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The University of Chicago

THEODORE GERALD SOARES
PREACHING AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

JOSEPH MANSON ARTMAN
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
DIRECTOR OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING

ARCHIBALD GILLIES BAKER
MISSIONS

CHARLES THOMAS HOLMAN
PASTORAL DUTIES
EXTENSION SECRETARY

The Divinity School
DEPARTMENT OF PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

Sept. 7. 25.

My dear Mr. Burton

I enclosed notes on the
meeting held with the ministers on Feb. 19.th
You suggested that they be kept for future
reference.

Yours very truly,
Thos. G. Soares.

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The University of Chicago
The Divinity School
DEPARTMENT OF PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

THEODORE GERRARD BOARD
DEPARTMENT OF PRACTICAL THEOLOGY
JOSEPH HANCOCK ARTHUR
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ARCHIBALD GILLIES BAKER
DEPARTMENT OF PRACTICAL THEOLOGY
CHARLES THOMAS HOLMAN
DEPARTMENT OF PRACTICAL THEOLOGY
EDWARD B. BROWN

Copy 7. 22

My dear Mr. Barton

I understand what you are

hoping to do with the minister on Feb. 19.
You suggested that he be kept for future
reference

Yours very truly,
Chas. T. Brown

President Burton entertained at dinner at the Quadrangle Club on February 19th, the ministers of the vicinity and the denominational representatives in the University, together with ^{the} secretaries of the Christian associations. The subject of general conference was the religious life of the University. After a statement by President Burton, the following representations were made.

Rev. Theodore M. Carlisle spoke of the appreciation of the cooperation of the University. There are Presbyterian pastors in fifty colleges. Has 550 Presbyterians on mailing list in the University. Divided into three groups:--(1) an indifferent group of about 200. (2) a non-cooperating group who do not wish to be disturbed. (3) an active cooperating body who have expressed satisfaction that the denomination has sent them a leader and that they have someone to whom to go with their troubles. Gave two suggestions, -- (a) There should be some method of unifying the work with the men and the women. The latter are segregated in Ida Noyes Hall. The pastors can have an office hour there only one hour per week. (b) There should be a church house in connection with the chapel. This would indicate that the churches presented a united front with the backing of the University.

Miss Clark:--The following problems appear in the work of the women: (1) How to provide opportunity to bring about understanding between those of different race~~s~~, age, sex, caste, wealth, etc. Endeavor is being made to develop groups who are doing this. (2) ~~How~~ to allow for various interpretations of religion, a) Many students are suspicious of everything that is called religious, though they may be socially minded; b) there are students that have never thought of religion until something has brought it to their attention, c) there are students from religious families, (3) How to help the individual to find her own way. Some students do not go to a single church. They want to attend many churches. Some find their best experience in the city church. Some find it through the Christian association. It is said that most of the students do not look to the University for religion.

Rev. Marshall Davis, pastor of Hyde Park Presbyterian Church:--The pastor feels oppressed by the wealth and power of the University. He may feel that he has to compete with the two million dollar chapel. I want the students for my church because they are finally going to settle in communities where there is a church. I am personally satisfied if I have two or three hundred students every Sunday. I want to give the opinion of five pastors whom I have consulted, - One said that he had lived here for eight years and had never been invited to the University. He regards the University as a liability, so far as his church is concerned. Another stated that the Mandel service was an opportunity for the irresponsible to have religion inexpensively. Another said that the University, in attempting to be non-Baptist, had become non-Christian. It is reported that a professor told a

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Chinese boy that we no longer believe in God. Fourteen young people from the Presbyterian church have graduated from the University. Nine of them never come to church. One girl said that she had found in Sociology all that she needed and no longer required religion. Parents write that their children are writing home that strange things are being said.

Rev. ~~Mr.~~ L. Ward Brigham, Universalists Church, -- There is no doubt of the relation of the University to religion, but it is significant that it should seek a relation to the institutions of religion. They should understand each other for there are no antagonisms. There should be certain measures of coordination between the churches and the University, so that each could know the problem of the other. There is danger of University isolation. There is a problem of bridging over the four-year period of absence from the church. The majority of boys and girls are disappointing when they come back. They don't come back into the church. The churches should analyze their own attitudes and think of themselves as ministering institutions.

