



THE HISTORY OF CONCORDIA COLLEGE NEW ORLEANS

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Concordia College of New Orleans was not the first Lutheran school of higher education in the South. As far back as 1868, there was a Lutheran Private Academy in the city of New Orleans. In 1882 the Private Academy took the name *Progymnasium*, when the Southern District of the Missouri Synod was founded. This school lasted for four years, until 1886. From 1886 until 1904 there was no Lutheran secondary school of education in the South. Concordia College was founded in 1904; it was closed in 1917.

The problem dealt with in this report is the question, Why did the school close? A threefold answer is given: a) conditions in the city of New Orleans did not permit the expansion of the school; b) the Lutheran people in the South did not give proper support to the school; c) there was a lack of measures on the

part of the leaders to avert a crisis.

A. F. HOPPE

The founding of the first Lutheran Academy of the Missouri Synod in the city of New Orleans took place in the year 1868. This school was started by the efforts of Zion Congregation¹ in New Orleans and its pastor, the Rev. A. F. Hoppe. During the years of its existence Hoppe was its only teacher.

Albert Friedrich Hoppe was born on 24 July 1828 in Rostock, Germany. His father was Joachim Christian Hoppe and his mother was Charlotte nee Ludewig, daughter to Joachim Heinrich Ludewig, professor of English language at the State University. Albert's mother

¹By 1868 there were only two Missouri Synod Lutheran churches in and around New Orleans, St. John's and Zion. In 1853 St. John's congregation joined the Missouri Synod. By 1868 there were no less than 30 churches in and around New Orleans that used the word "German" in their title. J. Hanno Deiler, *Die Deutschen Kirchengemeinden im Staate Louisiana* (New Orleans; n.p., c. 1894), *passim*.

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died when he was only four years old. From that time on his grandmother, Katharina Maria Ludewig, took care of him. She was a God-fearing woman and taught her young grandchild such Lutheran Christian hymns as "Lobt Gott, ihr Christen allzugleich,"² and "Von Himmel

Hoch, da komm ich her."³ She also taught him the Passion History.⁴

In 1839 the young boy entered Quinta in the *Gymnasium* at Rostock. In two classes he had a true believer as his religious instructor, but in Quarta and Tertia he had a Rationalistic teacher. In Secunda he had a religion teacher who taught him the teachings of the Gnostics, but not the teachings of Christ Jesus. Finally in Prima he had a true believer again as his instructor. His last instructor was also the pastor of St. Mary's Church; he confirmed Albert. In 1849 Albert had completed his examination at Rostock.⁵

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod came to New Orleans by an unusual incident. C. F. W. Walther learned through a New Orleans newspaper that St. John's congregation, a nominally Lutheran group in New Orleans, needed a pastor. He immediately took a young candidate, George Volch, went to New Orleans and ordained and installed him as pastor of St. John's. George Volch thus became the first Missouri Synod pastor in New Orleans. George Volch, however, died of yellow fever in the same year (1853) and C. C. Metz became his successor. Henry Niermann, "A History of Concordia College, New Orleans," Unpublished B. D. thesis, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, 1956, p. 8.

Zion congregation joined the Synod in 1854, due to the consecrated efforts of Theodore Buenger, who was called as a parochial school teacher to this congregation from the Missouri Lutherans. St. Paul's congregation, the oldest Evangelical Lutheran Church in New Orleans, did not join the Missouri Synod until early in the 1870's. Cf. John F. Nau, "The Lutheran Church in Louisiana," CONCORDIA HISTORICAL INSTITUTE QUARTERLY, XXV (April 1952), 5-22. *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* will be cited as *CHIQ*.

In 1868 there were 157 members in Zion Church and 102 members in St. John's Church making a total of 259 members. In that same year there were 67 children in Zion Parochial School and 25 attending St. John's Parochial School, making a total of 92. Missouri Synod, Western District, *Proceedings*, 1868, p. 52, parochial report.

²Music by Nikolaus Herman, 1554; words by Nikolaus Herman, 1560. This beautiful German hymn was translated into English by August Crull in 1923. August Crull was the adopted

son of Professor Hoppe. After he had finished at Rostock he studied with Franz Delitzsch⁶ at the University of Erlangen for one year. From there he studied with Professor Philippi⁷ at Dorpat and finally, in the year 1853, he took his preliminary examinations and accepted a tutor's post with Pastor M. Staak. He assisted Pastor Staak until 1855 when he married the widow of Mr. Crull who already

son of Professor Hoppe.

³Words by Martin Luther, 1535.

⁴*Der Lutheraner*, LXVII (13 June 1911), 190.

⁵*Ibid.*, p. 190.

⁶Franz Delitzsch (1813-1890) was one of the foremost Lutheran theologians at Erlangen. In his earlier life he was intimately associated with the founders of the Missouri Synod.

⁷Friedrich Adolf Philippi (1809-1882) was a Jewish Christian scholar who upheld the Lutheran Confessions and the doctrine of inspiration.

had two children. Then he with his new family came to America on the recommendation of Kliefoth⁸ to Prof. C. F. W. Walther, the leader of a young and rapidly growing church.⁹

In New York he met President Wyneken and for a time stayed with Pastor Theodore Brohm, who made room for his family until a place was found for them. However, by October 1855 he went to St. Louis. There Walther told him that the officials of the Synod were receiving so many calls "dasz wir uns Prediger drechseln Moechten."¹⁰ Hoppe and his family remained in St. Louis until the end of February 1856, when a call came from Zion congregation in New Orleans. During his stay in St. Louis, from October to February, he taught Greek, Latin, and German to all the classes in the *Gymnasium* in St. Louis. Finally at the end of February he went to New Orleans and was ordained and installed by Pastor C. C. Metz of St. John's Lutheran Church of that city.¹¹

⁸Theodore Kliefoth (1810-1895) was superintendent at Schwervn in 1884 and in 1866 was president of the superfor ecclesiastical court. He exerted far-reaching beneficial influence.

⁹*Der Lutheraner*, LXVII (13 June 1911), 190.

¹⁰*Ibid.*

¹¹*Ibid.*, p. 191. Missouri Synod, Western District, *Proceedings*, 1856, p. 12. Nau, p. 41, n. 7. Hoppe became the second living pastor of the Missouri Synod in the city. William August Fick, the first Missouri Synod pastor of Zion, died of yellow fever in 1855. Hoppe was his successor.

Pastor Hoppe's congregation was very poor, so poor that it could not pay its pastor's salary and often he and his family went to bed hungry. During these years his congregation was very small. In 1858 Zion Church had only 92 members.¹²

Hunger was not the only worry in the early years. There was the dreadful yellow fever. In the year 1853 over 13,000 people died in New Orleans from this disease; in 1858, 4,433 died; in 1867, 2,940; and in 1878, 3,929 people died.¹³

In the year 1866 Pastor Metz took a trip to Germany and during that time Pastor Hoppe took care of St. John's congregation. In the following year the Great Epidemic broke out. The disease was very heart-breaking. Hoppe, however, survived the Great Epidemic.¹⁴

During these years, from 1861 to 1865, the Civil War¹⁵ caused the price of food to go extremely

¹²Missouri Synod, Western District, *Proceedings*, 1858, p. 37.

¹³*Der Lutheraner*, LXVII (13 June 1911), 191; *Encyclopedia Britannica* (London: Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1951), XVI, 321: "Drainage, sanitation and a satisfactory water supply were realized nearly two centuries after the establishment of the first settlement, and in the interim yellow fever and cholera took frightful tolls. Modern engineering and sanitation finally triumphed, and today New Orleans is one of the healthiest cities in the world."

¹⁴*Der Lutheraner*, LXVII (13 June 1911), 191.

