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REMINISCENCES

OF

WILLIAM H. MCMASTER

McMaster, William H.

Interview by
Lyle M. Crist
September 16, 1960

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MCMASTER: Lyle Crist and Cecil Stewart have asked me to reminisce on this tape recorder. It's a new experience for me. President Bracy invited Mrs. McMaster and me to come up to Mount Union College and see McMaster Hall. We have been entertained in the home of Professor and Mrs. Robert E. Stauffer during this week of September 16th. On the breakfast table of the Stauffers is a blooming gloxinia, a beautiful flower that's a descendent of a flower given by Dr. Joseph Loraine Shunk, the distinguished professor of Greek who selected Professor Stauffer as his successor. It's been a great pleasure to be in this home that's so full of suggestions of the Greek tradition and also appreciation of modern art and modern poetry. President Hartshorn said that individuals perish but institutions survive. Now when we come back after many, many years we miss many very dear friends. And appreciate how transit is our mortal life, but I don't know whether you could say unquestionably that institutions survive. Institutions survive if they have the qualities of survival. We're a Christian institution, we're Christian people and we believe that the Kingdom of God is going to triumph. And that those institutions which best express the ideals of the Kingdom of God, they're the ones that we think will survive. We're on the side of the victors. We're going to triumph, we're going to win out his fight of all serious, all disturbing aspects. We're all afraid of the atom bomb,

we're afraid and scared of inflation and those are real fears however we must not lost faith in God and in the triumph of his Kingdom. When I, when Mrs. McMaster and I left Mount Union in 1938 President B. F. Ashe who was a product of Mount Union College, he spent four years on the campus here, invited us to come down to Miami and I'm now Professor Emeritus of the University of Miami just as I am Professor Emeritus of Mount Union College. President Bracy took me out to the Rotary Club and introduced me as Professor Emeritus, and I told him about Dean Emeritus Luther Weigel of Yale, E. S. James Moffett when Moffet had just become Professor Emeritus of Union Theological Seminary. What does Emeritus mean? Well Moffet said E that's Latin means out. Meritus means ought to be. So I'm out, however I restrain myself from trying to tell President Bracy how to run this school, for it's running so much better than when I was here that I've got to give him my one hundred percent backing and praise. Down at the University of Miami they say that there are two things that you don't dare to in Miami, one is to beat your wife and the other is to say anything against the University of Miami. It's only thrity-one years old but a wonderful institution. And largely the creation of that Mount Union man Bowman Foster Ashe whoes father A. J. Ashe was a graduate here who himself was named after two Methodist Bishops, Bowman and Foster and who was very fond of quoting Ezechials vision of dry bones. I imagine that many people said why you don't think he can have a university down here in this playground of America where the people are so frivolous and they are just bent on

pleasure, horse races and dog races and midget races and all that. But Ashe belived that the dry bones could take on flesh and be organized and they'd march to victory, as Ezechial got the vision. So we've been very happy down there studying the Bible. And by the way I've started in to read the Bible through. I've taught the Bible for fifteen years and of course read many books over and over and over but to tell you the truth I never did read the Bible from Genisus to Revolation. A layman over in Washington whom I met said that he was going to start in and read the Bible well I said I believe I'll do that too. And I'm finding it very exciting to be reading the Bible after having read so much about the Bible and made critical studies of the Bible. Now one of the things I've studied is what was the content of the idea or concept that Jesus used about the Kingdom of God. He was always talking about the Kingdom of God. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God." And I have often presented to my classes in the form of a seven brass candle stick showing the seven objectives of the Kingdom of God. As a base I take nature then after nature comes history or the record of man on this earth, then the Bible. And the chief character of the Bible is Jesus Christ, that's the stem of the monora or the seven brass candle stick. And he defined Religion as love of God and love of man. Those were the two great commandments. So those are the two principal objectives of the Kingdom of God. We must get that divine love - agape- that's forgiving and that goes the second mile. The love of God shed abroad in our hearts with the holy spirit. And that enables

