Chapter XX

The Cedarville College student of today has the opportunity to take advantage of several programs that have developed through the last third of a century. These programs provide a framework for the total development of the individual in the physical, spiritual, and social realms, as well as the intellectual.

The daily chapel services have always been a priority at Cedarville. Christian leaders from around the nation address the college family on a daily basis, providing a spiritual point of reference around which all else revolves. In the balance this provides there has been "an emphasis on evangelism without apology. For twenty-five years this institution was led by a pastor with an evangelist's heart." When pastor-evangelist Jeremiah resigned, the trustees called an evangelist to follow him. From the beginning Paul Dixon has stressed that Cedarville must continue to emphasize "evangelism, discipleship, and service for God."

The concept of balance has been very important in the Dixon presidency. It has emerged out of his conviction that "we will reach the world for Christ from the pew as well as the pulpit." Therefore, it is not enough merely to educate a person. Instead, the individual must live and share the key to life through Christ. Cedarville students learn the tentmaking concept: earning a living from a vocation, while using that position as a foundation for ministering to the needs of others.

Three Cedarville alumni are applying this process in China under the terms of an agreement signed by Cedarville College and the People's University in Beijing. Other universities represented in Beijing are

Over 70% of the students volunteer for a Christian ministry opportunity, whether it be in a rest home, at a mission, a children's home, or to a foreign country on Missionary Internship Service (MIS).
In 1986, the College signed an agreement with People’s University of China to provide them with English teachers, joining the likes of Princeton and Duke, who also have similar agreements with People’s. This came as an indirect result of the MIS teams that have gone to China.

Princeton, Duke, and Karl Marx University in East Berlin. They will be abroad from September 2 through July 1, 1987. One of the team, Sharon Rawson, likened their work to that of the Apostle Paul, “who made tents to survive but his main purpose was to do evangelistic work.”

A natural by-product of the evangelistic emphasis at Cedarville is the Missionary Internship Service program. Under the direction of the office of Vice President for Christian Ministries Harold Green, athletic teams, musical teams, puppet teams, and work teams have gone throughout the world to promote the cause of Jesus Christ. Since 1970, when the program was implemented, 1,043 young people have participated in Missionary Internship Service programs in 40 different countries. Students have raised over a million and one-half dollars in support of these various projects which broaden the students’ cultural base while exposing them to mission life on a short-term basis.

In addition to these international programs, Cedarville College students were busy in the immediate environment of the college:

Nine hundred students took part in compassion and discipleship ministries which were directed to jail inmates, senior citizens, hospitalized individuals, wayward children, handicapped persons, college students on other campuses, and local churches. Our gospel teams conducted over 400 church services and 272 other students carried out additional ministries. In all, 72 percent of our students volunteered for Christian service.

Traditionally, Cedarville College students, along with members of the faculty and staff, have been very sensitive to community needs. At times these projects have been very public, as in the “Clean Greene Project” when students helped clean the county. At other times their service has been very private. For example, the men of Alpha Chi provided the labor to insulate the homes of the elderly on fixed incomes through the Dayton Power and Light Volunteer Insulation Program.

In early May 1981, the college young people participated in one of the most touching ministries of this decade. Four Oaks, a school for the mentally retarded and multi-handicapped in Xenia, lost its funding for their summer camp program. Judy Lamusga, Director of Children’s Services, received a call from King’s Island, a large amusement park near Cincinnati, indicating that if the school could provide 50 volunteers to work concession stands for one night, they would donate $1,200 to the school. Lamusga thought this would be impossible. “Then,” she said, “I thought of Cedarville College.”

An announcement was made in chapel and 71 students responded, 21 more than needed. The students worked from 6:30 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. for free and received only one meal ticket in return. Four Oaks will receive $24 for each volunteer.

Since this occurred during Cedar Weekend, one of the busiest weekends at the college, students who participated made a significant sacrifice.

Those students who volunteered arrived back on campus at 5:00 a.m. and still participated in all the festive activities of Cedar Day on Saturday. “I’ve got goose bumps for what Cedarville College is doing,” adds Lamusga. “Now our camp program is a possibility.”
Because of the rural location of Cedarville College, Vice President Don Rickard and his staff have placed a strong emphasis on student services. Rickard's staff is responsible for a residence hall program which cares for 1,450 resident students. In addition, the health service facility, which moved into Patterson Clinic in the fall of 1983, was described as a "model in the State of Ohio," while being given special recognition in the last North Central report. A well-staffed Financial Aid Department processes over $4 million a year for the students. And the Campus Activities Office has provided programs ranging from highly sophisticated artists series to a 10-ton spirit rock, located between the College Center, Science Building, and Library. Placed on campus October 28, 1978, by American Aggregate Corporation, the rock has become a popular means of communication. Often painted more than once a night, it has carried a wide variety of messages.