Mr. Gerald K. Smith, Secretary of the Y.M.C.A., -- The churches are never going to get students in large numbers. (1) because of the hours of service. Students sleep Sunday morning. Sunday evening is given to study or social affairs. (2) Loyal Christians like to go to many churches. (3) Students are not getting the preaching for the readjustment of thinking which they want. (4) The effect of sin has broken relationship to the church. They do things that they think are sinful, -- Sunday study, social habits, smoking, swearing, etc. (5) Students say they have broken with the authority of the home, and with the authority of the church.

President Burton asked these questions:

1. Should the University send students away for their religion, or build up a strong religious life in the University? Or, is there a compromise?
2. Should the University abandon the Sunday service?
3. Should there be a University building for active religious life?

Doctor Soares asked these questions:

1. Is there anything more we can do to help pastors?
2. Are there any suggestions for our religious service?
3. Is there any radical reorganization of University religious service?

Dr. Charles A. Gage, McCabe Methodist Church, -- If students are sent to the churches, they become better church members. Churches are often unsympathetic to the students who have problems. Mandel service does not interfere. Students come to the Epworth League.

Professor Miller, -- It is desirable that all students come to their own churches. That *activity* would not draw off religious strength from the University.

Professor E. S. Ames, -- The University puts students in a critical attitude, which does not conduce to activity and loyalty to institutional religion. Seventy students in a Philosophy class expressed a general religious tone in connection with a paper on Fosdick. The course in Ethics shows that students are sound in their religious attitudes. Students do not know the unity that prevails in this community.

Rev. Von Ogden Vogt, The new chapel will be a great service to students who have no such conception of religion. It will help them when they go back to what is not so beautiful. Perhaps the local churches may help also.

Rabbi Stolz, -- The Jewish students have the difficulties of Christians and others of their own. The chapel will be a beautiful object lesson. There ought to be a building in which different denominations could work. Deeply grateful for the education of his three children at the University, (1) There are strong racial difficulties. Exclusion from the fraternities and from the University Sing. Jewish students sometimes state that they belong to some other denomination. (2) There is a difference between the faith of the orthodox Jew and what is taught here. (3) The University teaches the Christian interpretation of the Jewish bible, traditions, and history. There is no opportunity for them to get the Jewish point of view. Could there be a Jewish representative in the University?

Rev. Norris L. Tibbetts:-- (1) Looking forward to the chapel. (2) Desirable to have a central religious house with a religious council which would gather all together and make a joint program. This would give religious activities a prominence. (3) Would be sorry to see the religious service discontinued, yet each church has a separate problem regarding its students. Students become worshippers, but they do not become a part of the church. In the University there is an educational atmosphere. Could there be a religious atmosphere.

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The University of Chicago

The Colleges of Arts, Literature, and Science

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336012

January 5, 1924

President E.D. Burton
Harper Library

Dear President Burton:

I should like to bear witness--and really expert witness in this case--to the fine quality of the service which Dr. Soares is rendering in chapel. His daily talks are meaty, sound, eminently well gauged to attract and hold student interest, without seeming in the slightest to condescend, and filled with a religious spirit that is evidently both illuminated and luminous.

I do not know whether the quality of this work can be recognized by the University to any greater degree than at present, but if I am correct in understanding that Dr. Soares is now merely Acting Chaplain, I would venture to suggest that he seems to me fully to deserve the title of Chaplain.

Needless to say, this letter is written entirely on my own initiative, and entirely without the knowledge of Dr. Soares.

Very truly yours,

Ernest H. Wilkins

Dean of the Colleges

EHW/ES

T1
X

January 22, 1924.

My dear Mr. Soares:

I am attaching copy of a letter just received from Mr. Gilkey. It is written in reply to the suggestion I made to him just before he left, that he and his brother should conduct a series of meetings at the University on a Tuesday evening, Wednesday afternoon, Wednesday evening, Thursday afternoon and Thursday evening.

As I shall be away pretty nearly up to the time he suggests, and possibly even at the time, the whole urge behind the movement would have to be on your part and on that of the Association. Of course, Dr. Goodspeed, as representing the President's Office, would in a sense give his hearty support, and I am sure Dr. Tufts, as Vice President, would do the same.