us to love our neighbor as ourself. So there are two objectives. Now another one is health. When I was a country school teacher I taught the children that thirty-three was the average age. Now it's sixty-six years, thanks to the doctors and nurses and medicines and vitamins. Twice what it used to be. So I believe that every doctor and nurse and research specialist and anybody taking care of the old and the sick and the children, they're all working for the Kingdom of God. For physical health and mental health, that's one of the objectives and we're awfully proud of the doctors, like Dick Cantell who operated on Anthony Eden. And when we were in Washington a few days ago Mrs. McMaster and I called on Charles Armstrong, who sent the serum to Idaho for the wife of Senator Borra who had psittacosis, I believe that's the word for it, parrot fever. One doctor said well she's almost dead and I don't see why we should use this precious serum but a young doctor said let's give it to her. The next morning she was better and Dr. Armstrong tells me Mrs. Borra is still living. Well Dr. Armstrong got a great, a lot of publicity out of that. Then he was sent over here to Canton after the First World War when they had that famous olive poisoning, ripe olive poisoning. Dr. Armstrong has been in the public health service in the United States and the Treasury Department has written this all up if anybody's interested in getting the facts, so he came out to the Country Club at Canton where seven people who had eaten these ripe olives died. He discovered that there was a poison in these olives which by the way had been cold packed by the Curtis Packing Company of California. Dr. Armstrong said the Curtis

Company sued him for three hundred thousand dollars but it resulted in the legislature passing a law that you could not cold pack ripe olives. He showed that the cause of the poisoning was this virul poison Bacillus Bochalitis. It was a great pleasure to meet Dr. Armstrong who by the way was one of the boys in school here who drew me up in the horse and buggy days, 1909, from the station up to the campus. The students, I saw them out parading yesterday in preperation for this game today with Ohio Wesleyan, the students all went down there and with a long rope attached to the buggy they drew Dean Gibbs and me up to the campus. And my first speech to the students was from that buggy on the campus on April 8, 1909. I was elected in September 1908 and I began at once to work for Mount Union over there in Brooklyn. But I had a church there and had to finish out the year until April. So that's why, my term of service begins in 1908 I really didn't get here on the campus until 1909. Well now to go on. We want help. Those doctors are a great asset, and Doctor Joseph M. Scott was a wonderful teacher and his pupils adore his memory to this day, they had established a memorial there in front of the new library building. The Joseph Scott Plaza which I was glad to see. Next is prosperity, the Kingdom of God stands for prosperity. The Bible does not place a blessing on poverty. Poverties occur you ought to get rid of it, and if we could get rid of war and turn to resources that are ours into production everybody would have plenty and there wouldn't be anybody go hungry in this world. I understand there are millions of people that go hungry every night. And that ought not to be because

there are enough resources in the earth and especially in the sea. Down at the University of Miami we have a Marine Biology, and the head of that said there are two hundred times as much food value in the sea as there is in the land. Well abundance and prosperity is an objective of the Kingdom of God. And all of those who are producing anything to feed and shelter and make more pleasant and palatable the life here on earth, they're working for the Kingdom of God. The next objective is truth. All the research specialist, all those who are searching after the secrets of the atom. I believe that this atomic energy is a revelation of God that put it into our hands and we must use it for constructive rather than destructive purposes. So the liberal arts college has to stand for the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of God stands for truth. We will search in Geology in Physics in Chemistry and in all these Physical Sciences and others to find out the truth, for as Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth will make you free." When I was here in 1946 we celebrated the hundredth anniversary of Mount Union, they called on me for a few remarks, it came to my mind what Rabbi Jacob Capland, who was a teacher down there in Miami, said to me. Isreal Zangwill went by a church that had a sign over the door, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth will make ye free." He said I went in and told them the truth and it didn't make them free it made them mad. So I said I'm going to tell you people something I hope it makes you mad, and that was that those books in the old library were moldy and being eaten up by rats and you ought to have a new library building. And now I come back and see this wonderful