Before Cedarville experienced the rapid growth of the '80s, several all-campus events took place. Since it was possible to crowd the vast majority of the college family into the gymnasium for an all-school banquet, several of these occurred each year. The only such event to survive the rapid growth of the school has been the quadrennial "Cedar What?" elections. Instituted in 1968 as a satire on national elections, the student body has elected a president of "Cedar What?" during each presidential election year. These mock elections have produced tremendous creativity on the part of the entire student body.

The spirit demonstrated by the Cedarville College family at athletic events or campus activities is a manifestation of the unity that undergirds campus life. Administrators, faculty, staff, and students do not always agree, but their commitment to Christ provides an underlying unity that is unique. In a very important sense, the family "bears one another's burdens." Prayer requests are announced daily in chapel, and family members pray for the needs of others. Many are willing to offer help and encouragement to those experiencing trials. From time to time, the family is drawn close together as they experience a common trial. An example of this occurred in 1986.

The "Young's Run" ranks high on the list of popular campus traditions. This trip to an area dairy located a few miles from campus on Route 68, north of Yellow Springs, provides students an escape from the rigors of academia and allows them to enjoy ice cream and freshly baked pastries. Very few students on campus have never made a Young's Run.

Late in the evening of April 30, 1986, word gradually filtered through the Cedarville College dormitories that a serious accident had occurred as a carload of students made their Young's Run. It had been a difficult year for the Cedarville student body because of automobile accidents. During the Christmas vacation, freshman Robert Atkinson had lost his life in an accident while home for the holidays. On February 18, senior Jay Butcher was riding with a friend who was testing his new vehicle when he died in an accident. Now, as Cedarville students learned of an accident involving five of their schoolmates, they were stunned. As the information was gathered, it became apparent that two students, Debra Henry and Gordon Ooms, had lost their lives. Three others were hospitalized with serious injuries. President Paul Dixon spent most of the night at the hospital with the young people. When he returned to Cedarville at 4 a.m., he moved from dormitory to dormitory visiting with students. The next day, following a memorial service for the students, Dixon said, "I think it's really causing the faith of our students to increase, and they're getting more serious about their lives. It's made them aware of the importance of making life count for Christ." A prayer service was held on the campus during the chapel hour the morning after the accident. As the student body and administrators prayed for the families of the dead students and for those who had been injured in the accident, they also repeatedly prayed for the family of the man who had driven left of center and struck the student's car head on. The following day Dixon described the memorial service as "a service of praise and a service of challenge."

Singing and praying together and listening to the reflections of representatives of the community, those gathered at the small Baptist college shared their grief and reaffirmed their faith that, while they may not always understand His workings, God's actions serve their needs and His glory.

Miles Henry, Debra's father, attended the memorial service on campus and said that the "feeling among members of the campus community has helped his family accept the loss."

Those who saw the Cedarville College family bonding to one another in the tragic loss of 1986 gained an understanding of what Cedarville is really all about. It is indeed a
Chapel, as Dr. Dixon says, is "the heartbeat of a Christian college." During chapel throughout the year students are challenged by such men as Warren Wiersbe, Joe Stowell, Georgi Vins, and many others. On Monday, the President speaks during what many refer to as "family time," challenging each student in his spiritual life.
community of Christians, people who are
dedicated not only to education but to each
other. Faculty members wept openly and
unashamedly as they dropped academics for a
day to discuss with their students how to gain
strength even in sorrow. Students, many of
whom had never experienced the loss of
anyone close to them, learned from others how
to adjust to grief. All were faced with the
reality that tears are not a sign of weakness
but of caring.

As Cedarville stands on the threshold of the
second century, its physical resources will
continue to expand. The Centennial Campaign
announced in 1986 is the most ambitious in
the history of the college:

Cedarville’s Centennial Campaign, celebrat­
ing 100 years of Christian higher education, is
currently in progress. Campaign projects
include:

1. A new Library. Currently under construc­
tion, it will be one of the finest of its kind.
Consisting of 66,830 square feet, it will provide
numerous learning advantages to our students,
the technology of the information age, and the
resources to support a growing enrollment and
expanding curriculum. Cost: $4,200,000.

2. The retrofit of the current library building
to house the Department of Business Adminis­
tration. At 27,000 square feet, this corporate
center will provide 12 classrooms, 18 academic
offices, computer support throughout, and a
unique business simulation laboratory. Cost:
$727,000.

