Cedarville College: A Century of Commitment

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CEDARVILLE COLLEGE
A Century Of Commitment

Commissioned on the occasion of the Centennial of Cedarville College

Text by
J. Murray Murdoch, Ph. D

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1887-1987
Introduction

Cedarville College was founded in prayer, has been maintained in faith, and supported by sacrifice; and long after this generation shall have run its race, Cedarville College will live to enrich the nation, gladden the church, and bless the world; and with the years it will grow in material equipment until it becomes the joy of this community and is numbered high among the favored colleges of our country.

These words were uttered by Wilbert Renwick McChesney, second president of Cedarville College, in his inaugural address on November 12, 1915. They reflect his knowledge of what had occurred in the past and an amazingly accurate assessment of what would happen in the future. He could not begin to envision, however, how uneven the path to success would be.

Along that path walked many people: people of prayer, vision, and sacrifice. People who served as trustees, administrators, faculty, and staff. Parents who entrusted the education of their children to the faculty. Students who came with a desire to grow and learn. People who made wise decisions that led to great success — others who made poor decisions that led to failure and disappointment.
The distinguishing characteristic of the people who founded Cedarville College was their firm commitment to principles of biblical Christianity. That same commitment is seen in the people who maintain it. Reformed Presbyterians founded the college “For the Crown and Covenant of Christ” (college corporate seal). Regular Baptists have maintained it “For the Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev. 1:9). The mission and objectives of the institution mark it as a distinctly Christian college. The doctrinal statements of both the Presbyterians and Baptists reveal a firm commitment to the basic principles of historic fundamentalism.

The thesis of this volume may be stated very simply. There were three keys to the early success of Cedarville College. First, a
strong tie to a church constituency, the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America. Second, strong executive leadership, as seen in Rev. David McKinney and W. Renwick McChesney. Third, a strong tie with the local community.

Gradually, Cedarville College lost all three. In 1928 the General Synod released the college to a self-perpetuating Board. Two years later that Board seriously undermined their executive leadership. Subsequently, circumstances caused the college to lose respect in the eyes of the community.

Through its last decade as a Presbyterian institution, Cedarville was a college in trauma. The trustees were forced to deplete the endowment because none of the prerequisites for success were in place. Realizing they could continue no longer, the trustees sought new leadership for their beloved college. In an act of gracious Christian statesmanship, they turned the campus over to a group of Regular Baptists representing the Baptist Bible Institute of Cleveland.

After a faltering beginning, the Regular Baptists began to redevelop the three key elements necessary for success. They gradually built a strong tie with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches. Executive leadership emerged in the person of James T. Jeremiah and was continued by Paul Dixon. Through the years a strong, positive relationship was reestablished with the Village of Cedarville, Greene County, and the greater Miami Valley.

In the process, Cedarville College has
established a unique niche for itself. Its strong liberal arts emphasis provides a framework for its sensitivity to the new educational needs of the information age and the demands of the professions.

Over the course of the century of its existence, many people have passed through the halls of Cedarville College. Over 10,000 students have enrolled in classes since 1894. Seven hundred and eight had graduated by 1953; since then, there have been 5,327 graduates. Hundreds of others have labored as trustees, administrators, faculty, and staff. These people have influenced one another in dramatic ways.

The main focus of this work will be on the key leaders, the decisions they made, and how those decisions molded the institution into what it is today. Through this method, the reader will grasp the marvelous spirit of the Cedarville experience. In the early chapters of the volume, the flashback technique is employed. The account opens in 1953 when the stage was set for the transition from a Presbyterian to a Baptist college. In Chapter IV a detailed account of the Presbyterian years begins and continues through Chapter X. In Chapters X and XI the negotiations between Baptist Bible Institute and the actual transfer of the college into Baptist hands are described, and the remainder of the volume deals with the Baptist years.

In 1987 Cedarville College celebrates the 100th anniversary of its charter. This volume is being issued as a part of the school’s Centennial Celebration.
Chapter I

The driver pointed the automobile bearing the deacon and his pastor eastward from Dayton. As the vehicle slowly moved across the rolling terrain of Greene County, both men were deep in thought.

It had all started casually enough several days earlier. The deacon, Harold Engle, had simply asked his young pastor if he knew of any Regular Baptist schools that were in need of property. His pastor, James T. Jeremiah, responded with a question of his own: "Why?" Engle explained that he had been raised in the tiny Village of Cedarville, located eight miles east of Xenia in Greene County. Many members of the Engle family, including his parents, remained in the rural community. The village was the home of a liberal arts college that had fallen on difficult times.

Cedarville College had been founded by people of Scotch-Irish descent who had settled in the Ohio Valley and formed the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America. They were sometimes known as "New Lights" because, unlike the "Old Lights" Reformed Presbyterians, they were willing to participate in civil government. In 1885 the General Synod appointed a committee of five men to find a site for a college in the Cedarville area. Rev. J.F. Morton, Thomas Gibson, R. Park, Hugh McCollum, and H.H. McMillan signed the corporation papers on January 20, and a charter for Cedarville College was granted by the State of Ohio six days later on January 26, 1887.

For a while it seemed the college would never get off the ground. The trustees were frustrated in their attempts to raise support and would have given up had the General Synod permitted it. In late 1891, however, the Cedarville College campus in 1953; the scene which James T. Jeremiah saw on his first visit to the College after hearing of its plight and the possibility of taking it over.
college received a sizeable bequest that enabled the trustees to move toward making the college a reality. A Cincinnati pastor, Dr. David McKinney, was named first president, and Cedarville opened its doors to the first students on September 19, 1894.

Cedarville College remained a Reformed Presbyterian school until 1928 when the General Synod released it to the trustees so the Board could seek financial assistance from the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. The latter body refused to consider support until such a break was made, and then rejected the request anyway! This left the college with no supporting constituency. Other difficulties emerged in the '30s, and by late in the decade the trustees dipped into the endowment for a small "loan." This practice continued in the '40s, and by the early '50s the modest endowment had been depleted to keep the college alive.

When the endowment was gone, the trustees realized they could no longer continue operation. Because of their great love for the traditions of their college, they looked for another Christian group that would bring new leadership to the struggling school and enable it to continue. Engle indicated to Jeremiah that the trustees of Cedarville College were seeking a merger.

As Engle briefly outlined the plight of Cedarville College, Jeremiah's mind focused on the Baptist Bible Institute of Cleveland (B.B.I.). This institute had its inception on September 27, 1941, when several Bible-believing pastors attended a Bible conference at the Calvary Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio. These men held a special session to discuss the possibility of establishing an educational institution to train Cleveland area young people for the ministry. The nine pastors attending that initial session were George A. Bates, George G. Nika, Gerald V. Smelser, Gordon Anderson, L.T. Merchant, D.E. Luttrell, Howard Kramer, William S. Ross, and J.F. Guthriell.

They selected Pastors Luttrell and Ross to contact Bible schools in Detroit and Grand Rapids for data that might be helpful in formulating their plans. A second meeting was held on October 20, 1941, at the Russett Cafeteria. George Bates was chosen as chairman, and the nine pastors received the material provided by the Michigan schools. The pastors then entered into a lengthy discussion regarding the feasibility of launching such a project. After reviewing all the data, the decision was to move forward as quickly as possible.¹

In less than a year, B.B.I. was ready to function.

By July 1942, a course of study for the first year was adopted and officers were elected. The school was offered the use of the Educational Building of the Hough Avenue Baptist Church for classrooms, and on September 15, 1942, the Baptist Bible Institute opened its doors to Clevelanders. Two hundred and seventy-four enrolled for the first term.²

The initial curriculum was composed entirely of Bible courses, which were offered on Tuesday and Friday nights. The need for a full-time dean was discussed at the October 20, 1941 meeting, but the institute was staffed by pastors who "were required to be graduated from high school, to have Theological Seminary or accredited Bible School training, and to have membership in a fundamental Baptist Church"³ for the first several years.

The first full-time employee of B.B.I. was Rev. Kenneth A. Amsler, who was called to the position of dean and director of promotion. "Under his able leadership, the institute moved forward . . . The curriculum was strengthened, the faculty increased numerically and scholastically, the constitution was revised, a new Board of Directors elected and a Board of Reference appointed."⁴

In January 1946, B.B.I. incorporated in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio. On June 4 of the same year, the first nine graduates received their diplomas. The following September the day school began with 28 students enrolled. Just one month earlier the institute gained initial government approval for qualified students to receive veterans' benefits.⁵ The institute became an approved school of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches (G.A.R.B.C.), and in October 1949, was accredited by the Accrediting Association of Bible Institutes and Bible Colleges in its intermediate division. By May 1951, the trustees revised the charter of the institute to permit the granting of theological degrees, and additional courses were added leading to the Bachelor of Religious Education degree. At the same time a Bachelor of Theology degree was approved, and the corporate charter was changed to read:

To conduct a theological school for the teaching and training of ministers, missionaries, and teachers of the Gospel; for the granting of theological degrees and diplomas which have value in religious ecclesiastical fields; to disseminate Christian knowledge and information; to receive, collect, and disperse funds; and to erect, acquire, own, manage or rent property all in furtherance of the above purposes.⁶
Jeremiah had become aware of B.B.I. while serving as pastor of the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Toledo. In 1949 he left Toledo to become the pastor of the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Dayton, Ohio. By this time his leadership role in the G.A.R.B.C. was reflected in his membership on the Council of Fourteen, the body elected to direct the national fellowship. At the same time he served on the Council of Ten, which led the Ohio Association of Regular Baptist Churches. This kept him abreast of the new school’s activities.

Though he was already a member of the Baptist Mid-Missions Board and the Executive Committee of the Fellowship of Baptists for Home Missions, when B.B.I. invited him to join their Board of Trustees in 1952, he quickly accepted. He had a tremendous burden for education throughout his ministry. Now, the question raised by his deacon focused Jeremiah's mind on the tremendous needs faced by B.B.I.

“Due to war conditions, long working hours and the general confusion of the times, the first four years of the institute’s life were fraught with difficulties.” The creation of the day school in September 1946 added a significant number of new problems. The Hough Avenue Baptist Church Educational Plant provided all the space needed for classrooms, offices, and library, but with the influx of day school students from out of state, the young school needed dormitories. The only dormitory available was a large, aged mansion in the Western Reserve area of east Cleveland. According to Gerald Smelser, “The boys were on the third floor and the girls were on the second floor and the dining facilities were on the first floor. Well this, of course, was not the greatest idea in the world, so there
The dormitory of Baptist Bible Institute where, in the words of trustee, Gerald Smelser, "The boys were on the third floor and the girls on the second ... this, of course, was not the greatest idea in the world." 

was a desire to find another similar mansion." Smelser’s comments demonstrate that this fundamentalist Bible institute had no desire to lead the trend toward coeducational dormitories! The trustees searched the area for additional dormitory property to no avail. One trustee indicated Western Reserve University "had used up all the fine buildings around their campus, and we were having real problems."  

As a Board member, Jeremiah was aware of the needs and frustrations the trustees had been encountering. But his eagerness to recommend the Cedarville property was tempered by a series of reservations. He was unsure what the ramification of merger might mean. While the purchase of property was a very clean process, merging raised a series of questions about possible conditions. 

At Jeremiah’s request Engle had arranged to meet with representatives of Cedarville College, and that meeting was about to take place! As Jeremiah’s auto turned north along Main Street in Cedarville and approached the campus, the young pastor began making mental notes on the village. It was a clean, pleasant village with a quaint brick paving on the main road. The car moved along Route 72 about one-half mile before Jeremiah got his first glimpse of Old Main, the building that was to be the focal point of his ministry for many years. He remembered:

There was one sidewalk on the campus that led directly to what is now the Development Office at the main building entrance. The doorway faced the east then. We went into the room. The floors were oiled in the fashion that they used to oil old wooden floors in the school houses to keep down the dust.  

As the meeting with the representatives of Cedarville College began, Jeremiah was well aware of the prevailing attitudes in the G.A.R.B.C. The young Association had been founded in 1932 on the concept of biblical separation. A group of fundamentalists in the Northern Baptist Convention agreed it was impossible to purge the Convention of theological liberalism. They were convinced that the only solution was to sever completely their ties with the Convention. Through the years of their infancy, the new Association stood firm in the conviction that complete separation from doctrinal apostasy was a biblical mandate.

Jeremiah remembered when Regular Baptists could not even merge with other Baptists. In 1947 another group of fundamentalists, who had stayed in the Convention when the Regular Baptists left in 1932, decided it was time to leave. A series of discussions were held between the Regular Baptists and the Convention fundamentalists, but the two groups could not agree on the issue of separation. The Regular Baptists remained firm on the principle of ecclesiastical separation,
but the group that would ultimately become the Conservative Baptists preferred to leave the question of affiliation in the hands of the individual churches.

Jeremiah recognized that the theological controversies of the day were very real. He knew the sensitivity of Regular Baptist people to those issues. He realized that a new direction for the Bible institute would require the support of the pastors and people in the G.A.R.B.C. in order to succeed. He was not at all sure that a merger would be supported. His own theological commitment and the commitment of those in the Association he loved were fresh in his mind as the discussion of “merging” began. He leaned toward Harold Engle and whispered, “I don’t think Regular Baptists can merge.” Engle smiled at his young pastor and replied, “Preacher, you had better wait a minute and see what they mean by ‘merge.’”

As the discussion developed, the love that the Presbyterian trustees had for their institution became obvious. They had no desire to bring about a merger for personal or selfish gain. If they had wanted that sort of thing, the property could have simply been sold outright. What they really wanted was a continuation of the school’s ministry in the lives of Christian young people. These men were willing to turn the campus over to someone who had the strength, desire, and burden to carry on for the cause of Christ. Consequently, they devised a plan by which the Presbyterian trustees would gradually resign, allowing representatives from the new group to be elected. By exchanging the Boards in this manner, it would be possible for Cedarville College to continue functioning under its charter, and the ministry could go on uninterrupted.

When he understood the selflessness of the Presbyterian trustees and the wisdom of the plan they had devised, Jeremiah recognized the unique opportunity available to B.B.I. This was clearly a “merger” that even Regular Baptists could accept!

5. Ibid.
8. Gerald Smelser, Taped Reflections, October 1985. Smelser was one of the original group of pastors who organized Baptist Bible Institute. He is still an active member of the Cedarville College Board of Trustees.
9. Ibid.
11. Ibid.

The Hough Avenue Baptist Church, the educational facility of Baptist Bible Institute, soon became inadequate for the number of students enrolled, leading to a search for another location.
cedarville college

located at

first term opens wednesday, june 18th, 1897, at 10 a.m. health and preparation for admission to the collegiate school is the usual test

a. b. weaver

president

rev. j. h. morgan

secretary and treasurer

the trustees of greene county

admissions open for the collegiate school for the collegiate school

the trustees of greene county
Chapter II

For the trustees of Cedarville College, the year 1952 was a difficult one. Things had not been going well for the school since World War II. It had been hoped that following the war, when the soldiers returned to the classroom, the college, like so many other areas of American life, would return to normal. However, weak presidential leadership had gradually dissipated the institution's resources. Though the student body had grown following the war, this merely consumed the assets of the institution more rapidly.

The trustees who operated Cedarville College came from every walk of life; they were farmers, businessmen, clergymen, attorneys, and physicians. But all had one thing in common: a desire to see Cedarville College go forward, Pro corona et foedere Christi — "For the Crown and Covenant of Christ." Their love for the institution grew out of a long allegiance. Many of these men were graduates of the college who had gone on to success in their particular fields of endeavor. They felt indebted to the institution that had provided them with their education.

In the first Board meeting of 1952, held on March 26, several ominous notes were sounded. First, a football player had been severely injured in a game against Defiance College. Though he was reported fully recovered, the Board was told that their insurance did not cover his injuries and the college would be responsible for all his medical bills. Later in the meeting, Mr. E.H. Miller, acting president, made a proposal that Cedarville use a firm known as Tuition Plan Incorporated to collect overdue tuition bills. This firm would immediately pay the tuition due the college; then collect it, along with

Announcing the official opening of the College, this ad appeared in the XENIA GAZETTE, a local paper, on June 28, 1894.
interest, from the student. Miller made the proposal because only about 15 percent of the students were paying their fees at the beginning of the term. Miller also indicated that the college had experienced great difficulty in collecting tuition money.

In this March 26 meeting, Miller indicated to the Board that three institutional needs were obvious: (1) more money; (2) more students; and (3) improved housing facilities. He further reported that the accounts payable had reached the level of $32,000, which, in spite of $8,000 in gifts, left a current debt of $24,000. The trustees voted unanimously that a “special committee be appointed by the chairman to renew our plans for operation of Cedarville College, the problems connected herewith, and bring in a report to the Board of Trustees within 30 days, or as soon as possible.”

Despite the discouraging news in the March meeting, the college trustees continued to move forward. In their June meeting, they approved the granting of 13 degrees. President Miller reported repairs were being made to the gymnasium and a campaign to raise funds was being planned for September 1, 1952. The proposed fund drive was to provide two additional residence halls — one for girls, and one for boys — and to increase and replenish the endowment. He reported “that the prospects for new students seemed excellent.” Consequently, the Board authorized Miller to issue contracts to the faculty for the next academic year. However, the chairman of the Investment Committee was “authorized to sign proxies, to sell, assign, and pledge any or all the securities held in the name of Cedarville College.” This motion carried but the minutes omitted the usual reference to Board unanimity.

By November 1952, the trustees realized that the Endowment Fund was virtually gone. They had authorized the borrowing of $37,000 in their April meeting with the expectation that the fund drive to be launched September 1 would help make up the difference, but the funds were not forthcoming. It became a serious question as to whether or not the school “could open for the remainder of the 1952-53 college year.”

In their December meeting, the trustees vigorously sought a means of raising $50,000 to $75,000 in order to save Cedarville College. Board members were urged to “make a firm resolve to do everything within their power” to bring this financial drive “to a successful conclusion.” In addition, they were urged to find a businessman to serve as president of

In this house, the application for Charter was signed on January 20, 1887, by Thomas Gibson, Hugh McMillan, Hugh McCollum, Richard Parks, and James Morton. Six days later, on January 26, 1887, the Secretary of State issued a Charter for “The Cedarville College.” This house soon became the President’s home, housing both McKinney and McChesney.
the college. Then, the Investment Committee made the motion that a number of securities be transferred from the safety deposit box, held by the college in the Xenia National Bank, and delivered to the Winters National Bank in Dayton as security for yet another loan. Next, the Operating Committee was authorized to borrow an additional $18,000 "for the purpose of replenishing the operating account, and to pledge such securities for the lending institution as shall be required by them to secure this borrowing."8

The Board convened on Saturday evening, January 17, 1953: "There was full discussion of the plight of Cedarville College. The financial situation as reported by Mr. MacMillan demands (sic) immediate attention. It was indicated that the Board would be unable to increasing in the near future but would not peak until the mid-1960s. Gradually the Board of Trustees realized that Cedarville College was going to collapse. It would take a miracle to keep the doors open. The Board authorized Chairman Earl McClellan to investigate the possibility of a merger with another college. He subsequently reported that he had held conversations with a representative of the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church, but nothing had come of it. A similar negative report was given concerning "conversations with Wittenberg College and Muskingum College."10 However, it was reported that there might be some hope of a merger or working agreement with Wilmington College.

At this point the trustees decided to make their concerns public. The people of the Village of Cedarville were to be advised of the critical situation in which the college found itself, and the Board would meet one week later to see if any interest in saving the college had developed in the community.11

By this time rumors already were circulating throughout the academic community. The college faculty was frustrated and concerned.

Modern technology comes to Cedarville. In the year following the issue of the Charter this steam engine fire pumper came to town.

borrow sufficient money to finance the next semester.9

Dr. Kennedy, who had been acting as the administrative officer because of the illness of Dr. Miller, reported that student recruitment would be very difficult because of the low number of college-age entry students available. This number, he reported, would begin
Dr. David McKinney, pastor of the Plum Street Reformed Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati, was the first President, leading the institution from 1894 to 1915.

In a faculty meeting on January 12, Dr. Frank Albert Jurkat, who had been with the college since the second year of its existence, pleaded with the trustees to hold onto the college. Jurkat had invested his life in the institution. "He said he felt the faculty had more interest than the trustees because they have a job interest in the College and the trustees do not." Consequently, Jurkat moved that "Dr. Kennedy represent the faculty at the January meeting of the Board," and that "the individual members of the faculty hand to him any recommendations or advice they may care to make."13

When the Board of Trustees reconvened at 8 p.m. on January 24, the meeting had an aura of pessimism. McClellan read the Board the one-line resignation of Acting President E.H. Miller, which was accepted. Realizing the institution might close, the trustees were deeply concerned for the needs of their faculty and staff, especially the aging and faithful Professor Jurkat. Chairman MacMillan reported that the holdings of the college totaled $114,728.94, while the outstanding debts totaled $115,426.04. Furthermore, the salaries and other expenses for the remainder of the year would total about $45,000.14

The Board proceeded to vote to sell the securities in the Endowment Fund to meet their financial obligations. The roll call vote passed with one negative vote and one abstention. Then they unanimously passed a resolution:

The Operating Committee and one member of the faculty — to be chosen by the faculty — be authorized and directed to confer with proper officials of Wilmington College, or any other college they may deem desirable with a view toward a merger under such terms as in their judgment may best protect the interests of the present students, the alumni, the faculty, the local community, and Dr. F.A. Jurkat, and report to the Board of Trustees of Cedarville College for action.15

The trustees then began to work through a report of all their holdings, earnestly seeking to maintain financial integrity. By the February 7 Board meeting, no merger had been arranged, though the Nazarenes, the Church of Christ in Christian Union, and the Southern Baptists had all expressed interest. The Board authorized its chairman and secretary to "sign an agreement with any legal representative or group representing the Southern Baptist Church, with a view toward taking over the operation and ownership of the College."16
On February 19, Dr. Kennedy called the regularly scheduled faculty meeting to order and gave a brief statement on the status of the college. He announced that at the moment there were no definite plans for the next year. Kennedy acknowledged the tension that existed among students and faculty and encouraged the faculty to stand firm in their resolution.

The faculty must not become the least bit lax because of the situation. Do not take the attitude of "what's the use?"; do not let down on discipline. Also, we have been warned by the Board to guard against unfounded rumors which circulate among the students and community.17

By this time rumors already were running rampant, not only on the campus but throughout the village. It had become obvious that the institution's situation was desperate. Full authority to explore all possibilities for continued operation had been invested in the Operating Committee, composed of Mr. Rankin MacMillan, Mr. J. Earl McClellan, Mr. Dallas C. Marshall, Mr. Leo Deutschf, and Mr. Harold Neill.

It was decided that the best course was to liquidate the endowment and pay all debts, and then operate the remainder of the college year. In the meantime, efforts would be made to secure a church group to take over the remainder of the operating obligations and the operation of the college, as of June 2, 1953. The major responsibility for making the contacts fell on the shoulders of Mr. McClellan and Mr. MacMillan.18

Gradually all the groups that had been considering assuming responsibility for the college withdrew from the picture. Some viewed the situation of the school as hopeless; others were unable to garner the necessary finances for even a merger; still another felt the Village of Cedarville did not provide adequate opportunity for student employment. News of Wilmington College's interest "leaked" to the press prematurely; the leadership withdrew that interest.

Finally, no one was left but a Baptist preacher from Dayton who had met with them earlier. That meeting had been so preliminary and exploratory that there was little reason to hope it would bear fruit.

1. Pro corona et foedere Christi was adopted as the motto for the corporate seal by the trustees in 1894. Cedarville College Trustees Minutes, September 19, 1894. Hereafter referred to as Trustees Minutes.
3. Trustees Minutes, June 18, 1952.
4. Ibid.
5. Trustees Minutes, April 30, 1952.
8. Ibid.
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid.
12. Faculty Minutes, January 12, 1953.
13. Ibid.
15. Ibid.
17. Faculty Minutes, February 19, 1953.

EXPENSES.

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**SUMMARY OF MONEY EXPENSES FOR YEAR.**

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This page, extracted from the first College catalog, shows what it cost to attend during the 1895-96 school year. Those who took music lessons paid an additional $15 a year for lessons and $1 a month for instrument rental.
Chapter III

Following his meeting with the Operating Committee of the Cedarville College Board of Trustees, Pastor Jeremiah returned to Dayton convinced that the Board of the Baptist Bible Institute of Cleveland (B.B.I.) should give serious consideration to the Cedarville College proposal. He immediately prepared a report for Mr. George Dunn, chairman of the B.B.I. Board of Trustees.

After the frustrations B.B.I. trustees had been experiencing in trying to “buy” property, they had difficulty believing that a complete campus might be “given” to them! Dunn quickly appointed George Milner to chair a committee investigating the unique possibilities of the situation outlined by Jeremiah’s report.

Milner, who had founded the Milner Electric Company, a prominent supplier of electrical products in Cleveland, was a dedicated Christian and a solid businessman. He was the treasurer of B.B.I. and the natural choice to chair this committee because of the important financial issues involved. Others assigned to the committee were Rev. Allan Lewis, pastor of Nottingham Baptist Church and current president of B.B.I.; John G. Bennett, vice president and registrar of the institute; and Leonard Webster, acting dean. Joining these four members of the administration of the Bible institute were two representatives from the Board of Trustees, Pastor James T. Jeremiah and Pastor Earl Willetts.

On the morning of Friday, March 6, 1953, George Milner piloted his car throughout the Cleveland area picking up members of the committee for a trip to Cedarville. When his final passenger entered the car near the little town of Berea, Milner turned off the ignition.

Founders Hall, formerly “Old Main,” in the fall of 1895. It was not until May of 1896 that the building was officially dedicated.
and addressed the four members of the committee who were seated with him:

This morning in my haste to get an early start on this trip, my wife and I read for our family devotions the brief portion given for this date in the little book *Daily Light on the Daily Path*. God spoke to our hearts and I want to share this message with you.

Then as he read from the page given for March 6, it was evident that God's hand had been displayed in this selection: "The Lord your God . . . went in the way before you, to search you out a place to pitch your tents, in fire by night to show you by what way ye should go, and in a cloud by day. — As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: so the Lord alone did lead him. — The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord; and He delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand. — For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous; but the way of the ungodly shall perish. — We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose. — With us is the Lord our God to help us, and to fight our battles."¹

Milner's comments deeply moved the hearts of his listeners. They seemed to sense that perhaps the disappointments of their earlier attempts to purchase property had really been God's way of preserving them from a mistake and keeping them for this moment. Allan Lewis led them in prayer, committing their journey and mission to God; and with a sense of divine appointment, the handful of men headed south for Cedarville. Passing through an area of gloomy, overcast skies and falling snow, the party emerged into the bright sunshine. And in the conversation it was noted that perhaps this, too, was symbolic of the bright future God was opening to B.B.I., a school dedicated "For the Word of God, and the Testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev. 1:9).²

As the men entered the Village of Cedarville, they were delighted to discover that the clean little community gave every evidence of progress and growth. They commented on
Every other day, President David McKinney rode the train into Cedarville from Cincinnati, arriving at the Cedarville depot. He maintained the rigorous schedule so that he could be both pastor and president.

the new structures being erected along the highway into town and along the streets near the college.

When they reached Cedarville, they were joined by the final member of their committee, Pastor James T. Jeremiah, who had driven from Dayton to meet them. They were given a complete tour of the campus. Anticipating a campus in ruins, they were pleased to discover that most of the buildings gave evidence of careful maintenance. Though there was work to be done on Old Main, it was obvious that the existing Board had sought to maintain the campus.

The events of the day had caused the Baptist representatives to be almost overwhelmed with the possibilities the Cedarville campus afforded. As they sat down with the Operating Committee of the college Board of Trustees, they listened carefully as the Presbyterians outlined the history of the institution.

The sad details regarding the liquidation of the institution's endowment and the gradual building of an institutional debt were clearly outlined for the Baptists. "Every effort was made by the Operating Committee to see that these visitors were fully apprised of the facts of the situation."4

This report of the Operating Committee of the Cedarville College Board of Trustees to the representatives from Cleveland was a manifestation of the personal integrity of the Presbyterian men.

In spite of their desire to see their institution continue its existence, and despite the fact that this Cleveland group might be their last hope of seeing this, these faithful men were careful to let the Baptists know the severity of their plight.

When the Presbyterians completed their report, they asked the Baptists to outline what they hoped to accomplish if Cedarville College should be turned over to them. In the discussion which followed, the Baptist committee members outlined both their beliefs and objectives to their hosts. In the course of that explanation, virtually every aspect of the B.B.I. doctrinal statement was covered. That doctrinal statement was extremely important to the men of the committee. All administrators, members of the faculty, and members of the Board of Trustees of B.B.I. were required to sign that Confession of Faith each year they continued in their relationship to the school. The doctrines they felt were essential to B.B.I. were the same doctrines they intended to carry over into their new venture. The doctrinal statement recorded here appeared in the final catalog of B.B.I. and the first catalog of Cedarville College as a Baptist institution, in exactly the same form.

In the discussion of doctrinal beliefs between the Baptists and Presbyterians, there were obvious differences based on their denominational backgrounds. But both groups recognized that there was a commonality in commitment to the basic tenets of biblical Christianity. The differences between the two groups were not as important as the similarities. "Both institutions were established by groups of Bible-believing Christians with the primary motive of providing training of the highest scholastic standard with a definite
Two literary societies existed on campus in the early days, making these rooms in Founders Hall their meeting places. The Philadelphian Society (top) was the first to form, sponsoring an oratorical contest, "with malice toward none and charity toward all." Soon, the membership became too large and students formed the Philosophic Society (bottom).
The Village of Cedarville exhibited its own manner of charm in the early twentieth century. Its quiet, unpaved streets, with newly installed electric poles, provided the “healthful setting” which the College promoted (picture looking north up Main Street). A town band provided lively entertainment.
The first graduates of the College, the class of 1897. L to R, First row: John Bickett, became a pastor; Raymond Gorbold, a missionary to Japan; Homer McMillan, a pastor and secretary to the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. Second row: Calvin Morton, became a teacher and principal; John Orr, a pastor.

biblical emphasis and without compromising Christian convictions and conduct.” Furthermore, both groups were committed to seeing Cedarville College maintained as a Christian institution of higher learning!

The B.B.I. representatives explained to the Operating Committee of the Presbyterians that their school verse was Colossians 1:10: “That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

They pointed out that the school motto was found in Revelation 1:9: “For the Word of God, and the Testimony of Jesus Christ.”

The verse and the motto, they explained, provided the foundation for understanding the purpose of their institution. It was their desire to provide a Bible-centered, Christian education to students in every walk of life, in order that those students might be able to
The Declaration of Cedarville College

Cedarville College teaches the existence of the one living and true God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

It claims that the Old and New Testaments are the verbally inspired Word of God and are the only infallible rule of faith and revelation of eternal salvation.

It maintains that Jesus Christ is the eternally begotten Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, and is God-man, able to save unto the uttermost all who believe in him.

It maintains that man was created in the image of God; that he sinned and brought upon himself physical and spiritual death, that he is born in sin and at the age of accountability becomes responsible for sin in thought, word and deed.

It maintains that Christ atoned for man’s sins by his death, and man is justified only upon condition of acceptance of the blood atonement.

It teaches that all who accept Christ as their personal Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit and persevere in righteousness through the sanctifying power of the Holy Ghost until the end of their earthly life, when at the appearance of Christ they become like him.

It teaches that Christ died, was buried, rose in his crucified body, ascended into Heaven, where he is our intercessor and priest; and that he will come in person in the last times and raise both the just and unjust from the dead and distribute their rewards of eternal condemnation and eternal salvation.

Trusting in God and the co-operation of true Christians in all churches who subscribe to the above tenets of faith, Cedarville College appeals for the support and patronage of all who believe in the fundamental truths of the Bible and the training of men and women for loyal, definite service for Christ’s Crown and Kingdom.

The above declaration, adopted in 1928 by the Board of Trustees after separating from the Reformed Presbyterian Church, reinforced the original commitment of the five founders, and demonstrates the fundamental beliefs and values of the institution.

stand “For the Word of God, and the Testimony of Jesus Christ.” In the process, they sought to prepare individuals to become life service workers; teachers, pastors, and missionaries who would enter a full-time ministry for Christ.

The Baptists went on to explain that they realized not every young person would enter the ministry. Therefore, those who wanted to be grounded in the principles of the Word of God while preparing for another field of endeavor would also have their educational needs met. According to Jeremiah, the Baptist committeemen concluded: “Since this was a liberal arts college to start with and since the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches did not have a liberal arts college, this was the opportune time to start one.”

As the Baptists outlined their purpose of training not only preachers, evangelists, and missionaries, but also teachers and laymen to carry forth their Christian faith into a lost world, a stillness settled over the room. Presbyterians and Baptists were wedded in the realization of the great mission reflected by the history of Cedarville College, and the unique prospect that the ministry could be carried on for future generations under new leadership.

The stillness was broken by a sob. No one looked up to see the source of the weeping, and silence again engulfed the room. Finally, Earl McClellan looked up and cleared his throat. McClellan was chairman of the Presbyterian Board of Trustees and had been chairing the meeting. He had graduated from Cedarville College in 1913, some 40 years before. His balding head, atop his 5’10” frame bore testimony to his years. As he peered about the room, he seemed to grow in stature. “Gentlemen,” he said, “this is what Cedarville College always was meant to be.”

2. Ibid., p. 5.
3. Ibid.
4. Trustees Minutes, March 14, 1953.
5. Ibid., p. 4.
7. This incident was recalled by Dr. Allan Lewis and confirmed with Dr. Donald Kyle and Miss McClellan.
Chapter IV

Board Chairman Earl McClellan had been involved in a number of business ventures during his career. He began as a farmer, but an accident had forced him into other businesses relating to the farming industry. Godly laymen with spiritual insight have been of great value in the school's history. McClellan's analysis of what Cedarville College was meant to be was very accurate. Without question, it was the purpose of the founders of the college to construct an institution on Christian principles.

The idea of establishing an institution for higher education for Cedarville originated with the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in America. This denomination is the representative in this country of the historic Covenanters Church of Scotland.¹

Reformed Presbyterians became interested in establishing their own college in the late 1870s, when a need for pastors in their denomination became obvious. As that need became more acute during the early years of the 1880s, the denomination became increasingly interested in founding a school. Finally, "In the year 1885, the matter of establishing a literary institution assumed definite shape through a resolution offered in the Synod by Rev. David Steele, D.D., Philadelphia, Pa."² The first half of Steele's resolution made the purpose of Cedarville College very clear:

Resolved, that in the judgment of this Synod, the time has come to take active steps to establish a Collegiate Institute for the purpose of training young men in an undergraduate course, previous to their entering the Theological Seminary, and in this way surrounding our young men with influences in sympathy with the church to which they belong.³

The women's basketball team of 1898.
Obviously, Steele and the Reformed Presbyterians were concerned that their young men were being syphoned off by other denominations which were able to provide undergraduate training. Consequently, they were not entering the Reformed Presbyterian Seminary in Philadelphia, but were drifting into other denominational seminaries. In light of the shortage of pastors in the Reformed Presbyterian movement, the founding of a college was seen as necessary to the preservation of the denomination.

An undergraduate education that was appropriate for aspiring theologians was also appropriate for young men and women in other walks of life. Consequently, the mission of Cedarville College was broadened beyond the initial resolution of Dr. Steele. In 1915 the college yearbook, Cedrus, commented on the expanded purpose of the institution:

Cedarville College was founded with the sublime object in view of advancing the interests of God on earth. The training of young men for the Gospel ministry, the education of young men and women for missionary service at home and abroad, and for work as laymen in the Sabbath School and in the church, were the purpose for which it was established. The development of Christian life and character in those who should go out into the world, into business and professional circles, into the arena of public life, and into the sacred precincts of the home, and carry with them some of the splendid inspiration and lofty principles imbibed at Cedarville College, was not overlooked.4

In his inaugural address “The Ideal College,” Dr. Wilbert Renwick McChesney, the second president of Cedarville College, referred to the school’s historic purpose. He noted that the ideal college had the supreme mission of molding young lives. He pledged his personal loyalty to the purposes for which Cedarville had been established:

The motto of Cedarville College is “For Christ’s Crown and Covenant.” It was first heralded by our forefathers of Scotland and Ireland as they suffered persecution and martyrdom for the crown rights and loyal prerogatives of King Jesus. Ah! They were but men with the frailties of human nature, but they were men of force and character, unswerved by the threats of tyrants and undaunted by the power of kings. They espoused the truth. They believed God’s Word. They defended the church and they handed down in their own blood, sealing their testimony in many instances with death, the happy heritage and precious privileges which we enjoy today. Blessed be God that here stands a college whose motto is theirs and whose purpose is not only to perpetuate their precious memory but keep to the forefront the undying principles which they received, and cherished, and suffered for in order to transmit them to us.5

The motto to which McChesney referred in his inaugural address, Pro corona et foedere Christi, which translated means “For the Crown and Covenant of Christ,” was chosen by the trustees to be placed in the corporate seal of the college.6 More than a mere phrase, it was an objective that was shared by the trustees, the faculty whom they hired, and the

students who attended the school.

