

From: [McCoy, Erin J](#)
To: [Graham, Leslie](#)
Subject: FW: Reading & Singing - 6/27/13 - More Classroom Memories
Date: Tuesday, August 06, 2013 9:18:59 AM

From: Jim Tasker [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2013 8:03 PM
To: Wenger, Fred
Cc: [REDACTED] Arthur Sullivan; Tim Kauffman; Dr. Paul Sullivan; Dr. Darwin Earle & Mrs. Carolyn L. Waterman
Subject: Fwd: Reading & Singing - 6/27/13 - More Classroom Memories

Fred, your vivid recounting of our ENC professors' styles & wisdom in their teaching and guidance is purely golden. They were masters of discipleship. How I still love & value them, even after all these years. Here's a couple of perplexing posers Dr. Mullen and Dr. Kauffman gave me in college that have kept me ruminating all these years:

First day of Psych class, Dr. Kauffman shares "It is impossible to get an A+ in this course." I accepted this as a challenge. Every quiz, every test: 100%. The good Dr. then offered a bonus opportunity for everyone, worth a maximum 5 points. He gave me a score of 5.

Lemme see... $100 + 5 = 105$; A+ range at ENC was 97-99; all right so far! Final grades were issued. When I saw I received an "A", I went to Dr. Kauffman, pointing to my 105 average. "I will only give one A+ in my career", he responded, "and that will be to the best student I ever have." "How will you know?", I asked. "I will know," Dr. Kauffman responded, "I will know"...

In Dr. Mullen's Ancient Philosophy class we were studying the writings of Socrates. As a 3rd year Greek language student and tutor for Dr. George Delp, I had read the Socrates philosophical writings in the Greek language. In the Greek it is obvious that the phony philosophers that Socrates criticized were not individual real, live, historical persons, but symbolic, metaphorical, figurative. Dr. Mullen noticed I had squirmed in my seat as I listened to the class discussing these "philosophers" as historical figures. He fell into step with me in the hall when the class dismissed. "Mr. Tasker," Dr. Mullen said, "you are not responsible for other people's ignorance." I'm still mulling that over, not exactly sure what he was trying to convey... With great appreciation for all, Jim in Los Angeles until August; then Ohio again...

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Wenger, Fred & Bea** [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Jun 26, 2013 at 1:41 PM
Subject: Reading & Singing - 6/27/13 - More Classroom Memories
To: Fred & Bea Wenger <[\[REDACTED\]](#)>

This high school drop out found his second chance at gaining an education most captivating. Hardly a semester went by without me being all charged up with the opportunity and excitement of learning. I'm going to highlight a few more examples.

These have stuck with me all these 55+ years. I have 100's more that I won't be sharing.

Prof Blaney:

Dr. Blaney called a meeting of the Religion Majors. We were mainly those studying for the ministry. He shared his concerns that many of us were not putting forth our best efforts. He mentioned that majors in other disciplines were out-studying and out-performing us. He challenged us to do our best. I took it to heart. I turned my rather good grades up another notch. I went on to be on the Dean's List for my final two years of college and my graduate year after that. When I went to Seminary the next year I did well enough the "Middler" year to be selected Prof. Findley's Reader in my final year. I graduated from Seminary Cum Laude.

I took my first counseling class from Dr. Blaney. He admonished us: "When choosing a mate, **aim high!**" I did! We will celebrate 55 years on Bea (Wycoff's) 79th birthday this August 9th. ... Another time he was being pressed by a thoughtful student concerning "learning by experience". Prof Blaney finally ended the discussion by saying: "You are right. **We do learn by experience. But it's a fool who always has to learn by his own experience.**"

Dr. Kauffman:

I felt sorry for anyone who would follow Dean Bertha Munro as the humble, wise and godly Academic Dean at ENC after her long and distinguished career. Dr. Kauffman, a stranger to me, from Nampa, ID was chosen to fill that place. I soon felt a special connection to him. His wife was my godly home pastor's daughter. Dr. Kauffman's son and later one of his daughters were involved with me in Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. ... I respond well to drawings, charts, graphs and other visual ways of learning. He was great at teaching that way. I recall his graphic explanation that Christ is the "**Ideal Personality**". ... I also recall the suggestion that we are like a bucket of water being swung around in circles on a tether in this life and that eternity amounts to God just letting go of the restraints and letting us fly **in the direction we have determined/chosen in this life** for the rest of eternity. I've had a rewarding lifelong connection with his son, Jon Timothy.