3. An increase in unrestricted giving which
supports the general operating fund to a total of
$2,000,000 over a period of 21/2 years.

4. An increase of $1,000,000 to the College’s
endowment.13

In 1976 the college sought to raise
1.1 million dollars for a Chapel and raised
$750,000 total. In 1981 the college raised two
million of the three million dollars needed for
the Athletic Center. When Paul Dixon and Vice
Presidents Martin Clark and Kenneth
St. Clair prepared their recommendations for the
Centennial Campaign, they studied the needs of
the new library and the retrofitting of the old
library for a business center. Consultants tested
the fund-raising potential of the college and
prepared projections of costs, financing, cash
flow, maintenance, and fund raising. As Dixon
walked into the trustees’ meeting with his pre­
sentation, he was struck by the weight and sig­
nificance of the decision to be made.

It had been a long time since I had felt the
weight of anything like I felt that day. I realized
it was not just my responsibility. There would
be other people involved, but as president I
would bear a great deal of the responsibility in
leading this effort.14

Dixon’s presentation to the Board lasted less
than 20 minutes, and they immediately voted
unanimously to move forward with the
project. With the weight of the challenge still
in his mind, Dixon leaned over to one of the
trustees and said, “How can you spend five
million dollars in 20 minutes!”15

Part of the answer to that would have to be
the tremendous confidence that the Board of
Trustees placed in the young president and the
administrative team. During the early years of
his presidency, Dixon proved to be a tireless
worker in behalf of the college. He seemed to
thrive on the challenge of wearing the many
hats of the college president.

In 1984 Dixon decided to pursue a doctorate
of education. When asked why he would enter
a doctoral program with all the other pressures
involved in being a college president, Dixon’s
response was typical. This man who had been
awarded an honorary degree early in his
presidency was not willing to settle for that:

I felt that the institution would fare well with
a president who had an earned doctorate. Cedar­
ville College has a strong testimony in the aca­
demic community because of our growth dur­
ing this time of decline. This has the attention
of everyone in this state, and I think it will help
the institution if the president has an earned
degree. Second, I wanted the challenge of it. I
wanted to go to school if I could develop those
areas where I felt I was weak.16

Dixon enrolled in the University of
Cincinnat i, where a program was designed to
enable him to strengthen his understanding of
such areas as finance, law, personnel, and
history in higher education. He made a
detailed study of strategic planning which
culminated in his doctoral dissertation,
Dating is a "natural" part of Cedarville College life, but even more so is the sense which students have of growing together, enjoying each other's company, and supporting one another as they mature and learn.

completed in June 1986, when the degree of Ed.D. was conferred.

As Cedarville looks to its second century, certain projections can be made based on past experiences. Several members of the faculty are established and highly respected in their disciplines. The institutional commitment to funding and faculty development combined with the ability to attract capable scholars should enable the college to maintain an exceptional faculty.

Recent studies continue to demonstrate that Cedarville College, because of its academic excellence, attracts top quality students. The test scores for Cedarville freshmen continue to be above the national average. In addition to this academic progress, however, Cedarville's programs continue to encourage and help those whose academic background has limited them. The institution is committed to increased quality, but is determined not to develop an attitude that excludes the average student.

The past success of Cedarville's men's and women's athletic programs and the ability of these programs to galvanize campus spirit indicates that Cedarville will continue to maintain a balance between the social, academic, and intellectual realms. The college will continue to seek quality athletes as well as quality scholars.

The emphasis on community would indicate that Cedarville will continue to be a place where students and faculty are heavily involved in volunteerism, compassion ministries, and world-wide Christian service ministries.

President Dixon's often repeated statement: "I am convinced that everything done in the name of Jesus Christ ought to have 'QUALITY' stamped all over it" would indicate that Cedarville College will continue to maintain excellence at every level. The financial position of the institution should continue to improve with careful budgeting, increased gift income, and increased endowment, which is already a reality. Attention to debt reduction has been an important factor in this process.

The campus-wide planning process, which involves faculty, staff, and students, has become an integral part of life at Cedarville College. All planning flows out of a firm commitment to institutional mission. People who once questioned the restrictiveness of Cedarville's commitment to the principles of historic fundamentalism now praise the
institution for having had the vision to maintain a well-defined sense of mission and purpose when much of Christian education has succumbed to secularization.