¹⁵*Encyclopedia Britannica*, XIV, 428.

high. For one potato the cost was ten cents; for a small sack of sixty pounds of meal the cost was ten dollars. Each day the neighbors brought bread to Pastor Hoppe and his wife for their two small daughters. The family lived mainly on corn meal mush. For a while during the Civil War the city was bombarded so that no mail came through from the North.¹⁶

Early in 1868, Rev. Hoppe started to develop trouble with his voice; by the end of the Easter season he could hardly speak a loud word. His congregation granted him two month's time to recover. During part of this time he attended the Western District convention which began on 6 May 1868 in St. Louis. While there he received a letter from his congregation, encouraging him to take a trip to Germany. He at once accepted the proposal with joy, for it would give him the chance to see his old father, his dear sister, friends, and relatives. As soon as the conference was over he went to Germany with Mr. Leonhardt and his family. In August of the same

year he returned to his congregation in New Orleans.

HOPPE'S ACADEMY

After a short time Zion congregation, his own congregation, extended a call to him, asking him to start a secondary school. He was called "Zum Professor einer Höheren Schule." Rev. Hoppe accepted the call.

For one year his congregation paid his pastor's salary in order to help him, but later he did not need this support. He would have received it gladly, if the members had sent their children to his school. He even announced from the pulpit that he would instruct their children for nothing.¹⁷ For many years he had only one student from the congregation and very few outsiders. Besides teaching in the Private Academy, it became necessary for Prof. Hoppe to engage in some other instruction. Thus he taught Latin to doctors, English to Americans, French to the Frenchmen, German to the Germans and Americans, and Hebrew to the Jews. Besides languages, he also taught reading, writing, accounting, mathematics, bookkeeping, and music. At times the teaching was well paid, and he received an ample income from the students and also from the state. However, living was not always so good in New Orleans.

Some of the prominent fam-

The result of the high prices was partially due to the political situation: "Probably no other state suffered equally with Louisiana from the corruption, 'carpet bag,' 'scalawag,' and Negro legislatures. For four years, 1868-1872, the government expenses increased to ten times their normal volumes, taxation was enormously increased, and about \$57,000,000 of debt was created."

¹⁶*Der Lutheraner*, LXVII (27 June 1913), 205.

¹⁷*Ibid.*

ilies in the city did not want to send their children to the public school. These people were mostly Episcopalian and Presbyterian. They were not primarily interested in the religious instruction of their children, but they did want to engage the services of a Christian teacher to give their children some moral training. The teacher they had hired died in the epidemic of 1878. So they came to Rev. Hoppe and urged him to found a "Select School" for their children, and offered to pay him \$5.00 monthly for each child. Thereupon he rented an Episcopal chapel on the corner of Camp and Race Streets and took with him the students he already had. Even the Superintendent of public schools, City Attorney H. W. Rogers, referred students to him. Prof. Hoppe led this school until 1881. Basically the teaching was in English, but there was also some German.¹⁸

GROWTH OF LUTHERANISM

While Prof. Hoppe was conducting his school in New Orleans, the Lutheran Church was spreading rapidly in the city and surrounding area. By 1881 there were five Missouri Synod Lutheran Churches in and around New Orleans: St. John's, Zion, St. Paul, Salem in Gretna, and Trinity in Algiers. In 1874 St. Paul's Church joined the Missouri Synod;¹⁹ Trinity affiliated

with the Missouri Synod in 1875, when it was first organized; in 1880, Salem joined.²⁰ Mission stations, such as Shreveport, La., and numerous preaching stations were started. As the city increased in 1880 to 216,090 people, so also the church grew with it.²¹

The growth of the church in the South was not confined only to New Orleans. In Texas there were no less than thirteen Lutheran congregations; these later became the core of the Texas District.²² Although these Texas congregations were small in 1881, they began to reach out into the great Southwest.

The pastors in New Orleans and Texas realized the responsibility that rested on them as the church grew and expanded. They recognized the great need for pastors and teachers to care for all the people who settled in the South. Therefore, the congregation in Louisiana and Texas petitioned the Missouri Synod for the organization of their own district. Synod acted on their petition in May 1881, at Fort Wayne, Indiana, and granted them this permission. Thus the organization of the new Southern District took place on 8 February 1882 at Zion Lutheran

¹⁸*Ibid.*, p. 18.

¹⁹*Ibid.*, p. 17.

²²W. H. Bewie, *Missouri in Texas* (Austin: The Steck Company, 1952), p. 7.

¹⁸*Ibid.*, p. 206.

¹⁹Nau, p. 17.

Church in New Orleans, Louisiana.²³

THE PROGYMNASIUM, 1881-1886

In 1881 the pastors in New Orleans, seeing the need for workers in the South, requested Prof. Hoppe to begin a *Progymnasium* in New Orleans. Prof. Hoppe accepted the call as Director of the institution and the school was organized.²⁴

At the first convention of the Southern District, 8 February 1882, the New Orleans Conference reported about the *Progymnasium* in New Orleans and suggested that it be taken over by the Southern District. The District, however, hesitated to take charge of the school at this time since the congregations of Texas were unacquainted with the new institution. It was decided that the congregations in New Orleans be encouraged to continue as such with the school until the next District convention, and the District, in the meantime, would encourage its own congregations to support the school.²⁵

During the summer 1882 the school was brought to the attention of the congregations throughout Synod. *Der Lutheraner* reported:

Our designated *Progymnasium* which was brought into existence on the first of October of the previous year has behind it now three-

²³Nau, p. 19.

²⁴*Der Lutheraner*, LXVII (27 June 1911), 206.

²⁵Missouri Synod, Southern District, *Proceedings*, 1882, p. 63.

fourths of its first school year. With thanks and praise to God we must admit He has given us far above our prayers and understanding and without many burdens has helped us on till now. He has made willing many hearts to richly support this undertaking.

The number of students which have been instructed in our *Progymnasium* has been much greater than has been expected. Instead of three or four which we had planned on, eleven pupils have left the school in the previous month. These are not serving the church, but are following another profession. Nine still remain. The four outsiders must be edified by our good conduct.²⁶

Already before this article appeared, the school had gained Southern students from outside the state of Louisiana. Two congregations in Texas supported the school from the start, Pastor Stiemke's congregation in Houston,²⁷ and Pastor Kaspar's congregation in Giddings, Lee County. The congregation in Mobile, Alabama, also supported the school.²⁸ Students from these congregations entered the new school in the second school year, the fall of 1882.²⁹

²⁶Translated by the writer from *Der Lutheraner*, XXXVIII (15 June 1882), 92.

²⁷A. C. Repp, "Beginnings of Lutheranism in Houston, Texas," *CHI*, XXVI (July 1953), 66.

²⁸*Der Lutheraner*, XXXVIII (15 June 1882), 93.

²⁹Stiemke gave the school his wholehearted support from the start. He was elected the first president of the Southern District in 1882. He remained pastor of the Houston congregation until he accepted the call to a Lutheran church in New Orleans. Bewie, p. 57. He reports that the two congregations that supported the New Orleans institution were the congregations at Houston and Manheim.

A formal organizational structure was effected in 1882. The treasurer of the *Progymnasium* was Mr. H. L. Frantz, who worked together with Mr. G. W. Frye. All correspondence concerning the school was sent to Professor A. F. Hoppe. The Board of Control consisted of Pastor P. Roesener, chairman; Pastor C. G. Moedinger, teacher; C. Sauer, secretary; H. L. Frantz, treasurer; and Mr. M. Habritter, layman.³⁰

At the second District convention held at Houston, Texas, 11-17 April 1883, it was urged that the school in the South was imperative, since it was hard to encourage pastors from the North to accept calls to the South.³¹ It was therefore decided that the Southern District accept the *Progymnasium* in New Orleans, thus putting the control and support of the school on a District level. A Board of Control was elected by the District; the president of the District was chairman of the Board ex officio.

