and investigated other buildings in downtown Lancaster from 1954 to 1957.

On April 4, 1957, J. Martin Esbensshade and his family offered to donate to the School the farm buildings and fifteen acres of the property. In the family chapel program on May 2, 1957, a formal presentation and acceptance of this generous gift was made. At the Corporation meeting later that month, plans were presented for buildings on the new property and a financial estimate was formulated.

The involvement of the Esbensshade family with Lancaster School of the Bible was described in a brochure which presented the new campus.

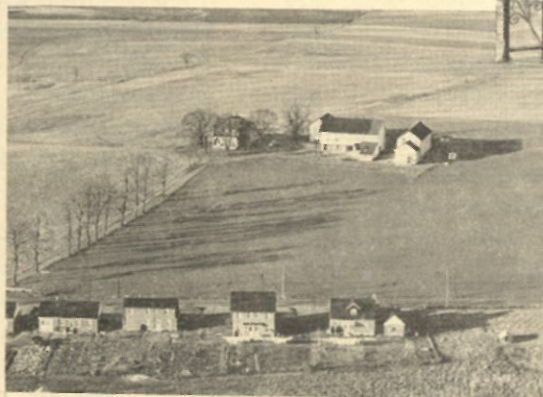
"Back of the Gift"

Seated recently in the kitchen of their home, Mr. and Mrs. J. Martin Esbensshade told in their own homelike way some of the facts of their lives which motivated their making the gift of fifteen acres of valuable land with the farm buildings on it to the school.

They said that their interest in Lancaster School of the Bible goes back

more than twenty years and that it was through Dr. Roy D. Becker, until his death an honorary life member of the Board of Trustees, that they became interested in this ministry of training.

The original property, from which the fifteen acres had been given to the school, was acquired about the time of the Great Depression of the early '30s. Jobs were practically non-existent, many factories were closed, crops could not be sold, and banks were unable to negotiate loans. At that time, the Esbensshades were in dire straits



for money with which to meet payments on their farm. The banks were unable to help. If money was not procured and the mortgage payment made, the mortgage could foreclose. Moreover,

the mortgagee wanted to get the property back and saw in this situation an opportunity to repossess the property. The Esbensshades believed in prayer, however, and the Lord honored their faith. Through the instrumentality of Mrs. Esbensshade's father, the Lord provided the means and their farm was thus saved from foreclosure.

While the property now securely their own, the Lord further blessed the Esbensshades. The advantageous acquisition of twenty-five acres of land

adjacent to their property may be mentioned as one of the numerous blessings they received. Their dependence upon God is beautifully expressed and clearly seen in their humble response to the question: "What caused you to make this gift of land to the School?" The simple answer, "We are not giving, but just giving back to the Lord what we owe Him for what He has done for us. We prayed and arrived at our decision with peace and joy."

The years from 1958 to 1961 were filled with plans for development of the new campus. Some of these eventuated in actual renovations and buildings, and others did not. First to be remodeled was the farm house, which became known as "Old Main." It is not easy at the present time to recount all the changes in that one building from 1958 to the present. The photographic laboratory had already been in use; but in 1958, administration offices, a book shop, classrooms, and a small student lounge and mailbox room, as well as a print shop, were developed. The official move to the campus had been accomplished between semesters during the week of January 20, 1958.

Across campus there was an experimental building erected by the Pennsylvania State University in conjunction with the Federal government. Originally the basement of this building was used for both the chapel and the library. In 1959, this building was remodeled, providing much needed chapel space, and the library was expanded and classrooms added. At the front of the building, facing Eden Road, an apartment for the campus maintenance man was provided. Later, in January 1960, a formal dedication of this building took place and it was named "Becker Hall," in memory of Dr. R.D. Becker, a friend and supporter of the School.

Building did not progress immediately on

the new campus due to fiscal restrictions. The vision was there, however, and plans were drawn up for a new dormitory.

