

CHRISTIAN *Leader*

73rd Year
NUMBER FOUR

April, 1959

Introducing

NORTH CENTRAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

ROCHESTER, MICHIGAN
(Near Detroit)



Beautiful 37 Acre Campus



OTIS GATEWOOD
PRESIDENT



LUCIEN PALMER
DEAN



G. E. Montgomery

Why We Need

North Central Christian College

such literature?" was the rather surprised reply.

It was learned that she had been approached by the woman mentioned in the foregoing paragraph, had pledged \$104 (\$2 per week) to be paid during 1959 and was now anxious to go to work herself to help raise money among her own friends.

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A nine-year-old boy earned \$6 which he planned to use to buy Christmas presents. He brought it all to his father and told him to send it to the Christian college.

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One good Christian, when approached for a pledge by a worker, expressed a sincere desire to help but said that he didn't have enough money to do any good. When told that he could give \$1 or \$2 a week, he was happy to have a part in the work.

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Seventeen men throughout the area have worked tirelessly as section chairmen in this campaign.

Mountain climbers are traditionally a strange breed. A very small percentage of the world's population has any desire at all to climb mountains and it is very hard for most of us to understand why anyone would risk life and limb in so precarious a sport. A famous mountain climber was once asked quite seriously, "Why do you climb mountains?" His answer, just as serious, has come down to us as a classic, "Because they are there."

I am reminded of that answer when someone asks me, "Why do you want to establish a Christian School in the north central area? Why are so many people working so hard and sacrificing so much just to build another school?" The shortest answer I can give, but one I give with all seriousness, and in the sight of God, "Because there is no Christian school in this area."

That answer should suffice. It should not be necessary to repeat over and over again the words we have thought and heard so often — the many, many, reasons we should have such a school — the many advantages it will give our children and

our children's children — the helpfulness of such an institution to the church and to every Christian living in the entire area. We could go on and on with reason after reason why we need such a school but since this article must of necessity be brief, I will list just a few reasons and point out as best I can the need for a Christian School in this North Central section of our country.

1. We have already indicated one reason, "Because there is no such school in this area." May I point out that the nearest Christian College to Rochester (the location of North Central Christian College) is in Nashville, approximately 600 miles away. We have a very excellent Christian school in Beamsville, Ontario (Great Lakes Christian College) but the grades run only from nine through thirteen, and this school is more than 250 miles from Rochester. For economic reasons and for many others, the average family would rather their boys and girls attended a college closer home. There are hundreds of families within the reach of North Central Christian College that could not possibly send their children 600 miles with all the extra cost of living away from home. These boys and girls could enroll as day students where the only cost of their Christian education would be tuition and travel.

2. In order to protect "our most precious heritage." The original brochure of North Central showed a boy and girl in a picture with the caption, "more precious than rubies." We need a college in this area that will help us protect the faith of our young people. It may not be fair to make a blanket indictment of our secular colleges and claim that all Christians who attend those institutions lose their faith. Of course this is not true. However, it is true that a very large percentage of our boys and girls attending state colleges come back home with little faith or none at all. This is rarely true of those who attend Christian colleges. Brother R. S. Bell, member of the board of Abilene Christian College, and an elder in the Lord's church

said recently, "There are some 20,000 ex-students of Abilene Christian college, and of this number over 90% are faithful workers in the Lord's vineyard."

(Continued on page 9)



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The CHRISTIAN LEADER

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Looks at History

of North Central College Project

N. C. C. C. Chairman

WHEELER UTLEY,

Chairman, Board of Directors

Interest in Christian Education throughout the north-central states has been evident for many years. It was not until the spring of 1954, however, that a systematic and organized movement began which was to bring a Christian college into actual being.

As a result of several informal meetings to which all interested Christians were invited, a group of nine men were selected and commissioned to work for the establishment of a Christian school. These men were immediately organized as the North Central Christian College Foundation and were incorporated and granted a charter under the laws of the state of Michigan to plan and work for the desired goal.

From the beginning of their work, the members of the board met the problem of determining whether the first proposed school would be a high school or college.

After much study and deliberation, it was decided that a junior college would be the immediate goal, with the understanding that it be developed into a full four-year college as soon as possible.

The first money-raising campaign was conducted in the fall of 1956 under the direction of Henry T. King of Memphis, Tenn. Members of the church in Michigan and northern Ohio were asked to give or pledge that the goal of \$150,000 might be reached. The hearty response brought a total to over-subscribe the goal by 60%.

