



The Princeton Seminary Bulletin



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KEEP MOVING BEYOND¹

JOHN A. MACKAY

Last January, in the mountains of Mexico, I was thinking of these closing moments when it would become my privilege to address to you the accustomed words of farewell. Some thoughts came to my mind then which have lived with me ever since and which I would now leave with you in these last instants of our time together. The burden of my deep desire for you as you leave the Seminary is this: *Keep moving beyond.*

Beyondness is a unique dimension of the Christian religion. All the great Bible figures from Abraham to Saint Paul, the men we are called to emulate, were ever moving beyond. They were not static contemplatives nor complacent Pharisees. They soared, they ran, they walked. As pilgrims, wayfarers, crusaders, they were always seeking "a city which had foundations, whose Builder and Maker is God."

Be like those men. *Keep moving beyond the attainments of today.* All that you have gained in life of knowledge, or experience, or distinction, let it serve you for a fresh beginning. Lift up your eyes and your hearts and move beyond. Strive not to be Pharisees. The Pharisees thought that they had arrived. They thought that they had it, or worse still, that they were it. With reason our Lord said to His disciples "Except your righteousness shall exceed," that is, shall go beyond, "the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees, you shall in no wise enter into the Kingdom of Heaven."

Truth demands that you keep moving beyond. You will have to move fast and far, if you would keep abreast of truth. For Christian truth is not so much something that we have as something that has us. The only way to possess it is to serve it. The "truth as it is in Jesus" is not a badge for display but a banner to be unfurled and followed. To grasp that for which Jesus Christ the Truth has grasped you will be your task of a life-time. The prize of His high calling lies ever beyond.

And don't forget to move beyond mere individual efforts. No Christian can reach the "perfect man" alone. The "measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" can only be attained when the family of faith moves forward together.

Ponder this too. *Keep moving beyond the boundaries of tomorrow.* Boundaries we all need. Frontiers, clearly marked, are the condition of our work. You will have your parishes, your institutions, your several spheres of action. May I say this to you. Put the accent of eternity on everything you do. Be willing to go forever to every place where you go. But never let the local become the total. Do not let the recurring duties of each day hide from you the tasks which lie beyond the "daily round." Pass beyond the obligation of the first mile into the privilege and freedom of the second. Think of the folk beyond your boundaries; live with the far horizon in your eye. In a word, be missionary minded. Have sympathy and concern for those in all the earth, and in Christ's great Church

¹ Words of Farewell to the Class of 1950 by the President of the Seminary.

especially, for whom you have no official responsibility. Make their cause your cause, their struggles your struggles.

And as you move beyond the frontiers of your parish, move also beyond the frontiers of your denomination. Thank God for your Church. Acquaint yourself lovingly with its history and its traditions. But be willing to slough off whatever in it, or in you, is of the flesh, or has outgrown its value. Make it your task to look at everything in the light of Christ and to test everything in the service of Christ. Then make the heritage so examined and tested your Church's contribution to Christ's great Church beyond.

"But when," you ask, "shall we stop

moving beyond?" At the end of the Road. And then you will stop only to start again. And where will you rest? Only in God. Rest in His calm who is ever moving beyond, who is working still. Let His peace be yours, that peace which is like a river, God's holy peace which is fulfilled in action. For the river, ever moving beyond from the uplands to the sea, is at peace, because its bed is made. So must your bed too be made, in the perfect will of God. Be not anxious, therefore, about tomorrow as you move out today. Rest "in the Lord"; think and act also "in the Lord." And the peace of God shall garrison your hearts all the way to the journey's end—and beyond.

ALUMNI TRUSTEE ELECTION

It is important to emphasize what already has been said in the editorial regarding the election of an Alumni Trustee. Every alumnus should vote at once for one of the three nominees for

the 1951-54 term. The names are listed on the ballot enclosed in this Bulletin. Please mail the ballot at once to the Seminary.

\$100,000 FOR THE STUDENT CENTER BUILDING

A conditional offer of \$100,000 has just been made to the Committee in charge of the Alumni Drive for the Student Center Building at Princeton Seminary.

The condition is that the remaining balance of \$219,000 be secured in cash and bona fide pledges by December 31, 1950.

Hundreds of alumni have responded to the Committee's appeal to raise gifts

from their friends. \$431,000 are already in hand, not counting the conditional gift of \$100,000. Hundreds of others have signified their intention to join in the effort to place this Student Center on the Princeton campus.

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