

We used to have nearly a third of our student body from Wheaton. Then in 1956 when we had that division we've had not more than one or two in all the years since. But the Lord worked it so that I would have been there and gotten contact with the students the year before we started. And that we had Dr. Buswell's support while he was still there. That was a tremendous help in getting under way. And that I got started with that having those 2 successive chapels. I always felt that those two chapels was worth 5 times what one would be.

You might say I got in under the wire on that, and it was part of the Lord's working in enabling us to get properly under way. I felt it had a lot to do with out effectiveness. Finally when the thing came in 1956 the fellow who was there making arrangements for me to speak, he told me that they only give one chapel to a representative. Ken Kantzer told me the next year when I saw him that he had wondered why I had not come back, and he had gone and asked, and they said, Oh, Dr. MacRae has now become a controversial figure.

As far as I could see I was a controversial figure only in what others were doing. I did not know of anything that I had done that would make me a controversial figure. After that I was only given one chapel. I never felt it was worth asking the school to pay my way out there and back for one. I felt two was worth many times what one was. I've only been there once or twice since. During those years it was something the Lord made possible for us.

Dr. Stam said to me one day-- he referred to the president of Northern Baptist, and said he makes the best impression of any seminary president who speaks next to you. I was quite surprised at that. But that was his feeling, and the feeling of many there that I made the best impression of any seminary president. I felt the Lord had given me a special knack in dealing with students.

For the lay people I think there are many who can do it far better than I can and have far greater influence, but I feel I have a special preparation for dealing with students. I met a fellow a few years ago who is dean (I'm not sure but it's my impression) he is dean of Fuller Seminary. He taught at Gordon for a while at first. I had never heard of him. He graduated from Wheaton and he said, You were one of our favorite chapel speakers.

Richard Smitley graduated from Bob Jones. Then he became a pastor. After he had been a pastor for some time there was in the same town a fellow who had graduated from Wheaton. This fellow said to him, If you should decide to go to seminary you ought to study under Dr. MacRae. He'd never heard of me or of Faith Seminary before. After a year or two he decided he ought to have more training so he came to Faith. Eventually he became our dean for a few years. He was a member of our board up here. It shows you don't know how the Lord works in giving you opportunities that can be used in various ways. Dr. Stam was a tremendous help to me, in all the work. A tremendous help.