

## The President's Paragraphs

Dr. J. D. O'Donnell



When one begins to look at his ministry in retrospect, he always has questions in his own mind about its success and the wisdom of all of his actions and decisions. As most of you know by now, my resignation has been submitted to the board of trustees. Thus, I now look back over six years as president of the Oklahoma Bible College with many emotions. I stand before you somewhat like Samuel did when he was being replaced as temporal leader of Israel by Saul and said, "Behold, here I am: witness against me before the Lord" (I Samuel 12:3). My work will be judged in many ways by many different people. Only time will test and reveal its true value.

I personally look back with pride upon certain accomplishments. The following are the ones I consider outstanding:

1. The move of the College to a campus. The College is now located on its spacious campus with five structures.

2. The building of a state program of Christian education unequalled by any other state in the National Association. This year's Oklahoma state gifts to the

College will pass the \$95,000 mark. This year's total budget will be around \$150,000.

3. The establishment of a basic program for a Christian liberal arts college which in time will attract young people who plan to enter varied vocations in life. The change of the name to Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College symbolizes this program.

4. Accreditation by the State Board of Regents of Higher Education which has now been granted stands as a climax to my six years of work. This recognition as an accredited institution will draw many students.

But the accomplishments have not satisfied all our dreams for a College. The College is yet in its infancy. Its future potential is great. To the supporters of the College, I use the words of Paul as he departed from the Ephesian elders, "Brethren, I commend you to God, and the word of his grace" (Acts 20:32). Let us pray together that God will make Hillsdale College a means of multiplying the ministry of Free Will Baptists greatly.

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# Oklahoma Bible College

NEWS-LETTER

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## OBC PRESIDENT RESIGNS POST

Climaxing six years at the helm of Oklahoma Bible College, Dr. J. D. O'Donnell has resigned as President of the denominationally-supported junior college effective June 30. Dr. O'Donnell leaves behind him both visible and invisible evidences of his leadership of the College which was truly in its infancy as a college when he assumed the role as

president.

In submitting his resignation, Dr. O'Donnell expressed his thanks "...to the Board for its faithfulness, to my staff for its diligent and sacrificial labors, and to all our people across the states who have joined us in this venture by prayer and financial support."

Dr. O'Donnell has accepted the pastorate of the Grant Avenue Free Will Baptist Church in Springfield, Missouri.

Dr. O'Donnell and his family moved to Oklahoma in June, 1965, and he began fulfilling the presidency while the College was housed in the educational unit of Capitol Hill Free Will Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. Although the land for the present campus had already been purchased and the basic plans for the first four structures had been tentatively approved, Dr. J. D. O'Donnell was instrumental in guiding the transformation of thirty-six acres of barren ground into the now-existing campus valued above \$500,000.00. Working in close harmony with the Board of Trustees, some minor modifications were made in the building plans before actual construction began in March of 1966. That fall, the student body of Oklahoma Bible College moved to its permanent home and occupied the four structures which stood on the rolling hills of central Oklahoma approximately two and one-half miles south of Moore alongside Interstate Highway 35. The four structures consisted of three small

(Continued Inside)

### President Honored By Student Body

Members and friends of the 1970-71 OBC Student Body gave Dr. J. D. O'Donnell a standing ovation during Graduation Exercises May 14 as Student Body President "Buddy" Drake presented him with a token of their appreciation for his services as OBC's President.

On behalf of the Student Body, Mr. Drake presented a 16 x 20 natural color portrait of Dr. O'Donnell to be placed in the Administration Building. As a personal token, Dr. O'Donnell was given a plaque expressing the appreciation of the students for his leadership during the six years he served as president.

In acknowledging his appreciation of this recognition, Dr. O'Donnell jokingly noted that he would be remembered as the last president of OBC. After July 1, the new name, Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, will be in official use.



# LAST GRADUATING CLASS GETS DEGREES

The last class to be graduated from Oklahoma Bible College received their Associate in Arts degrees during Commencement exercises Friday night, May 14. Next year's graduating class will be the first one to be granted degrees from Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College. The name change is effective July 1, 1971.

Dr. Dan Hobbs, Educational Programs Officer and Senior Research Officer with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, challenged the graduating sophomores "to do their thing" by developing their God-given talents.

Honored as the Outstanding Student of 1970-71 was Miss Janice Fogerson of Mountain Grove, Missouri. The faculty annually awards this honor to the student whom they feel has made outstanding contributions to all aspects of College life.