building that the people of Alliance and the Alumni and friends have given. It's certainly an answer to prayer. So science must be promoted. Now next to the love of God the love of man we have to learn human relations. We must quit hating each other. We must have no prejudices against other peoples. The whole world by the elimination of space almost by our fast travel, Mrs. McMaster and I have flown three times on this trip, to New York, and to Washington, to Pittsburgh and we hope in a week or two to fly back to Coral Gables. The world is becoming a neighborhood. And the Christian ideal of the Golden Rule, the Golden Rule is the highest ethical maxim that's ever been given to the world, and Jesus had that in his Sermon on the Mount. Though Confucious had it five hundred years before Jesus though in a negative form. "Do unto others as you would that other should do unto you." That must be the international, inter-racial rule between the nations. There's one other objective of the Kingdom of God next to ethics and that's esthetics. Everything that makes for the more beautiful life, and the more beautiful world is an objective of the Kingdom of God. So that is the comprehensive objective of the Kingdom of God and it's the same as Mount Union College. So I have always felt that working for Mount Union College is equivilant to working for the Kingdom of God. Wasn't it wonderful that President Hartshorn put it in the Charter way back there in 1958, there should be no discrimination on account of race, religion, or politics. He was just a hundred years ahead of his time that's all. Up there on the monument that we erected on the farm where President Hartshorn was born, on the hundredth

anniversary of August 20th, 1926, we had made into bronze a quotation from one of Hartshorns sermons. And he said, "take a square look, trust God, then act, leaving to him the consequences." Now just what Hartshorn meant by saying take a square look, what I think he meant, these objectives of the Kingdom of God. I was not preached so much. Someone asked have you ever heard Colridge preach? Well they said we never heard him do anything else. And I did preach on Sundays, and on weekdays all over the country here, as well as try to administer the college during my days. And President Bracy shares all these enthusiasms and I was delighted to find how wonderfully he's leading the college. In that the school is so much better, and our fondest dreams have been surpassed. And now to come back to this McMaster Hall with which you've honored Mrs. McMaster and me and I'm sure it's more for her honor than mine, for she's worthy of it. I don't claim to be worthy, however President and Mrs. Bracy put on a reception where four hundred people came out to greet us and it was a great joy and pleasure to meet old friends. There are many around here that we'd like to get to see but we just can't, we have to hurry on our itinerary. Going up to Akron to see my sister, who's a Mount Union girl and who married a Mount Union preacher. And then on to Cleveland where we'll be the guest of Mr. H. S. Johns who was a senior when I came in here as a freshman. And who introduced the first inter-collegiate basketball game in America or in the world for that matter. James Nasmyth invented the basketball game at the YMCA college in Springfield, Mass. Major Stolberg of Canton learned it at Springfield, Mass. and brought it to

the YMCA in Canton. H. S. Johns who had charge of the gymnasium classes in the Morgan Gym learned it from Stolberg who later became Mayor of Canton. And he got Hiram College to get up a team of basketball it's now as you know a major sport but in those days the colleges kind of spurned it, they said well that's a YMCA game, that's a kind of a girls game and they weren't interested in it. But this man Johns who is still living and who will be our host in Cleveland, is the father of inter-collegiate basketball. The thing I inquired about, does this college still have an outside audit. And Wilbur Couche tells me they have Arnst and Arnst employed to audit the books every year. I'll never forget that once W. F. Conner who was a Trustee from Pittsburgh got up in a trustee meeting and said, "you have an audit?" Well Mr. Ramsey, W. H. Ramsey was treasurer he said, "yes we have an audit." Dr. Conner said is it an outside audit?" "No," Mr. Ramsey said, "We have Mr. Bertollette who is the auditor down at the Morgan Engineering Company he audits our books and it doesn't cost us anything." Well Conners said, "I refuse to be a Trustee in an institution that doesn't have an outside audit." So after that we hired Arnst and Arnst and while it's costly item in our budget it's the best thing we could do to show the public that this college has institutional integrity, financial integrity. Mount Union has never defaulted in any of her annuities or promises or contracts and her books are open where anybody can study them. And Arnst and Arnst is outside independent audit every year shows that it's an institution that keeps it's books in a business like way. That's the kind of an institution that will survive.