The firm commitment to the principles of biblical Christianity was obvious to people in the Village of Cedarville, as well as the people of Greene County and surrounding counties. Two decades after the school was established the college yearbook could boast:

These noble ideals Cedarville has, in a remarkable degree, been able, by the blessing of Almighty God, to translate into realization. Considerably over one-third of its male graduates have become Christian ministers, and many of them are doing a great work for the Master. A goodly little band of foreign missionaries have gone out into the field as a nucleus for the many more who are yet to follow. Even more than the combined numbers of these two classes, are those in the ranks of teachers, whose influence for good in the lives of the rising generation is boundless. And to be counted only by the hundreds are those who have gone out, either as graduates, or with only partial courses to their credit, and have enriched with consecrated lives, the communities and congregations, as well as the business, professional, and social groups to which they belong, and whose characters bear testimony to the loyalty of Cedarville College to her King.7

These happy reflections of 1915, however, failed to bear testimony to the crisis that preceded success. For a while it did not appear that the college would ever become a reality.
Following Dr. Steele's recommendation of May 20, 1885, that a college be established, work began immediately through a committee composed of Rev. J.F. Morton, Mr. Thomas Gibson, Mr. R. Park, Mr. Hugh McCollum, Jr., and Mr. H.H. McMillan. It was their task to find a site for a college "in or about the town of Cedarville" as quickly as possible. They were to be joined by the remainder of the members of the Synod in securing funds for the fledgling institution. On January 20, 1887, these five men banded together and became a corporate body in keeping with the laws of the State of Ohio; and on the 26th of January 1887, they obtained a certificate of incorporation for Cedarville College. These were exciting days as the five men anticipated seeing the college become a reality.

With the charter in hand, the same five men whose names appeared on the incorporation papers met on March 11, 1887 at 11:00 a.m., at the home of Rev. Morton. Thomas Gibson was chosen temporary chairman, with Morton serving as temporary secretary. The group was led in prayer by Rev. J.G. Kendall before naming themselves to the original Board of Trustees to accomplish the initial work of the college. They organized themselves and outlined their responsibilities, then proceeded to formulate articles of regulation to submit to the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church for approval in their meeting of May 1887.

In subsequent weeks the trustees carefully evaluated several possible properties in the Cedarville community, finally settling upon a location on the north edge of the village that was owned by Mr. J.R. Orr. Though the trustees settled on the Orr location as early as June 1887, negotiations dragged on for over a year. In May 1888, the Board refused to accept an offer made by Orr because it was "filled with conditions that are objectionable." By this time the men were becoming frustrated by the problems that kept interfering with their dream. Finally, the objections were resolved through the work of Richard Park and Hugh McCollum, and the purchase was finalized. Having land increased their anticipation of the college becoming a reality, but there was much yet to be done.

In the meantime, the five trustees worked tirelessly to raise funds. By June 10, 1887, they announced that a total of $8,419 had been pledged to Cedarville College; however, only $463 of that money was cash on hand. By May 10, 1888, the total amount pledged was $9,729.35, but the treasury showed only $549.

At this time Treasurer McMillan discouragingly reported that "he had written to different ministers and members of the church, soliciting subscriptions for the college, but had met with little encouragement." One year later no further contributions had been received, and the college dream seemed to be turning into a nightmare. In spite of all their efforts, the committee was receiving little support. In frustration they issued the following threat:

"In different parts of the church, so little of interest has been manifested in this matter that the Board is discouraged, and unless greater interest is awakened, and more done in the ensuing year, the Board will recommend that the whole enterprise be abandoned."

Another year passed and a disillusioned band of trustees met once more. In their minds this was to be their final session. No further contributions had been received, and nothing had been done to advance the cause of the college for the entire year. They were
The entire campus as it appeared in 1910.
frustrated with the churches of the General Synod. Everyone supposedly wanted a college. They had spent hours obtaining a charter and going through the process of incorporation. They had pleaded with the denomination for financial support and in return received unfulfilled promises and a pittance of cash. Their frustration spilled out in the form of a cryptic resolution fulfilling their threat of a year earlier:

In view of this fact and in view of the statement made in our report last year, the Board would recommend that the whole enterprise be abandoned; that the treasurer be directed to sell the lot purchased for college purposes; refund was accomplished over the next two years, the college survived in name at least.

Finally, on May 24, 1892, the college trustees met once more in the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Cedarville. Treasurer McMillan excitedly reported that bequests of $500 and $25,000 had revived the dream of a college. Interest was renewed in the minds of the trustees. Perhaps with these bequests they would be able to stir enthusiasm in the churches. Could their dream be revived? Would churches and individuals contribute? With rekindled hope which was tempered by past failures, the Board determined to press forward:

Football became the premiere sport in the early 1900's, although past records would indicate that another sport should have been chosen. The team's greatest "licking" was at the hands of West Liberty, 137-0.

the money that has been contributed to the donors; return the notes given to the members; and cancel the subscriptions made.12

The men left that meeting with a spirit of deep disappointment and despair. Their dream had been shattered and their hope was gone. No longer would they struggle to establish an educational ministry for the Reformed Presbyterians. No longer was there hope of the college becoming more than a paper reality. But the defeated spirit of those trustees was overridden by a General Synod that refused to accept their recommendation. Although little

Resolved, that in view of the fact that a bequest of $25,000 has been made to the Cedarville College by the late Mr. Wm. Gibson the Board of Trustees would recommend that an effort would be made to revive an interest in that institution, and that the pastors in the different congregations be requested to bring the matter before their people at an early day, and urge them to contribute liberally for the establishment of said College, it being understood that the money subscribed is to be paid only on condition that enough is subscribed to make the enterprise a success.13

For the next two years, the friends and trustees of Cedarville College sought to carry
out the mission of advertising the new venture to the denomination's congregations. Interest was awakened in the churches by the $25,000 bequest of William Gibson. In May 1894, the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church passed the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Trustees of Cedarville College be directed to erect or rent with the means at their disposal a suitable building for present needs and to secure such teachers as they may deem necessary to begin the work of educating students in the preparatory branches of a collegiate education. 14

The Cedarville College Board members who were attending the Synod meeting in Coulterville, Illinois, had the implicit understanding that this resolution pledged the denomination’s support for the school. They unanimously recommended Rev. David McKinney to the General Synod for the office of president of Cedarville College. 15

At the time of his nomination for the presidency, McKinney had been pastor of the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Cincinnati for almost six years. He was a well-educated and articulate man who had completed his undergraduate program at the University of Pennsylvania before attending the Reformed Presbyterian Seminary in Philadelphia. He was a dour but energetic young man in his mid-thirties who was to maintain his role as pastor while devoting two days per week to the college.

Following McKinney’s selection as president, the Board determined to “present the interests of the proposed college to citizens of the Village of Cedarville, and in particular to the graduating class of Cedarville High School.” 16

Next, they decreed that the institution would be coeducational, and that a “circular and prospectus of the college would be prepared.” 17

By June the trustees were ready to advertise the opening of Cedarville College. The Xenia Gazette and Cedarville Herald began running the following advertisement on a regular basis:

Cedarville College, located at Cedarville, Ohio. First term opens Wednesday, September 19, 1894, at 10:00 A.M. Healthful location, competent faculty. Students of both sexes admitted and prepared for advanced standing in larger institutions, or if desired taken through the usual course to the degree A.B. The Trustees offer a free scholarship to the first honor pupil in each of the high schools of Greene County, giving a regular diploma at the examinations of 1894. Tuition $20 for the collegiate year. For further information address: President David McKinney, 22 Wesley Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio, or Rev. J.F. Morton, D.D., Cedarville, Ohio. 18

While students were being solicited, the Board of Trustees carefully screened the prospective faculty, and on Wednesday, September 19, 1894, Cedarville College was formally opened.

2. Ibid.
3. Historical Record of Cedarville College, p. 1. This is a handwritten document of nine pages.
5. W.R. McChesney, "The Ideal College." This inaugural address appeared in its entirety in the Cedarville Herald, November 19, 1915.
6. Trustees Minutes, September 19, 1894.
8. Trustees Minutes, n.d. This information appears on the first page of the first volume of the Trustees Minutes.
10. Ibid.
11. Trustees Minutes, May 21, 1889.
12. Trustees Minutes, May 26, 1890.
13. Trustees Minutes, May 24, 1892.
15. Trustees Minutes, May 21, 1892.
16. Trustees Minutes, May 22, 1892.
17. Ibid.
18. This advertisement appeared from June until the beginning of the school year on a regular basis in both the Xenia Gazette and the Cedarville Herald.
During Cedar Day, each class performed a skit as part of the festivities. In 1915, these students, with the appropriate dress, provided the freshman class skit.
Many of the early graduates pursued missionary and church service. These five were held in great honor because of their labor in foreign countries. L-R: William Waide, India; Alfaretta Hammond, Egypt; Raymond Gorbold, Japan; Wilhelmina Lanning, China; Roy Lanning, China.

Though the numbers listed in the *Xenia Gazette* were slightly inflated, the initial enrollment was certainly encouraging. Thirty-six students registered for the first semester, with one more enrolling second term. These students were named, along with their hometowns, in the first College Catalog published in 1895. Seventeen of the 37 were from the Village of Cedarville. Another eight came from neighboring Clifton, while four were from Xenia, three from Jamestown, and two from Selma. Another came from Ross, Ohio, a community located northwest of Cincinnati. Clark County contributed one student who resided in Springfield, while the only out-of-state student came from the city of Philadelphia. Thus, 34 of the 37 students who attended Cedarville College during its initial year were from Greene County. This strong community emphasis would characterize Cedarville College through most of its years as a Presbyterian institution.

In 1894 Cedarville was a thriving community. It was described in the College Catalog in these words:

> Cedarville, Ohio, the seat of Cedarville College, is located on the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis railway. It has direct communication by telephone, telegraph, and railroad with Xenia, eight miles southwest; Springfield, twelve miles north; London, 20 miles northeast; Columbus, 47 miles northeast; and Cincinnati, 70 miles southwest. It is in the center of the Miami Valley, and is one of the prettiest as well as most healthful locations in Ohio — entirely free from malaria.

The village was enjoying its role as the second largest community in Greene County, having passed Yellow Springs in the census of 1890. The census reported that Xenia was by far the largest community in the county, with a population of 7,222; Cedarville was second with 1,382; while Yellow Springs (1,360) and Jamestown (1,102) followed close behind. The *Cedarville Herald* could not resist taking a poke at the previous number two community, Yellow Springs:

> We are sorry for Yellow Springs that we have usurped her place, but feel that that was no fault of anyone there excepting the census man himself. Instead of merely being satisfied with listing only the students at the college, he should have been on hands (sic) during the commencement exercises and have taken account of the visitors also.

With an ideal location along the railroad line, and a college in the works, the people of the Village of Cedarville were spirited in the defense of their community. The *Cedarville Herald* went on enthusiastically to report:

> Notwithstanding the great number of dwelling houses that have been erected within the past few years, there is not a vacant house in the town, and several families are only waiting until houses now building are completed that they can move into them.

The community rivalry between Cedarville and Yellow Springs was evident again when Cedarville College entered the athletic arena. After losing a football game to Wittenberg on the very first day of school in 1894, the Cedarville team:
practiced faithfully, profiting by the experience of their defeat, and won the game at Yellow Springs fairly. Cedarville made two touchdowns before they were allowed to count, the third touchdown and goal being so plain that there was no room for a "kick." 

This game between Cedarville and Antioch, which occurred less than two weeks into that first school year, apparently aroused significant antagonism between the two schools. This tension spread to the spectators following the game. In a letter to the editor of the Xenia Gazette, a Cedarville resident described what transpired:

A number of young ladies and friends of our team accompanied the boys to Yellow Springs and enthusiastically urged them on to victory. When it came time to return home, the "barn" element of the Springs broke loose and stones and clubs were thrown at the Cedarville conveyances, several persons narrowly escaping injury by dodging. We do not desire to insinuate that the members of the opposing team sanctioned or took part in these disgraceful proceedings, and further desire to guarantee them in advance that when they come to Cedarville to play the return game, they will encounter no such acts of rudeness as smirched the fair name of their town.

While the small faculty and student body of Cedarville College were making their initial mark on the world of education and athletics, the Board of Trustees faced the challenging task of dealing with their early success. The old mansion, which was housing the college, was fine for the moment but allowed no room for expansion!

Less than a month after classes began, the trustees reconvened to face the challenge of constructing a suitable building on the nine-acre campus located along Main Street. John McLean, a Cedarville builder, submitted drawings and a cost analysis, and the Board entered into lengthy discussions on the project. Early in the meeting the trustees invited Professor McChesney "to a seat as a consulting member." The Board drew heavily on McChesney’s opinions as they discussed the building project.

Finally, a committee was appointed to "carry on the work of the new building in accordance with the ideas expressed by the Board." They recognized that a committee could move more quickly toward a spring groundbreaking than could the Board as a whole.

In this same meeting the Standing Committee on Instructors and Curriculum recommended Mr. Frank A. Jurkat, a senior in Franklin College, New Athens, Ohio, for addition to the faculty. The appearance of the names McChesney and Jurkat in the minutes of the February 14 meeting marked the first of many times these men would be linked together in the history of Cedarville College. McChesney was destined to become the second president and provide 25 years of capable leadership in that office; Jurkat would devote his entire life to Cedarville College, the only man to serve on the faculty during both the Presbyterian and Baptist periods. His tenure at Cedarville College exceeded 58 years.

By the following spring the Building Committee, under the chairmanship of President McKinney, reported that the architect’s drawings for the new building had been approved and a contract awarded to John McLean of Cedarville to erect a new building for a total cost of $9,785.50. Additional expenses on the building for things such as bricks, the heating system, furniture and incidentals were expected to drive the final cost to approximately $14,000.

The new superstructure was to be erected in the center of the Main Street property to provide a focal point for future campus development. The building exterior was of pressed brick and stone, and the bricks were made at a kiln located at the back of the
Inauguration Day for President McChesney, a festive occasion which set the course of the College for the next 25 years. Dr. McChesney, in his speech on "The Ideal College," challenged its students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends to become even more valiant in their efforts for Cedarville.

campus. In the early days of the village, there had been a brickyard where the new college building was erected. The imposing three-story structure was topped by a large tower and became a community landmark.

The basement of the building was designed to extend several feet above the ground. In addition to two coal furnaces and the coal cellars, the basement was large enough to house a gymnasium and restrooms. The elevated first floor contained four classrooms, the president’s room, and the chapel, which was the central feature of the Christian school’s activity. The second floor provided four additional classrooms, a large lecture hall, and the library, while the third floor contained two large rooms. Access to the building was provided by entrances on all four sides.12 Wide staircases were located on the north and south ends of the building, extending from the basement to the third floor. The building was lighted by electricity and heated by coal.12

The cornerstone of the building "was laid with impressive services June 25, 1895."13 The college family moved into the new facility at the start of the next school year, although the building was not entirely completed until early December.14 The five original trustees watched with joy as the new structure was dedicated during the meeting of the General Synod on May 26, 1896.15

With the standard four-year curriculum in place, and the first of several buildings now a reality, Cedarville College was quickly established as a significant educational institution in Greene County. The first commencement was held in 1897, with five students who had transferred from other institutions participating. The seniors celebrated their graduation by publishing a small volume entitled Imago. This booklet contained a class prophecy which predicted that two members of the graduating class would become United States senators, two would rise to the position of cabinet members, and one would become president of the United States. One poor graduate, however, was to be left in the relative obscurity of private life as a mere railroad president.16

The spring of 1898 saw the completion of
the fourth academic year in college history. The two people in that year’s graduating class, Elmer Elder and James McQuilken, were the first graduates to spend their entire four years at Cedarville.

The graduating class of two in 1898 was the smallest class in Cedarville College history, though the class of 1902 was a close second with three.

As the college continued to grow, it became increasingly clear that “College Hall” would be unable to house the entire institution much longer. In 1902 Mr. W.J. Alford presented the college with a church building which had been vacated by the Reformed Presbyterian congregation. The building was provided as a gymnasium by Alford in memory of his parents, and thus was named “Alford Memorial.” It was 70 feet long and 50 feet wide and provided an excellent gymnasium facility. "The church was not large, but practically the whole auditorium was floor space; and in a day when other teams were playing in revamped cellars and Odd Fellows’ halls, it seemed as big as a union station."18

During the early decades of existence, Cedarville College had no residence halls available. Students from Cedarville could go home for their meals, but students who could not do so found it necessary to take their
meals at a "boarding club." Several such establishments, mainly in private homes, developed.

The best known of these early boarding clubs was operated by "Aunt" Mary Murdock on Xenia Avenue. Aunt Mary was "a stooped and elderly-looking soul who wore plain black dresses and an air of calm resignation." She was a political activist, especially on temperance issues, and "continually wrote letters of protest and suggestion to erring politicians from sheriff to senators." She was described as having "a sublime faith in mankind, and seldom would believe that the world was full of rascals or that some might be at her very table." Her failure to recognize that college boys would be boys led to several pranks at her expense. For instance, an evening worship service was regularly held at her boarding club. On one occasion when a visiting cleric "had made what seemed to be an unending prayer, he and Aunt Mary arose to find the house empty." All the boys had quietly exited by the front window.

The unique atmosphere of the boarding club provided many humorous situations. One very
successful spin-off of the traditional snipe hunt was worked to perfection in the fall of 1905. It was described by Elmer Jurkat as “one of the best known minor incidences in the history of student escapades.” He described the prank as follows:

Among the newcomers that year at “Aunt” Mary Murdock’s eating club were Bill Begg of New York and Dave Brigham from the City of Brotherly Love. Boarding-house eaters are notorious complainers and one evening someone suggested that “Aunt” Mary’s menu might be pleasantly enlivened with a mess of snipe.

Several nights later a dozen of the boys proceeded to the deep woods on the Conley-White-reid Farm. Begg and Brigham, being city folks, and thus unacquainted with the procedure, were generously allowed the easier task of holding the lantern and the bag.

It was sometime after midnight when the boys began to “realize.” So they set out blindly for civilization and finally stumbled onto Bridgeman’s Race-track. It looked like a road, and they were glad to be so lucky; but about the third time around some of the signs on the fence began to look familiar. The truth dawned on them, and seeing a house nearby, they proceeded to arouse the inhabitants and inquire the way to Xenia and a possible hotel room. “Xenia, why man you’re in Cedarville,” was the amazing reply. They were not long then in getting back to their rooms, but they were a long time letting the cat out of that empty snipe bag. It was three years before they ever told what had happened, and in the meantime no one dared ask. 23

1. Trustees Minutes, September 19, 1894.
2. Xenia Gazette, September 20, 1894.
4. Cedarville Herald, July 26, 1890.
5. Ibid.
6. Xenia Gazette, October 2, 1894.
7. Ibid.
8. Trustees Minutes, February 14, 1895.
9. Ibid.
10. Trustees Minutes, May 16, 1895.
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.
15. Ibid.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid.
18. Elmer Jurkat, Fifty Years of College Life. This historical sketch appeared in the Cedarville Herald from May 12, 1944, through June 23, 1944. Elmer Jurkat was the only son of Professor F.A. Jurkat. Hereafter referred to as College Life.
19. Elmer Jurkat, College Life, May 19, 1944.
20. Ibid.
21. Ibid.
22. Ibid.
23. Ibid.

Aunt Mary Murdock’s Eating Club. Aunt Mary is seated on the end of the first row. One of the two boys sent on a “snipe hunt” by the others, Bill Begg, is seated second from the left.
Chapter VI

Every successful institution can point to certain people who have played a key role in its development. The first such individual in the history of Cedarville College was Dr. David McKinney. Throughout his tenure as president, he was able to spend only two days per week on the Cedarville campus. The remainder of his time was devoted to his pastorate of the Plum Street Reformed Presbyterian Church of Cincinnati. After being unanimously chosen by the Board of Trustees on May 21, 1894, in Coulterville, Illinois, McKinney was re-elected president of the college in September of that same year in accordance with an Ohio law that required Ohio corporations to conduct official business with the state.

McKinney's contributions were recognized as being strategic from the outset, despite the fact that his primary commitment was to the pastorate. 'Long ago I came to the conclusion that when I must choose between the college and the church I would retain my pulpit — woe is me if I preach not the gospel,' McKinney frequently admitted that several of his friends had urged him to leave the church for a full-time ministry at the college. As the college grew, many trustees urged him to move in the same direction; but McKinney steadfastly refused.

During the years of his presidency, the college student body remained small. With his administrative abilities and financial skills, he provided stable leadership during these early formative years. Throughout the 21 years of McKinney's presidency, the graduating class never exceeded 17. In all, 167 students graduated from Cedarville College between 1897 and 1915. The graduating classes ranged

This cartoon, taken from the 1916 yearbook, visualized the students' "perception" of their professors. But, in fact, the students held their professors in high esteem.
from two to 17, with the class of 1910 being the largest. The class of 1911 numbered only seven, but at that they were only the fourth smallest class ever graduated. The remarkable thing about the 1911 class is the fact that although no two had the same last name, six of the seven were related. "Josephine Orr, Woodbridge Ustick, Lydia Turnbull, John Stewart, Bertha Stormont, and Florence Williamson were all offshoots of the MacMillan clan but not a MacMillan among them!"

As Cedarville College continued to grow, McKinney recognized the tremendous need for a library. The tiny library in College Hall was woefully inadequate. As the pressure for a new library grew among students and faculty, McKinney finally arranged to go to New York. With the help of Cedarville native Whitelaw Reid, diplomat, vice presidential candidate, and editor of the New York Tribune, McKinney approached philanthropist Andrew Carnegie with Cedarville’s need.

In December 1901, Carnegie agreed to donate $12,000 for a new library if an equal amount was raised by the college and added to the endowment fund. The building was subsequently erected at the corner of Main and North Streets. Many years earlier that corner had marked the “turning point” on the Cincinnati and Columbus toll road, and the town tavern was a regular stopping point for weary travelers.

Charles Dickens stopped there on his way north to Sandusky in 1842, having spent the night before in Lebanon’s Golden Lamb Hotel. There probably was not a single book of his in the entire township at the time, and he would not have believed that five generations later a substantial building would stand there, housing among other items, a full set of Dickens.

The new library, completed during the summer of 1908, had a capacity of 17,000 volumes. The village and college libraries were combined and “Carnegie Library” became a community center.

As time passed, two faculty members moved into important administrative positions to aid McKinney with his campus responsibilities. These roles were defined in June 1909, when the Board of Trustees added the title of Vice President to McChesney’s role as professor, and the title of Registrar to Professor Jurkat’s.

With the able help of McChesney and Jurkat, McKinney performed admirably in the office of president. At the end of his tenure, he could point to many accomplishments. He reminded the Board that during his administration three buildings were added, the endowment quadrupled, and church contributions to the general fund had become a “permanent . . . part of the resources of the college.” In addition, the reputation of the college had been “firmly established.”

Many small colleges in the United States
started with part-time presidents. What made McKinney’s situation different was the fact that he commuted! "He was really an executive in absentia, living in Cincinnati, and coming up every fortnight on the Pennsylvania accommodation."

Many alumni apparently felt "this made him slightly out of touch" and contended that he "always accosted students with the same two questions, 'What's your name?' and 'Have you paid your tuition?'"

Apparently the students did not view their president as highly as did the Board of Trustees. They did not always understand his solemn Scottish disposition. On at least one occasion this led to an unpleasant situation. "Some of the boys put on a fake 'class rush' and roughhoused him against the blackboard until rescued." In a lighter vein, a student mailed a "paving brick" to McKinney's Cincinnati home, C.O.D. However, McKinney was too wise to fall for the prank. "He told the express people that he had not ordered anything. They had to ship it back to Cedarville."

Most part-time presidents supplemented their administrative responsibilities with teaching but were in residence full-time. Both McKinney and the trustees began to recognize the value of a resident administrator. This recognition was acknowledged in McKinney’s resignation from his responsibilities with the college in 1915.
A second major factor in McKinney’s resignation was the merger of his church with the First Presbyterian Church of Cincinnati. This merged congregation became a part of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., and McKinney was no longer a part of the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. He pointed to this change in his “church relations” as having “hastened this crisis.” In fact, he was so strongly concerned about the denominational change that he resigned not only as president but also as trustee of the college.13

The Board of Trustees accepted McKinney’s resignation as president and drafted a resolution expressing their gratitude for his ministry, which was read immediately following the public announcement of his resignation.

The esteem in which the Board of Trustees held McKinney was shared by the faculty. Although his resignation was read only one day before it was to take effect, McKinney had made his intentions clear much earlier; consequently, the faculty had plenty of time to react. Though McKinney was once described as a “dour but sincere Scotch Covenanter” whose “dignity did not impress all folks equally,”14 he was clearly loved by his faculty.

On May 31, just three days before the formal resignation, the faculty gathered in the Carnegie Library at 9 a.m. After conducting normal business, they turned their attention to the resignation of their president and unanimously approved the following resolution:

Whereas Dr. David McKinney has signified his intention of resigning as president of the college at the approaching meeting of the Board of Trustees and whereas Dr. McKinney has served as president of the college from its opening, September 19, 1894, till the present, and whereas he has been faithful in the performance of all his duties: be it resolved by the faculty of Cedarville College that we hereby express our deep regret at the surrendering of ties which have been both pleasant and helpful and that we testify to the impartial administration, intense interest, and careful judgment of Dr. McKinney in all the affairs of his office. Moreover, we pray and trust that the years to come will be full of all good to Dr. McKinney in the path of life and service, and assure him that our purpose is to cherish the memory of his unstinted labors among us, and invite him to visit us in our work with the assurance that he will be welcome.15

Because of faculty interest and initiative, the Board of Trustees refused to accept McKinney’s resignation as trustee.16

During the years of McKinney’s presidency, Cedarville College had become more than a training ground for theologians. A Drama Club was organized and began performing in the village Opera House. For musicians there...
I'M FOR A

GREATER

Cedarville College

"Cedarville College Will Be Big Enough, If Your Heart Is."

The College announced a $200,000 capital campaign in 1921 to build facilities and increase endowment. This poster, given to merchants to put in their store windows, presented the case for the town's involvement.
was a Glee Club and a Mandolin Club. But the key activities of the campus in those early years centered in two literary organizations known as the “Philadelphian” and “Philosophic” Societies.

These groups strove continually to outdo one another, and the struggle culminated always in the Inter-Society Contest on Commencement Week. There were orations, essays, declamations, debates, musical numbers; and the members still argue the merits of their respective societies after fifty years.¹⁷

Not all the campus activities were academic. There was also a vigorous athletic program. For the men the major sports were football and baseball. The sports were played on a more casual basis than today. There were no eligibility requirements, so faculty, staff, students, and even townspeople played on both the football and baseball teams. Neither team was particularly distinguished in those early days, although the football team prospered when Coach Scarff came from Wooster to Cedarville. Scarff not only coached the team; he played.

Write-ups of the day say that he was in poor condition physically, and opposing players wondered what he would have been like if he had eaten his Wheaties. Other teams remember Scarff as mostly steel springs infused with wildcat’s blood, and wished that he would stick to coaching.¹⁸

Basketball began slightly after football and baseball, and even the women competed in this sport. But to do so the Cedarville women had to form two teams of their own, since they could find no other women’s teams to play! In February 1898, Cedarville introduced women’s basketball to Xenia, scheduling a match between their two teams in an old skating rink. A reporter from the Xenia Gazette urged people to witness the spectacle, and advised, “This game will be strictly moral and first class, and no lady need be backward about attending.”¹⁹ Xenia folks packed the rink and the women came back to Cedarville with a $100.00 profit.²⁰

Women’s basketball was the most successful sport at Cedarville in those early years. The 1911 team was undefeated, and though no formal state championships were held in those days, area newspapers called the Cedarville woman “state champions” after their stunning

The proposed women’s dormitory to be built with funds from the capital campaign of 1921.
12-10 overtime win over Miami University in late January. “This was a most notable victory for Cedarville girls and Miami held a record of no defeats in nine years until ‘our’ own invincible struck them last week.”21

Unfortunately, things were not so rosy on the men’s side of the athletic world. In the fall of the same year the women distinguished themselves, the men’s football team experienced several shellackings. In one unfortunate contest, they not only were defeated by St. Mary’s Institute 59-0, but lost two players to injury, including a faculty member. “Professor R.A. Lanning, member of the team, sustained a fractured skull and has since been in the Miami Valley Hospital.”22 Perhaps this kind of situation is why college professors ultimately stood for stricter eligibility standards, including the elimination of faculty participation!

Following McKinney’s resignation, the Board of Trustees did not feel it was necessary to conduct a lengthy search for his replacement. The selection of a new president was referred to the Committee on Instruction, which later in the same meeting presented the name of Wilbert Renwick McChesney. “The report was accepted and on formal motion Dr. McChesney was elected unanimously to succeed Dr. McKinney as the president of Cedarville College.”23

The next day the Cedarville Herald reported the change in leadership. The paper commended McKinney for his faithful service and indicated that “his management of the financial affairs” had “laid the basis for a still greater success in the future.”24 At the same time, they praised the selection of McChesney as head of the institution, because “his whole heart and ambition had been centered on the success of Cedarville College,” and then predicted that the institution would enter upon an even more prosperous era under the new president’s leadership.25

The inauguration of Dr. McChesney as the second president of Cedarville College was described by the Cedarville Herald as “the most important event in the history of Cedarville College.” Visitors poured into the community from neighboring villages and

The proposed gymnasium, also a part of the capital campaign of 1921.
College life has not changed significantly since the early 1900's as this cartoon, taken from the 1920 yearbook, would indicate.

distant locations. The town was "decked in gala attire of gold and blue, the college colors, and bright with many flags, streaming from business house and residence."26

The all-day affair began at 10 a.m. with a session in the town’s Opera House. Following the invocation, "Psalm 72 was sung by the congregation, led by the students, who were seated by classes in the parquet of the Opera House."27 There followed a series of brief addresses presented by representatives of the county, the village, the county Board of Education, the alumni, the faculty, the trustees, and the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. Following each of the addresses, "the students of the college gave a rousing cheer for the speaker." At the conclusion of the greetings, the college orchestra rendered the Margaret Waltz by Huff.

The main speaker of the morning was President J. Knox Montgomery of Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio. His address was entitled “The Function of the Christian College,” which he argued was to set before its students the ideal example of the Lord Jesus Christ in order that the students might “accomplish it in their own lives.” Following his presentation, Psalm 60 was sung by the congregation and the benediction pronounced.28

Following this first session, the dignitaries made their way to the Methodist Episcopal Church. Long tables elaborately decorated with bouquets of yellow and white chrysanthemums and blue and gold candles provided the setting for the inaugural luncheon.

The afternoon featured the academic procession and the inauguration itself. The
Cedarville Herald described the procession:

The academic procession from the college to the Opera House for the inaugural took place at 3:30. The following order of march was observed: Trustees, President-elect and ex-President, faculty, visiting delegates, students, and alumni. The faculty, visiting delegates, the senior class and the new and retiring presidents wore the academic costume. The different classes of the alumni were distinguished by their class colors, the undergraduate classes wore regalia of their class colors, the juniors in red while the sophomores in yellow and white and the freshmen in green and white. The cheerleader, Mr. James Chestnut, Sr., led the yells and cheers which added a most enthusiastic note to the march and to the other sessions of the day. The procession with its mingling of serious academic garb and the bright hues of the class colors; with its ranks filled 150 loyal friends and members of the college; with its enthusiastic songs and cheers was one of the most interesting features of the day.37

The college orchestra played in the background as everyone resumed their places in Cedarville’s Opera House. The afternoon session was presided over by retiring President McKinney.

After the invocation and the singing of Psalm 90, James H. Creswell, president of the Board of Trustees, read the resolution of the Board choosing McChesney as president. McKinney then gave a short sketch of the history of Cedarville College and expressed his appreciation to all those who had cooperated with him during his administration. He then reminded them that the future belonged to McChesney and urged full support for the new president while pledging his own “loyal cooperation.” He then brought McChesney forward and administered the oath of office.

Following the inaugural prayer by Rev. James I. Chestnut, Sr., the representative of the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, McKinney charged the new president to “be president. The questions hitherto decided by a higher authority will now be referred to you for solution. Decide them for yourself, you are the head of the institution, be president in deed as well as in name.”38

In response to the charge, and to all that had transpired, McChesney delivered an emotional reply. After thanking all those who had participated in the festivities, he pledged to work with the citizens of Greene County and the Village of Cedarville, the alumni, students, and faculty of the college to forward the cause of Cedarville College and the Word of God. He concluded his acceptance speech with these words: “To God, in whose faith I have been raised, in whose power I work, and for whose sake I pledged my life, I pay my tribute.”

Following McChesney’s acceptance, Dean Leroy Allen gave a brief statement pledging the loyalty of the faculty and students to their new president. He closed by saying: “And as you follow Christ so we will follow you.” As the dean was seated, a child came forward and presented McChesney with a floral tribute of white roses from the faculty. The student body sang a song that had been especially composed for the inauguration, which ended with a rousing cheer for their new president. While the students were singing, ushers brought McChesney gifts of flowers from each of the classes. The seniors presented roses; the juniors, carnations; the sophomores, yellow chrysanthemums; and the freshmen, white chrysanthemums. In this gala manner, the festivities were concluded as the crowd quieted for a brief benediction.39

The first dynamic individual in the life of Cedarville College, Dr. David McKinney, now slipped back into the relative obscurity of life as a member of the Board of Trustees. From that position he gave his continued support to the institution and its new leader. That new leader, Wilbert Renwick McChesney, was destined to be the second dynamic individual in the life of the institution. He heeded his predecessor’s charge to “be president,” and led Cedarville to new heights for “The Crown and Covenant of Christ.”

1. Trustees Minutes, June 3, 1915.
2. Cedarville College Catalog, 1916-17, pp. 102-111.
3. Elmer Jurkat, College Life, May 12, 1944.
5. Elmer Jurkat, College Life, May 12, 1944.
6. Cedarville College Catalog, 1910-11, p. 15.
7. Trustees Minutes, June 2, 1909.
8. Trustees Minutes, June 3, 1915. These observations are edited from McKinney’s resignation.
9. Elmer Jurkat, College Life, May 12, 1944.
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid.
12. Ibid.
14. Elmer Jurkat, College Life, May 12, 1944.
15. Faculty Minutes, May 31, 1915.
17. Elmer Jurkat, College Life, May 12, 1944.
18. Ibid.
19. Ibid.
20. Ibid.
22. Cedarville Herald, October 27, 1911.
23. Ibid.
24. Ibid., June 4, 1915.
25. Ibid.
27. Ibid.
28. Ibid.
29. Ibid.
30. Ibid.
31. Ibid.
Chapter VII

In the midst of all the pomp and ceremony surrounding his inauguration as president of Cedarville College, Dr. McChesney was both pensive and somber. Having devoted 21 years to the school as a faculty member, he was well aware of the institution's mission. Though chosen for the presidency by the men of the Board of Trustees, he viewed his new office as a divine appointment. Being God's chosen leader of a Christian college was not to be taken lightly. Before his inauguration he spent many hours praying for discernment and thinking about what a Christian college ought to be. The culmination of his thoughts was an inaugural address that set the tone for his entire administration.

In his address he carefully traced the roles of public schools, colleges, and universities. After demonstrating that each had its particular niche in the educational community, he focused his attention on "The Ideal College" and how Cedarville fit that ideal.

His first point was that the ideal college needed adequate material equipment. By this McChesney meant that a college had to have enough buildings to meet state standards and adequate endowment to finance the appropriate professorial chairs. He contended that $350,000 would be the minimum amount needed in a community like Cedarville to meet those standards. McChesney pointed out that Cedarville College currently represented a net worth of $150,000, which provided a "splendid nucleus around which to build up a strong and useful institution." However, he stressed the necessity of raising an additional $200,000 to meet the $350,000 minimum.

Then, the new president moved to an old emphasis as he challenged the community on
The only facility funded by the capital campaign of 1921 was the Science Hall. This building housed the science department until 1972. Now named Collins Hall, it remains an academic facility.

its responsibility to the college. This was a theme that had been seen much earlier. In January 1912, the senior class had canvassed the community for donations for a dormitory. In June 1914, the editor of the Cedarville Herald pointed out that the college had been "handicapped" by a lack of accommodations for students. He stressed the need for dormitories and equipment and urged the community to get behind the college with its gifts. He pointed out all the advantages that accrued to the community as a result of having the college in its midst, and reminded the villagers that monied people outside the community would only support the college when the people of Cedarville proved their willingness to do so. He concluded his impassioned plea with these words:

The value of Cedarville College to this town and community and its work in the past are too important to allow the college to lag or what is even worse to be removed from Cedarville. Now is the time to wake up, face the situation, and rise to the crisis. Do you want Cedarville College to continue its work here or go elsewhere?

Now McChesney added his support to his appeal for community aid. He pointed to the fact that most of the college’s 200 graduates, along with hundreds of non-graduates, came from the immediate vicinity. Many of those individuals remained in the area advancing the "general good" and "rendering commendable service." Therefore, it was "not only an opportunity" for county citizens, but an "obligation":

To bring Cedarville College up to this ideal is your work and mine. We receive the greatest benefit from it; and, therefore, we should render the most to it. What we do, we should do now. The next few years will decide whether we are worthy longer to be entrusted with its welfare, or failing to do our part it shall pass out of our midst to another place and people who will welcome its coming and make of it what we ought to have made of it.

He urged area residents to join him in "the task of building up a greater Cedarville College, an ideal college in buildings, equipment, and endowment."