But I feel that the effort should not be made unless it gives reasonable promise of success. The consideration which Mr. Gilkey urges at the beginning of his third paragraph is real, but counts against the effort unless it has promise of success.

May I suggest that you call together our Sunday Evening group or a selection of them, and Dr. Tufts as Vice President, and try to reach some decision as to what is wise to do.

January 22, 1924.

My dear Mr. Brewster:

I am attaching copy of a letter just received from Mr. Gilkey. It is written in reply to the suggestion I made to him just before he left, that he and his brother should conduct a series of meetings at the University on a Tuesday evening, Wednesday afternoon, Wednesday evening, Thursday afternoon and Thursday evening.

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May I suggest that you call together our Sunday Evening group or a selection of them, and Dr. Tuttle as Vice President, and try to reach some decision as to what is wise to do.

My thought about the day meetings is that we would dismiss all undergraduate classes at the hour appointed, but use a different hour on the two days--perhaps eleven o'clock one day and half past three another.

Very truly yours,

Mr. T. G. Soares,
The University of Chicago.

KDB:CB

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Very truly yours,

Mr. T. G. Soares,
The University of Chicago.

WDS:GB

Harold H. Swift
Union Stock Yards
Chicago

January 23, 1925.

President Ernest D. Burton,
Hotel Huntington,
Pasadena, California.

Dear Mr. Burton:

The Soares situation seems to be in pretty good shape. I hope to have some more word on it today from Mathews and tomorrow will write you a summary of the whole situation to date.

Yours cordially,

Harold H. Swift

Harold H. Swift
Union Stock Yards
Chicago

January 24, 1925.

President Ernest D. Burton,
Hotel Huntington,
Pasadena, California.

Dear Mr. Burton:

As I have wired you, Mathews says the Soares situation is, in his opinion, in pretty good shape. So that we may understand it alike, let me recount the situation.

You wrote me from the train as follows:

"Dr. Soares, who has been offered the presidency of Newton, feels evidently that Fosdick's coming, if he should come, would make it easier for him to leave.

"I did not mean that the letter should go to Fosdick till I had talked to Soares, but I am afraid it was mailed to New York with the rest of the mail.

"Please let Mathews know how Theodore felt about it."

I sent this to Mathews.

The fact is that the letter was mailed by Mr. Scott, as you surmised, before your conversation on the way to the train with Soares, but that Mathews thinks that it did no harm as will be shown later.

Then I had your wire from Emporia, Kansas, as follows:

"Plan proposed to Harry involves liberty frequent absences both Sundays and week days. Development of plans betterment student life imperatively necessary and make probable shall need nearly or quite as much service from Theodore as now, besides all Harry can give. Stop.

"Suggest you ask Mathews assure Theodore no change of title or responsibility in Department, no decrease total salary, and have Mathews add unofficially that some form coordinate position and title in chaplaincy work could probably be arranged. Stop.

3. Mathews doesn't believe we have any chance of getting Fosdick, but has painted our opportunity glowingly to Soares regardless of whether Fosdick is or isn't with us. He says he has told Soares he can do great things here and have fine backing and cooperation but that if he tried to do the same thing in New England, he will be in trouble most of the time.

I think that pretty well brings the situation up to date and doubtless to a finish until you return. The outstanding thing seems to be that Soares is looking at the matter in a broad light, is not hurt at any transactions and considers the chaplaincy or any titles in connection with it rather a detail to the whole question.

I am making no attempt to see Fosdick. At present it seems to me better to stay away, let him think out the thing rather quietly, and use what little influence I have later if you then advise it.

Hope things are slick with you both and that you are not worrying about this or anything else. Matters seem to be progressing rather comfortably around here.

Yours cordially,

Harold H. Swift

P.S.

If after you think the matter over you would like pressure brought on Fosdick, it would be possible to cable Gilkey to write him at length as to the situation and opportunity with us as he sees it. Presumably a letter from Gilkey would be received early in March and Gilkey might be able to follow it up verbally in April.

If you should decide that you wish a cable sent to Gilkey, you might wire me and I shall do so, but will not plan to do anything without such advice from you.

H.H.S.

5. Father's House's belief we have any chance of getting
Foodick, but has pointed out opportunity slowly to
beaver regarding of whether Foodick is or isn't with us.
He says he has told Father he can do great things here
and have time looking and cooperation but that if he
tried to do the same thing in New England, he will be
in trouble most of the time.