Prof. Knowles:

I took two Educational Psychology classes from him in my last semester. When I had attended each class just once, I was asked to go to Washington D. C. to hold a Youth Revival, my first one. I left for the weekend meeting. God blessed in amazing ways. I was asked to extend it from Sunday to Wednesday night. The move of God continued. On Wednesday I was asked to go until the second Sunday. Summary on the Revival: Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

I was exhausted but thrilled to know that God had used me at that church. My return flight got me in just in time to rush to Prof. Knowles Class. I hadn't bought either text as yet. I didn't know which class of his I was going to. As I arrived it was obvious that the class was doing last minute glancing at their books and notes. A test was scheduled. An essay test! One classmate asked where I had been and then told me all

about the essay test. He was flabbergasted that I didn't even know the name of the class.

Prof. Knowles arrived and began - "Class, you know I promised you an essay test for today. I'm sorry to tell you that I didn't get time to write it out. Instead I have a multiple choice test. It will have to do." I breathed a sigh of relief. At least I had a fighting chance on a multiple choice test. I received a "C"!

One of the concepts I learned in class was the concept of "**Readiness**". It has shaped my approach to all my work as both a teacher and preacher. "Readiness" means that the teacher is responsible for "setting the table for learning" by "whetting the appetite of the student/students for what they wish to teach". He said: "In a sense giving a test is really a test of whether or not the teacher taught well; did the "Readiness" properly."

At the end of the semester he surprised us with this: "I know some of you are concerned with your final grade. Here's what I do. I'll give you the grade I think you earned. If you don't like that grade and want a different grade just come to my office and tell me what grade you think you earned or want. I'll not ask any questions, but **change your grade** to that. Only you and I will know what your real grade is." I doubt he had any takers.

Dr. Wilbur Mullen:

I loved this man and his way of teaching. I worked hard for his classes. One time I wrote a critique of a journal article. I pointed out several instances where this author contradicted himself. I was not impressed with this scholar. When I received my graded report it said: "**Consistency, thou art a jewel.**" That quote often comes to mind when I am tempted to criticize another.

I'm still amazed at one incident. I was taking a course on John Wesley. In those days I did not type, so I would have to find some typist to do my term papers. The due date came and passed in this small seminar type class. I had done a lot of work, but it was still in handwriting. To make it worse some was in pencil and some in pen. Dr. Mullen saw me on campus and asked me about my term paper. I told him that I wasn't quite done enough to get it typed. He said, "Fred, **I'm going to wave typing.** Just get it in whatever form you have it now, but get it to me right away. I need yours to do comparative grading with the others in the room." I was embarrassed to do as he requested. I envisioned getting a "D" and knocking me off the Dean's List after several semesters on it. On my graded copy he put: "Excellent thought processes. Good work." He gave me an "A".

The widow who dropped in her tiny offering never thought it would be worth a good grade either, but Jesus had a different way of grading; he counted not only what was given, but what was left after giving. She received an "A+"!

May the mind of CHRIST, my SAVIOR, Live in me from day to day,
By HIS love and power controlling All I do and all I say.

May the Word of God dwell richly In my heart from hour to hour,

So that all may see I triumph Only through HIS power.

May the peace of GOD my FATHER Rule my life in everything,
That I may be calm to comfort Sick and sorrowing.

May the love of JESUS fill me As the waters fill the sea;
HIM exalting, self abasing- This is victory.

May I run the race before me, Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto JESUS As I onward go.

May HIS beauty rest upon me, As I seek the lost to win;
And may they forget the channel, Seeing only HIM.

Fred

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ENC Boston Chapel Archival History Web site: www.jimtasker.us (This Boston Chapel history site is frequently updated. Thank you all who have sent photos, memories, letters & documents to the Archives, benefiting future generations.)