McChesney’s appeal to the community was rooted in his knowledge of the limited resources available to Cedarville College. Other than tuition fees from students, which paid only 25 percent of the cost of the student’s education, and limited interest from the modest endowment, the college was entirely dependent upon gifts for its financial stability. While some congregations in the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church supported the college faithfully, the denomination remained very small and their ability to support Cedarville College very limited. This left only the gifts of friends, and it seemed logical that those who resided in the immediate environs should be the closest friends.

In his second major argument, McChesney contended that the ideal college needed such personal elements as trustees, faculty, students, alumni, and community people.

First, the trustees were responsible to maintain institutional integrity in terms of stated objectives. They were to see that the college ran efficiently, in order that they might have a clear conscience before God.

Second, the ideal college must have "a faculty whose scholarship is marked for accuracy, compass, and thoroughness. Its habits are clean, wholesome, and exemplary. Its influence is far reaching and commands respect."

Third, the ideal college took students, regardless of their station in life, and shaped and molded them for a useful adult life: "The ideal college takes nothing but what should be taken from its students but rather enriches them and renders them indispensable to the common good." McChesney then made the following commitment to college supporters:

It will ever be our supreme purpose to see to it that along with the mental culture and social development which they receive, the students of
Cedarville College shall retain the Christian integrity and truth which they bring with them to us and in all possible ways our example and teaching shall be set forth to strengthen and establish them in sound Christian faith.8

Fourth, McChesney's ideal college required a "loyal and grateful alumni." He called upon the alumni who "drank at the fountain of learning, grew strong and wise for the duties of life, and got inspiration which is the motive and blessing of their life . . ." to remain faithful to their alma mater. He encouraged them to support and sustain their college and urged them that honorable alumni found virtue in "commending their alma mater rather than depending upon it to recommend them."9

Fifth, the ideal college needed the community. While admitting that the community was not directly connected with the college in the same manner in which other personal factors were, he nevertheless argued that it was the community which ultimately determined the success or failure of the institution. If the community did not provide an appropriate environment and significant support, it would be impossible for a college to succeed. He assured members of the community that their support for the college would be rewarded by the many benefits resulting from the presence of the college.

Having thus outlined the material and personal elements necessary to an ideal college, McChesney concluded with still a third necessity: the ideal college must have "the highest ideals." The ideals which he upheld were citizenship, democracy, and godly character. He reminded his listeners that the material resources and personal elements were meaningful only as they cooperated in the development of character that was godly. This was, indeed, the special significance of a Christian college such as Cedarville.

When McChesney became president of Cedarville College, he was eminently qualified to deal with the various personal and ideological elements to which he referred in his inaugural address. He was the first faculty member hired by the institution in 1894. The Trustees had appointed him Vice President in 1909 and Dean in 1913, before naming him President in 1915. In 1913, when the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary was transplanted from Philadelphia to Cedarville, McChesney was assigned the task of teaching Greek and Systematic Theology to the young seminarians.10

However, McChesney had no experience in meeting the material needs of the institution. Whereas McKinney had the background of raising funds and managing assets for a local church congregation, McChesney had come to Cedarville directly from his own college.

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Cedar Day, the oldest tradition of the College, in the late teens, early twenties. The festivities began with a presentation of the classes in pageant form, as seen here.
experience, and had spent his career to that point in the classroom. He was an ordained minister, and an excellent pulpit orator, but had never pastored a church or had other management experience.

Adding to McChesney’s problem was the fact that World War I, which began in Europe in the summer of 1914, was causing increased alarm in the United States. Before he could crystalize his plans for the fund-raising drive he had promised in his inaugural address, the British and Germans had made neutral shipping extremely difficult. Though Woodrow Wilson was re-elected to the presidency in 1916 on the slogan “He Kept Us Out Of War,” it was becoming clear that involvement might be the only alternative. Amid increasing international tensions, McChesney put all plans for fund raising on hold.

Cedarville students relieved any anxiety they may have felt by turning Cedar Day 1916 into a giant spoof of Mexican-American relations. Cedar Day had been instituted in 1911 as a springtime holiday featuring “oratory, pageantry, comedy, tree planting, box lunches, and ball games.” The tree planted was always a cedar tree. But on the fifth anniversary of Cedar Day, the students mocked the growing tensions:

Even Cedarville of 1916 had its horse and gun play when the Juniors burlesqued General Pershing’s ill-fated excursion into Mexico to capture Villa. The maids who surrounded Dorothy Collins, the queen, wore long grass-sweeping dresses and hats as big as dishpans. James Chestnut, Jr., was orator, and the class forwent the usual evergreen to plant an appropriate but punful chestnut tree.

While the students relaxed their tension by mocking international problems, and by playing pranks such as carrying some unsuspecting classmate’s trunk to the other end of town, the world situation became more severe. Finally, in April 1917, the United States entered World War I. Meanwhile, the only fund-raising campaign in Cedarville in 1917 was when “a dazzling show troupe” came “to the Opera House to help sell Liberty Bonds.”

In the fall of 1917, the college had its own international flavor when it enrolled its first Chinese student. In reporting his arrival, Elmer Jurkat added: “He was followed shortly by smallpox, which closed up the town for six weeks as it coasted into 1918, the year of measles and influenza, and vaccinations, and sore arms, and meatless Tuesdays, and snow so deep it stopped all the trains.”

At the conclusion of the war, the nation returned to “normalcy,” and college enrollment began to climb. By 1920 the facilities were taxed by the 116 students who registered, and McChesney once more began speaking for an endowment and building program. By 1921 the student body climbed to 135. In his annual report to the Board, McChesney made a series of recommendations, the key one being “that this Board of Trustees records itself as ready and willing individually and collectively to render any and all possible service and encouragement to the campaign for increased endowment and buildings for Cedarville.”

Following the president’s report, a lengthy discussion concerning the endowment situation took place. Several community members who had formed a citizen’s committee on increasing the endowment were invited to sit with the Board during this general discussion. The Board pledged itself to support the committee’s activities to the fullest. McChesney called a special Board meeting for two weeks later, and at that time made the motion that the college “secure the services of the Ward Systems Company for the purpose of raising funds for endowment, equipment and buildings.”

By mid-July the Cedarville Herald announced in its headlines “Headquarters Open for C.C. $200,000 Campaign.” The article explained that a headquarters had been established in Barber’s storeroom on Main Street. The paper stated that active solicitation would not begin until August or September and that the campaign would be a concentrated and intense one, but would only last eight weeks.

On August 5 McChesney addressed an open letter to the citizens of Cedarville and Greene County appealing for support in the campaign drive. In answer to the question “Why does Cedarville College need $200,000?,” McChesney said: “Dear friends, count what you will lose if the college is compelled to cease its work or to move away.” He then discussed the material, mental, moral, and religious losses that would be felt throughout the county if the college moved to an area which provided a greater financial base. His “open letter” concluded with a list of graduates, to drive home the reality of how many county young people had been educated at Cedarville.

The fund-raising campaign was launched with a large banquet featuring chicken and ice cream. While an orchestra played in the background, several placards were distributed. These were hung all over the community and
Founders Hall, already 30 years old, continued to be the main focus of the campus.

Another tradition observed during Cedar Day prior to 1953 was the Maypole exhibition, along with the crowning of a Cedar Day queen, the class skits, and a community picnic.
featured the slogan “Cedarville College Will Be Big Enough — If Your Heart Is.” The guiding geniuses of the campaign were, in the words of an alumnus, “two high pressure boys named Adleman and Bowen.”

As the campaign opened, county residents were reminded again and again that until the local people supported the cause of the college “outside men of great means won’t.” In keeping with this emphasis, for the next several weeks every issue of the Cedarville Herald carried a list of those who had subscribed to the endowment drive and the amount they had pledged.

On September 10, 1921, the Board of Trustees met in special session to study the results of the endowment drive. McChesney reported that pledges received totaled $132,230. The expenses incurred were approximately $8,000 and the trustees voted to pay for the campaign out of the funds raised. By October the total pledges had reached $136,000 and the campaign had been extended to five years. Early contributions enabled the trustees to remodel Alford Auditorium and set aside money to endow the building.

The success of the campaign can be seen in the fact that the total endowment of the college grew from $109,000 in 1920 to $242,000 in 1930. The college catalogs continue to list the $242,000 figure until 1936, following which no reference was made to the total amount in the Endowment Fund.

Without question, the total value of the college endowment was eroded by the Depression. From time to time through the ’30s, the Trustees Minutes reveal the dropping of various stocks because the companies had liquidated, or because the stocks no longer had a value. But in spite of the external pressures that imposed financial hardship on the hard­earned endowment of the college, McChesney took pride in the fact that during his administration the endowment had been increased “to over $200,000.”

Another benefit of the fund-raising campaign was the erection of Cedarville’s new Science Hall, which was opened in September 1923. The building was located just north of College Hall, which by this time was known as the Administration Building. The college boasted that the new building was: heated by vapor, and is absolutely fire proof. In the basement are room and a laboratory for Academic Physics, cloak rooms and toilets. The first and second floors provide space for Freshmen and Advanced Chemistry, College Physics and Biology. These rooms are furnished with

the latest equipment for the study of the sciences. Electricity, natural gas and running water are available in all departments.

While the administrators were raising money for the endowment and the new Science Building, the soldiers returned to the classroom. Seeking an outlet for their adventurous spirit, they urged the administration to revive football, which had been discontinued as a result of the war. “The high school and college joined forces, produced a monster athletic parade, hired a coach” and sent three men “to Columbus to buy a carload of equipment.” Cedarville football was never very successful in these postwar years, with only an occasional victory over Antioch to lift their spirits. But despite the failures: The town was football crazy for a few years: orange and blue bunting, chalked windows, flags out every week end in those balmy fall days. Antioch had started it again too but al-
though the two teams were about evenly matched there were not many other schools nearby in the same athletic bracket. Antioch quit after awhile but Cedarville kept on with lots of fun but not much success till about 1934 when both the scores and the expenses got too high, and they dropped it. 27

Two other activities were an important part of college life in the 1920s. Each year the college men would have a night shirt parade. They would march through town playing instruments, singing, and raising a horrible din. On occasion, the townspeople were forced to respond. In 1924 the Cedarville Herald reported: “The annual night shirt parade of the college boys took place Wednesday night, April 23rd. The town was aroused by their wonderful music, but on several occasions their reception was very damp!” 28

Another tradition of the 1920s was the “freshman haircut.” These haircuts were free. In fact, they were usually required!

If you see college boys going about town with skull caps and short hair you can mark it down that the college degree of “Freshman” has been administered. Monday night the conferring of degrees was in process. From all reports the boys took their “dose” in good nature and will now await the passing of weeks for the head covering to return. 29

Apparently, the freshmen did not always cooperate in the shearing process. On at least one occasion, several of the boys landed before Mayor Funsett’s court. “The Mayor let the boys down with a dollar fine and other considerations.”30

While the Cedarville students of the 1920s obviously enjoyed themselves, they also made positive contributions to the community. The Cedarville Herald reported that area pastors were “very well pleased with the interest and support the college students are giving in the different churches in the community.”31

The lighter moments of the ’20s provided an important balance for the Cedarville College family. Beneath the surface there were continuing needs for the institution and its people.

Through the early years of his presidency, McChesney urged the trustees to do all in their power to meet the State of Ohio’s minimum standards. The state seemed satisfied with Cedarville’s progress toward its goals. In fact, McChesney reported that inspectors for both the Ohio State Association and the Department of Public Instruction had described Cedarville as “one of the best small colleges in the state.” 32

While McChesney noted that the state wanted Cedarville to divide the Science and Mathematics Department, he seemed more concerned with the fact that the college was offering such low salaries to its faculty. He indicated that this made it difficult not only to get teachers, but also to keep them. He frequently reminded people that longtime professors, such as Dr. Jurkat, were wanted by other schools, but had remained with Cedarville in spite of sub-par salaries. He pointed out one woman who had remained on the faculty in spite of the fact that she was able to show him an offer for $200 more from another institution. He said he blushed as he pleaded with her to stay.33

In addition, there was the all-pervading fear that perhaps the college would be forced to close its doors. This fear was made more real in 1921 when Franklin College, the alma mater of several Cedarville faculty members and administrators, closed after 96 years of existence.34

Even after the successful campaign of 1921, the financial needs were tremendous. Meeting the challenge led to one of the most intriguing episodes in the century-long history of the institution. This situation was destined to play a major role in the future of the college.

2. Cedarville Herald, January 12, 1912.
3. Ibid, June 17, 1914.
5. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. In 1918 McChesney became dean of the Seminary and remained in that office following his retirement from the college presidency until his death in 1944.
11. Elmer Jurkat, College Life, May 19, 1944.
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
15. Trustees Minutes, June 9, 1921.
16. Trustees Minutes, June 25, 1921.
18. Cedarville Herald, August 5, 1921.
20. Trustees Minutes, September 10, 1921.
21. Trustees Minutes, October 10, 1921.
22. Trustees Minutes, December 12, 1921.
24. Trustees Minutes, May 29, 1940.
27. Ibid.
28. Cedarville Herald, May 2, 1924.
29. Ibid., September 23, 1927.
30. Ibid., October 3, 1924.
31. Ibid., October 13, 1922.
32. Trustees Minutes, June 8, 1916.
33. Cedarville Herald, August 19, 1921.
34. Ibid.

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In 1924, the girls of the College staged a mock wedding, to provide them practice for when they must plan the real thing. The rest of the College family then attended the "ceremony." Because of its huge success, it became an annual event.

Chapter VIII

In the light of the need for improved faculty salaries and better campus facilities, McChesney and the Cedarville College Board of Trustees were eager to gain the support of their denomination. The General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America had already launched a $50,000 fund-raising campaign for its various ministries and had promised that 30 percent of it would go to the college to endow a faculty chair in the Bible Department.

While grateful for this commitment from the General Synod, the college trustees realized that the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America was an extremely small group showing no signs of growth. The Board knew they would never be able to draw heavily from this source for financial support.

Therefore, in an effort to broaden their base of church support, the Board of Trustees voted to petition the General Board of Education of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. for the sum of $20,000 to be placed in the Endowment Fund. They based their petition on the fact that Cedarville College had educated "twenty-six young men for the gospel ministry in the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., besides missionaries for the foreign field."

Two pastors who served on the college Board, Rev. James L. Chestnut and Rev. William R. Graham, made initial contact with the General Board of Education in early 1921. Subsequently, President McChesney addressed a letter to Dr. F.E. Stockwell, associate secretary of that body, inviting him to visit the college between March 30 and June 10.
After meeting with Pastors Chestnut and Graham for a luncheon at the City Club in Philadelphia on Friday, January 28, 1921, and receiving McChesney’s letter, Stockwell visited Cedarville College on June 10, 1921. He attended commencement and visited with key college personnel. Upon returning to New York City, he prepared a four-page report on his investigation.

In this report he pointed out that the Reformed Presbyterian denomination which sponsored Cedarville College had only 13 churches in the entire country. He indicated that some of the younger men in the denomination wanted to unite with the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. He also pointed out that the city of Dayton had offered Cedarville College $500,000 if they would move to Dayton and become a city institution. Stockwell suggested that this might be a worthwhile alternative.

Another option, according to Stockwell, might be to merge Cedarville with Wooster College. Cedarville’s endowment could then be used to sponsor “boys and girls of Cedarville” who attended Wooster. The building and grounds could be sold with the proceeds endowing a special chair on the Wooster campus. If this proposal was accepted, the theological seminary’s endowment could be spent on theology students under the supervision of the General Assembly. Significantly, at no point in his report did Stockwell recommend to the General Board of Education that they heed Cedarville’s request for $20,000. 4

Meanwhile, Stockwell indicated to all those who petitioned on behalf of Cedarville College that it would be imperative for Cedarville to have the support of the Dayton Synod and the Synod of Ohio if they were to have any hope of financial support from the General Board of Education. In response, Graham addressed a four-page report to Stockwell in which he pointed out that the Dayton Synod had “informally approved the proposal that Cedarville College be granted a subscription by the Board of Education.” He further indicated that Dr. Frank Granstaff, chairman of the Board of the Committee on Education of the Dayton Presbytery, had assured President McChesney that he would heartily endorse the proposal and make a favorable recommendation at the fall meeting of the Presbytery.

Graham added that Dr. C.F. Wishart, the president of Wooster College, was to be interviewed as to his personal attitude toward Cedarville’s request. Recognizing that Wooster was sponsored by the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., the Cedarville people felt it was important to understand Wishart’s feelings. 5 In a cover letter that accompanied his report, Graham told Stockwell:

From the contact that I have had with certain men in the Synod of Ohio, I feel certain that the Synod will approve this request, and the Dayton Presbytery will highly approve it. I am not doing anything definite in the Synod until I am able to hear what Dr. Wishart’s wish in the matter would be. If he is opposed to it, I do not feel that we should proceed, but our representa­tive will have an interview with him in the near future, and I will have in your hands, at the time your committee meets, as far as possible, evidence as to show what the attitude of Dayton Presbytery and the Synod of Ohio will be. 6

Rev. J. Alvin Orr, an 1897 graduate and current Board member of the college, was then pastor in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was dispatched to Wooster to determine Wishart’s views concerning his denomination’s supporting Cedarville College. Following his meeting with the Wooster president, Orr exultantly wrote Graham:

Dr. Wishart very cordially entered into the spirit of it all and said he could be counted upon to do his very utmost in helping us both with the Presbyterians involved and the Synod. He said he would be willing to go before the Presbytery of Cincinnati and advocate it on the floor as well as to do his utmost in the Synod meeting and before it convenes, to have favorable action by the Ohio Synod early in October. 7

Graham then quoted a letter sent by Wishart to the Cedarville College trustees in session on September 10, 1921. In this letter the Wooster president wished them success in their financial campaign, and added:

It would be a disaster if the spirit and atmosphere of an institution like Cedarville should be lost out of the educational world. I shall be most happy to cooperate in every friendly way toward the goal of your desire. Please rely upon me for whatever offices I can perform in this connection. 8

On the basis of this letter and the positive report shared by Pastor Orr following his conference with Wishart, the Cedarville trustees voted on September 10 to express their appreciative greetings to Dr. Wishart and move forward with the request for $20,000 from the General Board of Education of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

Following that Board meeting, McChesney again wrote to Stockwell. He referred to Graham’s letter of August 31, to Wishart’s approval, and to the support that had developed in the Dayton Synod; he urged...
Cedar Day brought out the entire community to participate in its events.

Stockwell to support "the proposition of giving $20,000 toward the permanent Endowment Fund of Cedarville College."

On September 19, 1921, a notarized copy of the action taken by the Presbytery of Cincinnati was forwarded to Stockwell:

That the Presbytery of Cincinnati heartily approves of the present campaign to raise funds for the Cedarville College.

That the Presbytery of Cincinnati unites with the Presbytery of Dayton in a request to the Board of Education of the Presbyterian Church, United States of America to appropriate $20,000 to the Cedarville College.

Edward T. Swiggert
Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Cincinnati

In spite of the support of both the Dayton and Cincinnati Presbyteries, when the General Board of Education met on September 20, 1921, they passed the following resolution:

It was voted that no action could be taken on an informal request from Cedarville College, but that cooperation could be given only in case, through official action initiated by the college trustees and the church with which it is connected, the institution should become partly under the control of the Presbyterian Church.

Stockwell explained that while the Board appreciated Cedarville College, "the control either wholly or in part of an institution by the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. is the key to such cooperation as is desired." He averred that the only way this kind of cooperation could be initiated was through official action from the college trustees and the church with which the institution is connected.

No matter how badly the football team played, the College was still very proud of them, as this collage of pictures from the 1931 yearbook suggests.
cooperation could be developed was through a formal program "initiated by the college and the Reformed Presbyterian Church." Should Cedarville and the Reformed Presbyterians do so, he promised the matter "would receive most careful consideration."13

Stockwell indicated to McChesney that the Reformed Presbyterian Church would have to allow at least partial control of the college by the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. Otherwise it would be impossible for the General Board to consider their church assuming "any interest in a college of another denomination."14

When McChesney received Stockwell's letter concerning the General Board of Education ruling, he immediately called a meeting of the Cedarville College Board of Trustees. When the Board gathered in the Carnegie Library, McChesney presented to them a motion that the Board accord to "the Synod of Ohio or any other body or organization of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A." the right to nominate up to three representatives for the Cedarville College Board of Trustees. The Board did this, then immediately urged the Ohio Synod to support their request for $20,000. In their appeal they again pointed to the number of men serving the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. who had been trained at Cedarville, the continued support of the Dayton and Cincinnati Synods for their request, and the support of President Wishart of Wooster College.15

Following their meeting, representatives of the Cedarville trustees immediately left for Cambridge to attend the Ohio Synod meeting scheduled on October 12. They again urged the Synod to support their request for $20,000 from the General Board of Education, and the Ohio Synod once more voted in their favor. Upon returning to Cedarville from the Synod meeting, S.C. Wright, a 1903 graduate who was serving as secretary of the Board of Trustees, addressed a letter to Stockwell containing the resolution of the Cedarville Board along with the approvals of the Dayton, Cincinnati, and Ohio Synods. Associate Secretary Stockwell was out of town when Wright's letter reached the Board offices. Consequently, the letter was directed to Edgar Hill, who was the general secretary of the General Board of Education. Hill indicated that Stockwell would reply when he returned to the

*The eating club of 1927. Those students who ate their meals in the basement of the Carnegie library formed a social organization and elected officers, recognizing themselves as a legitimate part of student life.*
office, but made it obvious that he did not feel the action of the Cedarville trustees was enough:

I trust it will not seem presumptuous if I add that in my judgment the tenor of your letter indicates that your trustees have been misinformed concerning the scope of this board’s work. We are authorized to cooperate not with institutions that may have a certain number of Presbyterians on the Board of Conference but with Presbyterian institutions whose connection with the denomination is maintained through representatives appointed by some ecclesiastical body. I do not understand from the action of your trustees that you are proposing that Cedarville College shall become a Presbyterian institution in any real sense. Such a move would involve more readjustments than the election of three trustees by Synod. 16

When he returned to his office, Stockwell addressed a letter to Wright indicating that he fully endorsed Hill’s position. He repeated the September 20 decision of the General Board of Education and instructed Wright:

From this action you will see that there is no cooperation possible in the affairs of Cedarville College on the part of the Board unless the institution comes partly under the control of the Presbyterian Church through an official action initiated by the denomination with which Cedarville College is connected, followed up by an action on the part of the trustee of the said college. 17

Responding to an inquiry from W.R. Graham, Stockwell claimed that Cedarville College was not a “Presbyterian institution” because “it does not belong to the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.” 18 He further advised Graham that the only way Cedarville could become a part of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. was through an official action of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America as a denomination “through its highest court” seeking “cooperative management.” 19

For the next several months, McChesney worked with representatives of the Reformed Presbyterian Church General Synod to accomplish the requirements Stockwell had outlined. The Reformed Presbyterians, though they had supported Cedarville from its inception, had continued to decline in numbers. They were becoming too weak to provide the financial support the college desperately needed. Consequently, at their meeting in Philadelphia in the spring of 1922, the General Synod unanimously passed a resolution requesting that the General Board of Education and the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. “become a patronizing body according to the state laws of Ohio which provide fully for such cooperation.” McChesney immediately informed Stockwell of the official denominational request, adding to it the request of the Cedarville College Board to the same effect. Included with this formal request was a seven-page, single-spaced outline of the history of Cedarville College. The report also described the decline of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. 20

This time Stockwell’s reply to McChesney was much more positive. He reported that the College Department Committee of the General Board had met on June 13 and expressed “much interest in the work of Cedarville College.” 21 He said the committee would seek additional information from various interested Presbyterian groups in Ohio, and assured McChesney he would get back with him as soon as possible. McChesney immediately responded to the good news from Stockwell with a letter indicating his pleasure. 22

Little was done through the summer of 1922 with Cedarville’s request. In the fall, however, Stockwell received several letters on behalf of Cedarville College. On September 21, Rev. William Wallace Iliffe, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Erie, Pennsylvania, wrote as a Cedarville College graduate urging that the Board begin building a “relationship” with the school. On October 2, John Alden Orr, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh and member of the Cedarville Board of Trustees, addressed a letter to Stockwell on behalf of the college. On October 9, W.R. Graham, though no longer a Board member at the college, urged Stockwell to support Cedarville. 23

In November Stockwell addressed letters to Dr. W.W. Boyd of the Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio, and to Dr. C.F. Wishart, president of Wooster College. He asked both men to give their candid views on the Cedarville College matter.

Boyd’s reply was immediate and decisive. He began with these words:

I have your letter regarding Cedarville College. I agree with you that Dr. McChesney is a highclass man. I think we ought to annex him to the Presbyterian Church. I am not inclined, however, to feel it would be wise for the Ohio Synod to assume any responsibility for Cedarville College. 24

Boyd pointed out that Cedarville was not a member of the Ohio College Association and urged the denomination to do more for Wooster rather than add Cedarville. “The better plan it seems to me, would be to fortify what is already established, rather than to
open up new fields.”

Wishart’s reply did not come to Stockwell until the next year. Wishart apologized for the delay but indicated that he felt it necessary to discuss the topic with “the friends of Wooster.” Then, despite his public promises of support for Cedarville, made to both the Board of Trustees and the Ohio Synod, Wishart proceeded to undermine Cedarville’s request. He outlined the many needs that remained at Wooster College; pointing specifically to the need for greater efficiency in service, higher standards for teaching personnel, more and better equipment, and a greater endowment. He concluded:

The very grave question in my mind takes this shape. The Synod has as yet scarcely begun an adequate support to its own synodical college. There are the resources in this state to make the outstanding college of Presbyterianism and one of the great outstanding colleges of America. The question in my mind is as to whether the Synod, with the present favorable outlook, should not go on developing one really outstanding institution rather than to divide her force so that in the end there would be the old story of two under-equipped and under-supported institutions struggling along to make bricks without straw.

Will you allow me to say, too, as a former member of the General Board and intensely interested in the whole educational problem in Presbyterianism, that it seems to me this is a very fundamental question as to the Board’s policy? Does the Board favor the development of perhaps two or three outstanding institutions across the country, which shall be able to take their place academically with Amherst, Williams or Dartmouth, and to do this is it prepared to deal perhaps somewhat heroically, even in seeming hardness, with small and struggling institutions in overlapping territory? Or is the policy to be rather to scale down the larger institutions at least to the extent of allowing them to sink or swim, while putting time and money back of the small ones?

Immediately, the interest of the General Board of Education in Cedarville College evaporated. In February Stockwell informed Graham that no decision had been made, although the information he had gathered indicated that “no further steps” could be “taken just at this time.”

Several months later, rather than reject the Cedarville request in a straightforward manner, Stockwell blamed the consolidation of the Boards of Public and Sabbath School Work with the General Board of Education in the formation of a new Board called the Board of Christian Education. He said the new arrangement required “an entirely new adjustment in the matter of the support of various branches of the work committed to the new Board.” Consequently, he concluded nothing could be done in the near future.

For the next five years, the Cedarville Board of Trustees continued to work toward an alliance with the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., not realizing the door was already closed. Eventually they concluded that the only means of achieving their goal would be to sever completely their ties with the Reformed Presbyterians. The Board met on May 7, 1928, in the Exchange Bank Building in Cedarville to discuss the dilemma. They authorized Dr. McChesney to attend the General Synod meeting in Coulterville, Illinois, later in the month of May to request that the Synod relinquish all control of the college. Then they formed a committee headed by McChesney to negotiate with members of the Dayton Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. “looking toward an alliance between said Presbytery and the college.”

Recognizing the financial plight of the college, the General Synod granted the request of McChesney and the Cedarville College Board of Trustees:

Therefore, be it resolved by the said General Synod, now in session in the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Coulterville, Illinois, this 18th day of May 1928, that all right, title, interest, jurisdiction and control of the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America in and to Cedarville College, Cedarville, Ohio, including property right of every kind, endowment, real estate, and equipment, also all object, purpose, right of control and jurisdiction now held by said General Synod therein, be, and the same hereby is, relinquished; transferred, conveyed and vested in the present Board of Trustees of the said Cedarville College, ... and their successors in office forever.

Immediately upon achieving their independence from the Reformed Presbyterians, the Cedarville College trustees applied to the Ohio Synod for membership and support. Again they were disappointed. Though they had sought their independence from the Reformed Presbyterians on the basis of meeting the requirements of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. for financial support, they were turned down once more! The Committee of Christian Education of the Synod of Ohio declined to bring Cedarville under its care and control. “It gave as reasons that it has a sufficient task in raising funds for the College of Wooster, the Aged People’s Home, Lane Theological Seminary, and the other boards of the church.”

Consequently, Cedarville College became a
private institution owned and operated by a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees with no supporting denomination. It was a church school without a church. Cedarville had to depend upon faithful faculty, administrators, and trustees, to maintain her testimony and distinctive Christian character. By the grace of God, the college was preserved “For the Crown and Covenant of Christ.”

1. Trustees Minutes, June 5, 1919
2. Trustees Minutes, September 10, 1921.
3. W.R. McChesney to Frederick E. Stockwell, March 14, 1921. This letter is in the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. Board of Aid for Colleges and Academies, papers and correspondence, 1883-1948, located in the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia. Hereafter referred to as Presbyterian Board MSS.
5. W.R. Graham, Report on Cedarville College, August 31, 1921. Presbyterian Board MSS.
6. W.R. Graham to E.F. Stockwell, August 31, 1921. Presbyterian Board MSS.
7. Orr to Graham as quoted by Graham to Stockwell, September 13, 1921. Presbyterian Board MSS.
8. C.F. Wishart to Cedarville College trustees as quoted by Graham to Stockwell, September 13, 1921. Presbyterian Board MSS.
9. McChesney to Stockwell, September 15, 1921.
10. Notarized Copy of Action of the Presbytery of Cincinnati, September 19, 1921. Presbyterian Board MSS.
11. General Board of Education Minutes, September 20, 1921; quoted by Stockwell to Graham September 23, 1921, and to McChesney September 28, 1921. Presbyterian Board MSS.
12. Stockwell to Graham, September 23, 1921. Presbyterian Board MSS.
13. Ibid.
14. Stockwell to McChesney, September 28, 1921. Presbyterian Board MSS.
15. Trustees Minutes, October 10, 1921.
16. Edgar Hill to S.C. Wright, October 20, 1921. Presbyterian Board MSS.
17. Stockwell to Wright, November 2, 1921. Presbyterian Board MSS.
18. Stockwell to Graham, November 25, 1921. Presbyterian Board MSS.
19. Ibid.
20. McChesney to Stockwell, June 7, 1922. Presbyterian Board MSS.
21. Stockwell to McChesney, June 15, 1922. Presbyterian Board MSS.
22. McChesney to Stockwell, June 21, 1922. Presbyterian Board MSS.
23. W.R. Graham to Stockwell, October 9, 1922. Presbyterian Board MSS.
24. W.W. Boyd to Stockwell, November 17, 1922. Presbyterian Board MSS.
25. Ibid.
27. Stockwell to Graham, February 26, 1923. Presbyterian Board MSS.
28. Stockwell to Graham, May 7, 1923. Presbyterian Board MSS.
29. Trustees Minutes, May 7, 1928.
31. From the minutes of the Ohio Synod of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. as reported to the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America, May 15, 1929.

A baseball game, 1924. The baseball field was located behind Founders Hall, providing a fitting backdrop to demonstrate the sport as one of the many student activities offered to balance their academics.
Chapter IX

The failure to gain the support of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. marked a critical juncture in the history of Cedarville College. With no constituency, the responsibility to maintain the sacred purpose for which the institution had been founded fell squarely on the shoulders of the trustees. The godly men who composed this self-perpetuating Board were steadfast in their faith. At their February 8 mid-year meeting, they unanimously agreed "to maintain the orthodox Christian belief and teachings for which Cedarville College has always stood." Under the title "The Declaration of Cedarville College," they outlined their firm commitment to biblical Christianity. After pointing out that the college had been established "in faith and prayer," they informed their readers: "It stands today, as it always has stood, for genuine Christianity founded upon and agreeable to the inspired Word of God." There followed a brief paragraph for each of seven cardinal doctrines of Christianity. They concluded by appealing for the support "of all who believed in the fundamental truths of the Bible and the training of men and women for loyal definite service for Christ's Crown and Kingdom."

The college maintained an amicable relationship with the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church and often sent representatives to their meetings. They even considered reestablishing their denominational tie, though that did not materialize. The Board subsequently changed the bylaws to require a majority of the Board to be members of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

Students went to great lengths to show school spirit in the early days.
Even in 1932, upperclassmen enjoyed putting the freshmen through their paces, especially during initiation week.
Plays were a highlight every year, as the Junior and Senior classes performed such selections as "Blarney Street," above, in 1934.

The Board was frustrated and confused by their inability to forge a new denominational link. They had no way of realizing why that door had been closed. With limited resources available, they took a hard look at institutional efficiency. When they discovered a deficit of $3,689.11 in the 1928-29 school year, they demanded that "rigid economy be practiced in all departments in the expenditure of money during the coming year." They described the deficit as "deplorable" and demanded that it "not happen again. We must budget according to our income." They urged all departments, especially athletics, to "cut to the absolute necessities." 4

Shortly after the Board took this strong budgetary stand, the prosperity of the 1920s was shattered. The stock market crash of 1929 precipitated a world-wide economic crisis. By mid-November approximately thirty billion dollars in market value in American stocks had been obliterated. 5 In January 1930, as the impact of the Depression made itself felt at every level of American society, six members of the Cedarville Board of Trustees met in the Exchange Bank building for "an informal conference." Concerned about the financial pressures on the college, they urged President McChesney to advertise the college in certain key church magazines of the United Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Church North, the Presbyterian Church South, and any others he felt might be worthwhile. They were determined to seek students and support for their institution aggressively, even as the Depression deepened. 6

The severe national economic crisis coupled with the bitter disappointment of being rejected by the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. made a marked impression on McChesney. At the mid-year meeting of the Board of Trustees in 1930, he listed as his first recommendation to the Board that they "consider fully, frankly and freely at this meeting the disposal that we shall make of Cedarville College." He proposed four options: close permanently, merge with another Christian institution, become a junior college, or "resolve to maintain a four-year liberal arts college; strive to raise, $750,000 over a period of four years ending with the 40th anniversary of the college." 7 McChesney told the Board they should reorganize their administrative level in such a way that "efficient workers can be put in the field to cultivate and secure contributors of both small and large sums for the raising of the $750,000." 8

Of the four alternatives he offered, McChesney made it clear that he preferred to maintain the college as a four-year institution and raise the $750,000. Following discussion, he made the motion to do so himself! McChesney hoped that at least $250,000 of the $750,000 would be used to construct both a girls' dormitory, and a chapel with administrative offices connected to it. 8

But the real drama of this February 7 mid-year meeting of the trustees had nothing to do
with McChesney's proposals. Unbeknown to the president, significant opposition to his leadership had developed. It first surfaced in the form of a letter dated February 5, 1930, from Rev. R.W. Ustick, D.D., to Board Secretary S.C. Wright, who read the letter to the trustees. This letter revealed that a group of alumni had met in Xenia on December 26, 1929. They had selected Attorney J.A. Finney, Rev. Gavin Reilly, and Dr. Ustick as a committee to make certain recommendations to the college Board of Trustees. It became obvious the alumni were unhappy with the administration. Their key recommendation said:

Moved that the Board of Trustees of Cedarville College be asked to consider the drafting of a constructive policy for Cedarville College and report the same to the alumni. If such policy meet with the approval of the alumni, adequate financial support for its execution will be sought among the members of that body.9

Action on Ustick's letter was delayed while the trustees approved McChesney's fundraising campaign, but Board Secretary S.C. Wright, to whom the letter had been drafted, introduced the subject again. After heated discussion Wright moved that a three-man committee "be appointed to cooperate with the Alumni Committee and prepare a constructive program for the college and report this to the board." The motion was carried.10 Moments later, an enraged Professor Jurkat indignantly resigned as treasurer of the college. The administration attitude of the alumni group, and the obvious sympathy it received from a faction on the Board left McChesney and Jurkat stunned. Rather than accept Jurkat's resignation, the Board merely referred it to the newly formed committee on reorganization. Immediately after tabling Jurkat's resignation, the Board authorized their distraught treasurer to borrow from the Endowment Fund in order to meet current expenses. This marked the first time in the history of the college that the Endowment Fund was invaded. Unfortunately, it would not be the last.

The final action of the Board that day was the appointment of the individuals to compose the special committee to cooperate with the alumni in the development of a reorganization plan. Board Vice President M.J. Marsh, who was presiding, appointed William R. Collins, who had seconded Wright's motion, along with Wright and W.P. Harriman.

Despite the unrest caused by the events of the winter Board meeting, McChesney carried on his executive responsibilities. He called a special meeting of the Board to deal with a series of eight recommendations he had made in a special report. As the men gathered in the Exchange Bank for the meeting, it became apparent that the Board's special committee on reorganization also had prepared a special report. After a tension-filled discussion, the Board determined to hear their president first. McChesney's report began with a recommendation that tuition be raised from $50 to $75 a semester. This significant increase indicated the financial pressure under which the college was operating. McChesney further urged an intensive campaign on the part of the Board and alumni to find new students. This key recommendation was that Cedarville College be returned by the Board of Trustees to the Reformed Presbyterian Church General Synod, if the Synod would guarantee financial support. McChesney believed that a Christian college needed a church constituency.