From 1881 until 1886, when

the school closed, Prof. Hoppe was the only teacher of this school. Some of its students later entered the preaching and teaching ministry, but there were many other students who studied for other professions.

The students from out of town were able to room and board at Prof. Hoppe's home. The cost was \$12.00 per month. Some of the students found the cost high. But between the years 1881 to 1886 Prof. Hoppe added \$800.00 of his own money to the maintenance fund of the school. People from out of town did not realize what it cost to live in New Orleans. For example, a painter asked \$280.00 to paint Prof. Hoppe's home.³²

At the third convention of the Southern District³³ in 1885 and in 1886 at the fourth convention,³⁴ the needs of the school for funds and students were reported. The lack of students was largely due to the poverty of the German people. Nau writes:

Although these German Lutherans supported church schools for the Christian training of their children, it often happened that their boys and girls had to leave school after only three or four years of learning to assist in increasing the earning power of the family. It was most exceptional for one of their boys, not to say anything of their girls, to receive a higher education.³⁵

³⁰P. Roesener was pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church from 1880 to 1889. John Theodore Mueller, "Lutheranism in Louisiana," *CHIQ*, VI (April 1933), 12.

C. G. Moedinger was pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church from 1856 to 1890. Nau, pp. 11-12.

Der Lutheraner, XXXVIII (15 June 1882), 93.

³¹Missouri Synod, Southern District, *Proceedings*, 1883, p. 91.

³²*Der Lutheraner*, LXVII (27 June 1911), 206.

³³Missouri Synod, Southern District, *Proceedings*, 1885, p. 59

³⁴Missouri Synod, Southern District, *Proceedings*, 1886, p. 71.

³⁵Nau, p. 13.

Nevertheless from 1881 to 1886, this school under the direction of Prof. Hoppe, trained no less than eleven students who later entered the ministry. The names are: Wunderlich, Moerbe, Klein, Foerster, Broders, Gassner, Zoch, Schild, Robert, Joeckel, and Hussmann.³⁶ Among others, two of these men became quite prominent pastors. The one is Rev. Moerbe, who for many years was the chairman of the Texas Mission Board; the other is Rev. Adam Klein, who became a missionary in Brazil and later the president of Concordia Seminary at Springfield, Illinois.³⁷

Prof. Hoppe was called away from New Orleans in 1886. When he left the Lutheran Academy in New Orleans closed. On 3 November 1886 he traveled with his family to St. Louis, Missouri, where he worked with Prof. George Stoeckhardt of Concordia Seminary, editing the St. Louis edition of *Luther's Works*.³⁸ Prof. Hoppe died 31 May 1911 in St. Louis.³⁹

Prof. Hoppe spent thirty years of his life in the city of New Orleans. Eighteen of these years were given to the first Lutheran school of higher education in the South.

³⁶Missouri Synod, Southern District, *Proceedings*, 1912 p. 51.

³⁷Bewie, p. 50.

³⁸*Der Lutheraner*, LXVII (27 June 1911, 206.

³⁹*Ibid.*, LXVII (13 June 1911), 190.

THE YEARS OF STRUGGLE

After Prof. Hoppe left New Orleans in 1886, prospects for reopening the *Progymnasium* were very dim. The establishment of a new *Progymnasium*, however, was discussed at the Southern District convention in 1894, held at St. John's Lutheran Church, New Orleans. At this meeting the pastors of Texas recommended the founding of a *Progymnasium* combined with an academy. The people of Clifton, Texas, and Giddings, Texas, offered land and a sum of money for the founding of such an institution. The District was not filled with much enthusiasm for this project. However, it did recognize that a *Progymnasium* should be established in Texas and encouraged the pastors in Texas to begin such a work.⁴⁰

After 1894 the plan of establishing a *Progymnasium* was not discussed in any Southern District convention until the sixteenth convention of the South-

⁴⁰Missouri Synod, Southern District, *Proceedings*, 1894, p. 83. The establishment of a *Progymnasium* in Giddings, Texas, took place in 1894 and for a few months the institution was in operation, though there were few students. According to the information given to the writer by Karl Niermann, the president of the school was a man by the name of G. P. A. Schaf. He was quite an elderly man at the time, a learned man, but impractical. He opened the school with a Latin oration. See also A. C. Repp, editor, *100 Years of Christian Education* (River Forest, Illinois: Lutheran Education Association, 1947), p. 112, n. 95; Bewie, p. 58.

ern District in 1904. However, during this time the pastors, teachers, and laymen did not forget the great need of teachers and preachers for the South, or the great need for training their own children as teachers and ministers. But distances from the South to training schools in the North and East were very great. For example, it was about 940 miles from New Orleans to Concordia, Missouri; 1,000 miles to Winfield, Kansas; and about 800 miles to Conover, North Carolina. Texas was much closer to the school in Winfield. For instance, from Austin to Winfield it was about 510 miles.

Nevertheless, pastors and teachers encouraged boys to enter the profession as teachers or pastors. In sermons, private instructions, and on special occasions this matter was constantly brought up. Thus, when the congregations of the Lutheran

Church in New Orleans celebrated their annual mission festival on the grounds of the Bethlehem Orphan Home⁴¹ on Sunday, 27 September 1904, the large audience which had gathered listened to sermons by the Rev. K. Niermann⁴² and the Rev. F. Lankenau.⁴³ The former pleaded for boys to study for the ministry. He pointed out that much more might be accomplished by the Lutheran Church if only more men were available

⁴¹The Bethlehem Orphan Home was founded by St. Paul's congregation in New Orleans in 1881.

⁴²Karl Niermann (1867-1959) was pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Algiers, a suburb of New Orleans. He had come to Louisiana as the first Lutheran rural pastor in 1892. He organized Zion congregation in Clinton, Louisiana, and several preaching stations.

⁴³Francis Lankenau (1868-1939) was in charge of Negro Missions in New Orleans. He came to New Orleans in 1891. He was president of Luther College, New Orleans (1903-1908) and pastor in Napoleon, Ohio (1908-1939).



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to be sent out as missionaries.⁴⁴

LUTHER COLLEGE

Not only did the South need men for its own established churches and schools, but it was in dire need of men for the Negro mission work in the South.⁴⁵ To meet the needs in the best possible way, it was decided to train boys from the Negro people as ministers. Therefore, to meet this need Luther College was opened in New Orleans in September 1903. The Rev. F. J. Lankenau, the first teacher and president of the school, held the first class in the sacristy of his church.⁴⁶ In November 1904 a building for Luther College was dedicated. Here is the contemporary report.

On Sunday, November 6th, the new building of Luther College, our colored institution, was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies. The Dedicatory Services, which were held at 3 o'clock in the evening, were attended by a large number of our colored members and also by not a few people from our white congregations. R. G. C. Franke preached the sermon on the occasion, and the choirs of our three colored churches rendered several appropriate selections. May the Lord bless this institution and help that through its instrumentality many young men may be prepared to labor successfully in His vineyard!