Recognized by their fellow students as



THE 1970-71 GRADUATING CLASS includes, left to right, first row: Marlene Shell, Wichita, Kansas; Martha Hearron, Moore, Oklahoma; Glenda Lemmons, Drumright, Oklahoma; and Janice Fogerson, Mountain Grove, Missouri. Second row: Patti Parr, Bowie, Texas; Wesley Bigelow, Kansas City, Missouri; David Archer, Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Alvin Drake, Jr., Allen, Oklahoma. One graduate, Waldo Young, Spencer, Okla., was awarded his degree in absentia.

Best All-Around Girl and Boy were Miss Glenda Lemmons and Mr. Greg Kern. Miss Lemmons, who was a graduating sophomore, plans to further her education in the fall. She is from Drumright, Oklahoma. Mr. Kern, who hails from Locust Grove, completed his freshman year at OBC.

The Key Award, annually presented to the sophomore who has maintained the highest grade point average for the year, went to Miss Martha Hearron, Moore, Oklahoma. The Freshman Academic Award, which is given to the freshman who has the highest grade point average, was presented to Miss Sherry Young, Oklahoma City.

Recognized with appropriate medals for fulfilling roles of leadership were Alvin "Buddy" Drake who served as Student Body President; Wesley Bigelow who was editor of the HARVESTER yearbook; and Janice Fogerson, Assistant Yearbook Editor. Members of the yearbook staff were also cited for their work on the 1971 HARVESTER.

## News Of Alumni

Earnest Harrison, Jr. ('67) and Brenda became parents of a son, Clifton Rip, May 9, 1971. Mr. Harrison is pastoring at Haskell, Oklahoma.

John Clyde Gillentine ('69) was graduated summa cum laude with a B. A. degree from Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, May 13, 1971. Other OBC alumni who were awarded B. A. degrees included Arilla Wode ('69) and Dennis Teague ('67).

Gloster "Dock" Caton ('69-'70) and Norma have been approved as summer missionaries to Brazil, South America.

Ken ('70) and Mary Bradshaw ('69-'70) Sluder have been approved for summer missionary work in Ivory Coast, West Africa.

## Monthly Gifts

Okla. Cooperative Giving.....	847.29
Designated Giving by Associations:	
Arkansas Valley .....	5.00
Canadian.....	3.00
Center.....	105.50
Dibble.....	286.58
Eureka.....	10.00
First Mission.....	752.16
First Oklahoma.....	1,324.48
Gaines Creek.....	452.63
Hopewell #2.....	273.02
Northeast.....	220.04
Poteau River Valley.....	415.05
Progressive.....	573.00
Southeast.....	5.00
South Grand River.....	696.89
Union.....	76.50
Miscellaneous Okla. Gifts.....	167.13
Total Okla. Gen. Giving	6,213.27
Designated Giving:	
Scholarship Fund.....	232.00
Alumni Library Fund .....	8.25
State Woman's Auxiliary.....	91.00
Other States:	
Alabama.....	5.00
Arkansas.....	174.14
Colorado.....	12.83
Florida.....	5.00
Indiana.....	177.68
Kansas.....	43.90
Kentucky.....	5.00
Maryland.....	45.00
Missouri.....	476.13
New Mexico.....	15.00
North Carolina.....	60.74
Tennessee.....	320.00
Texas.....	163.12
Virginia.....	563.03
Peurto Rico.....	5.00
Total Other Giving.....	\$2,402.82
**Grand Total-April '71.....	\$8,616.09

Members of the sponsoring OBC Student Council have termed the 1971 Jamboree a success. Approximately \$135 was raised to be used in next year's campus recreational program.

## RESIGNATION (Continued)

dormitories and an Administration Building.

In the spring of 1968, ground was broken for a three-story dormitory designed to house fifty-six students and to provide lounging and laundry facilities. This building, the fifth to be built on the campus, was occupied in December of that year.

The program of education has been enlarged and upgraded since Dr. O'Donnell became president. Not only is it possible for a student who is interested in full-time Christian service to obtain a degree with an emphasis in one of five related fields, but the individual who desires to obtain a degree in general education may also realize his goal in a Christian atmosphere. The Associates in Arts degree earned at OBC is transferable to other institutions of higher education, another forward step in the educational process which has been accomplished during Dr. O'Donnell's tenure. Credits earned at OBC were not recognized as valid until the administration began working with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in 1966. This relationship was not possible until the college had a permanent campus.

The number and the qualifications of faculty members both have been advanced since Dr. O'Donnell has been directing the College's progress. When he assumed the presidency, there was only one full-time faculty member. He held a B.A. degree. During the six-year tenure, the administration and faculty reached a high of nine members. Today, in addition to the Doctorate of Theology degree held by Dr. O'Donnell, the other three administrative officers each hold a master's degrees.

## News Of Alumni (Continued)

Tom ('65-'68) and Kandice ('67-'68) O'Hern welcomed their second daughter, Kendra Javon, December 18, 1970.