Simultaneous with the fund raising effort, a search was begun to find property which would be suitable for a school site. This search continued over a period of many months, during which time many different prospective pieces of property were considered. Finally, in February, of 1957, the 37-acre Maxon estate near Rochester, Michigan, was found and negotiations were started to purchase the property. Ten months later, on December 17, 1957, possession of the property was taken by N. C. C. C. F.

From the beginning, the board of directors has believed that the spiritual plane as well as the academic values of the college would depend largely upon the men who would be directly responsible for its supervision. Our greatest desire was to secure a president of unquestionable character whose influence and leadership would be such as to enable development of an entire Christian staff of teachers and other personnel. As the culmination of our efforts and the sure answer to our prayers and those of our brethren, we were able to announce on October 16, 1958, that Otis Gatewood had accepted the presidency of North Central. We have been further blessed by our ability to secure Lucien Palmer as dean of the college.

It has been a great privilege to work with the group of men who comprise the board of directors of North Central Christian College Foundation. Their zeal, deter-

mination, humility and faith are of such a degree as to inspire even when the problems have been the greatest. The original group of nine has been enlarged to its present eighteen members.

The members of the board of directors are: E. S. Alford, M. D., Belleville, Mich.; Lester Allen, (treasurer), Ann Arbor, Mich.; Oliver R. Bunting, Wayne, Mich.; Earl J. Crosslin, Rochester, Mich.; Harold Crutchfield, Flint, Mich.; George M. Ford, D. D. S. (secretary), Berkley, Mich.; Harold E. Hawley, Port Huron, Mich.; Edward Jay, Hamlin, Texas; O. A. Johnson, Detroit, Mich.; Dolan Ledford, Dearborn, Mich.; Paul L. Lutz, Detroit, Mich.; L. O. McKenzie, Idaho Falls, Ida.; Hubert Nave, Dearborn, Mich.; Ralph Ritchey, D. D. S., Lansing, Mich.; James Thomas, (vice - chairman), Toledo, Ohio; J. A.

Thompson, Searcy, Arkansas; James Vaughn, Allen Park, Michigan.

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SHULTS - LEWIS NEEDS TRUCK

R. G. Schluchter, longtime elder at the Walnut Hills Church of Christ in Cincinnati, Ohio, informs the LEADER that the Shults-Lewis Children's Home at Valparaiso, Indiana is badly in need of a truck.

At a recent board meeting Bro. Schluchter agreed to spearhead a drive to raise \$3,000 for this purpose.

Perhaps you know where a truck can be obtained reasonably. Perhaps you are close enough to this fine work to want to have a part yourself. In any event we know Bro. Schluchter will appreciate your helpfulness. Address him: Route 2, Zion Road, Cleves, Ohio.

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CLEVELAND "GROUND BREAKING" IS REAL BUILDING BOOSTER, April 5

Though plans were all made to turn the first spadeful of dirt for the new \$300,000 plant at Taylor and Mayfield Rds., in suburban Cleveland Heights, April 5, technicalities regarding the final building permit clearance postponed the spading—but not the liberality of a church which has already maintained a sizzling pace of giving for more than 3 years. The contribution April 5 was \$3430.15.

According to Ed Gerbitz, building committee chairman, contracts are being let, materials are arriving, and it is hoped that the major part of the project can be completed before bad weather sets in this fall.

April, 1959

Why We Need

North Central Christian College

(Continued from page 5)

3. That the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ may be preached in many places where no effort has as yet been made to do so. There are scores of communities in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana (and across into Canada) where congregations can be established and where the young men who will be studying to become more effective servants of Christ can preach on Sundays. These young men can easily travel one or two hundred miles on a week end and small congregations that have never had regular preaching will be benefitted and countless other churches will be established over the years. Experience has proved over and over that where strong Christian colleges are established, the cause of Christ in the area is benefitted immeasurably. There are more than 50 counties in Michigan where no New Testament church now exists. I confidently predict that within 10 years of the opening of North Central Christian College this fall, there will be one or more churches in every county in the state.

4. Finally — not because I have run out of reasons but because of lack of space — We need a Christian College in the North Central area because we have already committed ourselves. "By faith the walls of Jericho fell" — by faith the walls of North Central Christian College will rise. We have dedicated ourselves to the task — we have put our hand to the plow — too much is at stake — we cannot, we *must not* quit. We need a Christian school in this area and with the help of Him who knows better than we our needs, we will have the school this fall!

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MEXICO: Lloyd E. Ellis of Chula Vista, California, reports three baptisms in the Pacific at Tijuana, Mexico. Up to 100 or more meet regularly each Sunday. Because the building will accommodate only about 60, two services are necessary.