

## **A Reading: Nannie Helen Burroughs at a 1942 Faculty Meeting – Guidance to the staff and views about the children**

WITH THREE O'CLOCK HAVING BEEN SET AS THE HOUR FOR THE FACULTY MEETING,  
PRESIDENT

BURROUGHS OPENED PROMPTLY WITH A PRAYER. IN A VERY INFORMAL SETTING, THE  
PRESIDENT STATED THE FOLLOWING PERTINENT FACTS AS THE OUTGROWTH OF HER  
OBSERVATIONS, MEDITATIONS AND CONFERENCES: "IF WE CAN SEE THE OPPORTUNITY AND  
CHALLENGE TOGETHER, IT IS POSSIBLE TO WORK TOGETHER MORE EFFECTIVELY. AT THE  
BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR, I WANTED EVERYBODY TO FIND THEMSELVES AND I HAVE TRIED  
TO

GIVE THAT SORT OF OPPORTUNITY. I AM EXPECTING A GREAT DEAL IN THE MATTER OF  
ADMINISTRATION AND I AM GIVING PROFESSOR LORMANS, OUR ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, MY  
WHOLE- HEARTED SUPPORT BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN HIS CAPABILITIES. WHEN I GIVE PEOPLE  
SOMETHING TO DO, I LET THEM DO IT, AND WHEN I FIND OUT THEY CAN'T DO IT, I LET THEM  
GO.

I BELIEVE GOD IS HELPING ME BY GIVING ME THOSE WHO TAKE THIS WORK AS SERIOUSLY  
AS I DO.....A "CAUSE" LIKE THIS REQUIRES THAT WE (1) KNOW YOUNG PEOPLE, AND (2)  
INFLUENCE THEM IN CHARACTER IDEALS. A "CAUSE" LIKE THIS MEANS TEAM-WORK...A  
PLACE

LIKE THIS IS NOT THE PLACE FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THIS WORK.

NOBODY IN THE WORLD EVER WINS SUCCESS OR A PLACE OF USEFULNESS UNTIL HE OR SHE  
IS ABSOLUTELY WEDDED TO A CAUSE.

CRITICISM OF THE SCHOOL – IT IS NOT PERFECT, NEVER WILL BE – OF THE STUDENTS, OF THE  
FACULTY IS AN EVIDENCE OF WEAKNESS, OF AN UNPROFESSIONAL ATTITUDE. IT SHOWS A  
LACK – A WOEFUL LACK OF STANDARDS, OF PRINCIPALS, OF ETHICS. IF A PERSON LIVES BY  
OR

ON A CAUSE LIKE THIS, HE OR SHE MUST LIVE FOR IT. I LIKE PEOPLE WHO CAN MAKE  
SUGGESTIONS, BUT THEY MUST BE PRACTICAL AND POSSIBLE, AND THE PERSON WHO MAKES

THEM MUST GO THE SECOND MILE TO CARRY THEM OUT. CRITICISM IS ALRIGHT, IF IT IS CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM TO THE RIGHT PERSON, IN THE RIGHT PLACE, AT THE RIGHT TIME, AND IN THE RIGHT SPIRIT.

IF YOU WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE YOU WANT TO HELP THEM. EVERY TEACHER SHOULD BE CONSCIOUS OF WHAT IS TAKING PLACE IN THE LIVES OF STUDENTS, ESPECIALLY GIRLS. MOST TEACHERS FALL DOWN TRYING TO HANDLE OUR STUDENTS. THE STUDENT IS NINE-TENTHS RIGHT MOST OF THE TIME, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO AN ANALYSIS OF WHAT A TEACHER

ACTUALLY KNOWS ABOUT THE THING SHE OR HE IS TEACHING. STUDENTS SEE OUR LIVES. SOMETIMES THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT WE SAY, BUT THEY UNDERSTAND WHAT WE DO. SO, TODAY I AM ASKING YOU, AS TEACHERS, TO DEDICATE YOURSELF TO THE CAUSE WITHOUT STINT, WITH WHOLE-HEARTED ENDEAVOR. IF YOU HURT ALL THE TIME AND HAVE TO CARRY THAT INTO YOUR WORK, YOU ARE EMOTIONALLY UNFIT FOR THIS CAUSE. THESE YOUNG PEOPLE MUST SEE PEOPLE WHOLE AND WELL AND UP AND GOING. THIS IS NO PLACE FOR ANYBODY WHO IS NOT MENTALLY, MORALLY, AND SOCIALLY FIT. THIS IS A TEAM – EVERYBODY PLAYING. I AM DESIRING NOTHING LESS UNDER THE SUN THAN PERFECTION. I HAVE PUT MUCH INTO THIS CAUSE AND I HAVEN'T PUT IT IN FOR NANNIE HELEN BURROUGHS, BUT FOR MY LORD AND SAVIOR...I WANT YOU TO CATCH THE SPIRIT OF THIS THING. PUT YOUR HEART IN IT. UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING ABOUT IT. THERE ARE NO SECRETS."