This institution, while having for its primary object the preparation of young men for the serv-

ice of our church, will afford others the opportunity to gain a higher education than the common schools afford.⁴⁷

A COLLEGE ASSOCIATION

While the first Lutheran school of higher education for the Negroes was getting underway in New Orleans, the Lutheran people of the South did not forget their prayers for a college to train Southern boys for their churches. Hence 22 March 1904 proved to be a very eventful day for them with the founding of a College Association. "The number of those present was comparatively small, but that did not by any means detract from the enthusiasm which marked the proceeding."⁴⁸

A committee of seven was instructed to draft the necessary rules by which the organization would be governed and to submit these at the next meeting. The first rule was that any member of a Lutheran congregation in the Gulf States area might become a member of the Association by an annual contribution of one dollar or more; all male communicant members who were twenty-one years of age had the privilege of voting members — on joining the Association. The second rule was that the Association would elect, besides the officers necessary for the administration of its affairs,

⁴⁴*The Southern Lutheran*, I (November 1903), 5.

⁴⁵J. Theodore Mueller, "The Mission Work of the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America Among the Negroes in the United States and in Africa," *CHIQ*, X (January 1938), 97-118.

⁴⁶*Ibid.*, pp. 114-115.

⁴⁷*The Southern Lutheran*, II (December 1904), 5.

⁴⁸*Ibid.*, 11 (May 1904), 1.

collectors for every congregation in its membership.

The temporary officers were: Rev. G. J. Wegener, chairman; Mr. E. H. Heintzen, secretary; Mr. R. A. Wilde, treasurer; Mr. E. G. Bruening, collector for St. Paul's congregation; Mr. W. Johnson for First English congregation; Mr. E. W. Rischow for Zion congregation; Rev. Karl Niermann for Trinity congregation in Algiers; Rev. O. Goelz for Salem Church in Gretna; and Mr. H. L. Huettmann for Christ congregation.⁴⁹

An earnest plea was made in 1904, because the great need of ministers in the South was keenly felt. Eight congregations and mission places in the Southern District were vacant. The vacancies included: Fernandina, Florida; Southwest Alabama and the Mississippi Coast; Clinton, Louisiana; Crowley, Louisiana; Lake Charles, Louisiana; Houston, Texas (city missions); Taylor, Texas; and Willow Hole, Texas.⁵⁰ If the supply of ministers was to meet the demand of the church, a training school for ministers was needed in the South.⁵¹

⁴⁹*Ibid.*

⁵⁰*Ibid.*, II (November 1904), 4.

⁵¹*Ibid.*, II (December 1904), 4: "There are now 1,400 students at the various colleges of the Missouri Synod nearly all of whom are preparing to enter church or school work. While this number may appear great, the need of men is still greater. The want of men continues, yes, increases day by day."

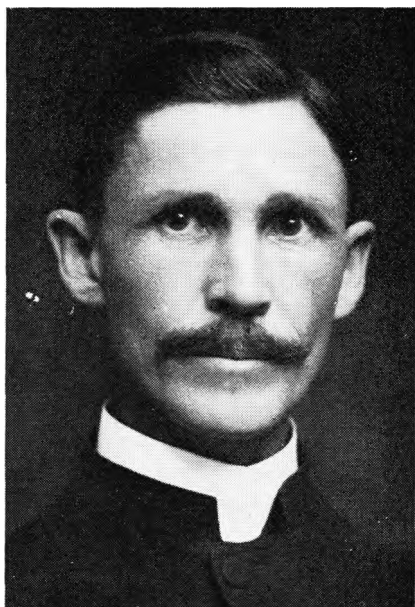
CONCORDIA COLLEGE ESTABLISHED

In 1904 a call was extended by the Concordia College Association to Mr. Oscar Reisig, a candidate of theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, to be the first professor of a newly established college in New Orleans. Oscar Reisig accepted the call. On 9 September 1904 Mr. O. Reisig was installed as professor in a divine service held at St. John's Lutheran Church. The Rev. Karl Niermann, who had been called by the College Association to be president of the college, preached the German sermon. The Rev. C. Craemer, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, conducted the installation service.

On the following Wednesday, 12 September, the school opened its doors. The first session began with twelve students, eleven boys and one girl. Five of the students came from Texas. The instruction was given in a large, roomy school house of Zion Lutheran Church on Carondelet Street near Washington Avenue.⁵²

Oscar H. Reisig's life more than any other person's was spent in the service of Concordia College, New Orleans. Oscar H. Reisig was born at New Orleans on 13 September 1882. His father, August C. Reisig, was a parochial school teacher at St.

⁵²*Ibid.*, II (November 1904), 4.



Rev. K. Niermann

John's Lutheran Church of New Orleans. His mother was Wilhelmina nee Robbert. As a boy Oscar Reising attended school in his father's school. After these years he wanted to prepare himself for the ministry, and so he entered Concordia College, Conover, North Carolina, in 1901. Later he completed his studies in Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and was ordained a Lutheran minister. He was the only professor to stay with Concordia College in New Orleans all the years of its existence.

Prof. Reising was quiet and reserved and liked to study. For a time he edited *The Southern Lutheran*. He also preached on many occasions in New Orleans.

In 1918, after Concordia Col-

lege closed, he was extended a call as the superintendent of parochial schools for the Michigan District. Before taking his new position, he visited his sister in California. On his way from there to Michigan he became ill with influenza, and died in Chicago on 18 October 1918 at the age of 36 years.⁵³

During the summer of 1904, before Concordia College opened, the Southern District convention met at Serbin, Texas, and heard words of encouragement for this venture from Vice-President Brand of the Missouri Synod.⁵⁴ The Southern District in 1904 numbered 20,877 baptized members of which 11,023 were communicants. There were 3,144 children enrolled in parochial schools. These figures were divided about half and half between the state of Texas, and the states of Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, and North Carolina.⁵⁵

In and around New Orleans there were six Missouri Synod churches in 1904. There were also three Negro churches of the Synodical Conference in the city. In New Orleans there was one

⁵³This information was supplied by Leonard V. Huber, a nephew of Oscar Reising, in a letter dated 14 May 1956. See also *The Southern Lutheran*, XIV (November 1918), 11.

⁵⁴Missouri Synod, Southern District, *Proceedings*, 1904, p. 114.

⁵⁵*Statistical Yearbook*, 1904. p. 124.

Lutheran orphanage, Bethlehem Orphan Home. In 1904 there were 912 children in Lutheran parochial schools in this city.⁵⁶ At Bethlehem Orphan Home in 1904 there were 77 children.

During the first school year the students of Concordia College were housed in private homes temporarily. In 1905 a building was purchased on Caffin Avenue and Royal Street near Bethlehem Home. The building was a two-story building (83' x 28') with fourteen rooms and adequate facilities for bedrooms and living rooms for students and living quarters for the Director and Instructor. The property after the necessary changes cost about \$5,000.

On 15 October 1905 the building was dedicated with thankful hearts. The Rev. C. J. Craemer and the Rev. H. H. Hartmann led in the service of dedication. The Rev. J. F. W. Kossmann preached the sermon on Matthew 9:37-38. After the service of dedication the service of installation of the first president, the Rev. Karl Niermann, was to take place. However, Pastor Niermann could not be present, since he was at the bedside of his dying wife. She had been stricken with yellow fever a few days earlier. Through her death the college sustained a

⁵⁶*Ibid.*, p. 103. This figure includes 616 Negro children.

loss, for she was to have served as college mother.⁵⁷

In other ways, too, the College Association realized that God's ways are often hidden from men. The outbreak of more yellow fever plagues in New Orleans sharply curtailed the enrollment. No out-state students came at the beginning of the second school year. However, as the year progressed, eighteen students enrolled and two were from Texas. The faculty consisted of Rev. Karl Niermann, president; Rev. O. H. Reising, professor; and Mr. H. L. Huettmann, instructor in music. The students were: Allen De Trafford,⁵⁸ Charles Larsen, Theodore Wegener, Henry Reininger, Margaret Reininger, Emil Wenzel, Richard Wenzel, Esther Beard, Norma Beard, Ruth Beeskow, William Breisacher, Edward Garey, Louis Huettmann, Albert Korbacher, Alfred Lankenau, Michael LeCron, John Muschler, and August Struck.