I think that pretty well brings the situation up to date
and decisions to a point until you return. The outstanding thing
is that Father is looking at the matter in a broad light.
It is not a question of whether or not we should stay or go.
It is a question with it rather a detail to the whole question.
I am looking no ahead to see Foodick. At present it
seems to me better to stay away. For his work and the other things
quickly. But his little influence I have later if you think it wise.

4. Some things are still with you both and that you are not
worrying about this or anything else. Father seems to be worrying
rather comfortably about home.
Yours sincerely,
Frank A. Smith

Frank A. Smith

It seems you think the matter over you would like to know
about it. Foodick. It would be possible to call on him to write
him at length as to the situation and opportunity with us as to
that is. Presumably a letter from him would be very helpful
in that the letter might be able to follow it up very well in fact.
If you should decide that you wish a letter from him, I will
try right away to get it. But will not want to do so
without your advice first.

W.H.S.

Wire from Emporia (continued):

"Urge Harry's coming part of plan for better University and makes Theodore's continuance here more desirable than before. stop.

"See no serious objection to temo (two) chaplains but could avoid definite committal on precise title now. Stop.

"Mathews away Sunday. Harry at Judson's Sunday noon. Very desirable you see him."

and I sent a copy of this to Mathews, commenting as follows:

"Attach herewith copy of day letter just received from the President, which seems self-explanatory. I take it that the President is quite disturbed (as am I) over the thought of Soares leaving, and I agree with his suggestion that you should try to reassure Soares and to keep him here.

"My only counter suggestion to that of Mr. Burton is that you try to handle Mr. Soares along lines of assurance of general cooperation, etc., rather than on explicit details of titles, etc., but if you find this last necessary, I should go as far as the President indicates.

"I hope that you will be successful in impressing Mr. Soares accordingly."

He has replied that he handled in accordance with my suggestion and believes that he satisfied Soares without definitely covering the co-chaplaincy or the title in any detail, i.e. just saying that it would be a fair arrangement.

Then I had your wire from Albuquerque as follows:

"Increasingly disturbed over situation respecting Theodore. As Chaplain and Department Head, was entitled to be consulted in advance. Stop.

"Had appointment to see him on way to train and intended to have New York letter held till after interview but slipped my mind to order it held. Had Robinson telephone Scott to hold letter but fear too late. If letter not sent, please hold or modify to meet situation as developed. If necessary, have Mathews explain Theodore letter sent by mistake. Wiring Theodore urging remain but not mentioning New York letter."

I discussed this wire with Mathews and sent you the two following wires to Flagstaff and Pasadena respectively:

"Answering, Mathews thinks Theodore does not resent development last few days. Too late prevent letter being mailed but Mathews says not serious."

"Mathews has talked with Theodore who has no personal feeling about Harry. Stop. Also says chaplaincy is detail to be settled later when main question of other offer is decided. Stop. Mathews sanguine we can hold him in light of development plans for department although says he is giving careful consideration to offer. Best wishes, all well here."

Mathews has again talked to Soares and believes the situation to be as follows:

1. Soares does not resent happenings of the last few days and when Mathews expressed to him your grave concern lest Soares might feel he had not had proper consideration in the matter and Soares belittled such a feeling, Mathews said to him, "Then you don't know that your feelings have been hurt," and Soares said, "That is the fact."
2. The question then seems to get back to the matter of the other offer on its merits compared to the opportunity with us, and Mathews' feeling on the matter, which he has already put to Soares and which he intends to continue to put to him, is as follows:
 - (a) That the Eastern interests have misrepresented to Soares the real situation. They must raise funds and the President will have to do it, but they have said to him that he would not.
 - (b) Mathews believes there is not the great opportunity there that has been represented, or at least that there is a greater opportunity with us.
 - (c) Anyway, he doesn't think Soares can fill the bill best; he is too far advanced theologically for the New England group.
 - (d) He told Soares that to accept the offer of \$8,000 salary and house rent, which is equivalent to \$10,000 salary, would be a tactical error, and that the President should not be receiving \$10,000 when others were limited to \$3500. Soares replied that he would raise the salaries and earn the gratification of the other faculty folks, and Mathews replied "Thought you weren't going out to raise money!"

