

Dr. MacRae Interviewed by James Neher 8-30-79

You ask particularly about the years at Faith inbetween the crises. One remembers the crises more vividly than one remembers the years that go on steadily year after year. The years from 1937 when Faith started until '52 when we went to Elkins Park (those 15 yrs.) sort of coalesce in my mind. As I think of them, I can remember what I did each summer during that period. But during the years, I remember individuals but often it's hard to remember just which year they were there.

Dr. Harris was with me during the whole time. Dr. Harris had wonderful fellowship during my last 2 yrs. at Westminster. He had been very sympathetic, and on the issues on which I separated from them, on some of them, he felt very strongly the way I did originally. Others of them, on reading the correspondence for instance between McIntire and Kuiper, he was quite convinced McIntire was right. I never did read that correspondence. But I was quite sure on the issues McIntire was right.

There were some other matters on which he after having had 3 yrs there in their indoctrination, might have leaned in their direction more than I would, but in which in our intercourse I think he moved more in our direction. But I had very wonderful fellowship with him during those two years.

In the first of those two years, he graduated in '35, and in '36 I was anxious-- '36 is when Dr. Allis resigned, so the whole OT department was in my hands. I was very anxious to have him as my assistant. But E.J. Young had had a Fellowship in which he had gone to Germany and studied for a year. The faculty felt it would make a far better impression with the alumni to get Young as my assistant than Harris as my assistant.

I felt Harris had a much better mind than Young had-- definitely much better, and I felt much closer to him. Though I had always liked Young. We had been good friends. I felt much closer to Harris in various ~~ways~~ ways. I made quite an argument to have Harris as my assistant. They -- I think Dr. Machen said, It might be that it would be much better to have Harris. But that under the circumstances he felt it was better to have Young. That is of the two men, he might be the better.

Well, they made Harris assistant registrar, and he had charge of the library. In those days we had just one man in the whole library work. Harris did the whole library plus the assistant registrarship that year. The next year, he just had the library. But he also took graduate work ~~xxxxxx~~ and so he took an STM taking courses with me in the OT Dept. No, that was '36-'37. In '35-'36 Harris was assistant registrar. So he and I worked closely that year. It was the next year I wanted him for an assistant but they didn't agree to that.

I remember when I was working on my dissertation for the U. of PA., in the final stages of it, Harris came and gave me help--very useful help. We would work together in the evening until maybe 12 at night, and then he'd get into my bed and sleep