The view to the future also included a desire for proper accreditation. An approach was made to the Accrediting Association of Bible Institutes and Bible Colleges and the first self-evaluation was sent in 1958 to this organization. The School was examined by a visiting team and approved as an associate member of the Accrediting Association on November 23, 1959. It would be six more years before full accreditation would be achieved.

It was during these years that the administration of the School also expanded by the addition of a full-time Business Manager and a Dean of Women. The Academic Dean carried the responsibilities of Registrar and Dean of Students.

Enrollment for the fall semester of 1960 reached a new high of 95 students. An innovation in that new semester was the publication



of the student newspaper entitled *The Scroll*. The Friends and Funds Drive, ended in 1960, brought in over \$20,000.

After serving for eight years as leader of Lancaster School of the Bible President Randolph submitted his resignation on May 25, 1961. His presidency was one of stabilization and relocation. There was stabilization of the curriculum into a more standardized Bible institute arrangement; the library was begun and given stability; and the administration

took on a more efficient posture. Though the student body had not yet increased dramatically, the new campus provided an exciting incentive for the possibilities of expansion in the future.

THE PERIOD OF EXPANSION — 1961-1979

After the resignation of President Randolph, an Executive Committee was appointed to manage the School until a new president was named. During the summer months, Rev. Stuart E. Lease was elected as the new President of Lancaster School of the Bible, and Rev. Thomas O. Figart was appointed the new Academic Dean.

As these new men took over the reins of administration, the School had grown slightly to a student body of 105; the new campus needed development; and LSB had reached the point where it was necessary to take the next step with the Association of Bible Colleges for full accreditation. The library now numbered 8,000 volumes and the curriculum was the standard three-year Bible institute curriculum with a four year missions program available.

Plans for accomodating a student body of a maximum of 150 students were being considered at that time. Students were living in dormitories at 325 West Chestnut Street and had to commute several miles to the new campus each day. A bus had been hired to transport the students from the dormitory to the classroom building on the new campus. If they missed the bus, they had to walk to school or get a ride some other way. One morning one of the girls "hitch-hiked" a ride with the Lancaster police, and arrived on time — in their cruiser!

Classes began at 7:40 a.m. and ended at 11:50 a.m. *The Scroll* tells the story this way:

It is 6:00 a.m. Eighteen bells sound through the halls to tell us it is time to rise and shine. The fellows, living in a separate building at the rear of the

property, do not have the privilege to awaken to our bells and are subject to the songs and announcements of the kitchen girls over the 'squawk box.' There are always a few who wait until 6:29 to arise. This usually causes a stampede to the dining room.

Some mornings we are subject to the 'male chorus' found faithfully washing the breakfast dishes. Oh, yes, everyone gets his turn to show his housewife abilities by doing dishes twice a week.

Each student was required to assist in performing a number of duties to subsidize room and board. It was a daily rush to get to class at such an early hour from downtown Lancaster. Other students commuted from some of the suburban towns. Dr. Joyce L. Hulgus gives us her impressions of LSB during those years:



It's been twenty years since I was a fledgling student on the campus of Lancaster School of the Bible. Looking back, I see how much of a tender shoot I was. Then and since then, I've been watered, the soil has been fertilized, I've been pruned — all under the loving rays of the Son. While at LSB, the faculty, staff, and administration alike willingly cultivated this "tender shoot." That cultivation occurred in many areas. Most important to me was the cultivation of my mind. In some classes, it's true that most of what I learned was memorized. But much of what I was exposed to in Bible and theology, Christian Education and missions, took me beyond basic facts to understanding them and assimilating the material into my life.

... But cultivation of the mind alone is incomplete. LSB appeared well aware of that fact. They considered social needs, too. I remember many happy events, formal and informal. The encouragement to experience "community" was certainly there. Additionally, there was the cultivation of sharing myself and my faith through Christian service assignments in my local church and on promotional teams. Countless lessons were learned — some with ease and some with difficulty — through this aspect of my education.