Instead of acting on their president's recommendations, the Board chose to hear the report of their special committee. Committee Chairman William Collins presented six specific recommendations which reveal the level of dissatisfaction that existed among the alumni and the special committee members. The first recommendation was expected, but the second filled the air with electric-like tension:

First — the college remain at Cedarville. Second — that Dr. McChesney be transferred to the position of president emeritus of the college and retained as a teacher at not less than his present salary. Third — that no member of the faculty or executive officer of the college be a member of the Board of Trustees. Fourth — that a trust company be made treasurer of the college. Fifth — that a constructive financial program be inaugurated and that an executive be secured with that end in view. Sixth — that the Board of Trustees be called in special session immediately to act upon these recommendations and transact any other business that may come before and that an urgent appeal be made to the alumni to support the board's program.11

The essence of these recommendations was obvious. The committee wanted McChesney fired as president, they wanted Jurkat ousted as treasurer, and they wanted both McChesney and Jurkat removed from the Trustees Board. The committee clearly blamed McChesney for the financial problems the school was experiencing. Along with the dissident alumni, they wanted an executive who could develop "a constructive financial program"; the obvious implication being that McChesney had failed to do so.
College Song

Cedarville’s a college in a grand old state,
Builted by the hands of a Maker Great,
Guiding eager students through the open gate
Of dear old Cedarville.
Fitting them for champions of the truth and right
Arming them completely for the coming fight
Leading them to victory over wrong to right
At dear old Cedarville.

Senior, Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, too
Join your hearts and efforts in everything you do
"Onward, Upward!" be your motto still
Follow closely the leading of our
Dear old Cedarville.

I want to go back to old C. C.
The best school in the land
And go to all the games again
And shout Rah! Rah!
To Alma Mater we will pledge
Our love and loyalty
I want to go back, I gotta go back
To old C. C.

At Cedarville College, we get our knowledge
We slinga da ink an’ pusha da pen along.
At Cedarville College, we get our knowledge
We slinga da ink an’ pusha da pen along.
We slinga da ink, da ink, da ink,
And pusha da pen, da pen, da pen,
We slinga da ink an’ pusha da pen along.
At Cedarville College we get our knowledge
We slinga da ink, an’ pusha da pen along.

The College song from 1934.

After discussion the Board determined that the committee’s recommendations should “be acted upon seriatim,” that is, one after another in a series. Recommendation one was then approved with no discussion.

Recommendation two, that McChesney be dismissed as president and transferred to the faculty, was discussed heatedly. The Board was divided and McChesney sat in stunned silence as the trustees argued his fate. He did not utter a single word in his own defense.

Finally, Board Chairman John Orr called for a “rising vote on the adoption or rejection of recommendation number two.” Those in favor of firing the president stood. McChesney sat in silence as trustee after trustee stood. Five voted for dismissal. Now those in favor of retaining their president stood. Though he could have voted, McChesney remained seated, but six others rose in his behalf. Thus, by the narrow measure of 6 to 5, McChesney’s presidency was continued.12 But the division on the Board was obvious, and the implications serious.

Next, the Board unanimously adopted recommendation number three, which in effect dismissed McChesney and Jurkat from the Board of Trustees. Immediately, however, Dr. David McKinney, the former president, stood to his feet and moved that the president and treasurer of the college be ex-officio members of the Board. This motion was also approved.

On committee recommendation number four, Dr. McKinney again intervened and modified the motion to remove the treasurer as follows: “That some suitable trust company be made treasurer of the Endowment Fund and that a separate treasurer be elected for current funds.” McKinney’s modification of recommendation four was also approved. In light of their earlier action to retain McChesney, the Board then rejected recommendation five, and on the motion of Dr. McKinney the secretary of the Board was instructed to communicate the action to the dissident alumni group.13

Having weathered this challenge to his leadership, McChesney was authorized to pursue the matter of re-association with the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church and given full authority to develop the financial campaign for $750,000. His presidency had been preserved, but the financial crisis remained, as did the scars of that meeting.

When the Board held its annual meeting two months later, they adopted a series of
Graduation is just as much a priority and goal today for a student as it was in 1933.

measures designed to enhance Cedarville's financial stability. They hired Rev. G.G. Kerr, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, as business manager and field agent to solicit funds in the $750,000 campaign. After making arrangements to cover the costs of the fundraising drive, they decided that the first $300,000 raised would be added to the endowment. The next $250,000 would be used to build the girls' dormitory, and a chapel-administration building. The final $200,000 also would be added to the permanent Endowment Fund.

It was hoped that by 1934, the 40th anniversary of the opening of the college, the first $300,000 would be in hand. However, even as the Board made their lofty plans for the fund-raising drive, the administrators were struggling with the reality of a budget that exceeded income.

The proposed budget for the 1930-31 school year was $35,000. The breakdown was $22,000 to pay salaries, $7,000 for maintenance and utilities, and $6,000 to cover the costs of the $750,000 fund-raising campaign. Total college income was projected at $20,000, leaving a deficit of $15,000. It was decided to go to the community for this $15,000. The Cedarville Herald announced that the campaign would begin on July 10. The newspaper listed a complete breakdown of the financial needs and editorialized that $15,000 was "a small sum to raise in order to keep the work of Cedarville College going next year; and at the same time enable it to put on and project a campaign far
and near to secure by 1934 the total sum of $750,000 for a building and Endowment Fund.\textsuperscript{15}

In the weeks and months ahead the \textit{Cedarville Herald} kept the community fully apprised of the progress of the fund drive. In four months only $9,000 had been raised. Meanwhile, the trustees were forced to cut their expenditures and borrow $2,500 from the Endowment Fund in order to meet their bills in the '30-31 school year.\textsuperscript{16}

With the Depression deepening, the trustees curtailed the budget for 1931-32, but with an anticipated drop in enrollment and the depreciation in some of the stocks in the Endowment Fund, they were still more than $10,000 short. Again the college appealed to the community for help. Once more the \textit{Cedarville Herald} led the way. By November the \textit{Cedarville Herald} was listing contributors and the amount of their contributions. In December the paper sounded this ominous note: "Four professors are waiting on their December salaries — this in addition to their having taken a cut of from 10 to 30 per cent before on their salaries."\textsuperscript{17} Meanwhile, it had become increasingly difficult for the college to attract students, and the students who came had trouble paying their tuition bills. The trustees investigated the situation at other colleges and discovered they were not the only institution having problems. McChesney's pungent comment to the Board was: "Most of the other colleges of the State of Ohio have increased their indebtedness but have failed to add to their endowments."\textsuperscript{18}

Though their effort to raise money for the Endowment Fund was a failure, the trustees determined to press forward. The field agents were advertising the school and it was hoped that long-range benefits would accrue as a result of their efforts. At the same time, two other colleges who were experiencing difficulty — Rio Grande and Wilmington — investigated the possibility of merging with Cedarville.\textsuperscript{19}

By this time the college was borrowing money annually from its Endowment Fund to meet current expenses. This dangerous practice led to the resignation of J.A. Orr, the oldest living graduate of Cedarville College and a longtime member of the Board. Orr was apparently offended that the Board would not pursue a merger with Geneva College, as well as upset over the practice of borrowing endowment funds.\textsuperscript{20}

By 1933 the financial crisis was easing and Cedarville College, along with the nation, began to emerge from the Great Depression. By 1934 an aura of enthusiasm surrounded the college as it planned for the 40th anniversary of the opening of classes.

A gala celebration was planned for the baccalaureate services. Dr. David McKinney, the first president of the college, was invited to be the commencement speaker. The 74-year-old McKinney accepted the invitation but died very suddenly less than a month before graduation. McKinney had gone to the home of his daughter, Mrs. George W.C. Schubert in Cincinnati, and it was there that he went to be with his Lord. "Death was due to the shock resulting from the disappearance of his little granddaughter, Marjorie Ann, five, who did not return directly from school but had accompanied some classmates."\textsuperscript{21} The child was found unharmed less than an hour after McKinney's death.

McKinney's place at graduation was taken by his son, Rev. D.A. McKinney, who pastored the Oakland Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Ohio. President McChesney and Professor Jurkat accompanied by their wives attended the funeral of the man who had labored so faithfully with them through the years and had stood by them in the leadership crisis. This great man of God had given countless hours of dedicated service to Cedarville College and the cause of Christ. His influence would be missed, especially by Jurkat and McChesney.

2. Ibid.
3. Trustees Minutes, June 6, 1929; February 3, 1933; February 2, 1934.
4. Trustees Minutes, June 6, 1929.
6. Trustees Minutes, January 2, 1930.
7. Trustees Minutes. In referring to the 40th anniversary, McChesney based his anniversary date on the 40th anniversary of the opening of the school instead of the charter, February 7, 1930.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid.
11. Trustees Minutes, April 1, 1930.
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.
16. Cedarville Herald, June 12, 1931; Trustees Minutes, June 5, 1931.
17. Cedarville Herald, December 18, 1931.
18. Trustees Minutes, June 4, 1931.
19. Ibid.
20. Trustees Minutes, June 2, 1932.
Chapter X

The years from 1928 to 1953 were difficult ones in the history of Cedarville College. When the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, in May 1928, relinquished all control of the institution, the college was left without a supporting constituency. Over the years more and more Board members from the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. were elected, until they were in the majority. But despite this deliberate Board realignment, Cedarville was unable to gain the support of that denomination.

The Board faithfully maintained its commitment to biblical Christianity, but the loss of a supporting constituency was a serious blow. Though the dollars provided had been small, the loyalty of the Reformed Presbyterians in providing students and prayer support was missed.

The second event which undermined the institution's stability was the dramatic challenging of McChesney's leadership in 1930. When the dissident alumni group gained the support of the Reorganization Committee of the Board of Trustees in calling for McChesney's ouster, the president's leadership, though preserved by a narrow 6 to 5 vote, was seriously undermined. McChesney was forced to face the many pressures brought about by the Great Depression with the realization that a significant portion of his Board of Trustees doubted his ability to handle financial matters.

In 1934, at the age of 63, the president lost the support of his treasured friend and colleague, Dr. McKinney. McKinney and McChesney had labored together through the
entire history of the college. This was a loss which McChesney felt keenly, particularly since McKinney had been one of his most ardent supporters on the Board of Trustees.

Certainly McChesney made a serious mistake when he allowed the trustees to begin borrowing money from the Endowment Fund. This mistake cost him dearly when Dr. J. Alvin Orr, a longtime Cedarville supporter, withdrew from the Board in protest against the policy.

Though the financial picture improved somewhat in the early years of the New Deal, the fact remained that the college was unable to pay back its loans, and the small cash balance that had accrued between 1933 and 1936 was largely dissipated in 1937. By 1938 the college once more failed to meet its budget. The grand plan to raise $750,000 in the '30s was a dismal failure. No buildings were added to the campus during that ten-year period until Harriman Hall, a residence at the corner of Chillicothe and Main Streets, was purchased during the summer of 1940, just as McChesney was leaving the presidency. The dream of a new chapel and administration building turned to ashes. The dream of building a beautiful $100,000 women's residence hall was replaced by the purchase of an existing home. The dream of $500,000 for the endowment was pushed hopelessly into the background.

In addition to the financial woes experienced by Cedarville College in the 1930s, the decade had been a difficult one in the personal lives of President McChesney and his wife. Early in their marriage Mrs. McChesney had given birth to sons in 1897 and 1899. Both boys died in infancy. In 1910 God blessed the McChesneys with a daughter, Frances, born on July 12. Frances became the joy of their lives. After graduating from high school, she attended Cedarville College, but on May 10, 1931, shortly after her college graduation, she too went to be with the Lord. Her memory was preserved by the establishment of the Frances McChesney Memorial Fund at the college, and through a committal service which was held every year under the auspices of the Y.W.C.A.

Throughout the later '30s, Mrs. McChesney suffered failing health. Finally, on April 28, 1939, the Cedarville Herald announced her death the previous Tuesday. She failed to survive a cerebral hemorrhage that occurred the night before her death. Less than a month later, McChesney resigned as president, requesting that the trustees find a replacement for him no later than June 1941. In his resignation he said, "My life has been given to Cedarville College. I do not regret that I have stayed here. My prayers and the prayers of many others are registered in heaven for Cedarville College. God has blessed us abundantly." He requested that the Board allow him to remain "as a teacher or in some other capacity which you may deem wise" and assured the Board: "As long as I live and am able to do so, I shall serve Cedarville College to the best of my ability." 2

In the same meeting in which McChesney's resignation as president was accepted "with deep regret," the Board passed a resolution of condolence to their president in the loss of his wife. The regret expressed by the trustees when McChesney retired was echoed by the faculty, students, alumni, and community. The faculty, noting his "lifetime of devotion and service," reminded the trustees that he frequently had made tremendous personal sacrifices for the college and its faculty. Consequently, they urged the Board to allow him to continue his teaching responsibilities while providing a healthy stipend for his retirement. When the resolution of the faculty was read into the minutes of the trustees, the Board unanimously resolved to name McChesney president emeritus and retired him with a pension of $100 per month for the remainder of his life. 3

His respect in the community, with its many alumni, could be measured by the fact that from 1932 until his death he was a member of the Ohio Legislature all but two years. He was elected by a wide measure in each biannual election, except in 1936 when a heavy Democratic national ticket carried a different local candidate into office along with the national ticket. Following that narrow defeat, he was reelected each time until his death. 4

His lifelong friend Dr. F.A. Jurkat, who joined the Cedarville faculty in 1895 and worked with McChesney for almost half a century, described McChesney as "affable without being familiar, courteous without being obsequious, and obliging without having an axe to grind." While recognizing his president's dynamic role as professor and college administrator, Jurkat contended that "in profession, Dr. McChesney must be classed as a clergyman, although he never held a charge." 5

Throughout his years as president,
Rev. Walter Kilpatrick, the third president of Cedarville College, served until 1942. He was the youngest president of a college in the United States at that time.

Dr. Ira Vayhinger, fourth president of the College, led the institution until 1950.

McChesney had no greater joy than to travel from church to church proclaiming the Gospel he loved and requesting support for the college he loved. Perhaps the greatest compliment that could be paid to a man was awarded McChesney in an editorial in the Cedarville Herald. After describing him as a "first citizen of his community and of the religious community at large," the editor concluded, "He lived each day what he preached and what he taught as well as what he advocated for the uplift of his fellow citizens."

The Rev. Walter Smith Kilpatrick was selected by the Board of Trustees to replace McChesney. Kilpatrick had graduated from Cedarville before attending seminary. He became president-elect on January 1, 1940, serving with McChesney from that time until September 1, when he officially became full time president.

Kilpatrick was inaugurated on Friday, October 4, 1940. The gala occasion included an address at the inaugural dinner by the honorable John W. Bricker, governor of the State of Ohio. But amid all the celebrating in which representatives from numerous colleges and universities throughout the state and the country participated, there was an aura of melancholy.

Perhaps an honest confession would be acceptable at this time. By the time the monthly check has been received there are other unforeseen things which come up. The college comes off the list, feeling that next month I can pay the college as well as this month. Anyhow one has the feeling that the college will not object as strenuously as the garbage man or the insurance man.

After 25 years of frustration and heartbreak, it would have been easy for the trustees of Cedarville College, chagrined by their own mistakes and the mistakes of others, simply to throw in the towel. Why not lock the doors before becoming responsible for debts beyond one's assets? The answer to that question was an awareness on the part of the Board that Cedarville College had come into existence for a purpose. It had been created as a training ground for pastors, missionaries, and Christian leaders. The trustees believed that purpose was worthy of preservation. The motto of Cedarville College, "For the Crown and Covenant of Christ," was still the foundation stone upon which the institution stood. Though the dream to see the cause of Christ forwarded through the college seemed on the verge of extinction, the trustees persevered. Then, at the last moment, when all other
To subsidize some of the cost of the College and provide jobs for students, the College operated a farm in the late 1940’s.

doors had been closed, God brought the representatives of Baptist Bible Institute of Cedarville.

The Presbyterians felt good about their meeting with the Baptists. They had been absolutely honest as they described the plight of the college. While the uncollected fees owed the school would more than offset the indebtedness, they made it clear that these might be most difficult to collect. They had outlined clearly the repairs needed on various buildings, so the new group would know exactly what they would be facing.

On the other hand, the Presbyterians were deeply saddened by the realization that one way or the other the end was near. For almost 60 years Cedarville College had been a Greene County landmark, with Old Main’s tower rising proudly above the campus cedar trees. They thought of the many traditions that had come and gone through the years. Some remembered being students in the ’20s and ’30s, and congregating at “Doc” Edward’s drugstore. It had been quite a place.

You could eat there, phone or wire, watch the scoreboard windows for a sports results, pay bills (or run them up), leave messages (and laundry), meet friends, make new ones, hold a committee meeting or a banquet, purchase theater tickets (the Opera House), or catch a bus.29

But “Doc” had closed shop and left town 15 years ago.

The third key ingredient in the success of a Christian institution is community support. Despite the heavy number of alumni that resided in Cedarville, Greene County, and the surrounding counties, following 1943 the college never experienced the kind of community support it had previously enjoyed.

With no firm church support, weak executive leadership, and fading community support, the college was unable to withstand the ravages of World War II and the post-War milieu.

The farm that had been purchased proved to be a disaster. Following the war, the influx of students led to additional financial commitments which student costs did not and could not cover. Only a small percentage of the cost of educating a student was provided by student fees. With no financial support coming from church or community, the increase in enrollment merely hastened the process of financial disintegration. Each year the college dipped deeper into the monies in the Endowment Fund.

The trustees did everything in their power to preserve the institution that they loved. In February 1945, they sought $15,000 from the

Roy Jacobs, on the tractor, was manager of the farm. Able-bodied students provided the labor, doing such things as shoveling corn out of a trailer.
alumni and community to remodel campus buildings.\textsuperscript{21}

The trustees even voted to revive football in an attempt to galvanize community spirit. The sport had been discontinued in 1932, after Cedarville absorbed the worst ‘licking’ in college football history. On November 19, 1931, halfback Joe Kershalls of West Liberty Teachers, had scored 11 touchdowns and kicked five extra points as his team trounced Cedarville 137-0! The local newspaper reported, “This unparalleled defeat finished all enthusiasm at Cedarville College for the sport.”\textsuperscript{22} However, with a number of G.I.’s returning from the War, Vayhinger announced that a “crack eleven will be on the field under the tutelage of Coach Beatty.”\textsuperscript{23}

When Cedarville had absorbed its loss at the hands of West Liberty, Lowell Thomas reported the Cedarville College loss to his nationwide radio audience. When Vayhinger announced that football would be re instituted, Dr. H.H. Ables, the mayor of Cedarville, sent Thomas a letter reminding him that 14 years earlier he had poked fun at the tiny college. The commentator acknowledged the letter on the air and once more provided publicity for Cedarville as he announced their plans to renew the sport.\textsuperscript{24}

As the veterans left the Army and returned to civilian life, Cedarville’s enrollment began to climb. Housing needs were met by purchasing government buildings from Patterson Field, but this further drained institutional resources. In May 1948, $20,000 from the Endowment Fund was used to finance a men’s dormitory with the understanding that it would be paid back with 3 percent interest over the next 15 years.\textsuperscript{25}

With the Endowment Fund shrinking, the trustees voted to sell the farm which had been a constant financial drain.\textsuperscript{26} In 1950 the real estate owned in Cincinnati was sold after 50 years in college possession. It was announced that the “funds acquired by the sale of the realty” would “go into other channels of the institution’s financial setup.”\textsuperscript{27}

While the college was liquidating the farm and the Cincinnati property and gradually using their endowment resources for daily operating needs, they were also experiencing difficulty in collecting students’ accounts. One student who was described as being of impeccable good faith served to illustrate the dilemma. His letter, which was read into the Trustees Minutes, admitted that he was not always attentive to his responsibility to his alma mater.

On the international scene, war had already begun in Europe. The United States once more was becoming increasingly concerned about international affairs. At Cedarville, the very day of his inauguration, President Kilpatrick warned the trustees that “the future held for some years an increasing indebtedness and represents an investment towards ‘either—or’ for the life of, or the death of the college.”\textsuperscript{28}

Despite the tremors of impending world war, the \textit{Cedarville Herald} reported that the college would launch a drive for $100,000 during the year 1942. They announced that Ira D. Vayhinger was to be director of the new fund-raising campaign.\textsuperscript{9}

In April 1942, the paper announced that the college had purchased a 200-acre farm, anticipating that it would provide both food and employment for students. A farm manager was to be hired and given faculty status.\textsuperscript{10}

As the $100,000 campaign began to take shape, once more the college appealed to the community for support. This appeal made good sense. Throughout the history of the college, the vast majority of its students had been from the Cedarville vicinity. In 1941 Kilpatrick prepared an analysis of the student body which was published in the newspaper. He reported that the student body stood at 138, with 38 students being from Cedarville Township, 19 from Xenia Township, and 17 from Clark County. Fifty-three of the remaining students were from other areas of Ohio, while only 11 came from out of state.\textsuperscript{11}

In 1908 Cedarville had implemented a Teacher Education Program. The program had been expanded to a four-year normal school course in 1910. Many of the local students entered this education program and then remained in the area as teachers. In 1934 McChesney had reported that 60 of the 150 school teachers in Greene County were Cedarville College graduates.\textsuperscript{12} In 1940 the \textit{Cedarville Herald} reported that 35 of the 187 teachers in Clark County were Cedarville College graduates. One week later the paper rejoiced in the fact that “quite a number of Greene County’s fine young people will be in attendance at Cedarville College this coming year.”\textsuperscript{13}

The \textit{Cedarville Herald} attributed local support for the college to the fact that Cedarville graduates included more than 500 teachers, principals, superintendents, college presidents, and professors who were serving in the State of Ohio. An additional 90 men were
serving in the ministry. Many others were local farmers. For this reason, the paper pointed out, the local campaign would be extended to the entire State of Ohio. 

Surprisingly, in the midst of the planning for the $100,00 fund-raising campaign, President Kilpatrick requested that the Board of Trustees grant him a one-year leave of absence from this office. He wanted to become assistant director of the European Student Relief Fund. Kilpatrick said he would be based in Geneva, Switzerland, and would help "prisoners of war of all nationalities, but especially those of the United Nations interned in Germany." He supported his request with a telegram from Dr. John R. Mott, who urged the trustees to allow their president's participation in this humanitarian venture, and promised that should the Board permit their leader to render this "great Christian service" it would provide "steadily multiplying values for Cedarville College." Anticipating a landslide of positive publicity from the event, the Board of Trustees granted their president a one-year leave of absence. 

Unfortunately for the testimony of Cedarville College, the publicity received was anything but positive. Kilpatrick left Cedarville early in 1943 and went to Toledo. While awaiting his passport he was arrested. The headline that shocked the Cedarville community stated: "Girl Charge Against Young College Prexy." Neither college personnel nor the editor of the Cedarville Herald had details.

Ira D. Vayhinger, who was acting president during Kilpatrick's leave of absence, immediately contacted Attorney J.A. Finney, who was a member of the college Board. Finney quickly sought information from a lawyer friend in Toledo. The Associated Press sent a representative to Cedarville seeking a statement from college personnel as the story gained national attention. The college issued a brief statement which concluded:

Details of the event are not known here at this time. Mr. Vayhinger left Wednesday for Toledo to learn full details of the event that has bestirred this section of the state. Dr. Kilpatrick was not on the payroll after being granted a leave of absence. He has had no official connection with the college since his leaving.

Following his arrest, Kilpatrick was released on a $2,500 bond paid by his brother-in-law. He was then committed to a sanitarium for treatment and observation. Soon he was indicted by a Lucas County grand jury on the charges of rape and felonious assault. "Kilpatrick entered a plea of guilty and was given an indeterminate sentence."

It is unfortunate that one man could damage the respectability of an institution so seriously. The solid reputation that had been built over a period of half a century was jeopardized. In a special meeting held after Kilpatrick's conviction, the Board of Trustees accepted his resignation as president and asked Vayhinger
to continue as acting president until June. But the damage to Cedarville College was immense.19

This local disaster, coupled with United States involvement in World War II, forced the Board of Trustees to give up the campaign for $100,000. In his May report to the trustees, Vayhinger aptly stated, “Cedarville had passed through a year unparalleled in problems and perplexities.”20

By 1943 the major events that would bring the Board of Trustees to the verge of closing the doors of Cedarville College were all in place. Though the actual crisis would not occur for another ten years, the trustees were caught in a hopeless vise.

There are three ingredients that are vital to the success of a Christian college. The first, a strong tie with a group or groups of local churches, had been lost in 1928. Until that time the Reformed Presbyterians had provided dynamic spiritual, moral, and financial support for the institution. The removal of that support and the failure to achieve another strong link with a church body was the first step in Cedarville’s decline.

A second essential ingredient in the life of a Christian college is strong executive leadership. The Board of Trustees helped to undermine the last decade of McChesney’s administration by succumbing to alumni pressure for the president’s removal. The office of president was further diminished by the tragic events surrounding Kilpatrick. The two presidents in the final ten Presbyterian years, Vayhinger and E.H. Miller, were unable to reverse the trend and provide the kind of strong moral and spiritual leadership that was necessary. In light of preceding events, their task was overwhelming.

Things had changed a lot during those 15 years. The Opera House had been used less and less frequently until finally even the college commencement services were shifted to the United Presbyterian Church. The greater popularity of the automobile and improved county roads made it possible for students to commute from other parts of the county and there were fewer students roaming throughout the village. The inauguration of sororities and fraternities had created “small related groups instead of the former single student body.”20 Sports had become more recreational than competitive, though some teams still competed in the athletic conference.

The Presbyterians had hoped things would improve for their school after World War II, but it had not worked out that way. They remembered with pride a remark about the college that had been made by a graduate a decade earlier: “There are many schools where young people can be trained in the completely technical vocations and trades, but Cedarville is one of the too few which always hopes to add the vital ingredients of spirit and character.”21 The Presbyterian trustees wanted that to continue, and prayed that the Baptists would be able to do so.

2. Trustees Minutes, June 1, 1939.
3. Trustees Minutes, May 29, 1940.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. Trustees Minutes, December 8, 1939.
8. Trustees Minutes, October 4, 1940.
10. Ibid., April 24, 1942; August 21, 1942.
11. Ibid., June 13, 1941.
13. Cedarville Herald, August 23, 1940; August 30, 1940.
15. Trustees Minutes, October 2, 1942.
17. Ibid., January 22, 1943.
18. Ibid., February 5, 1943.
20. Trustees Minutes, May 21, 1943.
22. Ibid., April 12, 1946.
23. Ibid.
24. Ibid., April 19, 1946.
28. Trustees Minutes, December 12, 1941.
29. E. Jurkat, College Life, June 9, 1944.
30. Ibid.
31. Ibid.

The fifth president, E.H. Miller, was the last under Presbyterian control, serving until the time of the merger with Baptist Bible Institute.
The Baptist Bible has been strengthened and its ability to serve by the acquisition of Cedarville College which offers degrees in Arts and Bachelor of Science.

Our new facilities include the campus, athletic field, dormitories, and library by a new construction of nine buildings.

With unswerving faith, our programs now include Cedarville Baptist College and Bible Institute.
The new Baptist administration announced the acquisition of the College through this advertisement in the October 1953 issue of THE BAPTIST BULLETIN.

Chapter XI

The meeting with the Cedarville College Board of Trustees had a dramatic impact on the representatives of Cleveland Bible Institute. Though the Cleveland group had been seeking additional space for some time, they had not been considering such a dramatic step! Until now their property search had centered in the Cleveland area, and it took some convincing on Jeremiah's part to get someone to come to Cedarville.' Finally, 'It was decided that there would be no harm in appointing a committee to look over the property.'

Milner's morning roadside devotional the day the Baptists visited had given the men a sense of divine mission. As they entered the village of Cedarville, they were pleased by its wholesome vigor, and the growth potential demonstrated by several new houses. Their first look at the college campus was "impressive" and filled them with an anticipation that continued to build as they awaited their meeting with the Cedarville trustees.

They were moved as they heard the story of how these men sought to save their beloved institution, though lacking a constituency to provide either financial support or students. They realized the Presbyterian Board, composed mostly of alumni, had a deep love for their school and all it had accomplished in its 59-year history.

The Baptists recognized in their Presbyterian counterparts the same commitment to the principles of Christian education that they themselves felt. They realized it was "a mark of real Christian statesmanship on the part of

the trustees of Cedarville College," that they had determined to "seek God's will and ask Him to provide a church or school that would measure up to their standard and take over Cedarville College for its continued operation." The Baptists listened in amazement as the Presbyterians outlined the plan by which "the ownership and control of Cedarville College would be transferred completely into the hands of the new Board of Trustees to be operated without any restrictions or conditions." It was a "breathtaking proposition" from the Baptists' perspective.

As they made their way back to Cleveland, the Baptist Bible Institute (B.B.I.) Committee excitedly discussed the opportunity before them.

If a short time before someone had proposed the theoretical idea of moving B.B.I. out of Cleveland it would have been vetoed promptly and unanimously by the Board of Trustees, but here was something far greater than ever had been anticipated.

Again they recalled Milner's roadside devotional of that morning. It had been one of the most remarkable days any of them had ever experienced! As they traveled, a member of the committee remarked, "This thing is too wonderful and too good to be of any source other than God. It is too much for us, but since it is the challenge of the Lord we dare not refuse to face it."

The entire B.B.I. family had been praying for a campus. Though this opportunity far exceeded their fondest dreams, they had to face the challenge of looking beyond human understanding to face the reality that God had answered exceeding abundantly above all that they had asked or thought.

Three days after the Cedarville visit, on Monday, March 9, the regular bimonthly meeting of the Cleveland Board of Trustees was held. That evening everything else was set aside in order to give full attention to the Cedarville opportunity. The committee thought other denominations were actively pursuing Cedarville, and they were concerned that someone else might seize the opportunity ahead of them. They wondered if they would be able to convince the total Board of the Cleveland school that nothing was hidden in the opportunity that presented itself.

The Board discussed every aspect of the potential move. There were several serious questions. Could the Cleveland Bible Institute take over such a large operation? Would they be able to combine a liberal arts college with a Bible institute? What about the $25,000 needed for anticipated operating deficits? What about the $25,000 that would be needed to prepare the new campus for operation? Could they provide the larger faculty and staff that were required for such a venture? The concluding verse from Milner's March 6 roadside devotional was read to the entire Board: "With us is the Lord our God to help us, and to fight our battles." The vote to accept the Cedarville College offer was unanimous!

The next morning Allan E. Lewis, president of B.B.I., and George S. Milner, treasurer, drafted a letter to the Cedarville trustees on behalf of the Baptist Executive Committee. The opening paragraph announced their decision:

At the regular meeting of our Board of Trustees last night, the Executive Committee presented a report of our trip to Cedarville College, and of the discussion we had with the officers of your Board regarding your proposal to transfer the management and trusteeship of Cedarville College to some educational institution meeting your requirements to continue the operation of it as a Liberal Arts college. We are happy to inform you that our Trustees voted unanimously to accept your proposal and to proceed with negotiations to complete this transaction if your Board should act favorably toward us.

The Baptists went on to express their willingness to agree to the conditions outlined by the Presbyterians. These stipulations had initially been presented to the Southern Baptists, and subsequently shared with the Regular Baptists. Many referred to specific operational matters, but there were two key proposals to which the Baptists agreed: First, that Cedarville College would continue under its original name and would remain an institution for higher learning; second, that the new leadership would accept responsibility for any remaining indebtedness at the close of the 1953 school year. It was recognized that this indebtedness might reach $30,000.

In order to demonstrate their good faith, and to assure the Presbyterian trustees of their ability to operate Cedarville College in accordance with this agreement, the Baptists submitted the following information:

1. The Baptist Bible Institute of Cleveland (which would be merged and become Cedarville College) is approved by the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches which has approximately 650 congregations in all of the northern United States from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Our Trustees are Christian men of high moral character, respected and responsible citizens, and they have carried the responsibility of promoting, financing and directing the operation of this educational institution for the past ten years.
2. Our present assets consist mainly in property owned and used as a Girls' Dormitory, and in office, library, and classroom equipment. The value of this building and equipment is approximately $42,850. Our present assets and our financial stability have given us good credit standing with our Cleveland bank.

In addition to providing the Cedarville trustees with this statement of financial stability, they promised that the college would be continued "as a liberal arts school." They assured the Cedarville group that the school would have the support of the 650-church Regular Baptist Association.

They further indicated their plan would be to offer a Bachelor of Arts degree in a "limited number of major fields" while continuing the Bible Institute Program during the first year. Then they would begin to enlarge the faculty be continuing in prayer that the Lord will lead and direct you in this important decision you are to make. We trust that it will be His will for you to decide in our favor. If your decision should be for us, we shall be glad to make plans immediately for our Board to meet with you and consummate this merger.

Four days later, on March 14, 1953, at 2:30 p.m., the trustees of Cedarville College gathered in Old Main. After opening prayer and the roll call, Earl McClellan outlined for the full Board the efforts of the Operating Committee to find an appropriate group with which to merge. He discussed the contacts that had been made with the Southern Baptists, the Church of Christ in Christian Union, the Nazarenes, the Church of God, and the General Association of Regular Baptists. He pointed out that "for various reasons all had been eliminated but the General Association of Baptist Churches." He recommended merger with B.B.I. and described the meeting that had been held between the representatives of the two schools. He assured the trustees that "every effort was made by the Operating Committee to see that these visitors were fully apprised of the facts of the situation." The Cleveland group, he reported, had voted unanimously to accept the proposal.

A discussion followed immediately. Rankin MacMillan spoke in favor of the merger as did...
Dallas Marshall. All the Board members expressed themselves freely. In spite of all the problems, it was difficult to abandon the college they loved. It had been such a major portion of their lives. Finally, MacMillan, on behalf of the Operating Committee, made the motion that the B.B.I. offer be accepted "subject to negotiation as to details." Karlh Bull seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken. As name after name was called, it became apparent that the Presbyterians were unified in their desire to see Cedarville College pass into new hands. The motion carried unanimously.12

Immediately upon receiving word that the merger had been approved, the Baptists swung into action.

With a confidence borne of the conviction of acting in the will of God, Mr. George Dunn, chairman of the Board of Trustees of B.B.I., began to plan and organize the work like a military commander arranging for a march to victory.13

A small committee was charged with the task of working out the details for the merger. Attorney Jake Frueg, a neighbor of Pastor Jeremiah in Dayton, was appointed to represent the Baptists in the merger.14 Allan Lewis, president of B.B.I., immediately drafted a letter to Ohio Regular Baptists explaining the opportunities provided by the proposed merger:

This fully equipped college is carried on their books at a conservation value of over $250,000. It has been offered to the Baptist Bible Institute for the amount of its current operating deficit. This is under 10¢ on the dollar as the deficit is
estimated at $25,000 or less. With an additional $25,000, or a grand total of $50,000, we can transfer the B.B.I. Day School to Cedarville this fall and operate there the Bible Institute and the beginnings of a liberal arts college and school of education based on the principles and beliefs of Regular Baptists. \(^{15}\)

Lewis contended that to “neglect such an opportunity would be dishonoring to God.” Consequently, the B.B.I. trustees had proceeded, convinced that the Association’s churches “would be inspired by this tremendous opportunity and challenge.” He requested that each church in the Ohio Association of Regular Baptists contribute “$100 or more for this project at once,” indicating there was an immediate need for $15,000 to “consummate the transaction.” \(^{16}\)

After all the necessary documents, including an audit of the Cedarville books, were completed, the Baptist and Presbyterian trustees met in Old Main. This historic meeting took place at 1:30 p.m. on April 4, 1953. Chairman Earl McClellan called the meeting to order and John W. Bickett opened in prayer. Following the audit report, McClellan announced that all alumni of Cedarville College had been informed of the plan to merge with the Baptist group. The alumni had been told they were free to cancel their pledge to the college if they chose to do so. Then, “it was moved by J.A. Finney and seconded by Rankin MacMillan that Article II Section I of the bylaws be deleted.” This section read: “The majority of the members of the Board always to be members of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.” \(^{17}\) The motion passed unanimously.

Next, Chairman Earl McClellan read individual letters of resignation from eight of the Presbyterian trustees.

- Dr. Leslie Dean
- Max Hobbs
- Dr. Harold D. Ray
- Dr. Donald F. Kyle
- Leo Deutsch
- George H. Hartman
- Karl Bull
- Leof Anderson

The motion to accept their resignations carried unanimously.

It was moved by J.A. Finney and seconded by Harold D. Neill that the following Baptists be elected to the Board of Trustees.

- George B. Dunn
- Allan E. Lewis
- Karl Lutz
- Rev. O. Sanborn
- Norman B. Chappell
- Arthur W. Dyke
- William B. Patterson
- Earl V. Willetts
- James T. Jeremiah

This motion carried unanimously.

Chairman McClellan next read the resignations of:

- Dallas Marshall
- David C. Bradfute
- Rankin MacMillan
- Dr. John W. Bickett
- Ralph L. Rife
- J.A. Finney
- Willard W. Barlow
- Harold D. Neill

Their resignations were also unanimously approved.

Allan Lewis, seconded by William Patterson, moved that the following men be elected to the Cedarville Board.