Harvard University
Preachers' Room

Wadsworth House
Cambridge, Mass.

Feb. 20. 25.

My dear Mr. Burkin,

As I shall not be home

for a week I want to report progress.

I had a most interesting evening with Mr. Scott & Mr. Greene. I was fully prepared to thank them for their kindness & tell them that I felt my work lay in Chicago with our great developing opportunities. But I found them completely open minded and eager for suggestion. I laid before them my idea of a Theological Seminary with emphasis on University contact, Adequate Endowment, & Eminent men at University salaries & Adequate provision for contact with churches and supervision of work.

They eagerly agreed. Some of the points of view were new to them. They want a big thing and are willing to do any part necessary to bring it about. They say that Mr. Rockefeller tells them that he is interested in the development of a really great school, and that he wants to consult you about it. Of course,

Harvard University
Preachers' Room

Wadsworth House
Cambridge, Mass.

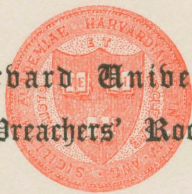
nothing could be better than for him to seek your advice. So far as my own part in the matter is concerned, I am entirely willing to leave it in your hands. All that these men ask me to do is to wait. If a great opportunity opens they want me to come; if it does not, they do not want me.

Baptist

If we could unite the theological work in the East, with a very hospitable attitude towards students of other denominations, it would be a notable contribution to the life of the Church.

My own opinion regarding the place for such a school is of value only as I have made a rather careful study of Harvard. Other Universities I do not know well. But I believe there is an exceptional opportunity to make a great school here, especially as it is well removed from Union and Chicago. I do not think a large endowment given to Harvard itself would do it. They do not so

Harvard University
Preachers' Room

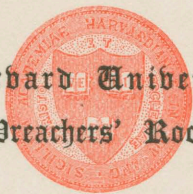


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Wadsworth House
Cambridge, Mass.

Much luck money here as contacts.
When Andover was a flourishing
School it drew heavily on Harvard.
Unitarians have not bred ministers;
they have taken them from other denomina-
tions. Therefore Harvard as a Unitarian
School could not flourish. When
Andover came back it had already
lost its constituency, which will not
be quickly regained. It contributed
to Harvard a superb building and
Sperdy, who is a great spiritual force.
But Harvard can give the University
atmosphere as no other School but
Chicago can. And it is not, as I find
it, an intellectual snobbishness. It is
very stimulating. If a Baptist
School of 150 students came here it
would supply a vitalizing element
to the School of Theology and would in
turn have the advantage of such men
as Sperdy, the Moores, Kinsipp Lake &c.
Pres. Lowell, who was for some time
lukewarm toward the old Divinity School

Harvard University
Preachers' Room



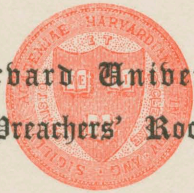
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Wadsworth House
Cambridge, Mass.

on account of its small numbers has become keenly interested in the new developments. He was very keen to have the Episcopal School come. I dined with him on Wednesday and discussed the subject. He thinks that Harvard ought to become a great theological center. He expressed himself as most hospitable toward the possibility of our coming. Every facility would be afforded just as at Chicago.

Young McArthur is just leaving here to be Sec. of the Mass. Church Federation with the special task of bringing together the churches in the small towns. There is an opportunity of a great leadership here as New England is readjusting itself to the problem of a declining small town population. A special study of that problem might result in training men who could meet these needs. At the same time it could be the Eastern (not merely New

Harvard University
Preachers' Room



5)

Wadsworth House
Cambridge, Mass.

England) Baptist school, as Chicago is denominationally for the middle West.

If Mr. Rockefeller is intending to consult you on this Eastern problem I should suppose that he has decided to make a great contribution to Chicago. With your extraordinary fairness of mind and ability of detachment you will be able to see this situation in all its elements, and I have the utmost confidence in your judgment. For myself, I want to be where I can contribute the most. I shall dearly love to work with you in the great development which we are surely to have in Chicago, but if I could lead in the opportunity that seems possible here I should prize it as the greatest thing that could come to me.

I am asking Lillian to deliver this into your own hands.

With affectionate regards, Theodore.

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