And not least in their significance to me were the many minutes, yea hours, the faculty and staff gave me personally during difficult times in my life. There was dealing with an overwhelmingly full schedule; there was the pain of losing my mother in death; there were frustrations with relationships; there was the sorting-out of God's will for me. The list could be

multiplied. The LSB family set a good model for me with reference to taking time to meet individual needs.

For encouraging me to become mature in Christ, yet allowing for that to be a process; for supporting me and yet confronting me when necessary; for utilizing my talents as rough hewn as they then were; for listening to me, praying with me and for me; for leading me into truth — THANK YOU. May your tribe increase!

The School was still in pursuit of full accreditation with the AABC and after much self-study and more revision, the Lancaster School of the Bible was accredited by the Association of Bible Colleges in October 1964.

The development of the campus also continued. In the Spring of 1962, the old barn in the center of campus was torn down and in June of 1962, two new classrooms were built at the rear of Old Main.

During the summer of 1962, Mr. and Mrs. J. Martin Esbenshade gave an additional four and a half acres to widen the tract of land on the east and west sides of the campus. They also offered the School a "first right of refusal" on eight more acres on the north side of the property.

It was a momentous occasion on Sunday afternoon, November 4, 1962, when groundbreaking for the large new dormitory took place. By September 1963, not only was this building completed, but also a new maintenance building with a two-bedroom apartment added to the south side, and an outdoor basketball court on the north side, were all ready for use.

Enrollment began to increase significantly during the 1960's. The campus was being developed, the School was accredited, and the faculty was growing. In the Bible department, in addition to President Lease and Dean Figart, there were other well-known names such as Nolan Balman, Ronald Gibson, Fred Pear-

son, Earl Osborn, Renald Showers, Donald Urey, and John Winterstein added to the teaching staff. Catherine Yohn and Joyce Hulgus taught Christian education, and Harry Mark led the pastoral Studies Department. In 1968, Ronald Gibson was appointed to direct the Pastoral Studies Department, Paul Sebastian directed the Missions program, followed by other notables such as Herbert Kane and Walter Baker. In the area of Church Music, Mrs. Grace Bitler and Miss Doris Ulrich faithfully taught.

Facilities continued to expand in the sixties. An eight-unit apartment building was completed in 1966 and a men's dormitory in 1967. With the enrollment nearing the 200 mark in 1969, the need for more library space and a large auditorium, which could also serve as a gymnasium and banquet hall, became evident. During the 1970-71 school year, for the first time the enrollment went over the 200

mark, the new auditorium-gymnasium was completed, and the library was expanded into the upper floor of Becker Hall doubling its capacity. Evening School also had grown greatly and by 1970-71 had reached the 427 mark.

During the period of the 1960's the faculty and administration discussed the possibility of a four-year degree program. There was a fear, as is common in many schools, that the School would drift from its original purpose and become a Christian liberal arts college. Even the student body was divided 50-50 in a poll taken by *The Scroll*.

The obvious advantage for the student who wanted a degree was that he could remain on the same campus instead of transferring to a four-year Bible college or liberal arts college,

as a good number of the graduates were having to do at that time. Much time, planning, and praying had gone into the process, but it was not until the 1970's that this became a reality. In 1971, an approach was made to the Pennsylvania Department of Higher Education and they in turn visited the campus for a consultation. After a number of revisions in the curriculum to accommodate the fourth year, the four-year program was instituted in 1972 as a pre-requisite for an evaluation team to determine the School's readiness to offer a Bachelor of Science in Bible degree. Significant changes in the administration also occurred. The administration now numbered five with the President, Academic Dean, Business Manager, Dean of Students, and Director of Public Relations.

The year 1973 was a very significant year in the life of the School. A letter was received from the Secretary of Education on January 23, 1973, indicating that the



School was given provisional approval to grant the degree of Bachelor of Science in Bible. And thus, in May of 1973, Lancaster School of the Bible became officially Lancaster Bible College.

Developments in the College, which were necessary for it to become a college, did not come merely in the academic area. There were developments in all the areas of the College. The Student Affairs department was constantly improved under the direction of Donald A. Urey and Miss Sally Lauffer. The increasing enrollment meant that the dormitories were crowded, the library was too small, and faculty office space was scarce. In addition, the School underwent another review by the Association of Bible Colleges and was reaccredited for another ten years.