Examiners from the North Central accrediting body, college presidents from throughout Ohio, and educators in general who have observed the Cedarville situation recognize that the institution's commitment to its well-defined mission has enabled Cedarville College to develop a niche all its own in the world of higher education. President Paul Dixon describes that position in these terms:

We live in an historical moment which I perceive to be a bridge between the industrial age and the new information age. Cedarville College is crossing that bridge with a sure-footedness because of the blessing of our God and the quality of our continuing commitment to our historic mission — to impart to our students a quality, Christian education consistent with biblical truth. 17

In his annual report two years later, Dixon again described this as the key to Cedarville's "stable and strong future."

Cedarville College has a special sense of purpose — a clear and direct vision of its future that flows out of its mission. With the individual student as the centerpiece, the college is resolute in its commitment to offer an education consistent with biblical truth. It is devoted to a quality value centered educational experience that will endow with wisdom future generations of students who will have an impact on

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To advance its quality academic programs, the College built a new library facility. On April 4, 1986, a praise service was held, celebrating the beginning of this building project. Officially opened during 1987, the Centennial year, it marks the College's first step into its second century.
The purpose of Cedarville College will continue, as it has in the past, to be foremost during the next 100 years: to help students become greater servants for Jesus Christ, so that in whatever or wherever they are, they will share His Word with the many in this world who are lost and lonely.
their world for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.\textsuperscript{19}

The ability to accomplish its objectives and goals effectively must continue to flow out of careful planning. The planning process, now led by Dr. Rex Rogers, is comprised of committees at every level of the college community employing the strategic planning philosophy.

That is, they look at the big picture in higher education, the long-range destiny of the college, the need in the marketplace for quality Christian education, the competition, and Cedarville’s mix of internal and external resources to accomplish the mission of the college.\textsuperscript{19}

Dr. Martin Clark, Vice President for Development, has said, “Strategic planning is an institution-wide effort at Cedarville College. It is a future-focused, participative process resulting in statements of institutional intention that match our program strengths to recognize needs for excellence in Christian education.”\textsuperscript{20}

In addressing the principles of planning, President Dixon has said: “National interest in the quality of higher education is on the rise. Our response at Cedarville is to be pro-active by establishing through strategic planning an agenda for excellence.”\textsuperscript{21}

In 1915 when William Renwick McChesney was installed as president of Cedarville College, he concluded his inauguration address on the ideal college with these words:

> Citizens of Cedarville and community, Board of Trustees, Alumni, students, and faculty, let us here and now dedicate ourselves anew, with the like devotion which characterized our illustrious fathers, to cooperate with one another and to toil with faith in God and with a view single to His glory of the upbuilding of Cedarville College, that there may continue through the coming ages a Christian institution of higher learning in our midst to train our youth, enrich our nation, and make glad the church of Christ; and in doing so we pray not for lighter tasks but greater strength; not for conflicts to be shunned but for courage and wisdom to meet them; not for passing honor, whose getting is unworthy of earnest effort, but for potent influence so holy, rational, serviceable and devoid of selfish purpose that it shall uplift fellow men as it breathes upon them its beneficence and so continue, after our work is done, to carry its blissful charm and power to coming generations.”\textsuperscript{22}

It was impossible for McChesney to envision how completely his dream would come true. Through the reestablishment of a strong denominational tie, strong executive leadership, and a strong reputation in its community, Cedarville College has become an institution renowned throughout the nation for the quality of its education and the commitment of its faculty, staff, trustees, administration, and students to the principles of historic fundamentalism. Seventy years after McChesney expressed his dream, President Paul Dixon stated:

> I want the Cedarville College graduates who enter the 1990s to be able to take advantage of the tremendous opportunities that the information age will present. And as they are prepared spiritually and academically, I am convinced that they will make a mark on their world for Jesus Christ.”\textsuperscript{23}

In 1915 when McChesney described Cedarville College as being “founded in prayer, maintained in faith, and supported by sacrifice,” his words had prophetic as well as historic accuracy. The common threads of the first century have been continuity and commitment. Literally thousands have faithfully prayed for the institution as they have observed its development. Parents and pastors have encouraged young people to attend, convinced that the college has been maintained “For the Word of God and the Testimony of Jesus Christ.” Clearly the college has been supported by the financial sacrifices of individuals and churches and by the manner in which so many of the faculty, staff, and administrators have been willing to devote their lives to the development and growth of the institution. At the end of its first century, Cedarville College remains firmly rooted in the traditional values of historic biblical Christianity while possessing a future-focused perspective. As its second century dawns, the Cedarville College family stands poised at the cutting edge of Christian higher education, ready to see where the strength and mission of the institution intersect the changing needs of society.

2. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. These statistics were provided by the Christian Ministries Office.
9. Ibid.
11. Ibid.
12. Ibid.
15. Ibid.
16. Ibid.
19. Ibid.
20. Ibid.
21. Ibid.
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