- George S. Milner
- Charles C. Scheetz
- Eugene Smith
- Arthur G. Fezer
- Ezra F. Imhof
- Clyde W. Somers
- Reginald L. Matthews
- J. Irving Reese
- Chester McNutt
- Gerald Smelser

Again the motion carried unanimously.

Earl McClellan then appointed George Dunn as temporary chairman, and McClellan presented the resignation of Harvey C. Auld as secretary and trustee, and McClellan himself as chairman and trustee. With the removal of the final two Presbyterians from the Board, it was then moved by Sanborn and seconded by Willetts that the following officers of the Board be elected: Chairman of the Board, George B. Dunn; Treasurer, George S. Milner; and Secretary, Arthur W. Dyke. \(^{18}\)

In the matter of one and one-half hours, Cedarville College concluded its tenure as a Presbyterian institution and began its existence as a Baptist school. Following the exchange of Boards, Chairman Dunn had all the new Board members introduce themselves to the retiring men, and Dean Leonard Webster briefly outlined the plans of the new administration.

The trustees of B.B.I. were deeply impressed by their Presbyterian counterparts in this unique and historic meeting. The campus was valued well over $250,000 but “the existing Board was not interested in a monetary offer.” \(^{19}\) Instead, they wanted to see Cedarville College move forward “For the Crown and Covenant of Christ.” In effect, they gave the institution to men they felt would maintain its original purposes and objectives.

Quickly the Baptists took their first official action as the controlling body of Cedarville College. They adopted a resolution expressing...
Doctrinal Statement

All officers and members of the Faculty, Board of Directors and Board of Reference are required to sign the following confession of faith each year. Although Baptist views are held of the ordinances and church polity, the Institute functions in friendly fellowship with all evangelical Christians.

1. We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired by God and inerrant in the original writings, and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and life.

2. We believe in one God, eternal, omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent, manifesting Himself in Three Persons — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — one in nature, attributes, power and glory.

3. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and that He is true God and true man.

4. We believe that man was created in the image of God; that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death but also that spiritual death which is separation from God; and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, and in the case of those who reach moral responsibility, become sinners in thought, word and deed.

5. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and rose again for our justification; and that all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood and are saved by grace through faith wholly apart from human merit and works.

6. We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus are born again by the Holy Spirit through the word of God and thereby become the children of God, possessing eternal divine life.

7. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person — the Administrator of the Godhead — convicting of sin, revealing Christ, teaching truth, restraining evil, energizing believers in prayer, worship and service, and is ever present in the believer as Comforter and Helper.

8. We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, His ascension into Heaven, His present life there as our High Priest and Advocate, and His personal, bodily, visible, premillennial return to establish His kingdom on earth and to reign as the only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

9. We believe that any moment the rapture of the saved may occur, when “the Lord shall descend from heaven” to catch up His people to meet Him in the air, and “so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

10. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all the dead — the saved to a life of eternal glory and bliss in Heaven with God; the unsaved to eternal judgment of conscious suffering and woe in the lake of fire.

11. We believe in separation from all worldly practices and in wholehearted devotion to the cause of Christ as the only scriptural basis for a happy and useful Christian life. For this reason we oppose all indulgences in intoxicating liquors, in dancing, card playing, the narcotic use of tobacco in any form, theatre going, membership in secret societies, and all similar practices which detract from a spiritual life.

12. We believe that it is the privilege and responsibility of every believer to be a personal soul-winner and to do his utmost to give the Gospel of Christ to the whole world.

13. We believe that the true, universal Church includes all believers in Christ during this present dispensation and is the body and bride of Christ of which He is the Head. We believe that the local church is a congregation of immersed believers, associated by covenant, observing the ordinances of Christ, exercising the gifts, privileges and responsibilities given in the New Testament, and following a democratic and congregational type of government.

14. We believe that there are two church ordinances: Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, and our death to sin and resurrection to a new life, and that it is requisite to local church relation. The Lord’s Supper is a memorial service commemorating His death until He comes, and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination.

After the transfer of control of the College, the Baptist administration emphasized the similarity in the beliefs and values which both institutions upheld. These similarities can be seen when comparing this doctrinal statement from the 1954 catalog with the declaration which appears on page 25.
their gratitude to their Presbyterian predecessors.

During a brief recess, the Presbyterian men said their good-byes and walked out of Old Main, some of them for the last time. It was a bittersweet moment. The hopeless burden of disappointment that had been building for several years was lifted from their shoulders. However, freedom from the burden had cost them the institution they loved. Now they comforted each other with the conviction that they had done what was best for Cedarville College.

The new Board reconvened with Chairman George Dunn presiding. He read II Corinthians 4 as the standard by which the new Board would operate. Dean Webster then recommended that the Board plan to "operate a liberal arts college with the Bible major" for at least two years, while gauging constituency and student interest in the new school. He indicated eight faculty members plus a dean could handle the new program. The Board instructed Webster to place his recommendations in operation.20

Four days later President Allan E. Lewis announced the good tidings to the pastors of the Ohio Association of Regular Baptist Churches. His letter included pictures of the six key campus buildings on the back. The buildings pictured were Old Main, the Science Building, the Carnegie Library, Alford Auditorium, and Bethel and Harriman dorms. His letter began:

This letter is the record of the moment when a miracle of God's grace took place. On Saturday, April 4, at 3 p.m. the Board of Trustees of Cedarville College, Cedarville, Ohio, resigned in a body after electing in their place the Board of Baptist Bible Institute of Cleveland. At that moment, we took over for the glory of God and the education of our young people, this completely equipped college located at Cedarville, 24 miles from Dayton and 13 miles from Springfield.21

Lewis reminded the pastors that this had been a tremendous step of faith for the college Board. He reiterated the need for $50,000 to transfer the B.S.I. Day School from Cleveland to Cedarville and to meet the existing deficit of Cedarville College. He announced that the new school was to be a "liberal arts college based on the principles and beliefs of Regular Baptists." It would be known as Cedarville Baptist College and Bible Institute.

Lewis indicated that many churches and individuals had already promised support, but urged others to recognize that the need was great and time was short. He reminded his readers, "The few dollars that are necessary today will be multiplied many fold by this investment."22 One month later the Ohio Independent Baptist reported:

Already great interest is being shown wherever the challenge of the Cedarville Baptist College and Bible Institute is being given. Many students are anxious to enroll. Churches are beginning campaigns to raise funds for this fundamental Baptist school. Enthusiasm is running high.23

With hearts rejoicing in the miracle of God in providing a campus, and with a strong sense of commitment to the will of God, the new trustees of Cedarville College began preparation for the following September. As they looked toward their first semester of operation, they realized the task was challenging. They had only limited experience with a day school and no experience with a liberal arts college. A model for a liberal arts institution did not exist in either their state or national church fellowship. For General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, and for the new Cedarville College Board of Trustees, it was truly the dawn of a new era!

4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid., p. 6.
7. Executive Committee of B.B.I. to the Board of Trustees of Cedarville College, March 10, 1953.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid.
12. Ibid.
16. Ibid.
17. Trustees Minutes, April 4, 1953.
18. Ibid.
20. Trustees Minutes, April 4, 1953.
22. Ibid.
23. Ohio Independent Baptist, May 1953, p. 6
Cedarville College, Cleveland School Merge

Beginning adopted by the Trustees of the Baptist Bible Institute of Cleveland and newly elected Trustees of Cedarville College, Cedarville, Ohio.

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ:

Whereas, Cedarville College, Cedarville, Ohio, has had a long and honorable history dating back to its incorporation in 1887, and

Whereas, its Board of Trustees faced the overwhelming problems which confronted it, and other independent small colleges, with Christian courage and determination, and

Whereas, in the exercise of this courage and faith, as well as in the demonstration of Christian humility, they have voluntarily relinquished control of the school, and have elected in their place and stead the Board of Trustees of the Baptist Bible Institute of Cleveland,

Be it hereby resolved:

That we, the Trustees of the Baptist Bible Institute of Cleveland, and newly elected as the Board of Trustees of Cedarville College, do hereby thank and commend the retiring Board of Trustees for their faithfulness, generosity, courage, and humility, and

That we wish to express our personal appreciation to each of these Trustees as follows: Leo Anderson, Harvey C. Auld, Willard Barlow, John W. Bickett, David C. Bradfute, Karlh Bull, Leslie S. Dean, Leo Deutsch, Joseph A. Finney, George H. Hartman, Max Hobbs, Donald F. Kyle,

Immediate
Expansion
Scheduled

Bible Institute
To Make Transfer

BY DALE STEVENS
Daily News Staff Writer
CEDARVILLE, March 16.
—Cedarville college will merge with the Baptist Bible Institute of Cleveland within the next two weeks, it was learned here today.


Be it hereby ordered:

That copies of these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the Board of Trustees of Cedarville College and upon the minutes of the Board of Trustees of the Baptist Bible Institute of Cleveland, and

Be it further ordered:

That a copy of these resolutions be sent to each retiring trustee named herein.

Issued by virtue of the authorization of the Board of Trustees of Cedarville College and The Baptist Bible Institute of Cleveland, on April 4, 1953.

Committee:

Rev. Allan E. Lewis, President
Dr. Leonard Webster, Dean
George B. Dunn, Chairman

The headline of the merger, from THE DAYTON DAILY NEWS, April 4, 1953. The above resolution was presented by the Baptist Bible Institute, commending their Presbyterian counterparts for the way in which they advanced their school by transferring control with dignity.
Chapter XII

News that the Baptist Bible Institute (B.B.I.) Day School would be moving spread among the students even before it was official. When the announcement was finally made, nearly everyone in the student body was “really enthusiastic.” The Hough Avenue Baptist Church, which housed the college, was an imposing structure composed of many rooms in addition to its auditorium. But even this huge facility had become inadequate for the growing needs of the expanding day school program. “The classrooms and offices were crowded; the dormitory and dining room were inadequate.”

The dormitory which housed the students and contained the cafeteria was a one-mile walk from the church and classrooms. That lengthy trek through the crowded lakefront city could be an unpleasant experience anytime, but was especially so in the bitter cold of winter when the north winds howled across the lake and through the city, piling layers of snow on the sidewalks. Crime was increasing on the streets of Cleveland, making the walk a frightening and dangerous experience. The strict rules of the institute demanded that any car which contained a coed also must contain a chaperon; consequently, the young men with automobiles could not come to the aid of a freezing female without violating the standards of conduct.

Though the students were excited about the prospect of a new campus, none of them knew much, if anything, about Cedarville, Ohio. As they walked from class to class, or made their way through the city streets, students would

The first graduating class, the class of 1954, under the Baptist Administration. To show their support, merchants in Cedarville provided the flower arrangements.
James T. Jeremiah, serving as acting president after Leonard Webster resigned, was called to be the seventh president of the school. His leadership stabilized the College, and made it a leading institution in Christian higher education.

look at each other and ask, "Cedar-Where?" Consequently, school officials "hired a bus and everybody who wanted to could come down and look at the campus. Faculty, students, and everybody came down." Among those coming were representatives of the school yearbook and newspaper. They wandered about the Cedarville campus taking pictures and looking over the entire operation. "We were glad we were going to be able to have a college campus instead of meeting in a church."

At the other end of the spectrum was the reaction in the greater Dayton area to the news that the college would be changing hands. On Saturday, March 16, 1953, the lead headline in the *Dayton Daily News* read: "Cedarville College, Cleveland School Merge." The subheading announced in bold print: "Immediate Expansion Scheduled." The article pointed out that the Baptists, who were taking charge of the school, planned to begin slowly but anticipated building the school to "500 students from all over the United States." The *Dayton Daily News* went on to say:

Thus historic Cedarville, which was threatened with the termination after 56 years of operation, is to continue — and will be strong than at any time in its history.

"I'm tickled to pieces," McClellan told the *Dayton Daily News* today. "It means a lot to the county."

The dream of 500 students was certainly optimistic in light of the challenges ahead. From an external standpoint, there was the challenge of gaining support from the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches (G.A.R.B.C.). The Regular Baptists had taken that name as an indication of their allegiance to the orthodox biblical principles of historic Baptists, as opposed to the "liberal theology" permeating the Northern Baptist Convention. Many Regular Baptists wanted nothing to do with the term "liberal," even in the specific context of the "liberal arts" college. Others were not convinced a liberal arts college was needed.

From an internal perspective, there were several major obstacles to getting the new school off the ground. The most immediate problems were moving the Bible Institute to its new location, preparing that new location for the opening of school in September, and acquiring a faculty for the liberal arts program.

These problems were complicated by the resignation of Mr. Allan Lewis as president of the newly merged Cedarville College-Baptist Bible Institute, effective June 8, 1953. When Lewis decided not to move with the school, the trustees selected Dr. Leonard Webster as president. Webster had come to B.B.I. following the resignation of Kenneth Amsler as president and dean in April 1952. He became acting dean when school opened the following September. Then, Webster became president after only one year with the school.

One of Webster's first responsibilities was to attend the G.A.R.B.C.'s annual meeting in the city of Philadelphia, where he outlined the events leading to the acquisition of the Cedarville campus for the Association. He later described his experience at the annual meeting for Ohio Regular Baptists:

Throughout the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, the news concerning God's miraculous provision of the Cedarville College property for the Baptist Bible Institute has been received with much thanksgiving and praise. Many have said that this is a definite answer to prayer. Regular Baptists have long felt the need for a Liberal Arts College wholly dedicated to the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ and operated on a definite Baptist policy.

Following his return from the national conference, Webster and Professor John Stoll moved their families to Cedarville. The July issue of the *Ohio Independent Baptist* announced that the "general offices of the institution have now been moved and all mail should be addressed to Cedarville, Ohio."
The Board of Trustees also "hired vans to transfer all the students and the library books and other school items to Cedarville." Approximately 5,000 volumes were shipped to Carnegie Library, while less than a thousand were left at Hough Avenue for the continuing night school division. On Sunday, August 23, the Hough Avenue Baptist Church was destroyed by fire, resulting in a loss in excess of one-half million dollars. Had the library still been in Cleveland, it would have been totally destroyed.

As the school year approached, it became increasingly apparent that the vast majority of students were going to make the switch from Cleveland to Cedarville. This was particularly remarkable since 40 married couples were involved, creating a serious housing problem in the village. Many students who planned on enrolling in September came early to help remodel, repair, and redecorate the campus. Many worked long hours six days a week to make it possible for the college to open on time.

The task of finding teachers for a liberal arts curriculum was a major challenge. When school opened, however, every faculty position had been filled except one in the Science Department. Shortly after school began, a teacher was found in time for the students to take their science classes on schedule. It was September 16, 1953, when the first students officially entered Cedarville Baptist College. The opening week of school the chapel speaker was Dr. Robert T. Ketcham, the national representative of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches (G.A.R.B.C.). When Ketcham stood to deliver his first message to the student body, many students had not heard that the Hough Avenue Baptist Church had been destroyed by fire. Ketcham told them the story and reminded them that if the school had not moved there would be no school! He said, "God burned your bridges behind you." He then indicated he had been praying for a liberal arts college for the G.A.R.B.C. for 21 years.

Later Ketcham told the trustees the same thing. He reminded them there were plenty of Bible schools scattered across the country, and urged them to stress the liberal arts concept, saying:

There are a number of good Christian colleges in this country but they do not train for Baptist leadership as we feel it should be. God has placed in the hands of the trustees of Cedarville College the terrific heritage, a great responsibility and a real opportunity.

He reminded the men that hundreds of Regular Baptist young people were attending...
other Christian colleges because of the lack of a strong liberal arts school for Regular Baptists. He prophesied, "Barring any misfortune there is no reason why we should not have a thousand students on the campus of Cedarville College ten years from today."

He urged the trustees to emphasize "the liberal arts program with a strong Bible Department and eventually drop the Bible Institute." Ketcham felt it would be much easier to secure support for Cedarville as a liberal arts college. Most churches, he averred, already supported a Bible School in their own area. It would be difficult to get them to support another similar institution.

Ketcham also recommended that the trustees carefully and economically develop their facilities in order to build the confidence of the people in the churches before placing promotional staff in the field. He indicated, "Folks will not give until they see what you are doing with what you have." Ketcham further commented that he had taken several pictures while on campus. He intended to use them to encourage people throughout the country to get financially involved in Cedarville's ministry. But while promising to do all in his power to promote Cedarville College, he again stressed that his hands would be tied as long as Cedarville kept the term "Bible Institute" as part of the name.

The trustees, however, did not act on his recommendation right away. Perhaps their reluctance could be attributed to the fact that 68 students were registered in the Bible Institute division that fall, while only 37 were enrolled in the college.

Shortly after the start of the school year, President Webster announced to readers of the Ohio Independent Baptist that everything had gone according to plan in the opening of the institution; however, he also stressed that money was badly needed. He urged God's people "to bring this need to the throne of grace daily." In December Webster informed the trustees that the college had outstanding bills of $24,074.83 with only "slightly over $2,500 cash on hand." That cash would be needed to meet the December 15 payroll, and there was nothing left for the balance of the month. Webster's announcement did not please the Board. Chairman George Milner, a meticulous businessman himself, expressed the opinion that money had been spent too freely on renovating the property.

Before the Board could recover from the shocking financial news, Milner read a letter from faculty member Arthur Williams in which Williams expressed his dissatisfaction with President Webster, and resigned effective with a time in the "best interest of the school." Webster defended his differences with Williams, but Milner then read another letter signed by several members of the faculty indicating they also would resign if Williams were to leave!

Suddenly, the Board was faced with a crisis that threatened to turn their dream into a nightmare. It was difficult for the trustees to understand either the financial problem or the
In the early days, everyone became involved in some manner, even with building projects. Students, under "Pop" Marshall's direction, help make cement blocks in the basement of Founders Hall.

The President of the College was not exempt from "rolling up his sleeves" and getting in the ditch with the rest of them. It took a "family effort" to maintain the school.
personnel problem in light of the fact that the Board meeting was being held at the First Baptist Church in Elyria, Ohio. Though the college had moved, most Board members still resided in the Cleveland area. It seemed easier for those in Cedarville to travel north than to ship the vast majority of the trustees south to the campus. It became obvious that the questions raised demanded immediate on-the-scene investigation. Therefore, it was unanimously determined:

that a committee of four, plus the chairman, be appointed to meet with the faculty individually and then collectively and then meet with the students as a whole if desirable and that the committee be empowered to make any necessary changes in duties, in operation, and in definition of duties that seemed to be required by the present emergency.²⁰

In addition, the committee was to bring back recommendations for permanent changes to the total Board.

Four days later, on Tuesday, December 15, the committee arrived in Cedarville. They spent three days investigating the situation in detail, and discovered Webster was living in a college residence which he had remodeled and repaired at college expense. He had been given permission to live in the house only temporarily while finding another abode. His contract did not call for a home to be provided, yet he continued to live in the college house, paying neither rent nor utilities. This was only one of the several financial issues that were raised.

Further, they discovered the president's relationship to the faculty and student body had deteriorated to the point that he had virtually no support in the college community. The trustees had named Webster president of the college when he had been with B.B.I. less than a year. The trustee committee became painfully aware of how little they knew about the man. They concluded they had made a poor choice, and relieved Webster of his responsibilities immediately. The committee met with Webster and explained their decision to him. The next day committeeman Gerald Smelser, who was speaking in the college chapel that week, announced the decision to the student body and faculty.

On January 8 another meeting of the Board of Trustees was held in Cleveland. George Milner, who had chaired the committee that went to Cedarville and was also chairman of the Board, presented the following recommendation:

In view of the fact which has been established through interviews during December 15, 16, and 17 when members of the full-time faculty were interviewed, both individually and collectively, and then members of the student body were interviewed both individually and collectively, it became apparent that both faculty and student body have lost confidence in and respect for Dr. Webster. Therefore, the only possible solution which would make possible the continuance of the school through the remainder of this year would be for him to give up his administrative duties. We therefore recommend that Dr. Webster retain the title of president and that he devote all his time and energy to the promotional work of the college, including the raising of funds which we recognize as our greatest present need, this to be conditional upon assurance from Dr. Webster that he accepts these new duties without reservation.²²

Due to the nature of the business to be discussed, the trustees had convened their meeting at 6:30 in the evening. Following the committee recommendation, Webster and the trustees entered into a lengthy discussion. Hour after hour the trustees raised questions and Webster responded in his own defense. Finally, he was excused from the meeting, and the Board determined to send still another committee to Cedarville to try to bring about an adequate reconciliation which would enable Webster to maintain some relationship to the college. The meeting finally adjourned at 2 a.m. with virtually nothing settled.

The second committee of trustees went to Cedarville to meet with the faculty and Webster, and found conditions steadily deteriorating. They urged Webster to make a financial settlement with them, offering him four months salary with immediate termination; but he resisted.²³ By their January 30 meeting, the trustees had sought legal counsel. They were convinced that Webster was in violation of his contract, but even if they had to pay the remaining 30 months of the contract, they felt his resignation and complete withdrawal were absolutely essential. They believed they were "faced with the complete collapse of Cedarville College with irreparable damage to our entire Baptist constituency and the involvement of many young lives." Therefore the Board demanded that Webster submit his resignation "effective June 30, 1954, the intervening time to be considered as leave of absence, including vacation."²⁴

Webster finally agreed. The trustees then commissioned Vice President Jeremiah, who had been assuming increasing responsibility during the conflict, to read a statement to the student body. Jeremiah agreed to perform
Growth in the late 1950's necessitated adding facilities. The greatest need was that of dormitories. In 1957, the college purchased old barracks from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, transported them to the College, and then set them in place, renovating them into what is now the old section of Faith Hall.

Executive responsibilities until a new president could be found.

During the weeks in which the faculty and administration were so unsettled, the economic position of the college continued to deteriorate. Board Chairman Milner projected that the '53-'54 school year would end with a shortage of from $35,000 to $45,000. He expressed his willingness to advance $15,000 of his own to help strengthen the college position with the bank, "contingent upon a real effort (by the Board) to raise the balance."25 The trustees accepted Milner's offer of a loan to see them through this crisis time.

While the trustees, administrators, and faculty were dealing with the leadership crisis, the students were adjusting to life on their new campus. All the girls lived in a remodeled army barracks that had been donated to the college by the federal government in 1948. Shortly after classes began in September, the coeds received an unanticipated reception to Greene County. A crew of Antioch men "raided" the women's residence, hurling a cement block through the dormitory door and creating a deafening din. The housemother called the police and the rowdies fled, but the girls spent the night huddled in little groups in case their "welcoming committee" returned.

In that first year, the faculty and student body were a closely-knit family: "We all helped plan every activity, and that included faculty and students. Because there were so few of us we never thought of doing any activity with just a select few."26 In the spring everyone — faculty and students alike — went to work washing windows, scrubbing floors, and cleaning the grounds to make their campus attractive. When they began work on their yearbook, it was named The Miracle because it was believed that "was exactly what God had done for us by giving us this wonderful school."27

Each table in the cafeteria was set for six students that first year, and the meals were all served "family style." Each week someone was assigned the task of bringing the food to the table, and someone else was in charge of cleanup. When the food was in place and the students were gathered, everyone stood behind his chair until grace was given. On one particular occasion, a young man delayed the blessing by his repeated sneezing. Some have claimed he sneezed 37 consecutive times, but the student body was laughing so heartily it is difficult to imagine anyone maintaining self-control well enough to get an accurate count!

To supplement their cafeteria food, the students prevailed upon the dean and the professors to provide a snack shop. After much pleading a small area in the basement of the Administration Building was provided. The spot assigned was close to the mail boxes, so students were able to munch donuts and drink milk while chatting and checking their mail.

There were the normal college pranks in
those days, and not all of them were performed by students. Professor Reno once took his biology class to John Bryan State Park for a field trip. While there, he ordered two students to dig up a jack-in-the-pulpit, wash the bulb in a stream and eat it. He told them the Indians used it like a potato, but neglected to mention it had to be boiled first or it would set the tongue on fire! The students discovered the truth in a hurry, as their professor laughed. Then Reno invited the two to pull the prank on the rest of their schoolmates. The next day the two distributed small pieces of the bulb, wrapped in wax paper, to each of their classmates as part of a report. Soon there was a mass exodus as the students headed for the water fountains!

The first intercollegiate sport was basketball, which was played in Alford. The team was not very successful, but they had the full support of the college family. They finally won their first game 66-64 while playing Mountain State in West Virginia. The team manager called his girl friend in the dorm to share the good news, and the women “stayed up all night” celebrating. Later in the season, after several more defeats, the Yellow Jackets won a home game, defeating Tiffin by the score of 90-88.

Alford looked like Cedarville had won a national championship as the excited students paraded around the floor with Coach Underwood held high on their shoulders!

In reflecting on those first-year experiences, one student said:

I think we worked harder in school, laughed harder in play, and cried harder when we had to face some of the trials God allowed us that first year. We all helped each other. Each of us were individuals, and we each cared for each other. We were few in number, but we all knew God had led us to Cedarville.

By the end of the first year of existence, Cedarville College had none of the prerequisites for success that were needed. As the new school in the G.A.R.B.C., there had not been time to build a strong constituency base. Unlike other denominations, Regular Baptists were not a convention, but rather a fellowship. Each church determined its own relationship to each approved agency of the Association. Though Regular Baptists could be a great help to the college, it was going to take them time to cultivate and develop the relationship with the churches in Ohio, and even longer to build the relationship with churches in the national body.

Because of the problems with Webster,
Cedarville did not have strong executive leadership. In fact, by the end of the year, it did not even have a president! James T. Jeremiah served as vice president while continuing his responsibilities as pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Dayton. It was impossible for him to manage both responsibilities to the degree that was needed. In addition, the Webster fiasco had not created a framework in which faculty, students, or trustees had been able to place confidence in the president. This leadership void contributed greatly to the first-year crisis.

Finally, the Baptists had not had time to build a solid relationship with the Cedarville and greater Greene County community. Cedarville had not yet “figured out” its new neighbors! The traditional town-gown conflicts were present. For much of its existence, Cedarville College had been a community-based school, drawing most of its students from the immediate area. Suddenly, virtually all the students were from other parts of the state and nation. It would take time to build communications between the college and the community, and in those early days, the development of the community relationship moved very slowly.

Thus, the same three problems that led to the downfall of the college in the Presbyterian years were all very much in evidence in the first year of the Baptist administration. Obviously, changes would have to be made.

4. Ibid.
8. Trustees Minutes, May 28, 1953.
10. Ibid., June 1953, p. 4.
11. Ibid., July 1953, p. 3.
15. Ibid.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid. Three students withdrew from school early in the semester lowering the official enrollment for the first year to 102, according to the official Academic Records of the college. All enrollment statistics referred to have been compiled by Mr. Jack Campbell, director of Academic Records and registrar.
18. Ohio Independent Baptist, October 1953, p. 11.
20. Ibid.
23. Ibid.
24. Ibid.
25. Ibid.
27. Ibid.
28. Ibid.
29. Ibid.

Christian service opportunities were readily available to students, such as singing and traveling with quartets, trios, or the choir. The Ladies Sextette (1958) was one such group.
Chapter XIII

T
here was no apparent reason for Cedarville College to survive its first year as a Baptist institution, save for the grace of God. The situation with President Webster undermined the confidence of the Board of Trustees in executive leadership. Heavy expenditures and low income left a burdensome indebtedness. Faculty morale was at a low ebb, and conflicts between the faculty and Board of Trustees that originated in the executive crisis left wounds that desperately needed to be healed. One trustee described those early days in these terms:

By the end of the first year we were in a bad state of repair ... Because of the confusion and deterioration of the relationship between the president and the faculty, there were just all kinds of stories floating around. The college was broke financially, and there seemed to be no way we could open school the next year. Brother George Milner said that we were so far down that we had to reach up to touch bottom.1

Following Webster’s resignation, responsibility for leading Cedarville College fell upon James T. Jeremiah, vice-president and trustee, who described the situation in these terms:

As the vice president and the member of the Board of Trustees living nearest the campus, I was asked to serve as acting president while we sought for someone to take the office on a full-time basis.2

In actuality, Jeremiah as vice president had done most of the presidential work during the months the Board was negotiating with Webster. When he assumed the responsibilities of the office on a regular basis, he maintained his tie with his local church.

After much work, the campus was becoming very attractive in the late 1950s. Milner Hall was renovated and used as the chapel, and the dining hall was expanded.
These were difficult times for the Jeremiahs, as they were torn between the responsibilities of their regular field of ministry and their burden to see Cedarville College be successful. The Board scraped together some additional funds to provide more secretarial help, and Jeremiah continued to carry his dual responsibilities at church and college, much as Dr. David McKinney had done during his presidency from 1894 to 1915.

Shortly after the initial confrontation with Webster, Jeremiah’s name was discussed as a possibility for the permanent president, but this casual discussion between two trustees did not immediately bear fruit in the total Board. Between the meetings of April 1 and May 3, the Board of Trustees considered no less than seven other individuals for the office of acting president. Many of these men were contacted by Jeremiah himself as he sought someone to relieve the burden he carried.

It is significant to note that as the Board sought someone for leadership, they intended to use the title of “acting president.” Their idea was that a one-year appointment as acting president would enable the Board to discern whether this individual was the person they wanted on an extended basis. The problems encountered with Webster made them reluctant to make a long-range commitment to anyone.

Unfortunately, no one seemed interested in becoming acting president of the college. In fact, when one prospect was contacted, he penned a ten-page letter explaining to the Board why Cedarville College could never succeed. No one was willing to leave an established ministry to come to a struggling operation on the verge of failure.

Finally, in June 1954, the Board focused their attention on the individual who had led them through the trying days of their first year. As a Board member, Jeremiah was present when the trustees first mentioned him as a possibility for the college executive office. He informed his fellow Board members that he would be willing to consider such a position only under four very specific conditions. First, he “would insist that the training offered would be evangelistic in emphasis and that we would train young people in the matter of church building.” Second, he said, “he would not take a job that would keep him from preaching.” Third, he emphasized “the trustees would be responsible to help him get openings in churches.” Fourth, he would require that the college “launch out into a definite direct mail program using

In 1958, students learned modern office technology through this Transcription and Typing class. Classes continued to remain small, allowing for greater interaction with the professor and each other and adding to the ‘family’ type atmosphere which still characterizes Cedarville.
various types of literature to promote the school, and have some sort of printing or offset printer of our own to prepare this literature."

The trustees appointed the chairman and secretary of the Board to formulate a definite proposal to be presented to Jeremiah. In compliance with those instructions, a plan was prepared by which Jeremiah was offered a promotion from vice president to “acting president” for one year.

Since several trustees had been absent from the June meeting, it was not until late in July that the Board finally made the proposal to their vice president. When the Board reconvened in September 1954, Jeremiah was in Decatur, Illinois, representing the college at a youth banquet. Because he could not attend the Board meeting, Jeremiah addressed a letter to the trustees in response to their invitation to become acting president. He expressed his appreciation for the offer, but indicated that he and Mrs. Jeremiah, after prayerful consideration, had no peace about accepting the position. Their reservations had nothing to with the desperate financial plight of the college. Instead, they related to the title of “acting president.” Jeremiah understood why the Board preferred this title:

All of us have gone through enough during the past year to make us afraid to trust anyone for a place of permanent leadership in the school. Undoubtedly it is wise to select an acting president, rather than a president for the college. If he succeeds he can always be made president. If he fails, then he has been only a temporary expedient anyway. Then, too, if a better prepared man comes along, we are in a position to elect a president who can give a higher standing to the college. All of that is sound reasoning and I would not for a moment seek to deny it.

At the same time, however, Jeremiah saw certain drawbacks to the proposal:

The title “acting president” suggests the idea of a temporary arrangement. The Cedarville community and our churches across the country are bound to get this impression. Mail continues to come to the school addressed to two former “acting presidents” of the college. For a number of years the townspeople have been aware of the temporary leadership given to the college. This unfavorable reaction of the people in Cedarville was recently expressed to me by one of the leading citizens.

Jeremiah went on to explain to the Board his conviction that “the college will not be well received in our churches if we do not let them know we are going forward with a permanent organization.” He reminded them “the entire Association is watching. They want to know whether or not we are going to make a success of the college. Certainly any indication of doubtful planning on our part will be received by our churches with misgiving.” In light of these concerns, James T. Jeremiah rejected the Board’s offer to become acting president of Cedarville College.

After writing the letter declining the Board’s offer, Jeremiah left on his trip to represent the college. En route he encountered one of the men who earlier had been offered the position. After talking with him, Jeremiah telegraphed word to George Milner that the individual was now interested in having the office and told Milner where to make contact. Milner presented to the Board Jeremiah’s letter declining the invitation to be acting president and Jeremiah’s telegram concerning the man who was now interested in the presidency.

The Board’s reaction was to reexamine their concept of acting president. By this time Pastor Jeremiah had already been acting president for almost nine months. He had

Jail ministry placed students in a unique ministry experience. Creative means were used, such as a record player as accom­panist, to minister to those behind bars.
been faithfully discharging the responsibilities of the executive office while continuing to carry on his responsibilities as a pastor. Instead of turning their attention to another candidate, the Board did an about-face on their concept of an acting president. “The men who originally were in favor of acting president now made it plain that they felt differently.” The Board unanimously voted to drop the word “acting” and asked James T. Jeremiah to become president of Cedarville College. In reflecting back to those days, Jeremiah has said:

As it would seem, as a last resort, the invitation was extended to me. Many arguments, excuses, and what I considered plausible reasons were given to God as to why such a responsibility should not be mine. The college was almost at an end academically and financially but God repeatedly brought my attention to II Corinthians 9:8: “And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.” In those days, apart from the grace of God, it was difficult, if not well nigh impossible, to fit “all grace,” “always,” “all sufficiency,” and “all things” into the picture.

These were trying times for the Jeremiahs. To come to Cedarville would mean the termination of a highly successful pastorate. His church had just completed a huge building project costing in excess of $112,000. As an established Regular Baptist pastor, he was advised by many of his colleagues not to take the Cedarville job. When visiting his alma mater, Baptist Bible Seminary in Johnson City, New York, Jeremiah encountered two dear friends. Mead Armstrong told him, “It will never go. It will never work. They’ve lost their recognition. They’ve never had accreditation and they have lost their teacher training. Jim, it will never go, it will die.” Several years later, Jeremiah invited Armstrong to join the Cedarville faculty, and Armstrong did so, teaching Theology and Baptist History until his retirement. Dr. Paul Jackson, president of Baptist Bible Seminary, warned: “Don’t take it. Don’t be president of that thing. Don’t do it, Jim, it will kill you.”

But in spite of all the warnings coupled with their own forebodings, Jim and Ruby Jeremiah laid claim to God’s faithfulness, and in the firm conviction that God would honor the words of II Corinthians 9:8, they accepted the challenge of leading Cedarville College. Looking back, Ruby Jeremiah said, “Jim tried everybody he knew to try to get them to come, but nobody would come. I don’t blame them. Really, we didn’t want to either but we didn’t dare do anything else.” With this unshaken confidence in the call of God deep in his heart, Jim Jeremiah resigned his prospering ministry in Dayton, Ohio, and accepted the challenge that in human terms seemed impossible.

By the time the Jeremiahs moved into their rented house on Chillicothe Avenue, the new school year was already under way. The student population in the fall of 1954 was 103. The faculty numbered nine, including Jeremiah, who planned to teach Evangelism, Baptist History, and Baptist Polity.

The Jeremiahs came to Cedarville with faith in God to provide for their needs and the needs of the school, but their faith was very active. They seemed to have a good sense of the concept that faith without works was dead! But they discovered that the work which needed to be done was not always the sophisticated kind of thing you would expect from a college president and his wife. There were times when President Jeremiah was busily engaged with Maintenance Director Pop Marshall in making cement blocks! Some people were critical of this, but someone had to make the cement blocks! Another time he was found shoveling in a ditch; still others recall him driving to Springfield to Reiter Dairy to pick up milk for the cafeteria.

Meanwhile, in addition to being a homemaker, Mrs. Jeremiah was also the college printer. But in her new enterprise, she had only a few of the tools of her trade. “There was an old broken down typewriter, a mimeograph machine that seldom worked, and a hand-operated addressing machine.” Jeremiah asked the trustees to purchase a Multilith for his wife. When they refused because money was so scarce, Jeremiah bought it himself. He installed it in his basement, which became the official print shop.

Eventually the trustees caught a vision of how important advertising was and purchased a new machine which was much easier for Mrs. Jeremiah to operate. She taught students how to handle the equipment in order to assist her, but many times she ended up with ink on her hands and elsewhere, including her nose! President Jeremiah had purchased the original Multilith machine from an elderly gentlemen in Springfield, who came to Cedarville daily for two weeks to teach Mrs. Jeremiah how to do the printing. By the time her tenure as printer was completed, she was so accomplished at the task that she was
Chapel was an important hour of every day, giving the College family an opportunity to concentrate on spiritual feeding. (1962)

Patterson and Williams Halls were added to the campus between 1959 and 1961, providing more dormitory space for a growing student body.

producing four-color brochures! Mrs. Jeremiah continued in her printer's role for many years, until one day her husband came home and told her: "You're fired." In reflecting upon her dismissal, Ruby Jeremiah said it was "the happiest news" she had heard in a long time!7

Those early days were a real struggle, not only for the Jeremiahs but for all those involved in the ministry of Cedarville College. The finances continued to be very, very sparse. Often, when Jeremiah was out on meetings, he would call back and ask his wife if there was enough money to pay the bills. "She would go to the office and find out if we could pay salaries, and we always tried to get the faculty and staff salaries paid."18 Frequently, the faculty was paid but the president had to wait. The first summer after becoming president of Cedarville, Jeremiah went six weeks without a salary. When asked about this, Jeremiah's reply was, "We got paid too, but we waited a while sometimes."19

There were many challenges in those early
days: the challenge of advertising for financial support and students; the challenge of building a stable faculty; the challenge of developing and maintaining a campus on limited funds; and the challenge of making the liberal arts concept palatable to a church constituency somewhat suspicious of anything containing the term liberal!