Another ambitious program was undertaken in 1976 which included a new auditorium-gymnasium, two residential units, a new dining facility, and a new maintenance building. The "old" auditorium-gymnasium was renovated into a two-story library and office complex. Tennis courts were added to the campus and the former maintenance building was renovated into a classroom building.

Along the academic lines, approaches were made to the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools with the possibility of approval by them for regional accreditation. Candidate status was granted in 1976 and the process of self-evaluation was intensified through a self-study of the entire College operation.

A number of changes were occurring, however, and in 1978 the College was to enter a period of reevaluation and reorganization. Leaving the College were the Academic Dean, the Business Manager, and the Director of Public Affairs. Dr. Figart, who had returned to a teaching position, was appointed acting Academic Dean in the Spring of 1978 and then acting President in January 1979, when Dr. Stuart E. Lease submitted his resignation. While there was change in leadership, the faculty and staff remained unchanged and committed to the ministry of the College.

The presidency of Dr. Stuart E. Lease has been characterized as a period of expansion. Looking back to the beginning of that administration, there were only two usable buildings on a fifteen-acre campus. There were less than one hundred students and six full-time faculty members. The main program of the College was a three-year diploma program and a four-year, non-degree missions program. The library also had less than two thousand volumes.

At the close of Dr. Lease's administration there was a campus of thirty-six acres, fifteen buildings, over four hundred students, twenty full-time faculty members, thirty-four full-

time and eleven part-time staff, a library of 25,000 volumes, and a four-year degree-granting program in place.

THE PERIOD OF RECOGNITION - 1979-1983

Transition marked the year 1979. This is best seen in the uniqueness of having the diplomas signed by Dr. Thomas O. Figart as both President and Academic Dean.

During the spring and summer months, a Search Committee sought for a new President. On July 12, 1979, Dr. Gilbert A. Peterson began his duties as President of Lancaster Bible College. Three very important challenges loomed straight ahead. The first was to bring together a new administration that would function capably and supportively in meeting the needs of a new decade. Dr. Peterson brought in three new administrators from the outside and promoted one from the inside so that the College presently has five key administrators serving the President in supervision and direction of the affairs of the College. Dr. Wesley A. Olsen is Academic Dean and Vice President of the College; Mr. Chester A. Halstead is Vice President for Student Development; Mrs. Jane Baumgartner is Vice President for Stewardship; Mr. Ronald N. Cohen is Vice President for Public Relations; and Mr. Robert J. Willey, Sr. is Vice President for Business and Finance.

The second challenge was the academic standing of the College both with the State of Pennsylvania and the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. The College had been engaged intensively in an institutional self-study and the curriculum was revised during the 1979-80 year to provide forty percent of the academic program in Biblical Education, forty percent in General Education, and approximately twenty percent in Professional Education. The Pennsylvania State Department of Education visitation team returned to the College, evaluated the progress, and permanent approval was given to Lancas-

ter Bible College to grant the Bachelor of Science in Bible degree on January 23, 1981.

In 1981, the Middle States Association sent an evaluation team which presented a report which was very encouraging, but indicated several areas in need of strengthening. Action of full accreditation was deferred and a second follow-up team visited the College in October of 1982. In December 1982, the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association reviewed the progress which had been made in the development of the College and granted Lancaster Bible College full accreditation in the Middle States Association.

The library has grown to over 34,000 volumes, and the faculty has been strengthened. In 1979, five percent of the faculty had earned doctorates; whereas in 1983, thirty-three percent of the faculty have earned doctorates, with an additional four faculty members actively in pursuit of doctoral studies.

The elementary program for Christian day school teachers has been strengthened. In the Spring of 1982, the Association of Christian Schools, International granted certification to the elementary education program. In addition, an agreement has been worked out with Millersville State College for a cooperative program so that graduates from the new five-year elementary education program will receive not only the College's education degree, but also State certification for elementary education through Millersville State College.