The cost for attending the school was \$60.00 per pupil for board for ten months. Room was free. Incidental expenses amounted to \$2.00 per pupil. Tuition charges were \$40.00 per

⁵⁷New Orleans *Daily Picayune*, Monday, 16 October 1905, p. 4; *Evangelisch-Lutherische Blaetter*, XXIII (November 1905), 812-813.

⁵⁸According to information given to the writer by Mrs. De Trafford in a letter dated 6 March 1955, Allen De Trafford passed away in 1951. This correspondence is in Concordia Historical Institute.

year. All students intending to become ministers or teachers, as well as children of pastors and teachers, paid no tuition charges.⁵⁹

ACCEPTED BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT

Already in 1905 Concordia College, New Orleans, was discussed at the Missouri Synod Convention held at Detroit, Michigan. A lengthy report concerning the college was presented to the convention. Synod was pleased with the report and voted a subsidy of \$5,000 when the school would be offered to the Southern District.⁶⁰ On 9 February 1906 the Concordia College Association passed the resolution to offer the college to the Southern District. It was resolved further that the College Association not be disbanded, but continue working for the college even after the District accepts it.⁶¹

In the same month the organizational meeting of the Texas District took place at Old Trinity Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas (14-20 February 1906). The Rev. Wegener, president of the Southern District, acted as chairman until the officers were elected. Dr. Francis Pieper of St. Louis attended this meeting. The Rev. A. W. Kramer was

elected president; Rev. C. A. Waech, first vice-president; Rev. F. Wunderlich, second vice-president; Rev. H. Studtmann, secretary; and Mr. H. W. Lottmann, treasurer. At the time the Texas District had 13,832 members and the Southern District had 8,264 members.⁶² President Wegener pleaded that the new district would remember the college in New Orleans with gifts and boys.⁶³

Just two days after the Texas District met, the Southern District met at St. John's Lutheran Church, New Orleans. At this meeting the college was offered to the District and the District wholeheartedly accepted it as its own institution.⁶⁴ The assets of the college in 1906 were \$7,426.35; the liabilities amounted to \$6,080.98. The salary of the two full-time professors amounted to \$110 per month.⁶⁵

The Concordia College Association, however, continued to function. It acquired more land for the college in January 1906; in March 1906 the college was completely remodeled. The Association met in the regular annual meeting in March and recommended the envelope system for raising funds.⁶⁶

⁵⁹*Statistical Yearbook*, 1906, p. 135.

⁶⁰Missouri Synod, Texas District, *Proceedings*, 1906, p. 55.

⁶¹Missouri Synod, Southern District, *Proceedings*, 1906, p. 67.

⁶²*The Southern Lutheran*, IV (August 1906), 3.

⁶³*Ibid.*, IV (April 1906), 3-4.

⁵⁹*The Southern Lutheran*, IV (August 1906), 4-5.

⁶⁰Missouri Synod, *Proceedings*, 1905, pp. 53-54.

⁶¹*The Southern Lutheran*, IV (March 1906), 2.

The Louisiana Pastoral Conference which met in August 1906 gave its support to the college and took care of the Indigent Student's Fund. The pastors were informed that the College Board of Control determined to add a Junior class.⁶⁷

In the 1906-07 school year the enrollment was 22 students. The yellow fever scare somewhat subsided. Fourteen students returned from the previous year; eight new students enrolled. They were: John Webert, William Feierabend, Louis Helfrich, Louis Jacobi, Rosa Niermann, Ward Odenwald, George Schaefer, and Carl Siebert. Two students came from Texas; the rest were supplied by Louisiana. A new part-time faculty member was added during this school year. This was Mr. L. E. Hilgaertner. The faculty otherwise remained the same. Student expenses remained the same also.⁶⁸

In February 1907 the Southern District met at St. John's Lutheran Church in Mobile, Alabama. After careful deliberation it was resolved at this meeting to add another year to Concordia College in the fall. Thus all four years of high school would be included.⁶⁹ With the establishment of a new class for the fourth school year, an assistant professor was called in the

person of O. Wismar, a student of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.⁷⁰

One month later the College Association held its annual meeting. A gathering of 20 representatives and members were present. It was reported that the amount of \$647.55 had been collected through the envelope system. President Niermann reported that ten students were preparing to teach. The District convention empowered the Board of Directors to call another professor for the next school year, "if the local pastors were not in a position to devote part of their time to the instruction at the college." As an effective means of advertising the college, it was decided to publish a catalog. Election of officers concluded the meeting. The Rev. H. H. Hartmann was elected chairman.⁷¹

During the summer of 1907, the second convention of the Texas District met at Walburg, Texas. Concordia College in New Orleans was not discussed at this meeting. However, two Norwegian Lutheran pastors spoke on behalf of their Norwegian Lutheran College at Clifton, Texas. They requested students for their school. The con-

⁶⁷*Ibid.*, IV (September 1906), 2.

⁶⁸*Ibid.*, V (August 1907), 3ff.

⁶⁹Missouri Synod, Southern District, *Proceedings*, 1907, p. 54.

⁷⁰*The Southern Lutheran*, V (July 1907), 4.

⁷¹*Ibid.*, V (March 1907), 3.

ference recommended that the matter be given consideration by its members.⁷²

STUDENTS WANTED

If Concordia College was to grow, students needed to be recruited. A lengthy article entitled, "Our Prospective Students," appeared in *The Southern Lutheran*.⁷³ It was a serious appeal for consecrated boys for the ministry. President Karl Niermann delivered an essay entitled, "The Lack of Ministers in the Church," to the Louisiana Pastoral Conference.⁷⁴

However, the fourth school year brought an increase in the enrollment. On 9 September 1907, the opening day of school, 27 students enrolled. This was an increase of five students. Fifteen students returned from the previous year. The twelve new students who enrolled were: Bertha Johansen, Ellida Norman, Anna Wensel, Hatton Henkel, William McGoldrick, Lloyd McGregor, Ben Meyer, Joseph Meyer, Ernest Morere, Claud Mott, Fred Paris, and George Wurnken.

Concordia College had now been in existence at the end of the school-year for four years. During the first four years the total enrollment reached 79. However, this figure represents

⁷²Missouri Synod, Texas District, *Proceedings*, 1907, p. 76.

⁷³*The Southern Lutheran*, V (August 1907), 1ff.

⁷⁴*Ibid.*, V (September 1907), 3-4.

only 38 different students.

Of the 38 students enrolled during the four years, 32 were from Louisiana, five from Texas, one from Arkansas, none from Alabama, Mississippi and Florida, or any other state in the South. If any area was going to supply the students then it would have to be Louisiana, and especially the city of New Orleans. The Texas children attended school either at the Norwegian Lutheran College at Clifton, Texas, or St. John's College in Winfield, Kansas.

Two new members joined the faculty in 1907, the Rev. O. Wismar and Mr. F. W. Niermann. These two men replaced Mr. Huettmann and Mr. L. E. Hilgaertner.