Jeremiah considered developing the faculty his first priority. Several members of the original faculty had not completed their graduate programs and were anticipating further study. It was difficult to retain teachers due to the low salary scale. By the end of the first year, the faculty was a troubled group. Finding new faculty members, however, was a real problem. "There were not too many teachers knocking at the door," since Cedarville was not yet an established institution.

During the 1953-54 school year, Cedarville lost its most noted faculty member. Dr. Frank Albert Jurkat was the only member of the Presbyterian faculty who chose to continue with the school when it became Baptist. Jurkat was known throughout the community and to the young Baptist students as "Old Cedarville." He had joined the faculty in the fall of 1895, and was invited to continue on the faculty by the Baptists in 1953. "He taught Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French, German, and History and conducted approximately 24 classes a week, though some of his classes were limited to one or two students." Jurkat devoted his entire life to Cedarville College. Heritage Alumni claim he used to stand outside his classroom and pass food to students he felt were in need. He served cheese and crackers at his exams because he believed students performed better on tests with a little something in their stomachs. Carl Smith, a 1925 graduate, described Professor Jurkat as by far the most popular professor on campus.

When it became apparent that the school was going to have to merge or close its doors, Jurkat looked forward with anticipation to the new leadership. When he realized that leadership stood for the very principles for
which Cedarville College had come into existence, he was thrilled. "He was hilariously happy that a school like ours was taking over the college. That's something I'll never forget about him. He was truly excited about it."23

When Cedarville became a Baptist school, in spite of his age, Jurkat continued to teach. On February 22, standing in his beloved office, he suffered a paralytic stroke while reaching for a Greek text. Six weeks later, on April 5, 1954, he went to be with his Lord. By this time he had spent almost 59 of his 77 years as a Cedarville College faculty member.

Through the years one of the marks of Cedarville College has been a dedicated faculty and staff, many of whom have devoted the majority of their adult life to the institution. It is highly unlikely, however, that any will match the record of years of service given to the college established by Frank A. Jurkat. The students, addressing a portion of their yearbook to Jurkat, concluded: "We humbly thank God for the fellowship He has privileged us to have with this one who has meant so much to our school."24

The dedicated men and women who came to the faculty and staff of Cedarville College became critical to the success of the institution. By the 1958-59 school year, with 164 students in the student body, the faculty reached 15. By the 10th anniversary of Baptist ownership, in 1963-64, the student body had risen to 501 and the faculty stood at a towering 33.

As the faculty and student body continued to grow, new buildings were erected to meet the expanding needs. Sometimes those buildings were restructured from old army barracks, as in the case of Faith Hall. Usually students were actively involved in the building because the college could not afford construction wages. In describing the growth of Cedarville and the erection of Faith Dormitory, a Springfield newspaper reported:

Estimated cost of the new dormitory is $25,000 a figure which is hard to believe in these days of costly construction. But the reason can be found on the Cedarville campus where even the college president, James T. Jeremiah, may be seen driving a truck, making concrete blocks or pouring concrete.

Student and faculty volunteer labor has made possible many Cedarville College projects and a concrete block making machine donated by friends of the college saves on material on construction jobs.

Students will be employed on the dormitory project during the summer months under the supervision of Gerald Marshall, building superintendent.25

In those days the college did not have an electrician; consequently, William B. Patterson, one of the trustees who had experience in this field, would drive from his home in Cleveland to Cedarville each weekend to work. He spent his summer vacation and most of his weekends doing wiring in the new Faith Hall project on the college campus. He also shared in wiring much of Williams Hall.26

When the barracks arrived in Cedarville at the beginning of the Faith Hall project, many in the community were horrified to see those battered buildings being placed on the lot next to their lovely new high school addition. They were relieved when the barracks became a lovely brick residence hall.

Thus, faculty, administrators, trustees, and students shared in the development of Cedarville College. The college became a mission project for ladies' groups who made curtains and many other necessary items needed on the campus. In this manner the college grew materially, but at the same time developed a spirit which to this day characterizes it: a spirit of family unity, a oneness of purpose and goal. Dedicated men and women labored together under the direction of James T. Jeremiah. In a very literal sense, the students, faculty, administration, and supporters built Cedarville College.

1. Arthur Dyke. Taped Reflections, November 1985. Another trustee, Gerald Smelser, indicated that several students were convinced the college would not open the second semester of that first year. Gerald Smelser, Taped Reflections, October 1985.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
16. Ibid.
19. Ibid.
20. Ibid.
22. Carl Smith to Gary Kuhn, September 24, 1982.
25. Springfield Sun, June 10, 1957. The Xenia Gazette, Dayton Journal Herald, and Dayton Daily News also ran lengthy articles, complete with "before and after" pictures.
Chapter XIV

Formal notification of his selection as president of Cedarville College had come to James T. Jeremiah in a letter penned by Board Secretary Norman B. Chappell. In that letter Chappell stated:

As you know we are anxious for the Lord's will for ourselves and for you, and we believe that your acceptance of this position would do more to strengthen and ensure the future development of Cedarville than any one thing that this Board can do.¹

Future events proved the Board was absolutely correct in this assessment. Jeremiah began leading by example. His dedication and hard work became a model for those around him. He was "a very frugal person about spending for himself or the college." With careful planning and hard work, the college gradually stabilized financially, although tremendous needs remained. Jeremiah aggressively petitioned Ohio Regular Baptists for funds. He constantly urged the churches to get behind the college with their financial support. In taking inventory of the progress of the college for the readers of the *Ohio Independent Baptist*, Jeremiah reported in 1956 as follows:

From January 1st, 1955 through December 23rd, 1955, $43,687.52 has been given by churches and individuals for the support of the school. This does not include money which has been given to the college for debt retirement, organ fund and so forth. As we compare the gifts for 1955 to those received during 1954, we are happy to report that over $11,000 more was given in 1955 than in 1954.²

While seeking financial help from Ohio churches, Jeremiah continually reminded the Regular Baptist constituency of the importance of "Baptist schools for Baptist youth." In a lengthy article, he reminded his brethren that the best way to preserve the Baptist heritage

Homecoming 1964. The entire village takes interest in the annual parade as it passes through town.
was to have Baptist churches and Baptist missions staffed by graduates of Baptist schools. He urged Regular Baptists to support not only Cedarville College but other approved schools of the Association. He reminded them that Baptist schools needed their money and students in order to gain accreditation, recognition, and the prestige needed in the academic community. This theme, expressed graphically in March 1956, was one that Jeremiah was destined to repeat again and again from the pulpit and with the pen in the years ahead.

The first catalog which the Baptist administration issued gratefully acknowledged their Presbyterian background:

> Although Cedarville College has a Reformed Presbyterian background and the Bible Institute has always operated as an institution approved by the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, it is astounding to note the oneness of spirit of purpose which has characterized each school.

Both institutions were established by groups of Bible-believing Christians with the primary motive of providing training of the highest scholastic standard with a definite biblical emphasis and without compromising Christian convictions and conduct.

As evidence of its standards the seal of Cedarville College bears the inscription Pro corona et foedere Christi ("For the Crown and Covenant of Christ"). This is in perfect accord with the doctrine of the Baptist Bible Institute which is definitely premillennial and therefore teaches the second coming of Christ when He shall be crowned and shall reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.

While keeping the Cedarville seal exactly as it had been under the Presbyterians, the Baptists added their school verse, Colossians 1:10: "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God." They also added the school motto: "For the Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev. 1:9). Both the verse and the motto were part of the heritage from the Baptist Bible Institute days. Though the school name was never officially changed, the initial Baptist catalog called the institution Cedarville Baptist College and Bible Institute.

By September 1954, the faculty recommended that the Bible Institute division be terminated. In January 1955, the trustees eliminated that program when President Jeremiah reported that no inquiries had been received for the following September. At that point, Jeremiah indicated that Cedarville would provide more Bible training in the four-year college course than had been included in the three-year Bible Institute program. The president informed the trustees that he planned to advertise this important fact in the Ohio Independent Baptist and other key publications. Subsequently, the college dropped the term Baptist from its literature, simply using the name “Cedarville College,” defining it by 1956 as “a Baptist College of Liberal Arts.”

The removal of the term Baptist from the college name was simply a reflection of the desire to maintain the original charter and identity of the college. In reality, inserting the term had been a temporary measure to develop an identification for Regular Baptists. Once that identification was established and the Bible Institute was dropped, it was logical to remove the term Baptist from the traditional name.

Cedarville College continued to gain recognition among Regular Baptists in the months ahead. Two important events greatly aided in this process. The first occurred in June 1958, when the 27th annual conference of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches met in Columbus, just 45 miles from Cedarville. Eight hundred messengers came from all over the United States to attend the conference. The evening meetings ranged in total attendance from 1,500 to 2,500.

With so many Regular Baptists congregated close to campus, it was inevitable that Jim Jeremiah would find some way of getting them to Cedarville! For months he had been traveling mile after mile to the churches with the Cedarville story. All those preachers and all those messengers in one place were too much to resist! He arranged for bus loads of Regular Baptists to come to Cedarville on the Wednesday afternoon of the conference. Ruby Jeremiah stayed home and she and Miriam Maddox prepared ham and potato salad, which was served in Alford Auditorium. A tremendous crowd gathered as bus after bus arrived from Columbus. The next month the Baptist Bulletin reported: “On Wednesday afternoon the Association made a trip to Cedarville College. A crowd of over six hundred and fifty were served a lovely lunch and enjoyed a sight-seeing tour of the buildings and grounds.” This happy occasion was used to introduce literally hundreds of people to Cedarville College.

In those early years of appealing to Regular Baptists for support, Jeremiah, the pastor who had become president, learned many important lessons. One of the most significant related to
In 1962, the College built the Student Center-Gymnasium. From the day that the student body outlined its perimeters to its being used daily as the gym and dining hall, it symbolized the growth of the school and the blessings of God.
finances. In the local church, a desperate need could be met by appealing to people who understood the problem and were familiar with the circumstances. However, appealing to churches across the nation required a different approach. "I learned that you don't send out letters of despair if you want a response. The answer to that kind of thing is. 'If they are that bad off, why should I give to something that's going to die.' I learned that lesson early on."

This knowledge became an important part of the second key event in introducing Regular Baptists to Cedarville College. In 1958 the Baptist Bulletin, the official organ of Regular Baptists, was a struggling journal. Jeremiah recognized the value of that publication in circulating word of Cedarville College. He entered into a verbal agreement with the editor to place a Cedarville advertisement on the back of the Baptist Bulletin each month. For years every issue carried such an advertisement. With the passing of years, the quality of those advertisements bore testimony to the development of Cedarville College as an educational institution, and Regular Baptists watched the progress on the back of their national magazine.

As Cedarville grew, Jeremiah was aided by the faculty, staff, and students in carrying the message of the validity of liberal arts study to the Regular Baptist constituency. As the link between Regular Baptists and the college was nurtured, more and more students learned the value of receiving their liberal arts education in a Christian atmosphere. The institution continued to trumpet the message that "spiritual vitality and academic excellence are not opposite and unreconcilable extremes. They can and must be a part of any Christian college. The trustees, faculty, and administration of Cedarville are committed to the emphasis of both."10

Thus, under Jeremiah's leadership, Cedarville College carefully forged its link with Regular Baptists. This became a significant factor in the dynamic story of Cedarville's success. The first key to success that had been lost by the Presbyterians in 1928 was now once more firmly in place.

A second important link that needed to be reforged was the relationship to the community. This task was complicated by several factors.

First, the Village of Cedarville was, in many respects, a Presbyterian community. The college had been placed there because many of the town's first families were descendants of the old Scottish Covenanters who came to America and gradually migrated westward through the Ohio Valley. For most years of the college's existence, it had drawn the vast majority of its students from the immediate vicinity. In fact, in 1920 the Cedarville Herald announced: "Every member of the Cedarville High School's graduating class this year will enter Cedarville College except one."11 Cedarville was an important railroad stop, which enabled students from nearby villages to commute.

In later years the popularization of the automobile and the development of the American highway system enabled people to leave the area and head for "distant places," like Dayton or Columbus, for their education. But the link between the college and the community remained strong.

When the Baptists arrived, though their student population was small, virtually all the students came from areas other than Cedarville or Greene County. Many were from northern Ohio, the previous location of the Bible
College Boys Give Blood To Follow Team

By FRANK CRAWFORD

KANSAS CITY (AP) -- Some 80 businessmen raised enough here with Jaeger, said "We need to see if we can sell their blood for "guests" last night in a room where only two Cedarville students were registered.

"We had our last full meal."

"Guys were sleeping everywhere."

"If you got a card that proves you are 21 and a blood type, where," a student said, "but if you have a card that proves you aren't going to die for money to pay the bill."

"We thought we looked hungy and gave us some rolls. A few minutes later he came out with two quarts of milk and said that's all you need," said Lowell Wood, in the bathtub, every night.

"Guys were sleeping everywhere."

"If you got a card that proves you are 21 and a blood type, where," a student said, "but if you have a card that proves you aren't going to die for money to pay the bill."

"We thought we looked hungy and gave us some rolls. A few minutes later he came out with two quarts of milk and said that's all you need," said Lowell Wood, a junior.

The basketball team headed to the NAIA Championship Tournament in 1964, one of only four times in the College's history. Students, wishing to cheer on the team, went to Kansas City but did not have any money to return. The solution? Sell blood. The wire service picked up the story, and newspapers across the country, from Phoenix to Columbus, featured the "spirit" of Cedarville College.

Institute. As the Baptists developed the college, their emphasis was national, not local.

A second complicating factor was the denominational change. Cedarville was the home of two Presbyterian churches, and their denomination was genuinely important to them. While they were happy to see the school continue, it was natural that they would have preferred to see it continue as a Presbyterian institution. Though there were many similarities between the Baptists and the Presbyterians, the Baptists were not always careful to develop the doctrinal links that existed between the two bodies. The Presbyterians, on the other hand, had to adjust to the loss of "their" school.

A third complicating factor was the emphasis of the new Baptist student body, though in many respects this was merely a return to the traditional emphasis of the Reformed Presbyterians. The Baptist students were characterized by an intense evangelistic fervor and missionary zeal which some in the community felt was excessive. At the same time, there was a marked movement in the college community back to the traditional strict standards of a fundamentalist school. "Many of the older residents welcomed the return of the college to its original purposes, but many of the younger citizens of the

The Women's Basketball Team of 1963.
community, reared in a more liberal atmosphere, were highly critical.\footnote{12}

Finally, the people of the Village of Cedarville knew little of the theological currents in the Baptist denomination. At the time of the transition, there was not even a Baptist church in the village. The townspeople did not understand such issues as ecclesiastical separation, which were important to the Baptists. This new group, with their unique doctrinal and theological emphasis, seemed very strange to the local citizenry.

In spite of these obstacles, the community extended a warm welcome to the college. The first graduation service under Baptist leadership was held June 14, 1954, and received front-page treatment in the Cedarville Herald. A large picture accompanied the article which detailed activities of the day. The platform was decorated with over 30 baskets of flowers which local businessmen had given to honor the graduates on their special day.\footnote{13}

In subsequent months the villagers watched with interest as the new administration sought to stabilize the struggling school. When enrollment reached 119 in 1955, the Dayton Journal Herald began an article on the college with these words: "In the welter of back to college news, a small Greene County college has been somewhat overlooked."\footnote{14} But gradually the Village of Cedarville and the greater Dayton community began to notice the "small Greene County college." They watched with interest as old army barracks were hauled into town and converted into a beautiful women's residence hall. Lead stories in both Xenia and Dayton papers showed before and after pictures and marveled at the transformation. The Springfield papers began to carry feature stories on the institution.

On Sunday, February 8, 1959, the Dayton Daily News, in its section on Valley News, headlined its article "Greene County Can Lay Claim to Own Big Four." The Big Four referred to the four colleges located in Greene County. Cedarville College, with its record enrollment of 255, was one of the Big Four! The article pointed out that "throughout the state only the metropolitan centers of Cuyahoga (Cleveland), Franklin (Columbus) and Hamilton (Cincinnati) Counties share the honor"\footnote{15} of having that many institutions of higher education.

Though enrollment exceeded 250 by 1959, campus life throughout the '50s continued to be characterized by the reciprocal relationships of a large family. As much as possible, the family tried to do everything they could to help their school. The workdays that were instituted in 1953 continued through the remainder of the decade. "Because we were small, we worked together. People were really willing to give of themselves."\footnote{16}

One faculty member who illustrated the "spirit" of the campus was Jean Fisher, who joined the faculty and staff in 1956. Fisher, a registered nurse, had a degree in Christian Education from Baptist Bible Seminary in Johnson City, New York, and joined the faculty to teach that subject. In addition to teaching a full academic load, she served as school nurse. She also was head resident in the girls' dormitory, not to mention hostess and supervisor of the family-style meals in the cafeteria. As nurse, she even made "house calls" when students were too sick to come to her!

Living conditions in the dormitories were often unique in the '50s. While some buildings were exclusively residence halls, frequently a building was used for other purposes as well. Perhaps the most unique situation was found in what is today Collins Hall. In the late 1950s, the third floor was a men's dormitory. The second floor contained classrooms, while the bathroom facilities were in the basement. Male residents of the third floor who slept late had to be sure to wear a robe to the shower because they had to walk past occupied classrooms!

Christian service in the '50s included street meetings in Cedarville and Jamestown, jail services, meetings and personal contacts in rest homes, and regular Sunday services in several wards of the Veterans Administration Hospital in Chillicothe.

For the musicians there was an annual choir tour. In the spring of 1957, the choir took an infamous trip to New York State which was destined to be remembered as "the tribulation of Jeremiah." Earlier, the college had purchased a bus for campus groups to use for such trips. Pop Marshall was the bus driver and also chief mechanic. It seemed that everything that could go wrong did go wrong, with six breakdowns, a blown tire, a fire, and ultimately a blown engine. But tough old Pop Marshall, with the help of a parent, Hugh Carr, replaced the engine and the tour continued.

The faculty was an integral part of the family in those days. Because the total campus population was so small, everyone knew each other. A favorite form of entertainment was
“skit night.” The students would perform skits in which they imitated the faculty, but the teachers would respond with skits which mocked the students! Intramural sports featured competition between classes, and the faculty usually fielded a team too.

The intramural program helped build loyalty to one’s class, but the most important factor in building class allegiance was “freshman initiation.” Though the freshmen did not get shaved heads as in the ’20s, they were forced to spend initiation day with an onion strung around their neck. The sophomores spent the day forcing the freshmen to “grovel” before them, but most of those who endured the process felt it built a real sense of class spirit. The next year those who endured had the privilege of “doing to others.”

Occasionally, as in any family, discipline was necessary. One of the most frequently used punishments was “campusing.” Usually three days in duration, this meant one could do nothing but go to classes and meals. Conversation with members of the opposite sex was forbidden, and leaving campus was not allowed.

As enrollment increased countless changes marked the face of the campus. While the community observed with interest, Patterson Hall was erected largely by student labor, and Quality improved in the Science program with the building of the first observatory in 1965. The present Science Center now houses a 16 inch telescope.
Milner Hall was bricked, expanded, and remodeled. The dining hall, then located in what is currently the Post Office, was enlarged to handle the expanding student body. All this occurred in the summer of 1959. The next year Williams Hall was added to the campus. This new two-story structure was capable of housing 104 students. The summer of 1962 saw the erection of a new gymnasium which, it was announced, would also house "a recreation hall, a snack bar, a bookstore, and a student lounge,"17 That same year Alford Memorial was remodeled into an auditorium to seat 650 students. On December 1, 1962, students Paul Gathany and Dave Jeremiah began broadcasting on WCDR. The first program was a live play-by-play broadcast of a basketball game between Grace College and Cedarville in Winona Lake, Indiana.

The student population in September 1962 reached 455, and Cedarville College was ready to celebrate its 75th birthday. The *Xenia Gazette* did a special 75th anniversary section in their edition of Wednesday, November 14, 1962. On the front of the insert was a picture of Old Main. In addition to the 75th anniversary and the dates was the Scripture reference "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase."

In honor of their 75th year, the college invited area residents to a special meeting in

"Socks and Buskins" of 1965. Performing various plays every year, this drama club, under the direction of Miriam Maddox, provided a creative outlet for interested students.

Milner Hall and an open house on the college campus. A special pageant entitled "As the Cedar Grows" was written by Miriam Maddox and presented in Alford Memorial Auditorium. Businesses in the community published large advertisements of congratulations for the college. Several articles trumpeted the story of the new developments that were characterizing the old school.
But the growth in the student body and the physical plant had just begun. Through the ‘60s the story of progress continued. Even potential tragedy turned into success for the prospering institution. When flames destroyed the Rife House, a men’s dormitory, the insurance money was used to purchase Cedar Park, a sizable new apartment complex on the south edge of the village.

Another large building program was introduced in March 1966. This $1.5 million campaign featured a new dormitory, which when erected was named Maddox Hall in honor of Dr. Clifford Maddox, and a new library designed to hold over 45,000 volumes. When the library was ready for occupancy, the students and faculty literally carried books by the handful from the old facility to the new. This “book parade” saved several thousand dollars in moving costs, and was one of the more interesting events the community observed as they watched the college continue to expand.

Along with the growth in the physical plant was the obvious growth in the student body, faculty, and staff. Literally hundreds of people poured into the Village of Cedarville each September, and not all of them went home in June. Many stayed to become an integral part of community life. Faculty members began to share responsibilities on the village council and other local committees. Their children participated in sports and became a part of the community school system.

At the same time, the development of the Cedarville College athletic program provided exciting athletic contests, not only for the student body but also for the community. In March 1964, the Yellow Jacket basketball team upset the Steubenville Barons to win the NAIA District 22 Championship. This gained them a berth in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics National Tournament which was held annually in Kansas City. The Xenia Gazette the next day reported:

> It was the greatest single athletic event in the Baptist school’s brief history last night, as the heavily favored and much taller Barons were beaten in every phase of basketball by the aggressive Cedarville quintet, which won for the 19th time this year against only five setbacks. 18

The Cedarville student body enthusiastically supported their team by traveling to Kansas City. However, several of the students who went were not sure they could get back! In their eagerness to accompany the team to Kansas City to support them in the national tournament, some failed to check their cash reserves. The headline in the Kansas City Times on March 11, 1964, read: “Cedarville Fans Are Red-blooded.” Though the story was a lengthy one, the first two paragraphs told it all:

> Even the most fanatical basketball fan at Cedarville College in Ohio would never suggest that he stands ready to die for the school, but if it is just a matter of a little blood, he’ll go.

> Yesterday a group of students from the Baptist school in Cedarville, Ohio, here to watch their team play in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Tournament, went to a blood bank at 440 Main Street to augment their meager cash reserves.19

The story of the students selling their blood for $15 a pint was picked up on the wire services and appeared in dozens of papers throughout the country. Unfortunately, the Yellow Jackets drew the top seed in the tournament and were eliminated in the first round. But Cedarville students had demonstrated just how far they would go in support of their school!

17. Xenia Gazette, August 24, 1962.
Chapter XV

As the Village of Cedarville, Greene County, and the greater Miami Valley watched, Cedarville’s student body grew through the entire decade of the ‘60s until, by 1969, the student population reached 927. This was almost five times as many students as had ever been enrolled when the school was in Presbyterian hands, and nine times larger than the original Baptist student body! The rapid development of Cedarville’s physical plant and student body placed serious pressures on the academic program. In the early years, it was difficult to attract faculty and staff because of unstable financial conditions and low salaries. Following the resignations of two faculty members in 1957, President Jeremiah expressed his concern to the Board:

I have been praying that we could keep all of our teachers this year but it appears we will have some changes in our faculty. I hope we can build a faculty which will stay with us and one which we will desire to remain with us. Any suggestions you may have which will help us locate faculty members will be greatly appreciated. Now we need teachers in Bible, English, Greek, modern languages, social studies, biology, and music.¹

Since the faculty numbered only 15 in 1958, and Jeremiah described a need for no fewer than seven new teachers, it is obvious that Jeremiah’s concerns were well founded.

A stable and capable faculty was a prerequisite for the academic recognition sought by Cedarville College. From the day the Baptists assumed control, they were concerned that the college gain proper accreditation. Though some Christian institutions feared state and national accreditation would force them to compromise their spiritual values, Cedarville did not. Instead of assuming that problems would be encountered, Jeremiah and

In 1968, The Phil Donahue Show, then a local talk show in Dayton, featured Cedarville and two of its students, Dan Stevens and Darlene Fitch Murdoch, while many from the College looked on.
the Board determined to press forward and do everything in their power to gain the accreditation which would add so much to the value of the degrees offered.

The first step taken by the Board to gain academic recognition was to investigate the reestablishment of teacher certification through the State of Ohio. Teacher education had been a vital part of Cedarville’s program since 1908 when two- and three-year courses were introduced. In 1910 a four-year normal school program was added. This education program was the backbone of the college for the remainder of the Presbyterian years. It continued throughout that period with only one interruption: In 1930-31 Cedarville was denied the right to certify teachers because of inadequate reference volumes in their library holdings. That year the seniors were certified through Wittenberg College. But the problem was solved in time for Cedarville to return to the good graces of the State Department for the next graduating class. Late in the Presbyterian years the declining financial condition of the college ultimately caused the state to withdraw the right of teacher certification from Cedarville.

Consequently, in early 1954 two faculty members went to Columbus to investigate the possibility of reinstituting the certification program. Chairman George Milner reported to the Board: “They were told that a half million dollars in endowment in addition to property is necessary.” The faculty continued to study the problem in the days ahead. In October 1955, the Board of Trustees discussed a series of faculty recommendations which could pave the way for teacher certification. The Board found it impossible to meet the faculty recommendations, but agreed “we should make an effort to fill these as soon as possible and make an appeal to the state to be accredited. We should acquire a faculty that will be acceptable to the state. The most important position to be filled is dean of education.”

One year later the college hired Dr. Clifford R. Maddox as academic dean. Maddox had a vast reservoir of experience as supervisor and assistant superintendent of the Thornton Township High School and Junior College in Harvey, Illinois. His leadership in the academic area was vital to the development of
the institution in those formative days.

At the same time Maddox was being added to develop the academic program, the trustees designed a proposal to meet the state requirement for a productive endowment of $500,000. They pointed out that an endowment of $500,000 invested at four percent would yield $20,000 income for an institution. This was less than half the amount the college received in gift income between July 1, 1955 and March 31, 1956. Therefore the trustees contended: "Instead of an endowment of $500,000, we have, in the gifts received from individuals and churches, an endowment of over one million dollars." While this argument made good sense to the Cedarville College Board and to Ohio Regular Baptists, it did not appeal to the state.

Ohio's position was stated by Dr. R.M. Eyman, superintendent of Public Instruction. He argued, "There was no evidence of a contractual relationship and no assurance that individual churches would continue to contribute in the future as they have in the past two and one-half years." Further, he submitted that though there were over 700 churches in the denominational Association which supported the college, only 70 of those churches were located in the State of Ohio. This, he said, "leads me to the conclusion that the college is more interested in preparing teachers for other states than for Ohio." He next pointed out that none of the faculty had earned doctorates and that their preparation seemed "better in theology" than in any of the liberal arts or education program areas. He felt the secondary curriculum of the school was weak and further argued that the college was substandard in all respects "with the possible exception of housing." He concluded that the State Board should reject Cedarville "until such time as they were able to meet the endowment requirement."

Despite this disheartening news, the college continued to offer a limited number of education courses, and Cedarville students continued to find their way into the classrooms around the nation. Obviously, however, the situation was woefully inadequate.

During this period President Jeremiah had been furthering his own education. He had completed a bachelor's degree at Central State University, and his involvement with that institution led to the development of a program that proved to be beneficial for both institutions, but especially for Cedarville.

The administrators of Central State University granted Cedarville students the privilege of taking education courses there, while taking all other courses at Cedarville. Central State then accepted all Cedarville credits and conferred the Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. At the same time, Central State courses were transferred back to Cedarville, enabling the student to receive a Bachelor of Arts Degree from there. In addition, the students received State of Ohio teacher certification through Central State University. Both degrees and the teacher certification were obtained in the normal four-year period usually required for one degree.

This new cooperative program made it possible for Cedarville students to receive the certification which was so important if they wanted to teach in the public school system. The working agreement with Central State University was vital to the development of Cedarville College by enabling the institution to offer a program which met a real need in the Christian community. Though a temporary measure, it was of great significance.

In 1962 Dr. Clifford Johnson, an elementary school principal from the State of Washington, was hired as registrar. "Dr. Johnson actually came here from Seattle, Washington, for the express purpose of organizing and inaugurating the teacher education program." Johnson went to work on his project immediately. He arranged to visit the state assistant superintendent of Public Instruction. By this time state representatives were weary of hearing from Cedarville, and Johnson's initial contact began rather roughly: "I got chewed out for about ten minutes, but I just tried to keep my cool. When he was all done, I asked him if he would be willing to help us do what needed to be done." The assistant superintendent agreed to help. He visited the Cedarville campus, after which he gave explicit directions to Johnson.

In accordance with his directives, Johnson prepared a brief study and requested permission to begin granting the Bachelor of Science Degree in Education in June 1963. The State Board of Education did not grant this request; however, they gave the college permission to begin offering education courses in the fall of 1963 with the understanding that they could grant the degrees in June 1967. Jeremiah said the event was "one of the big days in the short history of Cedarville College and brings to life a ten-year dream." Cedarville's first elementary education
graduates left the institution in 1967, right on schedule. However, secondary certification was delayed until 1968, while the college improved its science facilities.

By this time other forms of recognition were being gained by Cedarville College. On March 30, 1963, the Ohio College Association voted to give Cedarville associate member status. The next year the college became a full member of the Association. When Bowling Green State University, Central State University, and the University of Dayton officially agreed to accept Cedarville's credits, the college was listed in the Directory of Higher Education of the United States Office of Education. The college also joined the Council for the Advancement of Small Colleges.

Concurrent with their efforts to achieve teacher certification through the State of Ohio, the Cedarville Board of Trustees, administration, and president had been pointing toward regional accreditation through the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

The process of self-study for regional accreditation forced the college staff to examine every aspect of the program. This resulted in tremendous improvements, not only in the academic fields but in every other area of institutional life. Through the years Jeremiah built an administrative team that would help achieve the new and lofty goals of the developing institution.

In addition to the aforementioned Johnson, Jeremiah added Kenneth H. St. Clair, who arrived in 1959 with the initial assignment of establishing the business field. As head of the Business Department, St. Clair developed the foundational program for what was to develop into Cedarville’s largest major. In October 1963, St. Clair was named business manager of the college. For two years he carried both jobs, until finally the growth of the college necessitated his devoting full time to managing its business affairs. He continues, however, to teach one course in business. St. Clair developed the staff and system of the Business Office, and has provided tremendous stability in this area.

The third member of Jeremiah’s administrative team was Dean of Students Richard McIntosh, who replaced Dr. Arthur Williams in this role in 1960. During his tenure, McIntosh expanded campus health services and established the Financial Aid Department. He was responsible for Christian service until that became a separate department. In 1970 McIntosh returned to the
Bible Department faculty and Don Rickard became dean of students. Where McIntosh and Williams had been primarily educated in theology, Rickard's graduate work had been in student services. Under his leadership the Student Personnel Department became a significant force in meeting students' social needs on campus. Student activities, which had been a part-time position earlier, was expanded to full-time, and a wide variety of activities and opportunities were provided for the students. In addition, Rickard instituted the Counseling Department which ministers to numerous student needs. Recently, his department established a Placement Office to help graduates locate employment.

In 1964 a fourth member of the administrative team was added. Lee C. Turner left the pastorate and became Cedarville's first director of the Development Office. In that position he laid the foundation for many of the programs that continue today, including the President's Associates and planned giving. Turner also introduced the Torch magazine which has remained a valuable source of information for supporters and friends of the college.14

For the remainder of the '60s, no further administrative positions were added. However, in 1970, with the growing responsibilities involved in Christian ministries, Harold R. Green came to Cedarville as director of Christian Service. In this capacity Green serves as pastor of the campus fellowship, which provides Sunday and Wednesday services for the students who do not have transportation to area churches. Green also coordinates a vigorous ministry program which extends to many areas of the state, and a Missionary Internship Program which has sent hundreds of students throughout the world on short-term mission ministries.

While Jeremiah continued to travel among the churches, he was "willing to allow his
managers to manage without close supervision." Over a period of time, each of these managers developed his staff and program in a professional manner. This maturation in every area of the college community was essential to positioning the institution for regional accreditation.

Meanwhile, because of the post-World War II baby boom, the 1960s witnessed a tremendous increase in college enrollment throughout the United States. By the end of the decade, over half the nation's population was below 30 years of age. A vocal segment of the new generation was determined to challenge the political, cultural, and social mores of their parents. The student rebellion that began in 1964 on the campus of the University of California at Berkeley quickly spread to other campuses. The three focal points of radical student action were poverty, racism, and war.

Early campus protests focused on poverty and racism, but by the mid-sixties Blacks, Indians, and Mexican-Americans were organizing in their own behalf, and campus activists began focusing on the Vietnam War. The mood became increasingly hostile and ugly with such slogans as "Hey, Hey, LBJ, how many kids have you killed today?" Campus anti-war protests continued into the Nixon administration and Ohio became the focal point in May 1970, when rioters firebombed an ROTC building on the Kent State University campus. When the governor sent troops to the university, the resulting conflict ended with guardsmen opening fire, wounding 11 students and killing four. The next week two Black students were killed at Jackson State University in Mississippi, and campuses throughout the nation erupted in riots.

Along with their political protests, the students led a cultural revolution in which they sought to overthrow standards ranging from dress and hair style to music and sexual conduct. Intellectual justification for this aspect of the revolution was found in such influential volumes as Theodore Roszak's *The Making of a Counter Culture* (1969). Folk ballads of social protest became popular with the "flower children," but in the mid-sixties, the tone of music became more radical. Rock, and later acid rock, glorified drugs and promoted sexual freedom. This cultural revolution was epitomized by the Woodstock Concert, a three-day concert, drug, and sex orgy attended by 400,000 youths.

Cedarville College students were never a part of the nationwide campus rebellion. The closest thing to controversy at Cedarville in the 1960s revolved around the old town bell. The bell had once been the signal for a fire in the village, but had been dormant over 20 years since being replaced by a siren. The village council donated the bell to Cedarville College at the request of the junior class. The juniors, who removed the bell from the tower of the Village Hall-Opera House, hoped to present it to the college as an official victory bell. Plans were made to install the bell in the tower of Old Main, and college officials planned to "ring the bell regularly, so that once again the citizens of the Village of Cedarville can hear the tolling of their beloved bell." However, a group of village and township citizens vehemently protested the giving of the bell to the college. They raised such a commotion that the college eventually asked the village council to let them return the bell. The bell was then stored on village property.

As the national election of 1968 approached, the Cedarville students staged a mock election to elect the president of "Cedar What?" For several weeks before the election, candidates argued over campus issues, using phrases typical of the national candidates. Just a few days before the banquet when the election was to be held, Black student Ken Hammonds announced his candidacy. Using the familiar slogans of George Wallace, he told the college family there was "not a dime's worth of
difference" between his opponents. In this
satirical way, the Cedarville College
community "protested" racism and Hammond
won a landslide victory. The banquet featured
a "riot" on the part of student couples who
protested the many lights on campus and the
lack of benches. As they were whisked away
by "security," they chanted "down with the
lights, up with benches" to the cheers of
hundreds of students!

The Cedarville student body had little use
for the concept of campus protest. Several
students expressed this to a staff writer for the
Dayton Daily News, who summarized their
views in an article entitled "Campus Protest
Revolting to Cedarville Students."18 The author
concluded his analysis of Cedarville students
by admitting that they were not as atypical as
might be thought, given the loud protests
taking place on many campuses:

Cedarville's rules against mini-skirts, smoking, drinking, dancing and card playing do
seem a bit anachronistic. But the students' views on campus protest are not as unusual as
you might think.

From a survey of 301,488 entering freshmen
at 435 colleges and universities last fall, the
American Council on Education estimated that 'more than half of the nation's 1.5 million fresh-
men believe 'most college officials have been
too lax in dealing with student protests on
campus.'"

The survey showed that only 16 per cent of
the students had protested against their school administrations in the past year, 7 per cent had
protested against racial discrimination and 4.6
had protested against the Vietnam war.

But one of the biggest percentages in the na-
tional survey — 82.5 — was on a question on
objectives. That group said their most impor-
tant college objective was "to develop a philoso-
phy of life."