A proposal has been submitted to the State Department of Education for the offering of a two-year associate degree program. This two-year program would satisfy the needs of students pursuing credit work in evenings and looking toward para-professional employment in church-related vocations. It would also serve those who may want to transfer later to colleges which are offering specializations not offered at Lancaster Bible College.

The third significant challenge was the financial condition of the College. The exten-

sive building program between 1976 and 1978 caused the College to incur a debt of approximately two and a half million dollars. To eliminate the financial drain upon the College caused by this indebtedness, a Golden Jubilee Fund Campaign was launched. The goal of this campaign is the securing of three million dollars to eliminate both the indebtedness and to provide an endowment support base for the College to sustain its mission as the Lord tarries.

As we begin the celebration of fifty years of ministry at Lancaster Bible College, close to two million dollars in cash and pledges has been received toward the goal of three million dollars. With concerted effort during this period of celebration; the College family believes that the goal will be reached during our Golden Jubilee Celebration Year 1983-1984.

As the College enters its fiftieth year of a ministry designed to prepare people for service to Christ world-wide, it continues to pursue the objectives set forth by the founding fathers. As material was gathered in the preparation of this historical overview, Dr. Thomas Figart called Mrs. Henry Heydt to get a first-hand interview. As the interview ended, he said, "You tell Dr. Heydt that Lancaster Bible College is still teaching the Truth of the Word of God that was so precious to him when he founded the School!" She replied, "That is the best news that I could give my husband!" And so it is! After fifty years, Lancaster Bible College still stands anchored to the Rock, but geared to the times.

EPILOGUE — OUR GODLY HERITAGE

The Psalmist said, "The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly *heritage*." The heritage of Lancaster Bible College, as we look back, is in the lives of those who have gone before, founding the School and teaching and serving the students. "Thou hast given me the *heritage* of those who fear thy name."

Secondly, we have the heritage of the Word of God. "Thy testimonies have I taken as an *heritage* forever." This will always be the central purpose of Lancaster Bible College — the Word of God.

Finally, our continuing heritage is in our alumni. Taking just a little liberty with Psalm 127:3, "Lo, children are an *heritage* from the Lord," we consider our alumni as our children in the Lord. We love our students as our children and like the Apostle Paul writing to Timothy, our desire is that "... the things that thou hast heard from me among many



witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2). Our increasing alumni family proves that we are remaining true to the purpose of our founders. All over the world, alumni of



Lancaster Bible College testify to the fact that, "The Word of the Lord endureth forever" (1 Peter 1:25). If our Lord should tarry another fifty years, may we as a

College be able to look back and say, "Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage forever!"