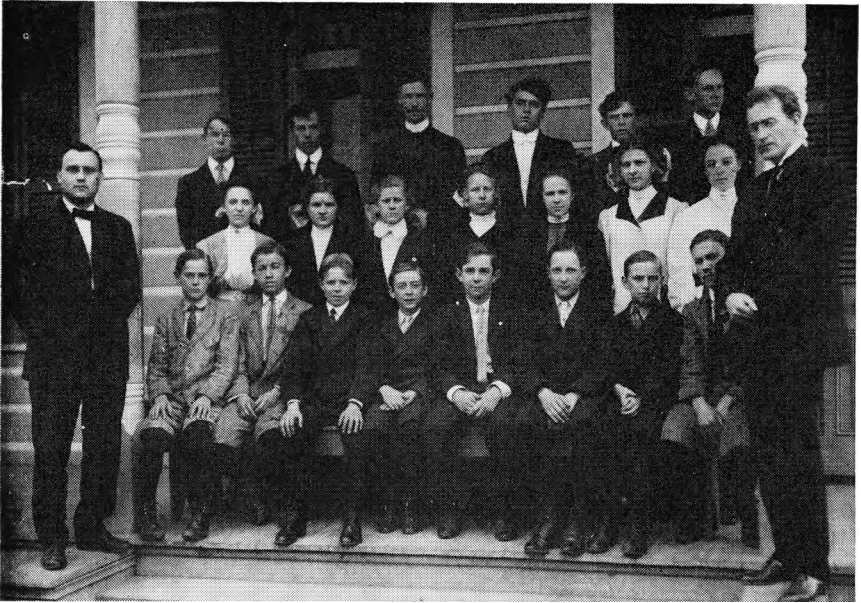
Student expenses remained the same except the board, which was raised from \$60.00 to \$70.00 per pupil per year.⁷⁵ Nine students boarded with Prof. Niermann.

MONEY NEEDED

The college classrooms were poorly equipped from the beginning. There was no library nor laboratory. Efforts were made to obtain some library and reference books and other necessary items.

As the fourth school year progressed, the finances were in poor shape. A debt of \$1,300 rested on the property, and in September there was a \$300

⁷⁵*Ibid.*, VI (August 1908), 2ff.



Concordia College Faculty and Student Body, about 1909. Prof. J. T. Mueller is on the left; Prof. O. Reising, on the right. President Karl Niermann is third from the left in the top row.

deficit in the current fund. The Missouri Synod had fulfilled its promise to grant the school \$5,000. But this money had been used to pay the original cost of the school building. Therefore, a special meeting of the College Association was called for 11 October to discuss this important business.⁷⁶ An enthusiastic meeting was held and efforts were made to reduce the debt.⁷⁷

In March 1908 the fifth annual meeting of the College Association was held. The finances were in better condition than in the fall, but funds were still short. A special circulatory letter was prepared and

sent to all members of the district in an appeal for funds. Plans were made for a "College Festival."⁷⁸

The college festival took place with the closing exercises on 25 June.⁷⁹ The Rev. Wegener, president of the Southern District, concluded the evening's activities with an optimistic address about the future of Concordia College.⁸⁰

THE PERIOD OF EXPANSION

Concordia College experienced one of its most fruitful periods with the start of the fifth school year. The prospects for new students looked good. Therefore, the Board of Control ad-

⁷⁶*Ibid.*, V (October 1907), 2-3.

⁷⁷*Ibid.*, V (November 1907), 6.

⁷⁸*Ibid.*, VI (April 1908), 3.

⁷⁹*Ibid.*, VI (July 1908), 3.

⁸⁰*Ibid.*, VI (August 1908), 1-2.

vised calling a new professor. A call was extended to the Rev. J. Theodore Mueller, who for a year had been serving as a professor at Luther College in New Orleans. Prof. Mueller accepted the call and was installed on 4 October 1908 in a service held at Christ Lutheran Church. The Rev. H. H. Hartmann delivered the sermon based on Matthew 9:37-38.⁸¹

The finances of the college were generally good at this time. The Missouri Synod at its convention of 1908 voted to support the young college by granting it \$1,500 for the next three years.⁸²

A new catalog of Concordia College made its appearance during the year.⁸³ This booklet was well prepared and gave exact information on all areas of the college's function. It states that purpose and aim of the college:

The chief object of Concordia College is, to provide a liberal and thorough education for young men who intend later to enter the min-

⁸¹*Ibid.*, VI (November 1908), 4.

⁸²Missouri Synod, *Proceedings*, 1908, pp. 53-54.

⁸³To the present time the writer knows of the existence of only one copy of the catalog. This copy was given to him by the former president of the college, the Rev. Karl Niermann, and is now in Concordia Historical Institute, St. Louis. *The Southern Lutheran* printed previous catalogs for three years. To the knowledge of the writer the Tilton-Memorial Library, Tulane University, New Orleans, is the only library that has copies of *The Southern Lutheran* in which these catalogs are found. Concordia Historical Institute has microfilmed these copies and the bound volume of *The Southern Lutheran* owned by Bethlehem Orphan Home in New Orleans.

istry in the Lutheran Church. A special object had in view by its founders was, to furnish an adequate supply of ministers for our extensive mission fields here in the South. The erroneous opinion has long been current that the people of the North cannot stand our warm climate here in the South. The result of this has been that candidates who were given calls to our Southern missions either never accepted them or at the first opportunity returned again to the North. Consequently, mission work here in the South has been constantly hampered by lack of men, long vacancies, constant changes, and heavy expenses. The urgent demand for our institution, therefore, is not to be attributed to the fact that scores of boys were eagerly awaiting the opening of such a college—such a demand did not exist and had to be created—but primarily to the great lack of the laborers in the Lord's vineyard here in the Gulf States. Our past experiences have taught us that if our missionary endeavors would show tangible results and the Lord's work in this section be prosecuted with becoming zeal and devotion, we must train Southern boys for our Southern missions.

The description of the location, grounds, and buildings was given in this manner:

It is only one square distance from two electric car lines . . . communicating with every part of the city. . . . The ground floor on the left contains two small lecture rooms, a lavatory and living-room for the boarding students; on the right we find a large lecture room, a dining room, a kitchen and a pantry. The right side of the second floor is occupied by the Director and his family, whereas the left (four rooms) serves as a dormitory to the boarding students. In the second story there is also a bathroom. The class rooms can accommodate about fifty students and the dormitory about eighteen. At present only boys can receive board and lodging in the College. Girls may find private lodging in Christian families in the imme-

diate neighborhood. The College grounds comprise six lots and are utilized as vegetable garden and pasture. There is ample play ground for the students in the rear of the College. The approximate value of the entire property of the College is about \$8,000. There is still a debt of \$700 resting on it.

The number of students enrolling during the fifth school year reached a high point in the history of the school. There were 29 students enrolled. The names of the new students were: Naomi Odenwald, Edith Schoenhardt, Hilda Larsen, Fred Honold, Juaniata Neff, Lydia Niermann, Andrew Schmalz, Charles Weckerling, and Augusta Wegener. All of these children were from Louisiana except three from Arkansas.

In addition to the four high school classes the college maintained a Normal Department. This department was started for the purpose of training Lutheran school teachers.

The curriculum of the college published in the college catalog agreed in most points with the *Regulativ fuer die Gymnasium* published in 1908 by the Missouri Synod as a guide in planning curricula.⁶⁴

At the end of the fifth school year diplomas were given for the first time. Graduation exercises were held with the Rev. W. J. Vonderau delivering the address.⁶⁵

The sixth school year began on 7 September 1909. During this school year only 22 students enrolled. Girls who were looking for a higher education were also encouraged to come.⁶⁶ Their hopes for a larger class for the school year 1910 to 1911 were fulfilled, for 28 students entered. Twenty-three of the pupils were boys; five pupils were girls. Nineteen of the boys had the ministry in mind.

Just before this school year started, the interior of the college was remodeled. During the school year the college received many gifts from various people. For instance, beds, chairs and desks were donated as well as food. Mr. Theodore Schmalz of Abita, Louisiana, sent a barrel of sweet potatoes and a goose for Thanksgiving.