In talking to Cedarville students, one gets the
impression the philosophy of life is pretty well
developed.19

The next fall, however, Cedarville students
finally staged a demonstration. Tuesday,
October 14, 1969, was set aside for anti-war
demonstrations throughout the nation. In
response, a "positive demonstration" was
staged by Cedarville students. The Xenia
Gazette described it:

Support of the Nixon Administration,
whether in agreement with its Vietnam war
policies or not, was the appeal to the Cedarville
College student body as the school's Vietnam
Prayer Band conducted a "positive demonstra-
tion" on Moratorium Day around the flagpole
this morning.20

Another kind of "positive demonstration" was staged in the spring of 1971. "Marching
with the conviction and dedication of 'soldiers
of the Cross,' students and faculty members of
Cedarville College Tuesday staged a 'Walk-A-
Thon' to Springfield which raised $17,320, in
pledges for the Baptist College in Greene
County."21 With the college motto "For the
Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus
Christ" emblazoned on a large banner carried
at the front, approximately 500 marchers made
their way north along Route 72, finally
arriving at Springfield's Cliff Park where they
were addressed by President Jeremiah before
being bussed back to campus.

One week later, in an editorial entitled
"Cedarville's Smiling Activists," the
Springfield Sun indicated the Walk-A-Thon
"was conducted under circumstances not only
remarkably well-mannered but remarkably
good-natured."22 The editor contrasted this
tone with the atmosphere on other campuses,
and said:

Perhaps the Era of Ill-Will in the groves of
academe is passing, except for a few isolated
pestholes like Berkeley. But it has not as yet
been replaced by any other identifiable mood;

hence the Cedarville demonstrators furnished a
contrast startling enough to be dramatic.23

The editor felt the Cedarville family had not
only raised money for their school, but also
scored a very positive "public relations" coup:
The Cedarville Baptists were intent upon per-
forming a service for their college; almost inci-
dentally, as it were, did it turn out to be a service
for casual onlookers, reminding them of some-
thing almost forgotten in a turbulent world:

that when good works really work, they remind
us of how much human happiness they can
generate. As Presbyterians put it in their first
article of faith — and as Baptists certainly con-
cur — man's chief end is not only to glorify
God but to "enjoy Him forever."24

2. Faculty Minutes, June 2, 1910.
3. Trustees Minutes, July 7, 1930.
4. Ibid., March 8, 1954.
5. Ibid., October 8, 1954.
6. Ibid., October 8, 1955.
7. R.M. Eyman, Report to the State Board of Education, May 15,
1956, p. 8.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
16. Kenneth H. St. Clair, as quoted in the Xenia Gazette, January 14,
1967.
17. Ibid., February 21, 1967.
19. Ibid.
23. Ibid.
24. Ibid.
Chapter XVI

While Cedarville College was making a positive impression on the community in the '60s and early '70s, it was not doing quite as well with the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Despite obvious weaknesses, the college applied for regional accreditation in 1964, but the request was denied.

At the time of application, only two of 33 faculty members, Clifford Maddox and Clifford Johnson, had earned doctorates. Several others were involved in graduate programs in the mid-sixties, so the outlook for continual improvement in faculty credentials was excellent.

In 1967 an issue which had been debated on the campus for some time came to a head. The controversy involved the Genesis account of creation. While the entire college community agreed with the biblical position that God created the heavens and the earth in seven days, there was disagreement on what constituted a day. Some felt strongly that the days of creation were literal 24-hour days. Others were equally convinced that each day could represent thousands of years, or an "age."

The day-age controversy had been argued in the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches for some time, but no official position had been taken. Militant 24-hour-day supporters, however, continued to urge the Association and its approved agencies to take a stand on the issue.

When Cedarville trustees met on January 14, 1967, rumors circulated throughout both the campus and community that the issue would be discussed. That day, a Dayton paper quoted a student who said many on campus were

Students avidly participated in walkathons to raise money, walking either to Springfield or Xenia. Such student enthusiasm helped to promote the College in the Miami Valley.
concerned that adoption of the 24-hour theory by trustees for the school would result in the loss of both faculty members and students.”1 The student went on to say many feared such a decision “would handicap the college in its campaign to reach several important goals — particularly accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.”2

In spite of those fears, the following Monday evening, every member of the college family received a letter from President Jeremiah indicating that the Cedarville College trustees had adopted the position that the days of creation were solar, or literal days.

Many faculty members addressed letters to the trustees concerning the decision, and concerned faculty were invited to meet with the Board in Columbus, Ohio. Several faculty attended the meeting and expressed their disagreement, but the decision stood. As a result, three members of the teaching staff resigned, including one of only three who held doctorates on the faculty.

In spite of the unrest caused by the day-age controversy, the college continued to grow. Enrollment climbed to 865 in the fall of 1968, and a record of 927 in 1969. By the fall of 1968, there were ten doctorates on the teaching staff. This represented 18 percent of the total faculty. By 1971 the percentage of doctorates had risen to 33, and the student body reached 970.3

In the spring of 1969, a modest but important project was undertaken. The Dawson Company of Yellow Springs was contracted to excavate a six-acre lake. This project included “the lake, a dam, initial preparation of athletic fields, tennis courts and track.”4 This $32,000 project signaled the beginning of campus development on the 80-acre farm which had been purchased during the 1962-63 school year. A baseball diamond, an all-weather track which surrounded a soccer field, and six tennis courts were built. These provided outstanding facilities for the improving intercollegiate athletic program. Intramural fields enhanced the internal recreation programs provided by student services.

In the fall of 1969, Cedarville announced plans for a $2 million building project that was to include a new science center and a new dormitory, which was to be the first building constructed on the farmland to the north. Ground was broken for the Science Center in October 1971, and the building was occupied in the fall and winter of 1973. The main floor which included “three chemistry, two physics, and a physical science and geology lab,” as well as a lab for independent study work was opened first; while the basement, which housed “three labs, a classroom and an individual study lab”5 was completed and occupied later. The building and equipping of the new Science Center and the addition of several new science faculty demonstrated that the college was determined to develop this important area.

In the early years of the Baptist administration, Cedarville College had made a commitment to the liberal arts at a time when the Christian community was still focusing its educational emphasis on the Bible School and Bible Institute. That visionary emphasis had been vital to the institution’s success in the ‘50s and ‘60s. At the same time, early involvement in the social sciences laid the foundation for the subsequent movement toward professional programs such as public administration, urban studies, prelaw, and criminal justice. The establishment of a business department in the late ‘50s provided the framework for such popular majors as accounting, business administration, and most recently, computer information systems. The decision to invest heavily in science, along with these other areas, helped create the unique niche Cedarville College occupies in fundamentalist higher education today.

Viewed in the perspective of time, Cedarville’s application for regional accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in 1964 was premature. The school had neither the financial resources nor the physical plant needed. Though theological objectives were clearly delineated, the same was not true of educational objectives. Qualified faculty were needed in every discipline.

Nevertheless, it marked a critical juncture in the history of Cedarville College. First, it is significant that the Cedarville trustees and president were willing to seek regional accreditation. Many segments of the fundamentalist community were firmly convinced that regional recognition would require spiritual compromise. Rather than make this assumption, the Cedarville team determined to do all in its power to meet all standards and requirements. They recognized the college could refuse accreditation if spiritual compromise was demanded.

Following their rejection in 1964, college
Students confronted Madelyn Murray O'Hare, the infamous atheist, on a local television show.

Leaders were sensible enough to realize that the accrediting bureau had uncovered very real weaknesses. Consequently, following North Central's advice, they hired consultant George Arbaugh, who in 1965 began visiting the campus twice each year. With his counsel and the direction of Academic Dean Clifford Johnson, the faculty and administration mobilized for an in-depth self-study which analyzed every aspect of the college. In the process the faculty and administration carefully evaluated the institutional objectives. By 1968 they formalized those objectives as they stand today:

The purpose of Cedarville College, a Baptist college of arts and sciences, is to offer its students an education consistent with Biblical truth.

To achieve this purpose the college seeks to accomplish the following objectives:
1. To undergird the student in the fundamentals of the Christian faith, and to stimulate him to evaluate knowledge in the light of Scriptural truth.
2. To encourage growth in Christian character in each student, and help the student accept his responsibility in faithful Christian service.
3. To increase the student's awareness of the world of ideas and events which have produced and are influencing our contemporary culture.
4. To offer opportunities for academic specialization and preparation for graduate study.
5. To assist the student in selecting and preparing for a vocation.
6. To prepare the student to participate con-

In 1973, the College sponsored “Cross Country for Christ,” as 30 runners alternated in running from the Pacific to the Atlantic.
Cedar Day continues to encourage various antics about campus. Even in 1973, fun-filled, yet competitive, events "brought out the best in students."
What Really Happened On the East-West Tours?

By Linda Litbcow

The walk-a-thon this year is raising funds for many worthy causes on the Cedarville College Campus. One of the most worthy of these causes is the installation of a full-scale, Olympic size, completely equipped Water Balloon Fighting Field.

Due to the warm weather here, there has been a rash of water balloon fights going on, which commonly take place between Maddox and Bethel dorms; this is where the prospective court will be built. The court will be a balloon fighter's dream come true. It will be open-air, with rubber walls — in case of a balloon missing a person it will bounce off on the ricochet and attack once again. Also, balloons of finest elastic, giant size water buckets, sponges (in case of balloon shortage), long garden hoses, and... get this... shower booths which can be used for anyone playing dirty — right Bethel Boys?! The court will be open any time after dusk sets in and will be dimly lit for camouflage purposes. The court will also be open during especially hot days for reason of "cooling off".

So fellow Cedarvillites, let's see our water balloon fighting court become not just a dry, lifeless dream, but an aquatic reality!

Unassuming Billionaire Tours Prominent College

By Julie Monie

An advance public relations man for Howard Hughes has just confirmed the intentions of the billionaire to visit the Cedarville College campus. Mr. Hughes, a distant relative of Dr. James T. Jeremiah, president of Cedarville College, will tour the prominent Ohio college the week of May 8. On the ninth he will be the guest chapel speaker, his topic being the subject of tithing. Of the college Mr. Hughes has said that he personally would... (continued on page 6)
Built in 1972, the present Science Center fulfilled a need for adequate science facilities on campus. It was then dedicated to being used for the ministry of the College during Homecoming 1974.

structively in our democratic society.
7. To foster the student's appreciation of a participation in wholesome avocational and cultural activities.8

By 1971 Cedarville was ready to finalize its status study and present it to the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. This time the application was not for regional accreditation but rather candidacy for membership. In 1972 North Central, in recognition of the progress achieved by the institution, granted the status of Recognized Candidate for Accreditation. "This recognition implies that the college is allowed three years to apply for full accreditation."7

Once more the college family returned to the process of self-study and self-evaluation, recognizing it as a prerequisite to excellence:

The faculty and administration restructured the Self-Study Committee in 1973 and commissioned it to execute the most thorough evaluation program in the history of the college. This was done with the distinct desire to make self-evaluation a continuing and long-range process.8

The longer the college family worked toward
North Central accreditation, the more firm the conviction became that no compromise of spiritual values would be required.

A significant part of the self-study was devoted to presenting the biblically related, Christian aspects of the purposes of the college. The presentation of this section demonstrated that the Christian college which operates within a biblical and Christian framework is definitely an option in our nation’s total culture and that no apology or compromise need to be made.9

From November 25-27, 1974, examiners from the North Central Association visited the Cedarville campus to evaluate carefully every aspect of the college. Students, faculty, staff, and administration were questioned. Records were checked. Library holdings were evaluated. The relationship of the athletic program to the total mission was considered. Upon completion of their investigation, the five-person committee prepared a report which was sent to North Central for consideration at their annual meeting.

Dr. Clifford Johnson and Dr. James Jeremiah traveled to Chicago to deal with any final questions. Everything progressed nicely until one North Central representative looked at President Jeremiah and said: “If we give you accreditation what would you do if someone on your faculty told you he didn’t believe your doctrine anymore?”

Jeremiah looked him directly in the eye and said, “We’d fire him.”

Silence engulfed the room until the man smiled, nodded, and said, “That’s exactly what ought to happen.”10

The challenge had been faced. Compromise was not necessary. A Christian college could require faculty to be committed to a doctrinal position. A college firmly committed to orthodox Christianity could be and was given full regional accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

Following the formal announcement of regional accreditation by President Jeremiah, Clifford Johnson explained its significance:

Accreditation means that no longer will there by any questions about the transfer of credits or entrance into graduate school. Alumni and friends of the college can confidently recommend Cedarville, particularly to those who are looking toward medical, dental, or law school.11

Regional accreditation not only meant a great deal to every student who ever graduated from Cedarville College, but it also was significant to the community. Following word of regional accreditation, the Xenia Gazette, in its editorial columns, commended the college for its noteworthy accomplishment:

Twenty-two years ago the faltering institution became a Baptist college after many years as a Presbyterian school. Its birth in 1887 is reported to have come about because the village was “a stronghold of Reformed Presbyterians.”

From its inception to the present, the institution has produced many of the area’s most dedicated professionals, especially in public education.

Conversion to a Baptist college in 1953 under the leadership of Dr. James T. Jeremiah breathed into it fresh vigor of the staunch Baptist variety. It also drew many of that denomination’s leading educators to the Greene County area.

The accreditation evaluation team cited the school for its “strong teacher certification program at both the elementary and secondary levels.”

Cedarville is to be congratulated.12

Word of regional accreditation led to great rejoicing on the Cedarville campus. For the faculty, administration, and staff it meant the satisfactory conclusion to a decade of work. For the student body and the alumni it provided degrees that were much more valuable. For the future it signaled the opportunity to move forward to new heights of excellence “For the Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ.”

2. Ibid.

The Jeremiahs celebrated their 20th anniversary with the College in 1973. The Board presented Dr. Jeremiah with a portrait of himself, and a motor home, so that the Jeremiahs could pursue their love for travel.
Devastation hit the Miami Valley on April 3, 1974, as a tornado destroyed much of Xenia, a town eight miles south of Cedarville. The tornado hit campus as well, taking the roof off of Patterson Hall.
Disaster Team that they replaced their makeshift ambulance with a gleaming new 1971 Ford van laden with equipment and supplies that the student volunteers need in their rescue work. They have also converted a big trailer truck into an emergency shelter. It’s equipped with 300 cots, blankets and food rations. This was the first time in the history of the Red Cross that equipment had been assigned to a group on a college campus. The Dayton area chapter of the national Red Cross used the Cedarville College group as a prototype college disaster team in attempting to encourage students on other campuses to move in the same direction.

In the same period, men’s and women’s athletics began to make their mark throughout the state. The athletic picture in the early ‘60s was, as one area newspaper described it, “a one-man show.” Don Callan “shouldered, along with athletic director duties, the coaching robes of four sports.” The Springfield News-Sun went on to describe the history of sports at Cedarville in these terms:

If a sports poll had been taken at Cedarville College in the early 1960s, everybody would have recognized the names Ruth and Aaron. They were biblical characters... of course. But if this small Baptist school 15 miles south of Springfield on Route 72 was not sports-conscious 15 years ago it has made up for lost time with a growing emphasis on athletics since. By 1974 Cedarville College has developed one of the best NAIA sports programs in the state,

The College’s Red Cross van, the first to be given to a college or university, and manned by students, was on the scene in Xenia following the tornado.
and worthy of most across the county. It has two teams — track and tennis — that will represent the 1,009 student college in national competition this year.

In addition to their expanding men’s athletic program, Cedarville became actively involved in women’s athletics, with basketball, field hockey, and tennis leading the way. In 1972 the Cedarville women’s basketball team, under the direction of Maryalice Jeremiah, won the state title. In 1973 they again reached the finals before losing to Ohio State University 60-56. During those years the women typically defeated much larger schools and gained an excellent reputation in women’s athletics throughout the state.

One of the Oberlin College athletes who visited the Cedarville campus for the women’s state basketball tournament described it as “a mind-blowing experience, to say the very least.” She went on to describe what she had encountered:

Twenty-four basketball teams converged on this small coed (it was suggested that the reason it was coed was because “they” were meant to marry each other) Baptist school in southern Ohio. The Oberlin team was making its debut in the state tournament and was totally unprepared (except for warnings that no smoking or drinking was allowed in the dorms) for what Cedarville had in store.

I used to think that Oberlin was a fairly homogeneous place, but I have new insights now. Imagine being in a place where everyone is nice 24 hours a day, ... where cross-country is run for Christ, where prayers and Bible sayings are plastered on the walls ...

We walked around, jaws hanging to the side-walk, eyes and ears open to every word and nuance, our minds trying to incorporate what was in front of us. We were afraid to speak — the Oberlin vernacular would not have been appreciated. In short, culture shock had set in.

This response was not atypical. Many teams that competed against the “Yellow Jackets” made fun of their Christian commitment but were forced to give grudging respect to their athletic prowess. As athletic excellence accompanied Christian testimony, and community commitment demonstrated social concern, Greene County and the State of Ohio began to recognize the unique institution in their midst.

The uniqueness of the Cedarville student was never more graphically illustrated than in the early days of April 1974. The stillness of the Wednesday, April 4 afternoon was shattered as a devastating tornado swept through Xenia, Ohio, and made its way to Cedarville. The college “was providentially spared from the major damage that was felt in Xenia, with 32 fatalities and 1,000 homes destroyed.” At the college Patterson Hall had its roof and second story torn off by the storm, but the rest of the campus was spared major damage.

Immediately the student body, faculty, and staff were mobilized to help the people of Xenia:

Hundreds of Cedarville students have been involved in helping those who were not so fortunate in Xenia. The Alpha Chi-Red Cross Disaster Team immediately went into action. Searching for missing persons, applying first-aid to the injured, and supplying food to disaster victims have occupied the Distaster Team around the clock since the tornado struck.

Many other students along with faculty and staff have helped with the slow discouraging job of cleaning up destroyed property and helping victims to “start all over again.”

Along with the opportunity to help in the physical, material realm has come the opportunity to share in the spiritual realm as well. The good news of Jesus Christ has been communicated to many disaster victims at a time when they are looking for something upon which to rebuild their lives.

Through the impact of the Cedarville College family, the greater Dayton area began to realize the value of the college’s Christian influence. Editorials commending the school for its growth, development, and concern appeared on a regular basis. Letters to the editor told stories of how the college community made an impact on the neighborhood.

Even some who wanted to mock were forced to admit that Cedarville College had something special. The editor of the Yellow Springs News, though openly espousing liberal values, expressed a growing concern that perhaps the liberal way was not the best way. He pointed out the fact that life had become unsafe in the Yellow Springs community. He referred to the “rapes and armed robberies” which were plaguing the small village. People, especially women, were afraid to go out at night. The editor pointed out that it was popular in Yellow Springs to say that these problems were the result of outsiders, but he reminded his readers that eight miles to the east there was a small community which was free of these kinds of difficulties. He noted, in that community “people are concerned about one another’s welfare. They treat one another with consideration and respect.” He attributed this atmosphere to the presence of Cedarville College.

His concluding comments reveal the conflict in the mind of at least one liberal as he observed the “Christians” at Cedarville.

Of course we liberated intellectuals of Yellow
From 1976:

Springs like to snicker up our sophisticated sleeves at the "parochial narrowness" of Cedarville College. No freedom there, we say (without having been there). Yet ask yourself: What kind of freedom do we have, when one can hardly venture outside at night for fear of bodily harm? Isn't it just possible that the Christians at Cedarville College know some things about building community that we have forgotten?10

One year later this same editor had found nothing to answer his questions. Instead, he had further questions about the nature of the conservative school. Once more he noted the positive developments at Cedarville College. He observed that enrollment was increasing even though academic standards had reached new heights. He marveled at the low cost of attending Cedarville, particularly in light of the college's refusal to "seek or accept" federal grants. He pointed out that:

At Cedarville folks trust one another and treat one another with respect.

At Cedarville the primary currency is commitment. Teachers, administrators, alumni, members of the church work harder, expect less for themselves, give more to others because they share a common purpose.11

The editor then concluded his list of contrasts with this observation:

Of course there are some things about Cedarville's Baptist fundamentalism that most of us would not want to emulate. The acceptance of anything as absolute, final authority seems to contradict a spirit of scientific inquiry. But before we enlightened liberals laugh too hard at the Bible-quoters, we might pause to consider. Their way is working. Is ours?12

By 1975 the college had grown to the point where two chapel services were conducted daily, because it was impossible to fit the entire student body into tiny Alford Auditorium at one time. Consequently, after careful planning, on July 1, 1975, President James T. Jeremiah turned the first spadeful of earth for a new Chapel. The blueprint called for a 30,842-square-foot, air-conditioned building to be erected. Ten months later, on Wednesday, May 26, 1976, the Chapel was occupied for the first time. "The entire college family was present for this special time of praise and thanksgiving. Area pastors and interested friends of the school were also present for the memorable event."13 Jeremiah brought the dedication message, as "for the first time in the history of Cedarville College there was enough room in the Chapel for all who wanted to attend."14

The fall of 1975 brought 1,135 students to the campus of Cedarville College. This record enrollment was topped the next year as in September 1976, 1,221 young people entered

This article, which appeared in THE CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER in August, 1976, was one of many articles written about the "unique" nature of the College and its students, during a time when it was believed that most college-age youth rebelled against society.

College banning booze, long hair; flourishing

By Doug McElhenk

CEDARVILLE, O. — While other private colleges have been struggling to maintain their enrollments, Cedarville College, a conservative Baptist institution near Dayton, has continued to grow.

The college credits its growth to policies that other schools have abandoned.

For example, among the things prohibited at this school are long hair, beards, mustaches, smoking, drinking, card playing, extramarital sex and dancing.

Each class begins with a prayer, and daily chapel and Sunday church attendance are required.

Perhaps most important to the school's success in attracting students is the attempt by its teachers to relate the principles of the Scriptures to every course.

Administrators credit these policies with the steady growth from 107 students in 1953, the year the current school took over the name and campus of a Reform Presbyterian college, to 1,135 in 1975.

About 45% of the students are from Ohio.

For the first time there even is a substantial waiting list for next fall's freshman class.

The number of students wanting to attend has outgrown the campus' expansion.

In the last decade, construction has included a library, a science building, a chapel and three dormitories. Renovations included three large old homes for dormitories and the old science building for the business and education department.

A key to the school's success in attracting students seems to be that it offers a place for students who might find conflict with their religious beliefs at a secular private or public college.

"There are a number of students that want the kind of product we offer, but the range of schools that offer that are becoming more and more limited," explained Daniel C. Stevens, alumni director.

"We're different," said Bob White, registrar and admissions director and an Ohio State graduate.

For example, Cedarville science courses teach evolution, but the courses at the fundamentalist institution in Greene County stress a literal interpretation of the Bible. A teacher would maintain that evolution is an unproved theory and divine creation of the universe would be taught as fact.

A Cedarville student pays $2,400 for tuition for three quarters, room, board, textbooks and supplies.

The school's admission policies are also unusual. The college, during the years of growth, accepted almost all applicants, turning away only those who were academically unqualified.

But it also maintained a requirement that each applicant sign a statement affirming a personal relationship with Christ.

College records show that the number of applicants has increased steadily with the enrollment.

At the same time, the administration reported there has been no slippage in the levels of college entrance board scores of new students.

the institution. The opportunities for the future had never been brighter in the history of Cedarville College.

During the Christmas vacation of 1976, on December 29, a pensive James T. Jeremiah sat at his desk and drafted a letter to the Board of Trustees. In his opening paragraph, he reflected on the 23 years he had spent serving as president.

Since I know God put me here, I do not intend to change direction until He makes very clear the direction I should follow. At the same time, I sincerely desire to place the needs and the cause of Cedarville College above my own personal interests.15
In his second paragraph, Jeremiah reminded the Board of the tremendous needs that faced the college. As a result of a Planning Committee meeting between administrators and officers of the Board of Trustees, it had become apparent that new dormitories and a maintenance shop were needed. Further, the library had to be doubled and the cafeteria improved and enlarged. At the same time, other facilities needed remodeling and the chapel debt had to be liquidated. These developments were needed even if the student body grew no further. But Jeremiah indicated that applications were running well ahead of the previous year. Because of his concern for Cedarville College, he stated:

- My question is — how can I best help in the program of progress that lies before us? Frankly, I am not sure I can carry the heavy responsibility that would be expected of me. Nor am I sure it would be fair to the college to begin such an expansion program if I cannot carry my part of the responsibility. The prospects of all this may be greater because the load is heavier as the college grows or because I will be 65 within about two years.

But Jeremiah made it very clear that while he was calling on the Board to recognize his increasing age he had no intention of walking out on them. He was, however, asking their help in determining an appropriate time for him to alter his responsibilities in relation to the college. He told the Board, “I do not intend to quit.” He went on to say, “As long as I can I want to do whatever possible to serve the Lord in the cause of Cedarville College.” Jeremiah offered several alternatives, including the possibilities that he could remain as president until June 30, 1979, or that he could terminate his relationship with the college on June 30, 1977. He wanted to give the Board plenty of time, and he sincerely desired their help in doing what was best for the college.

A third alternative involved his continuing involvement in the ministry by representing the college, even after his responsibilities as president were concluded. Jeremiah had been told by many members of the Board that it would be up to him when he wanted to retire. His response was:

- I would like it much better if we could agree that it is our decision. Through the years we have enjoyed a great time of fellowship as we have worked together. I need your help and advice now as much or more than ever before. The fact that the time is moving on means sooner or later the termination of my present relationship with the college must come. The Board of Trustees must determine the best time for this change to be made.

The excerpts from this letter reveal a great deal about James T. Jeremiah as a man of God. From the time he made cement blocks in the basement of the Administration Building to the day he drafted his letter to the Board, Jeremiah had sought to build Cedarville College, not as a testimony to himself but as a testimony for his Lord. His love for the institution could never be challenged. Jeremiah had spent his life building a college which had become a dynamic educational ministry for the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches. By this time it was the largest of the Association’s approved schools.

Under Jeremiah’s direction Cedarville College had made a commitment to invest heavily in areas that were not traditional in the fundamentalist camp. During his presidency the faculty of Cedarville College contributed to the development of the concept of the integration of Scripture and knowledge. He had effectively used the Baptist Bulletin to advertise the ministry of Cedarville College to the Regular Baptist constituency and stood firm in his commitment to liberal arts, in spite of the fact that many in the Association were very critical, or at least suspicious, of the liberal arts. Now he recognized that the next step in the institution’s development would be a giant one.

In response to the specific question “Why did you decide to step aside?,” he replied, “The main reason was that I felt that it was going to take a ten-year period of time to do some of the things that had to be done, and I

In the 1970’s, Pastor Green and his Christian Service department initiated beach evangelism. Seeing the opportunity to witness to the many college students on the beach during Spring Break, the department continues to send a team to Florida every year.
didn’t think that I wanted to start something I couldn’t finish.”19

No one on the Board of Trustees was seeking Jeremiah’s departure. In fact, the opposite was true. The college was in excellent condition. But the trustees organized a search committee to begin the task of finding a replacement. Jeremiah was placed on that search committee because the trustees wanted to have a man in office whom he would approve. Quietly the Board began its search. The college family had not yet been informed of the transition that was to come. Finally, on graduation day, June 4, 1977, Jeremiah addressed those gathered for the annual commencement exercises with a brief statement concerning his decision. After outlining some of the historic events of his administration, he concluded:

The purpose of this announcement is to say that next year will be my last to serve as president of Cedarville College. At my request the Board of Trustees has selected a committee to seek the Lord’s leading for a new president. The Board of Trustees has unanimously voted to ask me to serve as chancellor at the end of my tenure as president. This statement is not to be misconstrued as a resignation. I am not resigning nor am I quitting. This is simply an announcement of what I believe will be a greater ministry of evangelism and Bible teaching for me and a means of opening new and greater opportunities for the college as we work together with the common goals of a better Cedarville College.

As the 1977-78 school year came to a close, it was natural for everyone to begin assessing the impact of Jeremiah’s years as president of the college. Nothing could illustrate what God had done between 1953-54 and 1977-78 as graphically as the small table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1953-54</th>
<th>1977-78</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acreage</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual budget</td>
<td>$95,000</td>
<td>$4,580,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td>$325,000</td>
<td>$9,700,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These figures demonstrate the hand of God on Cedarville College. Jeremiah would be the first to say that these accomplishments could not be attributed to one man. In his final President's Report, he spent a great deal of time thanking everyone who had aided him in his work. He started with his wife, who had been by his side throughout the ministry, and went on to express his appreciation to all those who had worked with him, from secretaries through administrators, faculty, staff, and trustees. He concluded by saying, "To all who have been such a vital part in my life and labors here, from the depths of my heart I say thank you.”21

In the final analysis, however, it was not the new buildings, acres of land, or dollars invested in budget or assets that pleased Jeremiah. His real joy was to be found in the young people that God had brought to Cedarville College:

There have been 2,840 graduates who have received degrees and gone forth to serve. Many of them are engaged in serving God in a variety of ways. The Alumni Office reports that 240 are pastors, 250 serve as missionaries, 520 are working as Christian education directors or youth pastors, 280 are directing music in local churches, and 240 are church secretaries. More than 1,000 graduates have been certified to teach in the public schools; 605 of them are now involved in Christian schools. Thirty-two of our graduates are teaching in our Regular Baptist colleges.22

Under Jeremiah’s leadership Cedarville College had become a dynamic force in the field of Christian higher education. The institution stood firmly committed to the principles of historic fundamentalism. As an approved school of the G.A.R.B.C., Cedarville took a firm position “For the Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ.” Yet Jeremiah exhibited godly humility in his willingness to lay aside the mantle of leadership so new leadership could carry the school to new heights. This strong leader was willing to turn the reigns of leadership over to a young man and support that man completely. At the same time, he unselfishly dedicated himself to the institution he loved and thus added to the already substantial foundation that had been built.

3. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
10. Ibid.
12. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
21. President’s Report to the Board of Trustees, 1977-78, p. 2.
22. Ibid.
The chapel was added to the campus landscape in 1976, and with its white exterior demonstrates its unique spirit as a center for spiritual development. Students, shown having devotions with Dr. Jeremiah prior to their walkathon, raised the necessary funds to purchase pews for the building.
Chapter XVIII

By the time James T. Jeremiah resigned as president of Cedarville College a marvelous transformation had taken place. Under Jeremiah's leadership Cedarville had established a strong denominational tie with Regular Baptists. This tie provided the institution with significant financial support and approximately 50 percent of its student body. As the college stabilized and grew, it gradually gained the respect of the people of Cedarville, Greene County, and the Miami Valley. Thus, all the components needed for continued success were in place. A broad-based foundation had been laid.

When Jeremiah wrote his letter of resignation to the trustees, he expressed the belief that there were several on the Board who were capable of taking his place. He then added:

Though it is not my intention or responsibility to have a part in the selection of my successor, I do believe the next president of Cedarville College should be a pastor or a man with pastoral experience. It is vitally important to keep our college clearly related to our churches, not only for financial support but, more importantly, for spiritual control. For this reason, the man with a pastor's heart, in my opinion, can best serve the college in the office of president.

The Board of Trustees organized a New President Committee with George Engelmann as chairman. Following the January 6, 1978, meeting of the Board of Trustees, the members of the New President Committee remained in Cedarville for a meeting the next morning. Three committee members, Engelmann, Dale Murphy, and Don Tyler, were present. Tyler, pastor of Bethesda Baptist Church in Brownsburg, Indiana, had just hosted evangelist Paul Dixon in a series of meetings the previous November. Dixon had been in his
church several times. As the men considered different names, Tyler thought of his evangelist friend. "I just felt impressed that it was time to mention Paul Dixon. I mentioned him to our men, and I am sure they were shocked with the initial suggestion that someone who was an evangelist would be suggested as potential for the presidency of Cedarville College."

Jeremiah, while recognizing Dixon as a worthy candidate, admitted, "I did not want to see him leave evangelism. There were not very many evangelists in the G.A.R.B.C. accomplishing a whole lot, and he was!" Tyler felt there were a number of excellent reasons for suggesting Dixon.

I knew his great ability with young people. I also knew that he was a man who had real spiritual leadership capabilities, a good positive attitude, good public relations potential, and he was an individual who knew the college quite well by virtue of his living in the town and his wife teaching at the school.

Tyler knew that as a part of his evangelistic ministry, Dixon frequently spoke to major league baseball and football teams. This contact with professional athletes would certainly appeal to college young people.

After the three men discussed Dixon's name, someone suggested a phone call. The committee was meeting in President Jeremiah's office. Engelmann went to the telephone and dialed the Dixon residence.

Providentially, Dixon was still at home, though he was scheduled to leave in a few hours for a meeting with his friend Phil Niekro, pitcher for the Atlanta Braves. He was to be gone several days because of evangelistic meetings in Florida. The Dixons were seated around the breakfast table when the phone rang. To his wife's inquiry of what the New President Committee might want with him, Dixon replied, "I assume they want me to give them names of prospective presidents whom they might consider."

When Dixon walked into the college executive office, he was met with a surprise. He was told the men had been discussing names for the future president and that his name had been suggested.

It really knocked me over! My response was, you're crazy! How in the world can you ask someone to be president of something that is going 150 miles an hour, who has never led anything? The only thing I have ever led is my own personal life and my family. I've never pastored a church. I've never had that kind of responsibility.

That initial meeting lasted approximately one hour. At the conclusion it was determined that a second meeting with the entire Search
Committee would take place in late January or early February. The second meeting took place at the Holiday Inn South in Springfield. In this meeting Dixon made a one-and-one-half-hour presentation to the Board of Trustees, outlining how he would approach the presidency of Cedarville College. The committee members were tremendously impressed:

He walked in to meet with us and opened up his famous little notebook and began to give a great dissertation on objectives for the spiritual, the academic, social and whatever aspect of college life one might think. He had pages of carefully designed notes. This impressed the men to no end. Here was an individual who knew what he was going to do and would direct the college accordingly.

The committee told Dixon they wanted to present his name to the Board as the candidate for president on March 31. Now Paul and Pat Dixon had to face the reality of a change in ministry. Dixon conducted his first evangelistic meeting at the age of 18, and remained committed to evangelism. He and his wife discussed the implications of leaving this field to be a college president. They decided his evangelistic emphasis would fit into the college community.

The main thing in coming to Cedarville College was that God would have the opportunity to multiply whatever He had given me in the lives of college young people. Pat and I claimed Acts 13:36: "For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell (asleep) ..." We decided to allow my name to go before the Board of Trustees on the basis that there was no better way to serve our generation than through this ministry at Cedarville College.

In 1978, CZ, a campus spirit organization, brought "The Rock" to campus, reviving a tradition from the 1950's. The Rock has been an outlet for many to express themselves to others on campus. Its face often changes more than once a night.
One of the finest facilities of its kind in Ohio, the Athletic Center was built in 1981. During the campaign for building funds, the Kresge Foundation gave the largest grant in the College's history to the project: $200,000. Dr. Dixon and Charles Ross, then Vice President for Development, were instrumental in obtaining the grant.

On February 14 Dixon agreed that his name could be presented, and the following March 31, Paul Dixon was elected president of Cedarville College.

The Board of Trustees had tremendous respect for the ministry of James T. Jeremiah. They wanted their former president to be fully satisfied with his successor. Jeremiah and Dixon had a lengthy conversation which Jeremiah described:

It was of the Lord, I believe, the way everything worked out. We see things much alike and we had for a long time before he became president. His philosophy of having a broad base for the organization to touch as many lives as you can, to try to minister to people instead of trying to restrict them, is exactly what I am for. 9

The two leaders shared many similarities. Both had a tremendous loyalty to the Regular Baptist movement and the principles of historic fundamentalism. Both had a firm commitment to the local church concept and a love for pastors. Jeremiah had manifested that by pastoring churches prior to coming to the presidency, Dixon by being a local church evangelist. Both men sought quality education within a Baptist framework, but both wanted to make that education available to as broad a segment of the Bible-believing community as possible, given the institution's theological distinctives.

But despite the similarities there were also major differences. The most obvious was that Jeremiah was a man who had led a college for 25 years. He had watched the institution grow from infancy to maturity, from the smallest educational institution of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches to the largest, from a college which was struggling to survive to one which was highly regarded in Christian circles. Now, as Jeremiah, with all his experience stepped aside, he saw the position going to a man who by his own admission had never managed anything except his own life and family! Dixon admitted that
A sense of humor is an "unsung" characteristic of the College. Students remember the laughter, whether from a skit in chapel, a joke in the dorm, or a play or variety show, such as "The Soap Show" in 1982, above.

The greatest challenge he faced was "starting as a novice in higher education and having to learn on the job."\textsuperscript{10}

Secondly, the two men differed greatly in their style of leadership. While both were strong executives, Jeremiah related to the Board of Trustees in a very collegial manner: he provided information for the Board; they discussed it, feeling free to agree and disagree, and then the Board voted. Jeremiah never voted and seldom brought pressure on the Board to move in a certain direction. Further, when he acquired an administrative team, he gave the administrators a great deal of freedom to develop their particular areas. The Administrative Committee also frequently voted on the course of action to be taken.

Dixon, on the other hand, presented a much more aggressive pattern of executive leadership. He outlined his specific goals and objectives to the Board of Trustees and aggressively sought their adoption. He became "extremely knowledgeable in all areas of college management."\textsuperscript{11} However, although he received detailed information from the administrators, Dixon did not give them the opportunity to vote.\textsuperscript{12}

Third, Jeremiah concentrated most of his fund raising in the churches. Dixon was much more aggressive in reaching outside the church constituency to industries, foundations, and individuals in his fundraising efforts. Perhaps all these differences could be summarized by viewing Jeremiah as a pastor-president and Dixon as an entrepreneurial-executive.