While those that are crooked will crack up. We recently celebrated our Golden Wedding, and many friends sent us money as well as flowers and telegrams which we greatly appreciated. I haven't got them all answered yet. Every penny that came in I turned it over to President Bracy and I'm establishing in honor of my wife the Isabella Thoburn Mills McMaster Scholarship Fund as a fund to aid foreign students particularly those from India. My wife's aunt was Isabella Thoburn who went to join her brother, Bishop J. M. Thoburn in India. And she started the first kindergarten and also the first college for women in all India and it's called the Isabella Thoburn College. Well that's where my wife got that name and that's where she got her interest in India for many of the Thoburns have gone to India and done distinguished missionary work there. So preference will be given to foreign students from India. However it's to bring foreign students to this campus which makes no discrimination as I have said on account of race, religion or politics. Now I think I have talked long enough but if I talked for hours I couldn't find words to express to Mrs. Bracy and to his staff the gratitude of Mrs. McMaster and myself for this magnificent building that's named in our honor and for the wonderful hospitality that you've shown us in making this trip back to alma mater such a heart warming feast of friendship. I think of that last verse of Lead Kindly Light. "So long thy power hath blessed us, sure it still will lead us on, o'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent till the night is gone. And with the morn those angel faces smile which I have loved long since have lost a while." My favorite

benediction these days is in Hebrews and in the revised standard version it goes this way: "And now, may the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with every good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

CRIST: That recording by President McMaster was made in the home of Professor Stauffer. The date was September 16, 1960.

ARMSTRONG, CHARLES.....	McMaster 4
ASHE, A. J.....	McMaster 2
ASHE, PRESIDENT B. F.....	McMaster 2
BERTOLETTE, MR.....	McMaster 9
BORRA, MRS.....	McMaster 4
BRACY, DR. CARL.....	McMaster 1, McMaster 8
BRACY, MRS. CARL.....	McMaster 10
CANTELL, DICK.....	McMaster 4
CAPLAND, RABBI JACOB.....	McMaster 6
COLRIDGE.....	McMaster 8
CONNER, DR.....	McMaster 9
CONNER, W. F.....	McMaster 9
COUCHIE, WILBUR.....	McMaster 9
COUNTRY CLUB (CANTON).....	McMaster 4
CRIST, LYLE.....	McMaster 1
CURTIS PACKING COMPANY.....	McMaster 4
EDEN, ANTHONY.....	McMaster 4
ERNST AND ERNST.....	McMaster 9
GIBBS, DEAN.....	McMaster 5
HARTSHORN, ORVILLE NELSON.....	McMaster 1, McMaster 7
JOHNS, MR. H. S.....	McMaster 8
KINGDOM OF GOD.....	McMaster 1
MCMASTER, ISABELLA THOBURN MILLS, SCHOLARSHIP....	McMaster 10
MCMASTER, MRS.....	McMaster 1
MCMASTER HALL (MUC).....	McMaster 8
MCMASTER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.....	McMaster 10
MORGAN ENGINEERING COMPANY.....	McMaster 9
MORGAN GYM (MUC).....	McMaster 9
MOUNT UNION COLLEGE LIBRARY.....	McMaster 6
MOUNT UNION COLLEGE MONUMENT.....	McMaster 7
MOUNT UNION 100TH ANNIVERSARY.....	McMaster 6
NASMITH, JAMES.....	McMaster 8
OLIVE POISONING.....	McMaster 4
RAMSEY, W. H.....	McMaster 9
ROTARY CLUB.....	McMaster 2
SCOTT, DR. JOSEPH.....	McMaster 5
SHUNK, DR. JOSEPH L.....	McMaster 1
STAUFFER, PROFESSOR AND MRS. ROBERT E.....	McMaster 1
STEWART, CECIL.....	McMaster 1
STOLBERG, MAJOR.....	McMaster 8
THOBURN FAMILY.....	McMaster 10
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI.....	McMaster 2
WEIGEL, DEAN LUTHER.....	McMaster 2
YMCA (CANTON).....	McMaster 9
ZANGWILL, ISREAL.....	McMaster 6