Prof. Mueller organized a literary society on campus and students also participated in outdoor sports.⁶⁷

At the end of this school year, three students graduated and planned to enter Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, in the fall of 1911. These students were: Allen De Trafford, Michael LeCron, and Theodore Wegener. These were the only three students in the history of the college who graduated from

1909), 4, and *ibid.*, VI (August 1909), 1, 2.

⁶⁶*Ibid.*, VIII (May 1910), 2, 3.

⁶⁷*Ibid.*, VIII (November 1910), 2; and *ibid.*, VIII (December 1910), 4, 5.

⁶⁴Missouri Synod, *Proceedings*, 1908, pp. 70f.

⁶⁵*The Southern Lutheran*, VII (June

Prima. Several students, however, graduated from the Normal School and served as Lutheran parochial teachers. Among these were Louis Huettmann and Richard Wenzel.⁸⁸

Synod continued to support the institution by granting it another \$1,500 in May 1911 for another three years.⁸⁹ In 1911 Synod published a booklet entitled *Synodal Album*, picturing the colleges of Synod. Concordia College, New Orleans, appeared in this booklet.⁹⁰

DECLINE SETS IN

The eighth school year began at the usual time in September 1911. This was a year of real decline, for only 16 students enrolled, and this despite the fact that zealous canvassing was done by the professors. This was the poorest enrollment in the history of the school with the exception of the first school year in which only 12 enrolled.⁹¹ Due to the poor enrollment. Prof. J. Theodore Mueller was peacefully released to accept a call to Wittenberg Academy in Wittenberg, Wisconsin.

A long report was given concerning the school at the Southern District Convention held in April 1912. The greatest ques-

tion at the meeting was not one of financial worries, but over lack of students.⁹²

The ninth school year, however, brought an increase in students. Twenty-one students enrolled. This year students from Alabama and Texas enrolled and the prospects looked better. Fifteen boys were preparing for the ministry. Some of the students

⁸⁸Missouri Synod, Southern District, *Proceedings*, 1912, pp. 50-52. According to information given to the writer by the Rev. K. Niermann, President Niermann presented the case of the college to the members of the Texas District convention held at Thorndale, Texas. When he asked the Texas District for help for the college or take charge of the college, faculty and students, they replied, "Texas braucht kein College." This sentiment, however, was not confined to Texas. It was a general feeling throughout Synod because in previous years some candidates did not receive calls. This was due to the fact that there was no apparent place for the candidates. Therefore, it was feared that there would be an oversupply of pastors, and the general feeling throughout Synod was, "We have enough colleges." It must also be noted that at this time the colleges of Synod had more students than they had ever had before. This, too, may have played a part in the fears of oversupply. However, Dr. Francis Pieper, as President of Synod, had the courage to urge the training of many more students and to support the smaller colleges. For instance, he urged the opening of the colleges on the West coast. In the early years these schools struggled for their very existence. Cf. Allen H. Nauss, "Concordia College (Academy), Portland, Oregon." *CHIQ*, XXV-XXVII (January 1953 to April 1954), *passim*. Likewise he also supported and encouraged the college in the South, for he realized that if the church was to grow, boys had to come from all parts of the country to supply the needs. Dr. Pieper, no doubt, had others who supported his long-range views.

⁸⁸*Ibid.*, IX (June 1911), 4.

⁸⁹Missouri Synod, *Proceedings*, 1911, p. 75.

⁹⁰*Synodal Album* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1911), pp. 76-79.

⁹¹*The Southern Lutheran*, IX (October 1911), 4.

attending this year were: Frank Wittmer, Emil Helfrich, Leonhardt Hofmann, Enno Schoenhardt, August Vix, Henry Gabriel, Henry Schaefer, Garrit Bernard, Edgar Fehlau, Henry Fischer, Charles Hartmann, Richard Hauk, Alfred Rohli, Joseph Salome, Herman Schoel, Paul Stueckler, Ericson Weston, and Winfield Wickham. Fred Honold and George Olson were enrolled in the previous year.⁶³ This school year finished in a quiet manner. There were no graduates. One boy completed his high school studies and intended to enroll in Concordia College, Ft. Wayne, Indiana.⁶⁴

WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE?

In the spring of 1913 an important meeting of the Southern District was held. It was reported that the financial standing of the college was good, since a bill of long standing, \$600, had been paid. Three proposals regarding the future of the college were submitted.⁶⁵ The first proposal was that Synod be requested to pay the salary of the professors and thus the school

would be like the colleges in California and Oregon. The second proposal was that Synod be petitioned again for a subsidy of \$500 per year. The third proposal was that Synod assume full charge of the school. The second proposal was adopted. The convention also resolved that the Board of Control be urged to solicit funds for the erection of a new and more adequate college building.⁶⁶

As the tenth school year began in September 1913 only 18 students entered.⁶⁷ In February 1914 the College Association met and reported that \$394.25 had been collected. Appeals were to be made to the churches for more funds. President Niermann made his report to the Association.⁶⁸ It was not realized that before this school year would come to an end, President Niermann would leave. This was his last appearance before the College Association. President Niermann received a call to be pastor of the Lutheran Church in Cele Camp, Missouri. He accepted the call and left New Orleans on 1 June 1914. He was privileged to serve nearly a quarter of a century in the South.⁶⁹

After Rev. Niermann left, Prof. Reisig took charge of the school and closed the tenth

⁶³*The Southern Lutheran*, IX (October 1911), 4.

⁶⁴*Ibid.*, XI (July 1913), 3-4.

⁶⁵According to information given to the writer by Karl Niermann, the Southern District was afraid that if Synod assumed control of the school, even partially, it would discontinue the college classes so that it would not be a full *Progymnasium*. The reason for this feeling was that the District wished to keep the boys in the South as long as possible in hopes that the Southern boys would return as ministers.

⁶⁶*The Southern Lutheran*, XI (May 1913), 3.

⁶⁷*Ibid.*, XI (October 1913), 5.

⁶⁸*Ibid.*, XII (April 1914), 4.

⁶⁹*Ibid.*, XII (July 1914), 6.

school year. In 1914 Synod met and granted the school \$1,200 for the next three years.¹⁰⁰

For the new school year a new teacher was secured in the person of the Rev. F. W. Abel, who also was called as pastor of Christ Lutheran Church.¹⁰¹ The new school year opened in September with eight in attendance. This was the lowest enrollment in the history of the school. Nevertheless, the school year was completed successfully. Three students, Winfield Wickham, Henry Gabriel, and Paul Stueckler completed their preparatory training and planned to enter larger schools of Synod in the North.¹⁰²

During the summer, an earnest plea was made for more students. The plea was made: "What can we do now to win more students for our institution? That is the old burning question for us. We have everything: a beautiful building, a beautiful campus, skilled and faithful professors, but no students."¹⁰³

In spite of the many pleas only eight students sought entrance in the twelfth school year. However, this school year began in good spirits. Many

improvements had been made to the buildings.¹⁰⁴ This school year had just begun, however, when a severe storm struck New Orleans, and damaged many buildings. Concordia College was damaged also by the wind and rain.¹⁰⁵

Again during the summer various methods were used to encourage more students to enroll. The tuition was lowered from \$40 to \$20 for non-ministerial students.¹⁰⁶ Articles on recruitment appeared in *The Southern Lutheran*.¹⁰⁷ But the thirteenth school year, 1916-1917 saw the enrollment of only six boys.

In this school year the Concordia College Association met for its fourteenth annual meeting on 6 February 1917 with Mr. C. H. Odendahl as chairman. Professor Reisig reported that three of the students enrolled were preparing for the ministry. He stated that four young men who graduated from the school were in the active ministry. Ten of the former students were presently enrolled in other schools of the Synod. A plan was brought up at this meeting to combine a high school course with the college curriculum and

¹⁰⁰Missouri Synod, *Proceedings*, 1914, p. 26.