These differences, and the manner in which Dixon and Jeremiah handled them, were important ingredients in the success of Cedarville College. The history of orthodox Christianity has been marked by many transitions in leadership. In the past, strong leaders frequently have had difficulty turning the reigns over to someone new. Institutions that have taken years of dedicated service to build have been severely damaged by men who did not know when to let go or were unwilling to turn leadership over to someone else. With all his remarkable accomplishments as president of Cedarville College, it is possible to argue that James T. Jeremiah made his greatest contribution by the example of Christian humility and statesmanship that he exhibited in turning the reigns of leadership over to Paul Dixon.

When he left the office of president, Jeremiah made up his mind that he would be willing to step out of the picture completely if necessary in order to let the new president develop his program. But Dixon did not want that. Instead, he looked forward to the opportunity of having Jeremiah at his side as chancellor. In his years as chancellor, Jeremiah cannot recall a single occasion when anyone came to him with criticism about Dixon. He added: "There is a good reason for that. They know that if they did they would not have a hearing."\textsuperscript{13}

Throughout the entire transition, President Paul Dixon showed tremendous respect for former President James T. Jeremiah. He repeatedly said to faculty, students, trustees, and the general public that it was his privilege to "build on the excellent foundation that had been laid by President Jeremiah."\textsuperscript{14}

The real key to the relationship between Dixon and Jeremiah, however, is not to be found in public pronouncements. The real dynamic of their relationship is the manner in which they have faithfully supported one another. The godly example provided by Jeremiah and Dixon as they have walked together as chancellor and president should be noted by the entire Christian community. Without question, this has been an essential ingredient in the success of Cedarville College, as well as a tremendous example to the Christian community.

During his first year as chancellor, Jeremiah proved that he meant it when he did not plan to retire. He held 31 conferences and ministered in two seminaries and three mission fields. In all, he preached 208 messages. As he traveled around the world, he sought to meet with alumni on an individual
or group basis. This was an aspect of the ministry that he truly enjoyed. "I have done that with a great deal of joy ... seeing the kids that graduated and what they are doing and rejoicing in what the Lord has led them to do." 15 He also continued his daily radio ministry, concluding it in 1985 after 18 years and 4,770 messages broadcast over many stations nationwide.

Meanwhile, Dixon settled into the task of being president. As he met with the Administrative Committee for the first time, Dixon had his trusty "seven-star diary" and his lengthy list of goals and objectives. However, he realized that he was dealing with men who had much greater experience in the educational community. Consequently, he encouraged them to give him their advice and judgment. He urged them to point out areas of weakness in his plans. It was the committee's responsibility to gather information and data, and seek a consensus on how to handle problems or opportunities, but Dixon made it clear from the beginning that he would accept responsibility for ultimate decisions. He indicated to the administrators that his administration would be characterized by a heavy emphasis on evangelism and discipleship. There would be a stress on the local church, the Word of God, and prayer.

Some literature on being a college president contended that a new executive should have the opportunity to start with a fresh administrative team. In reflecting on that concept, Dixon responded:

> I was just a novice ... It would have killed me if I would have lost that team. I drew upon their strength. Overall that team has stayed pretty intact, and I think part of the genius of what God has done has been the whole team, including the past president, taking this novice president and nurturing him. The faculty has been patient with me until I could find out what it was all about. Then, as changes needed to be made, they were made. It gave, I think, stability to the institution. 16

As he familiarized himself with every aspect of the institution, Dixon discovered that Cedarville's strength did not lie in millions of dollars worth of buildings or ever-increasing budgets but in its people: "Vice presidents, middle managers, faculty, staff. Few corporate organizations, let alone colleges or universities, have the strong people that Cedarville has. That, along with a clearly defined mission, is what makes Cedarville strong." 17

One of Dixon's first priorities as president was the chapel service. He viewed this as the primary responsibility for a Christian college president. "Historically the direction you give the chapel ministry determines the future of the institution. The heartbeat of every Christian college is what happens in chapel." 18 Dixon immediately set aside Monday as President's Day in the chapel. He then arranged for three-day series to run Tuesday through Thursday and invited speakers who could have a dynamic impact on the Cedarville College family. Friday was for student body chapel or class meetings, and faculty or academic department meetings.

A second priority for Dixon was the result of an impending North Central review. When Cedarville College was accredited in 1975, it was placed on the five-year review cycle, which was normal for newly accredited institutions. Consequently, by the time Dixon entered the presidency, the Cedarville College family, under the direction of Clifford Johnson, was already beginning preparations for their review. Conveniently, by November 1979, a carefully prepared self-study provided an institutional profile which gave everyone in the college community a good grasp of where the institution stood. Through the years self-study had become an integral part of the Cedarville college community. An honest evaluation of the institution's strengths and weaknesses was necessary to maintain excellence where it existed, and strengthen weaknesses when they were uncovered.

From April 21 to April 23, 1980, a team of four North Central examiners visited the Cedarville campus. They met with all the major administrative officers of the institution as well as the department chairpersons. A representative group from the Board of Trustees came to campus to meet with them. In addition, the committee circulated throughout the campus, visiting with faculty and students in the cafeteria, the library, faculty offices, or classrooms. The result of their visit was a 21-page report, which included the recommendation that Cedarville continue to receive full accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. The report listed two major reasons for this recommendation:

1. Cedarville College is effectively meeting its stated objectives and purposes as a coeducational, undergraduate, residential, Christian, liberal arts college.
2. It is currently organized, staffed, and supported so that it is reasonable to expect that these objectives and purposes will continue to be met in a substantial way in the years ahead.

While the recommendation was very
Every four years, as the nation focuses on a presidential election, the College plays out its own version of "politics" with "Cedar What." Faculty candidates are chosen, full campaigns are staged, and a closing election convention is held.

favorable to the college, the greatest value of the report was the examining team's careful analysis of what they considered the strengths and weaknesses of the institution. The college was commended for having a strong sense of mission and a dedicated staff who were "interested in students . . . supportive of the college . . . and appreciate the mission." The college was also commended for such things as their planning process, valid institutional purposes, the academic preparation of the faculty, the computer system, well-staffed and well-organized student services, buildings, equipment, maintenance, and intramural and intercollegiate athletics. The committee was favorably impressed by budgeting procedures and controls as well.

The committee listed several areas of concern. The majority of these could be summarized under three headings: first, a continuing need for institution-wide planning, with a particular emphasis on "academic goals and objectives"; second, space — both quantity and quality — in order to carry out the many activities of the academic community; third, finances — in order to provide the necessary space, adequate library support, an all-college placement service, more adequate offices, and an increased endowment. The committee urged the college to give gift income a "high priority in the development program." They expressed concern over the high dependency upon student tuition and fees.

The North Central evaluation provided a challenge for the Cedarville community. While everyone took great satisfaction in the many positive things that had been accomplished, all recognized there was room for further growth. The North Central accrediting body reaffirmed Cedarville's accreditation in 1980 and scheduled the next review for 1987.

In the intervening years, under the direction of Paul Dixon and the administrative team, Cedarville College carefully examined its role in the world of Christian education. In the process, the institution created a unique niche which has become increasingly important in light of the fact that the United States has entered what has been described as "the ice age of higher education." The pool of college-age young people peaked in 1979 and has been declining dramatically each year since. This process will continue until the mid-1990s. Already many institutions of higher education have faced serious problems. As a result, faculty members were released and programs cut as private institutions struggled to survive. State-supported schools offered an inexpensive alternative, usually very close to a student's home. For a private college to flourish in the 1980s required careful planning, attention to mission, and well-focused programs. The key to Cedarville's success was in finding that unique niche that enabled it to be on the cutting edge of Christian higher education.

18. Ibid.
20. Ibid.
21. Ibid.
Chapter XIX

In the fall of 1978, when enrollment dropped for only the third time in the 25 years of Baptist operation, the Dixon administration came face to face with the difficulties of the new age in education. The decline from 1,250 to 1,185 students had serious budgetary implications. When his research uncovered the impending recession in higher education, Dixon was stunned: “I did not understand what higher education was about to go through. I had no idea what I was getting into relative to those pressures.”

The Cedarville administration immediately began a comprehensive review at virtually every level. Admissions, recruitment, public relations, and development all came under careful scrutiny. The institution began a study of internal programs in the academic, social, and Christian service realms. Though Dixon had little experience in these academic areas, his entrepreneurial concept of leadership became immediately apparent. The challenge Cedarville faced can be seen in the following statistics:

The number of traditional college-age individuals will decline by 26 percent until 1995. This is a drop from 4.3 million available students in 1979 to 3.2 million. As a result of shifts in population, some states especially in the North Central region will suffer nearly 40 percent losses.

Since Cedarville College draws the majority of its students from the regions that will suffer the greatest percentage losses, enrollment received immediate attention.

Because Regular Baptist strongholds are also located in those regions suffering from population shifts, the General Association of Regular Baptists Churches has been affected. After a sustained period of growth from the...
'50s into the late '70s, the total number of Regular Baptist churches has leveled off at approximately 1,600, and the membership for the past several years has been approximately 240,000.

In light of the gloomy predictions, it would have been easy for the leadership and faculty of Cedarville College to enter into a period of retrenchment. Many private schools, both Christian and secular, were or would soon be doing just that. At Cedarville, however, the overriding concept of mission demanded a different response. As the faculty and administration reviewed the purposes and objectives of the institution, they came to the inescapable conclusion that the college had a mission that was dynamic in the contemporary world. The purpose of offering its students an education consistent with biblical truth had no less value in the 1980s than in the 1950s. They were convinced the United States needed what Cedarville offered — a quality, accredited education within the framework of historic fundamentalism.

Dixon's response to the challenge was predictable. He had come to the office of president convinced that Cedarville College was a special place. Having spoken at most of the best known fundamentalist colleges throughout the United States, he was convinced that Cedarville had a balance among the spiritual, academic, and social spheres that was rare in Christian higher education. He had tremendous respect for the Cedarville faculty and the quality of education they provided.

Therefore, rather than recommending retrenchment, Dixon launched an aggressive expansion program that encompassed every area. At his urging the trustees made dramatic improvement in faculty and staff salaries. New staff positions were added in the areas of student recruitment, student services, and development. Consultants in key areas supplemented institutional planning. The president became vigorously involved in fund raising, placing an emphasis on new constituencies.

As a result, Cedarville College entered a period of remarkable growth. While most Christian colleges battled declining enrollments, Cedarville grew 53 percent, from 1,185 in 1978 to 1,821 in 1986. This remarkable success was the result of careful planning and the dynamic leadership of Paul Dixon. The decision was made to level enrollment temporarily in order to guarantee the quality of both programs and facilities. This decision grew out of Dixon's conviction that at times it was essential to move slowly enough to provide stability for the organization.

A study of the college's historic constituency revealed that though Cedarville was an approved college of the G.A.R.B.C. and has stood without apology for its fundamental Baptist position, it had never limited enrollment to Baptists only. This fact was pointed out to the delegates at the G.A.R.B.C. annual meeting in Philadelphia in 1953. It was stated again in Cedarville President Leonard Webster's report for the Ohio Independent Baptist in June 1953:

> Enrollment in the student body is not limited to those of the Baptist faith. All young people interested in college training of the highest scholastic standard offered in an environment of true Christian fellowship are encouraged to write to the registrar for full information.

In fact, in those early days the trustees did not limit enrollment to Christian young people. They were convinced that if an unsaved student chose to attend Cedarville, he would either be born again or not want to stay! In June 1955, the senior class prepared a list of reasons "why we believe unsaved students should not be allowed to enroll in our college." This three-page letter listed nine detailed reasons why the students preferred a student body composed exclusively of believers. Though there is no record of Board response to the student letter, the 1957-58 College Catalog listed for the first time the fact that "spiritual qualifications including personal testimony, reasons for desiring to come to the college, and recommendation of spiritual qualification from his pastor or another qualified person" would be required.

Since that time Cedarville College has always required a statement of faith from a prospective student as a part of the application for admission.

In the 1980s Cedarville College has made no apology for being a Baptist institution. The historic tie with Regular Baptists was manifested in the requirement that all trustees, faculty, and administrators be members of separatist Baptist churches. College literature described Cedarville as a Baptist college of arts and sciences. This was a part of the institutional mission and purpose. However, from 1953 to the present, the college has enrolled people of other denominations. Thus, believers from no fewer than 34 different church groups have attended the college over the last 20 years. In light of the unique quality of Christian education available, Dixon has
Since 1978, the College has added three more dormitories, an Athletic Center, and a water tower to its facilities bringing the total number of buildings to 45 on 180 acres.

sought to broaden the Cedarville College base by increasing advertising while continuing to cultivate the Regular Baptist constituency.

Cedarville advertisements have been featured throughout the United States and Canada in the leading fundamentalist publications of the day. Under the leadership of Director of Admissions David Ormsbee, a recruitment staff has been organized to market Cedarville College in the Christian community. College recruiters spend countless hours on the telephone, in Christian schools, attending college fairs, mailing literature, and conducting campus tours.

During the 1985-86 school year almost 3,600 visitors came to the Cedarville College campus. Twenty-seven thousand college catalogs and 52,000 college viewbooks were distributed. The results were dramatic. Student enrollment climbed until it was necessary to make an institutional commitment to stabilize growth.

In the process, the number of Regular Baptist students attending Cedarville College has increased while the percentage of Regular Baptists has decreased. In 1966, 65 percent of the student body were Regular Baptists, 19 percent were Baptists from other groups, and 16 percent were from other denominations. By 1983 the figures were 49 percent Regular Baptists, 32 percent other Baptists, and 19 percent other denominations.7

To meet the dramatic growth in the student body, over the period of six years 31 faculty members were added. In 1986-87 the college faculty was composed of 86 full-time and 46 part-time instructors, representing over 70 different graduate schools.8

The addition of new students and new faculty enabled Cedarville College to add many new programs while strengthening existing
A Cedarville College basketball game is one of the most memorable experiences on campus. With a 100 piece pep band, 2000 spectators, and a great amount of spirit, the place literally shakes with excitement. Many other teams say the crowd and the pep band provide a 10 point home team advantage, yet they always look forward to playing on the Jackets' home court.
The 1979-80 College Catalog listed 21 major fields of study. By 1985-86 the catalog listed 30 majors and the institution provided 44 areas of study. During the late '60s and early '70s, teacher education was the lifeblood of the institution. In 1969, 51 percent of the graduating class was in elementary or secondary education. The percentage of education majors in the graduating class peaked at 65 in 1970.

Although the percentage of graduates with teacher certification slipped slightly under 27 percent in 1986, "teacher education majors at Cedarville numbered the second largest graduating class among Ohio's private colleges. Inquiries from potential employers were ten times the number of graduates available."

While education provided the highest percentage of graduates in the '60s and '70s, the Department of Biblical Education has always been "the foundational department of the college in terms of fulfilling... purpose and serving general education needs."

As a result of strategic planning, Cedarville has molded traditional liberal arts programs to meet the vocational demands of the new information age. Career opportunities are stressed, and every field has developed new majors to enable the student to step into the roles dictated by contemporary society.

At the same time, the Department of Business Administration, instituted in the 1950s, has been tremendously strengthened. It has become the largest department in the college, featuring "the fields of accounting, general business, computer information systems, economics, finance, management, marketing, and secretarial administration."

The department integrated personal computers into all areas of its curriculum. "Now every business major must demonstrate computer proficiency in order to graduate. This kind of integration at the undergraduate level is the 'cutting edge' in business education."

The recently-instituted nursing program graduated its first class of 30 students in June 1985. In 1986 the program was accredited by the National League of Nursing.
The Village Players provide three dramas a year, such as “My Fair Lady” (above), attracting many from the community for every performance.

While moving into these professional programs, Cedarville has maintained a firm commitment to the liberal arts. The general education core of the institution has remained solid. “The liberal arts provide a very important context. You cannot prepare people adequately for the professions without the liberal arts base. The liberal arts accomplish a major part of our mission— they develop the thinking student.”

The expansion of the 1980s placed tremendous pressure on college facilities. As a result of the influx of students, seven dormitory units were added between 1980 and 1985, enabling the college to house an additional 738 students. Williams Hall, formerly a dormitory, was remodeled into faculty and administrative offices and classrooms in 1981; and the 67,000-square-foot Athletic Center was built. Subsequently, the old gymnasium/student center was remodeled into an enlarged facility for food service. In 1983 Patterson Hall dormitory was renovated to become Patterson Clinic. That same year a Digital Equipment Corporation VAX 11-750 computer was installed for academic computer use. When the growth in the student body overtaxed the village water supply, the college installed its own water system. Maintenance workers also installed an energy management system to control energy usage in major buildings. The water system and energy management system saved the institution over $150,000 per year in water and energy costs.

During this same period, strategic planning developed a framework for deferred maintenance. Many of these projects have been financed through the general fund in an effort to control long-term debt.

As the campus expanded, Dixon’s philosophy of “doing it right” permeated everything: “I am convinced that everything done in the name of Jesus Christ ought to have ‘QUALITY’ stamped all over it.” When Dixon became president, his wife Pat—a seven-year faculty veteran—was thrust into the role of first lady. In that capacity she worked diligently to bring that press of quality to campus projects. Emphasizing aesthetics, she has played a major role in
redecorating projects campus-wide, and in decorations for numerous campus events. Countless visitors comment on the quality and beauty of Cedarville campus today.

Perhaps the greatest challenge in contemporary education is the financial challenge. It is in this area that the entrepreneurial leadership of Paul Dixon has had the greatest impact. From the beginning he planned to be aggressive in fund raising, but even Dixon did not envisage the degree of involvement that developed. Because of Cedarville’s commitment to the free enterprise system and its refusal to accept government funds, the business community has started to respond to the institution’s fund-raising efforts. As a result, each project has been increasingly successful. Seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars was raised for the Chapel. Two million dollars was raised for the Athletic Center, and the Centennial Campaign may more than triple that $2 million figure.

In 1980-81 total gift income to Cedarville College was $955,849. By 1984-85 gift income had reached $1,802,943. The efforts of Dixon in this area have provided tremendous financial strength for the institution. At the same time, the college has taken a very aggressive posture on debt retirement. When the project for the $3 million Athletic Center was completed with only $2 million raised in the fund-raising campaign, the final $1 million was paid off within five years from the general fund. Where dormitories had previously been financed over a period of 25 to 30 years, recent dormitories were financed for ten years. All of this is a part of strategic planning: “What we have been endeavoring to do is to position ourselves financially so that if we do get caught in a declining enrollment we can manage it.” Cedarville’s planning process has not presumed that continued growth can be guaranteed in a declining market.

The development of Cedarville College during the eight years of the Dixon presidency can best be summarized in the brief chart below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1977-78</th>
<th>1985-86</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>1,250</td>
<td>1,817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual budget</td>
<td>$4,580,000</td>
<td>$11,750,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td>$9,700,000</td>
<td>$23,550,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The stability enjoyed by Cedarville College today may be attributed to the three fundamental components that were important from the beginning of the institution’s existence. Firm commitment to the principles of biblical Christianity has enabled the college to maintain a strong tie with her supporting constituency, the G.A.R.B.C. Strong leadership has been provided through the presidencies of James T. Jeremiah and Paul Dixon. Over the years the relationship with the community has become one of stability and strength. Cedarville is recognized as an important part of the Greene County economy. Its students and faculty have had a tremendous impact in community affairs. Its reputation for excellence is known throughout the greater Miami Valley, the State of Ohio, and across the nation.

3. These figures are based on the statistical reports published annually by the G.A.R.B.C. in the Church Directory which lists all the fellowshipping churches.
5. Senior class to the Board of Trustees, June 3, 1955.
7. These percentages are based on figures compiled by Mr. Jack Campbell, director of Academic Records.
12. Ibid.
17. Ibid., August 8, 1986.
Chapter XX

The Cedarville College student of today has the opportunity to take advantage of several programs that have developed through the last third of a century. These programs provide a framework for the total development of the individual in the physical, spiritual, and social realms, as well as the intellectual.

The daily chapel services have always been a priority at Cedarville. Christian leaders from around the nation address the college family on a daily basis, providing a spiritual point of reference around which all else revolves. In the balance this provides there has been "an emphasis on evangelism without apology. For twenty-five years this institution was led by a pastor with an evangelist's heart." When pastor-evangelist Jeremiah resigned, the trustees called an evangelist to follow him. From the beginning Paul Dixon has stressed that Cedarville must continue to emphasize "evangelism, discipleship, and service for God."1

The concept of balance has been very important in the Dixon presidency. It has emerged out of his conviction that "we will reach the world for Christ from the pew as well as the pulpit."2 Therefore, it is not enough merely to educate a person. Instead, the individual must live and share the key to life through Christ. Cedarville students learn the tentmaking concept: earning a living from a vocation, while using that position as a foundation for ministering to the needs of others.

Three Cedarville alumni are applying this process in China under the terms of an agreement signed by Cedarville College and the People's University in Beijing. Other universities represented in Beijing are

Over 70% of the students volunteer for a Christian ministry opportunity, whether it be in a rest home, at a mission, a children's home, or to a foreign country on Missionary Internship Service (MIS).
In 1986, the College signed an agreement with People's University of China to provide them with English teachers, joining the likes of Princeton and Duke, who also have similar agreements with People's. This came as an indirect result of the MIS teams that have gone to China.

Princeton, Duke, and Karl Marx University in East Berlin. They will be abroad from September 2 through July 1, 1987. One of the team, Sharon Rawson, likened their work to that of the Apostle Paul, "who made tents to survive but his main purpose was to do evangelistic work."

A natural by-product of the evangelistic emphasis at Cedarville is the Missionary Internship Service program. Under the direction of the office of Vice President for Christian Ministries Harold Green, athletic teams, musical teams, puppet teams, and work teams have gone throughout the world to promote the cause of Jesus Christ. Since 1970, when the program was implemented, 1,043 young people have participated in Missionary Internship Service programs in 40 different countries. Students have raised over a million and one-half dollars in support of these various projects which broaden the students' cultural base while exposing them to mission life on a short-term basis.

In addition to these international programs, Cedarville College students were busy in the immediate environment of the college:

Nine hundred students took part in compassion and discipleship ministries which were directed to jail inmates, senior citizens, hospitalized individuals, wayward children, handicapped persons, college students on other campuses, and local churches. Our gospel teams conducted over 400 church services and 272 other students carried out additional ministries. In all, 72 percent of our students volunteered for Christian service.

Traditionally, Cedarville College students, along with members of the faculty and staff, have been very sensitive to community needs. At times these projects have been very public, as in the "Clean Greene Project" when students helped clean the county. At other times their service has been very private. For example, the men of Alpha Chi provided the labor to insulate the homes of the elderly on fixed incomes through the Dayton Power and Light Volunteer Insulation Program.

In early May 1981, the college young people participated in one of the most touching ministries of this decade. Four Oaks, a school for the mentally retarded and multiply-handicapped in Xenia, lost its funding for their summer camp program. Judy Lamusga, Director of Children's Services, received a call from King's Island, a large amusement park near Cincinnati, indicating that if the school could provide 50 volunteers to work concession stands for one night, they would donate $1,200 to the school. Lamusga thought this would be impossible. "Then," she said, "I thought of Cedarville College."

An announcement was made in chapel and 71 students responded, 21 more than needed. The students worked from 6:30 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. for free and received only one meal ticket in return. Four Oaks will receive $24 for each volunteer.

Since this occurred during Cedar Weekend, one of the busiest weekends at the college, students who participated made a significant sacrifice.

Those students who volunteered arrived back on campus at 5:00 a.m. and still participated in all the festive activities of Cedar Day on Saturday. "I've got goose bumps for what Cedarville College is doing," adds Lamusga. "Now our camp program is a possibility."
Because of the rural location of Cedarville College, Vice President Don Rickard and his staff have placed a strong emphasis on student services. Rickard's staff is responsible for a residence hall program which cares for 1,450 resident students. In addition, the health service facility, which moved into Patterson Clinic in the fall of 1983, was described as a "model in the State of Ohio," while being given special recognition in the last North Central report. A well-staffed Financial Aid Department processes over $4 million a year for the students. And the Campus Activities Office has provided programs ranging from highly sophisticated artists series to a 10-ton spirit rock, located between the College Center, Science Building, and Library. Placed on campus October 28, 1978, by American Aggregate Corporation, the rock has become a popular means of communication. Often painted more than once a night, it has carried a wide variety of messages.

Before Cedarville experienced the rapid growth of the '80s, several all-campus events took place. Since it was possible to crowd the vast majority of the college family into the gymnasium for an all-school banquet, several of these occurred each year. The only such event to survive the rapid growth of the school has been the quadrennial "Cedar What?" elections. Instituted in 1968 as a satire on national elections, the student body has elected a president of "Cedar What?" during each presidential election year. These mock elections have produced tremendous creativity on the part of the entire student body.

The spirit demonstrated by the Cedarville College family at athletic events or campus activities is a manifestation of the unity that undergirds campus life. Administrators, faculty, staff, and students do not always agree, but their commitment to Christ provides an underlying unity that is unique. In a very important sense, the family "bears one another's burdens." Prayer requests are announced daily in chapel, and family members pray for the needs of others. Many are willing to offer help and encouragement to those experiencing trials. From time to time, the family is drawn close together as they experience a common trial. An example of this occurred in 1986.

The "Young's Run" ranks high on the list of popular campus traditions. This trip to an area dairy located a few miles from campus on Route 68, north of Yellow Springs, provides students an escape from the rigors of academia and allows them to enjoy ice cream and freshly baked pastries. Very few students on campus have never made a Young's Run.

Late in the evening of April 30, 1986, word gradually filtered through the Cedarville College dormitories that a serious accident had occurred as a carload of students made their Young's Run. It had been a difficult year for the Cedarville student body because of automobile accidents. During the Christmas vacation, freshman Robert Atkinson had lost his life in an accident while home for the holidays. On February 18, senior Jay Butcher was riding with a friend who was testing his new vehicle when he died in an accident. Now, as Cedarville students learned of an accident involving five of their schoolmates, they were stunned. As the information was gathered, it became apparent that two students, Debra Henry and Gordon Ooms, had lost their lives. Three others were hospitalized with serious injuries. President Paul Dixon spent most of the night at the hospital with the young people. When he returned to Cedarville at 4 a.m., he moved from dormitory to dormitory visiting with students. The next day, following a memorial service for the students, Dixon said, "I think it's really causing the faith of our students to increase, and they're getting more serious about their lives. It's made them aware of the importance of making life count for Christ." A prayer service was held on the campus during the chapel hour the morning after the accident. As the student body and administrators prayed for the families of the dead students and for those who had been injured in the accident, they also repeatedly prayed for the family of the man who had driven left of center and struck the student's car head on. The following day Dixon described the memorial service as "a service of praise and a service of challenge."

Singing and praying together and listening to the reflections of representatives of the community, those gathered at the small Baptist college shared their grief and reaffirmed their faith that, while they may not always understand His workings, God's actions serve their needs and His glory.

Miles Henry, Debra's father, attended the memorial service on campus and said that the "feeling among members of the campus community has helped his family accept the loss." Those who saw the Cedarville College family bonding to one another in the tragic loss of 1986 gained an understanding of what Cedarville is really all about. It is indeed a
Chapel, as Dr. Dixon says, is "the heartbeat of a Christian college." During chapel throughout the year students are challenged by such men as Warren Wiersbe, Joe Stowell, Georgi Vins, and many others. On Monday, the President speaks during what many refer to as "family time," challenging each student in his spiritual life.
community of Christians, people who are dedicated not only to education but to each other. Faculty members wept openly and unashamedly as they dropped academics for a day to discuss with their students how to gain strength even in sorrow. Students, many of whom had never experienced the loss of anyone close to them, learned from others how to adjust to grief. All were faced with the reality that tears are not a sign of weakness but of caring.

As Cedarville stands on the threshold of the second century, its physical resources will continue to expand. The Centennial Campaign announced in 1986 is the most ambitious in the history of the college:

Cedarville's Centennial Campaign, celebrating 100 years of Christian higher education, is currently in progress. Campaign projects include:

1. A new Library. Currently under construction, it will be one of the finest of its kind. Consisting of 66,830 square feet, it will provide numerous learning advantages to our students, the technology of the information age, and the resources to support a growing enrollment and expanding curriculum. Cost: $4,200,000.

2. The retrofit of the current library building to house the Department of Business Administration. At 27,000 square feet, this corporate center will provide 12 classrooms, 18 academic offices, computer support throughout, and a unique business simulation laboratory. Cost: $727,000.

3. An increase in unrestricted giving which supports the general operating fund to a total of $2,000,000 over a period of 2 1/2 years.

4. An increase of $1,000,000 to the College's endowment.

In 1976 the college sought to raise 1.1 million dollars for a Chapel and raised $750,000 total. In 1981 the college raised two million of the three million dollars needed for the Athletic Center. When Paul Dixon and Vice Presidents Martin Clark and Kenneth St. Clair prepared their recommendations for the Centennial Campaign, they studied the needs of the new library and the retrofitting of the old library for a business center. Consultants tested the fund-raising potential of the college and prepared projections of costs, financing, cash flow, maintenance, and fund raising. As Dixon walked into the trustees' meeting with his presentation, he was struck by the weight and significance of the decision to be made.

It had been a long time since I had felt the weight of anything like I felt that day. I realized it was not just my responsibility. There would be other people involved, but as president I would bear a great deal of the responsibility in leading this effort.

Dixon’s presentation to the Board lasted less than 20 minutes, and they immediately voted unanimously to move forward with the project. With the weight of the challenge still in his mind, Dixon leaned over to one of the trustees and said, "How can you spend five million dollars in 20 minutes?"

Part of the answer to that would have to be the tremendous confidence that the Board of Trustees placed in the young president and the administrative team. During the early years of his presidency, Dixon proved to be a tireless worker in behalf of the college. He seemed to thrive on the challenge of wearing the many hats of the college president.

In 1984 Dixon decided to pursue a doctorate of education. When asked why he would enter a doctoral program with all the other pressures involved in being a college president, Dixon’s response was typical. This man who had been awarded an honorary degree early in his presidency was not willing to settle for that:

I felt that the institution would fare well with a president who had an earned doctorate. Cedarville College has a strong testimony in the academic community because of our growth during this time of decline. This has the attention of everyone in this state, and I think it will help the institution if the president has an earned degree. Second, I wanted the challenge of it. I wanted to go to school if I could develop those areas where I felt I was weak.

Dixon enrolled in the University of Cincinnati, where a program was designed to enable him to strengthen his understanding of such areas as finance, law, personnel, and history in higher education. He made a detailed study of strategic planning which culminated in his doctoral dissertation.
Dating is a "natural" part of Cedarville College life, but even more so is the sense which students have of growing together, enjoying each other's company, and supporting one another as they mature and learn.

completed in June 1986, when the degree of Ed.D. was conferred.

As Cedarville looks to its second century, certain projections can be made based on past experiences. Several members of the faculty are established and highly respected in their disciplines. The institutional commitment to funding and faculty development combined with the ability to attract capable scholars should enable the college to maintain an exceptional faculty.

Recent studies continue to demonstrate that Cedarville College, because of its academic excellence, attracts top quality students. The test scores for Cedarville freshmen continue to be above the national average. In addition to this academic progress, however, Cedarville's programs continue to encourage and help those whose academic background has limited them. The institution is committed to increased quality, but is determined not to develop an attitude that excludes the average student.

The past success of Cedarville's men's and women's athletic programs and the ability of these programs to galvanize campus spirit indicates that Cedarville will continue to maintain a balance between the social, academic, and intellectual realms. The college will continue to seek quality athletes as well as quality scholars.

The emphasis on community would indicate that Cedarville will continue to be a place where students and faculty are heavily involved in volunteerism, compassion ministries, and world-wide Christian service ministries.

President Dixon's often repeated statement: "I am convinced that everything done in the name of Jesus Christ ought to have 'QUALITY' stamped all over it" would indicate that Cedarville College will continue to maintain excellence at every level. The financial position of the institution should continue to improve with careful budgeting, increased gift income, and increased endowment, which is already a reality. Attention to debt reduction has been an important factor in this process.

The campus-wide planning process, which involves faculty, staff, and students, has become an integral part of life at Cedarville College. All planning flows out of a firm commitment to institutional mission. People who once questioned the restrictiveness of Cedarville's commitment to the principles of historic fundamentalism now praise the
institution for having had the vision to maintain a well-defined sense of mission and purpose when much of Christian education has succumbed to secularization.

Examiners from the North Central accrediting body, college presidents from throughout Ohio, and educators in general who have observed the Cedarville situation recognize that the institution's commitment to its well-defined mission has enabled Cedarville College to develop a niche all its own in the world of higher education. President Paul Dixon describes that position in these terms:

We live in an historical moment which I perceive to be a bridge between the industrial age and the new information age. Cedarville College is crossing that bridge with a sure-footedness because of the blessing of our God and the quality of our continuing commitment to our historic mission — to impart to our students a quality, Christian education consistent with biblical truth. In his annual report two years later, Dixon again described this as the key to Cedarville's "stable and strong future."

Cedarville College has a special sense of purpose — a clear and direct vision of its future that flows out of its mission. With the individual student as the centerpiece, the college is resolute in its commitment to offer an education consistent with biblical truth. It is devoted to a quality value centered educational experience that will endow with wisdom future generations of students who will have an impact on

To advance its quality academic programs, the College built a new library facility. On April 4, 1986, a praise service was held, celebrating the beginning of this building project. Officially opened during 1987, the Centennial year, it marks the College's first step into its second century.
The purpose of Cedarville College will continue, as it has in the past, to be foremost during the next 100 years: to help students become greater servants for Jesus Christ, so that in whatever or wherever they are, they will share His Word with the many in this world who are lost and lonely.
their world for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.\textsuperscript{19}

The ability to accomplish its objectives and goals effectively must continue to flow out of careful planning. The planning process, now led by Dr. Rex Rogers, is comprised of committees at every level of the college community employing the strategic planning philosophy.

That is, they look at the big picture in higher education, the long-range destiny of the college, the need in the marketplace for quality Christian education, the competition, and Cedarville's mix of internal and external resources to accomplish the mission of the college.\textsuperscript{19}

Dr. Martin Clark, Vice President for Development, has said, “Strategic planning is an institution-wide effort at Cedarville College. It is a future-focused, participative process resulting in statements of institutional intention that match our program strengths to recognize needs for excellence in Christian education.”\textsuperscript{20}

In addressing the principles of planning, President Dixon has said: “National interest in the quality of higher education is on the rise. Our response at Cedarville is to be pro-active by establishing through strategic planning an agenda for excellence.”\textsuperscript{21}

In 1915 when William Renwick McChesney was installed as president of Cedarville College, he concluded his inauguration address on the ideal college with these words:

> Citizens of Cedarville and community, Board of Trustees, Alumni, students, and faculty, let us here and now dedicate ourselves anew, with the like devotion which characterized our illustrious fathers, to cooperate with one another and to toil with faith in God and with a view single to His glory of the upbuilding of Cedarville College, that there may continue through the coming ages a Christian institution of higher learning in our midst to train our youth, enrich our nation, and make glad the church of Christ: and in doing so we pray not for lighter blissful charm and power to coming generations, but for conflicts to be shunned but for courage and wisdom to meet them; not for passing honor, whose gelling is unworthy of earnest effort, but for potent influence so holy, rational, serviceable and devoid of selfish purpose that it shall uplift fellow men as it breathes upon them its beneficence and so continue, after our work is done, to carry its blissful charm and power to coming generations.\textsuperscript{22}

It was impossible for McChesney to envision how completely his dream would come true. Through the reestablishment of a strong denominational tie, strong executive leadership, and a strong reputation in its community, Cedarville College has become an institution renowned throughout the nation for the quality of its education and the commitment of its faculty, staff, trustees, administration, and students to the principles of historic fundamentalism. Seventy years after McChesney expressed his dream, President Paul Dixon stated:

> I want the Cedarville College graduates who enter the 1990s to be able to take advantage of the tremendous opportunities that the information age will present. And as they are prepared spiritually and academically, I am convinced that they will make a mark on their world for Jesus Christ.\textsuperscript{23}

In 1915 when McChesney described Cedarville College as being “founded in prayer, maintained in faith, and supported by sacrifice,” his words had prophetic as well as historic accuracy. The common threads of the first century have been continuity and commitment. Literally thousands have faithfully prayed for the institution as they have observed its development. Parents and pastors have encouraged young people to attend, convinced that the college has been maintained “For the Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ.” Clearly the college has been supported by the financial sacrifices of individuals and churches and by the manner in which so many of the faculty, staff, and administrators have been willing to devote their lives to the development and growth of the institution. At the end of its first century, Cedarville College remains firmly rooted in the traditional values of historic biblical Christianity while possessing a future-focused perspective. As its second century dawns, the Cedarville College family stands poised at the cutting edge of Christian higher education, ready to see where the strength and mission of the institution intersect the changing needs of society.

2. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. These statistics were provided by the Christian Ministries Office.
9. Ibid.
11. Ibid.
12. Ibid.
15. Ibid.
16. Ibid.
19. Ibid.
20. Ibid.
21. Ibid.
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