



**ABHE FLAGSHIP PRESIDENTS GATHERING
OUTLINE OF ADDRESS BY D. BRUCE LOCKERBIE
“MISSION FOCUS VS. MISSION DRIFT”
June 3, 2017**

- **The historical distinctives of the Bible college movement**
- **Making the case: Why do we exist in the higher education space?**
- **Telling signs of serious mission drift**

Introduction

- Peter Greer and Chris Horst, *Mission Drift: The Unspoken Crisis Facing Leaders, Charities, and Churches* (2014)
- **Where are we now**, 135 years after A. B. Simpson’s Missionary Training Institute (1882)?
- **What needs can we predict and project** as goals for our institutional strategic plans? And **how do we sustain with integrity the biblical intentions of our founders**, their mission and vision?

Making a Historical Comparison

- Who was Frank E. Gaebelein?
- What is the connection between D. L. Moody, his schools, and The Stony Brook School?
- “I bequeath as my legacy those training schools for Jesus to the churches of America, and I only ask that visitors to the beautiful native village where my ashes slumber ... shall not be pained with the sight of melancholy ruins wrought by cruel neglect, but rather shall be greeted by the spectacle of two great, glorious lighthouses of the Lord, beaming out over the land, over the continent, over the world.” D. L. Moody, 1899
- Northfield Conferences / Stony Brook Assembly 1909 / The Stony Brook School 1921 (1922) “Thy Word Is Truth” (chapel inscription) “Sir, We Would See Jesus” (pulpit inscription)
- Gaebelein, *Christian Education in a Democracy*, “A New Form of American Education”
Gaebelein, *The Christian, the Arts, and Truth*, “The Word of God in Education”
Gaebelein, *The Pattern of God’s Truth: Problems of Integration in Christian Education*

Mission and Vision

- Peter F. Drucker, “Brief enough to fit on a T-shirt, but more than a slogan.”
- James Daughdrill, President, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN (1973-1999)
- “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old[er] he will not depart from it.”
- Mission is the *temporal academic purpose* / Vision is the *eternal spiritual purpose*
- Mission is the ethical professional institutional duty / Vision is the prayerful hope and aspiration
- Do you as President/CEO know/declare/share with others your college’s mission and vision?

“Nothing God Can Stay”

- Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay. Robert Frost
- Pessimism? Inevitability? "The natural course . . .?" Reality?
- Harvard College student rules 1642 / 2010 decision against requiring one religion course
- Yale College by 1701
- John Christopher Hartwick, first Lutheran seminary, 1797
- John Ellis, Illinois College 1828 / Edward Beecher, first president
- Northwestern University founded by Methodists, 1851
- University of Chicago founded by John D. Rockefeller 1890 to be "the Baptist university"
- Wellesley College founded by Henry and Pauline Durant 1871
- Hillary Rodham Class of 1969 / PBS documentary November 1994 / Admissions office
- My challenge to the new president Dr. Paula A. Johnson

Warning Signs—and How to Avoid Their Calamitous Fulfillment

- Desire for "academic respectability" at the unacceptable cost of biblical fidelity/instruction
- CCCU or ABHE
- Acknowledge a general decline in biblical knowledge
- Cannot assume orthodoxy by surrogate credentials
- Must not tempt the slippery slope toward Laodicean apathy
- Should not approve curricular decisions that eliminate/diminish biblical studies
- But the Bible college must provide more than minimal instruction in arts and sciences
- Ensure the enduring legitimate place of the Bible
- Recognize impossibility of "integration" and worldview without deep biblical knowledge
- Set terms of employment and consequences for those who "just don't get it"
- "... There is no question of this man's professional competence . . . All the time there is another book in which he lives . . . The Bible has literally formed his mind . . . flowing from a mind and personality steeped in the Bible." Frank E. Gaebel, *The Pattern of God's Truth*

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