¹⁰¹*The Southern Lutheran*, XII (November 1914), 4.

¹⁰²*Ibid.*, XIII (July 1915), 4.

¹⁰³Missouri Synod, Southern District, *Proceedings*, 1915, p. 59.

¹⁰⁴*The Southern Lutheran*, XIII (October 1915), 4.

¹⁰⁵*The Lutheran Witness*, XXXIV (16 November 1915), 346.

¹⁰⁶*The Southern Lutheran*, XIV (September 1916), 3.

¹⁰⁷*Ibid.*, XIV (July 1916), 1-2.

add another teacher who would be salaried by the Association. However, this matter was dropped. This was the last meeting of the College Association during the existence of the school.¹⁰⁸

As this school year closed, Henry Honold, Norman Reisig, and Leonhard Huber completed their preparatory studies.¹⁰⁹

The College Board of Control resolved in April 1917 to petition Synod again for financial aid for the next three years. At its meeting in June Synod appropriated the sum of \$840, "provided the brethren of the Southern District find it advisable to continue the school in New Orleans."¹¹⁰

During the summer of 1917 whatever recruitment efforts were made, were of no avail. When the time came to start the new school year only one student applied for entrance. The lack of students, therefore, closed the college.¹¹¹

THE COLLEGE CLOSED

When the college closed its thirteenth school year in the spring of 1917, it never reopened. Whatever attempts were made to reopen the school ended with no success. Concordia Col-

lege had been in existence from September 1904 until June 1917, a total of thirteen years. During this time no less than 238 pupils attended the school.

Since the college closed in 1917, the question has been asked, Why did Concordia College close? Or rephrased, What were some of the factors that made the school's existence a difficult one and eventually caused it to close? They were not the financial difficulties. The financial problems were experienced in the earlier years. Synod was willing to give financial assistance and did.

The greatest difficulties arose in recruitment. Without students no school can operate. Why didn't students enroll when there evidently was a supply?

A threefold answer is offered to this problem. First, conditions in New Orleans did not permit the expansion of the school. Second, the Lutheran people in the South did not give proper support to the school. Third, there was a lack of measures on the part of the leaders to avert a crisis.

Conditions in the city which did not permit the expansion of the school were: city sanitation, Roman Catholicism, geographic and climatic conditions, and lodgery. On account of the poor drainage system which was in the city of New Orleans, yellow fever spread rapidly. The mos-

¹⁰⁸*Ibid.*, XV (March 1917), 4.

¹⁰⁹*Ibid.*, XV (September 1917), 3.

¹¹⁰Missouri Synod, *Proceedings*, 1917, p. 27.

¹¹¹*The Southern Lutheran*, XV (November 1917), 3; Missouri Synod, Southern District, *Proceedings*, 1918, p. 43.

quito which carried the deadly malaria germ bred easily in the standing waters. In the second school year the yellow fever plague almost wiped out the small college. At various times the whole state of Louisiana as well as the city of New Orleans were quarantined, thus prohibiting out-of-state students to enter the institution. Roman Catholicism has always been an aggressive foe of Lutheranism and its basic principles. The schools are one of the foundations of the church. Most of the people in the city of New Orleans were Roman Catholic. World War I played a part of fostering a spirit of indifference and drew away many young people from the church. Geographic and climatic conditions hindered Southern students from going to the North and Northern pastors from coming to the South. Lodgery in the city of New Orleans offered obstacles in the way of young people who intended to serve in the church. Dr. J. Theodore Mueller, who for a number of years was a teacher in Luther College and Concordia College in New Orleans, stated:

The confessional Lutheran Church in New Orleans has always been an *ecclesia militans* in the truest sense of the term. "Fightings and fears within and without" have been its lot. Under adverse conditions that exist in the city so predominantly Catholic and with a large atheistic element as New Orleans, the Lutheran Church there must be aggressively militant even to this day. The city is com-

pletely lodge-ridden, and lodgery has always been one of the main impediments to a truly Lutheran church practice. Lodgery leads to externalism in religion, as does Catholicism, and externalism in religion means empty pews, neglect of Holy Communion, and other evils. The office of a true Lutheran pastor in New Orleans is not a sinecure, but one of the most difficult tasks imaginable.¹¹²

The second answer offered is that the Lutheran people in the South did not give the proper support to the school. Only one segment of the Southern District supported the college. About 200 of the 238 students enrolled during the lifetime of the college came from the state of Louisiana and these mostly from the city of New Orleans. Concordia College received very few students from the Texas District.¹¹³ A related factor was that the Southern District, before as well as after the Texas District was founded, covered entirely too much territory.

Not only was there a lack of students from out of state but too many people felt it was necessary to give their children only

¹¹²J. Theodore Mueller, "Lutheranism in Louisiana," *CHIQ*, VI (April 1933), 16.

¹¹³W. H. Bewie, who for many years was the director of home missions in the Texas District, stated that at one time there were fifty-five boys and girls from the Texas District who had enrolled at the Norwegian Lutheran school at Clifton. Bewie, pp. 100-101. The Missouri Lutherans in Texas supported the Norwegian institution until that body was no longer in fraternal fellowship with the Synodical Conference. The Lutheran College at Clifton was started in 1897.

a grammar school education. Many parents felt, that at best, their children should only receive a grammar school education in the parochial school. After that they were expected to work and help support the family. The economic factor, thus, was a related problem. The people of the South wanted ministers and teachers but they did not always realize that it took their own sons and daughters.

Finally, the third answer offered is that there was a lack of measures on the part of leaders to avert a crisis. The ministers and teachers of the South realized that the enrollment was dropping sharply but they did little about it. Instead of bolstering the enrollment they lost courage. Hard times had come and they realized it. But they did not tenaciously hold on to the school. Lastly, the school was not offered to the Missouri Synod. Had this been done, the crisis may have passed.

To single out any one of the particular reasons that had been given and say this is the reason the school closed, would be a misinterpretation of the information available. All of the factors taken together were the cause of the closing of Concordia College.

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A THEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION TO THE APOSTOLIC FATHERS. By John Lawson. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1961, xii and 334 pages. Cloth. \$5.00.

The continued interest in the writings of the Apostolic Fathers compels a brief notice in this journal of Lawson's introduction to them. The work must be used in conjunction with the writings themselves. This will prove rewarding reading. C.S.M.

LUTHER'S WORKS: LECTURES ON GALATIANS, 1535. Translated by Jaroslav Pelikan. Volume XXVI. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1963. xxx pages. Cloth. \$6.50.

Luther's "Katherina von Bora," Galatians, was the New Testament letter which he loved the most. His lectures on this letter in 1531, printed in 1535, are here produced in a superb translation by the general editor of the entire series of *Luther's Works*. This vibrant translation makes Luther's lectures live, so that we can hear him operate in the classroom. The accents that Luther brings, such as justification by faith and the distinction between Law and Gospel are very clear in this translation. But better as Luther himself put it: "In this epistle Paul is dealing with the most important and sublime subject matter: the Gospel, faith, Christian righteousness, the definition of the Person of Christ, the meaning of His work, what He undertook and accomplished on our behalf, and what blessings He brought to us miserable sinners."

A check of fifty consecutive footnotes revealed that exactly half of them were references to some other volume in *Luther's Works* or to a page within this volume. This is helpful. It is not a substitute, however, for a comprehensive index. In our opinion when italics are employed instead of the capital letters in the translation, it would be better simply to retain capital letters in the translation. These are minor points and cannot minimize the excellence of the translation nor the worth of the commentary. We predict that this volume will be the single volume of the entire set that will be sold the most. C.S.M.