



A 1942 FACULTY MEETING: NANNIE HELEN BURROUGHS' 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 KIND OF OPPORTUNITY. I AM EXPECTING A GREAT DEAL IN THE MATTER OF ADMINISTRATION, AND I AM GIVING PROFESSOR LORMANS, OUR ASSISTANT PRINCIPLE, 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 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 PRINCIPLES, OF ETHICS. 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 HE OR SHE 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 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 WHO WANTS WOMANHOOD GLORIFIED. AND AS CHRISTIAN WOMEN, I WANT YOU TO CATCH THE SPIRIT OF THIS THING. PUT YOUR HEART IN IT. UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING ABOUT IT. THERE ARE NO SECRETS."