Henry J. Heydt — 1933 to 1953



William J. Randolph — 1954 to 1961

Our Presidents

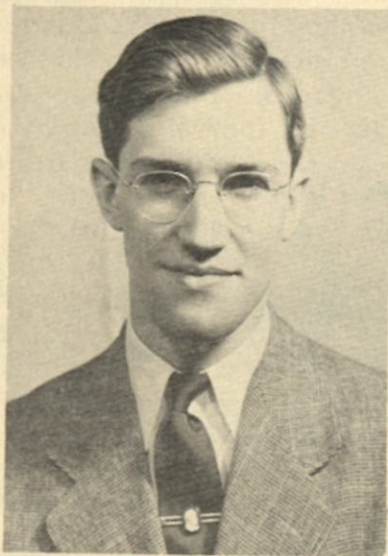


Stuart E. Lease — 1961 to 1979



Gilbert A. Peterson — 1979 to present

Our Deans



Paul C. Wilt —
1952-56



Stuart E. Lease —
1956-61



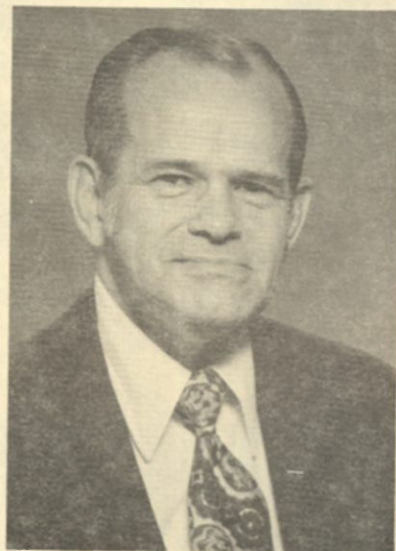
Thomas O. Figart —
1961-72



Sherrill W. Babb —
1972-76



Edward A. Buchanan —
1976-78



Wesley A. Olsen —
1980 to present

LANCASTER BIBLE COLLEGE

CAPTIONS FOR PICTURES IN "A GODLY HERITAGE: 1933-1983"

page 1

Building — the original site in 1933 of Lancaster School of the Bible (old Convention Hall) 528 West Orange Street or West Orange and Pine Streets.

People now employed at Lancaster Bible College in their 1933 look: (left to right) Margaret Uhler, Jane Baumgartner, Millie Pearson and Fred Pearson.

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Most of the students at Lancaster School of the Bible about 1935 — child in front row is Norma Hall, daughter of James (1937) and Snowie (1937 & 1945) Hall who provided the picture.

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Building — (left) Second site of Lancaster School of the Bible, 211-213 North Duke Street (now Forney Apartments), April 15, 1934 to May 15, 1939. (right) Third site of Lancaster School of the Bible, 128 North Mulberry Street, May 15, 1939 to January 20, 1958.

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People — some of the Dormitory residents in front of the Dormitory in the spring of 1942 — photo supplied by Claude (1940) and Ann (Gehman 1945) Wivell.

Building — Dormitory facilities at 325 West Chestnut Street (Bausman Estate).

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Original seal used by Lancaster School of the Bible.

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Second seal used by Lancaster School of the Bible.

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People — (left to right) Mrs. Anna Esbenshade, Mr. J. Martin Esbenshade, daughter Kathy (now Mrs. Orie Grove), daughter Jean and her husband Paul Sebastian.

Esbenshade farm (buildings in foreground belonged to the Moore's and were on the south side of Eden Road) now the site of Lancaster Bible College.

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The original farmhouse, now Old Main at Lancaster Bible College.

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The men's dormitory which was the former carriage house on the Bausman estate at 325 West Chestnut Street

Mrs. Esbenshade (back to camera), Jean and Paul Sebastian and two guests working in the kitchen of the farm house.

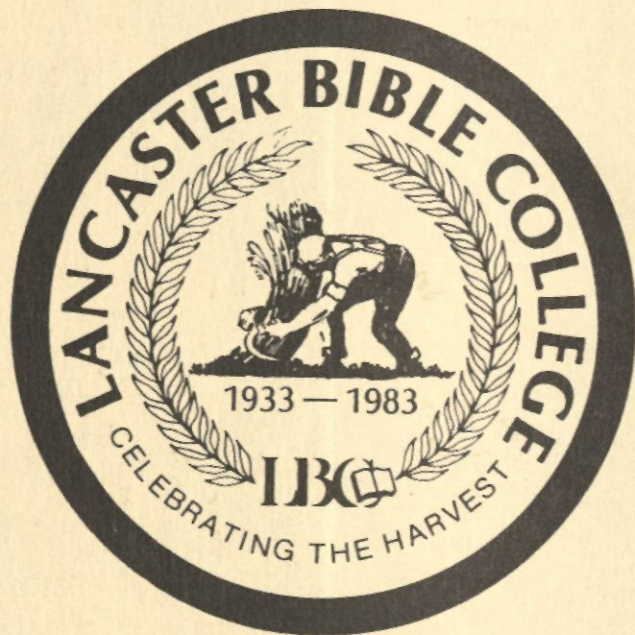
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Esbenshade Hall — dormitory facilities built in 1962-63 and the maintenance/apartment building (now the music building).

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Students in classroom at Lancaster Bible College.

Students in dorm room at Lancaster Bible College.



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