

# SUMMERTIME AT COVENANT

JULY 1978

## Dr. Essenburg moves to the mountain

President-elect, Dr. Martin Essenburg, arrived on June 30 with his family as they moved into their house on Wood Nymph Trail. Dr. Essenburg began his duties as president of Covenant College on Monday morning, July 3.

Dr. Essenburg comes to Covenant from Holland Christian Schools—the school system which he has headed for the last five years—in Holland, Michigan. Holland Christian Schools served 2,240 students from 70 different churches in the Holland area.



Dr. Essenburg started his educational career as a teacher of math and Bible in the Sylvan Christian School in Grand Rapids, Michigan. After two years, he became Headmaster of the Christian Academy in Tokyo, Japan. During the fourteen years following 1959 he served in this position, besides lecturing frequently at two institutions of higher education.

A graduate of Calvin College, Dr. Essenburg holds his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. He was born and raised in Chicago.

Students, faculty and staff welcome him to Covenant College.

## The challenge grant is met

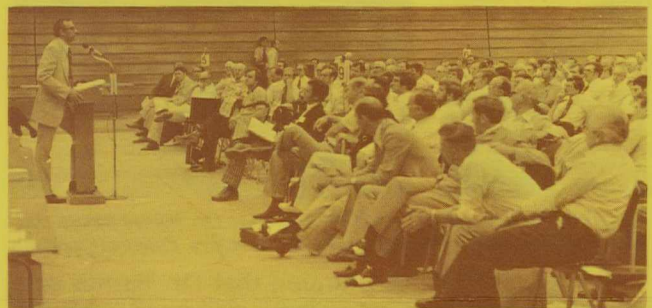
Friday afternoon, June 30, brought the tremendous news that the \$460,000 gifts and grants goal had been reached. Praise the Lord! Staff and faculty and administration met together to thank Him and to celebrate what He had done through the very generous giving of many people. Nearly \$50,000 came in during the final week of June.

This means that the college can claim a \$210,000 challenge grant and wipe out all past indebtedness of the college. God is so good!

## The PCA moves toward joint control!

During a week in June, five conservative Presbyterian and Reformed denominations met for their annual meetings on one college campus in Grand Rapids. The landmark event made Calvin College's Knollcrest Campus a beehive of activity, and nearly 30 people connected with Covenant College were there to witness it.

One of the highlights came on Tuesday night, June 20, when the Presbyterian Church in America's General Assembly brought up the matter of joint governance of Covenant College. The issue had come up at last year's General Assembly in Smyrna, Georgia, but was postponed until this year's meeting.



Tuesday night's debate lasted about 30 minutes, with Dr. Lou Voskuil of Covenant, Rev. Gordon Reed of Brevard, North Carolina and Dr. Richard Chewing, president of Covenant's board, speaking in favor of acceptance of the PCA Christian Education Committee's recommendation to join Covenant. Just before adjournment, the 600 commissioners voted to accept the first step toward joint governance.

It will mean that the board of trustees will immediately be expanded to 30 members, with the PCA supplying 6 men on the board. In two years the denomination will vote on the second step—that is, more board control, more students, and more financial involvement. By the end of five years, the PCA could conceivably control half of Covenant College.

Before the hectic week of General Assembly was over, however, the commissioners chose to reconsider their action. This they did on Thursday night,

and they overwhelmingly reconfirmed their support of the college. This time it was, among others, Rev. Kennedy Smartt (father of Ellen, a sophomore) who spoke in favor of the proposal. He encouraged his listeners to vote "yes" again. Rev. Smartt said that, "We [the PCA] are getting all of the pie and none of the soda, and I think we ought to take it!" Before other pro-Covenant speakers could get the floor, the vote was taken and the motion was passed.

The Covenant delegation, led by Dr. Richard Chewning, and Dr. Marion Barnes heaved a sigh of relief and joy at the outcome.



The RPC,ES meets, above; At PCA Assembly, Dr. Barnes awaits vote, then congratulates Dr. Chewning while Dr. and Mrs. Essenburg look on.

It was on Monday morning that Dr. Barnes said farewell to his own denomination's synod—the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod. Dr. Chewning introduced the outgoing president in what most called a "very emotional" ceremony. Sara Belz and Jim Drexler spoke as representatives of the student body, and Joel Belz spoke for the Alumni Association. After a standing ovation for Dr. Barnes, Dr. Chewning introduced Dr. Martin Essenburg, new president of the college.

Dr. Essenburg was present for other of the week's activities, including the Tuesday morning RPC,ES devotional service, which he led. He also helped to celebrate Tuesday night's PCA vote.

Another highlight of the week was the Joint Praise and Prayer Service on Monday night, when Dr. Joel Nederhood of the Back-to-God Hour spoke. Everyone agreed that the unity displayed and group singing was one of the most memorable occasions of the week.

### The construction goes on

While stonework and walkways were being finished on the center plaza, construction of the chancellor's office began in what used to be the faculty lounge on first floor of Carter Hall.

Don't worry, the faculty will still get to sip their coffee together. They will use the office across from the president's office.

### Putting his education to work

If you're addressing mail to Covenant this summer about financial aid, it's now being received by Mr. Daniel J. Theune, Director of Financial Aid. He graduated from the college last spring with a degree in business administration. Mr. Theune had worked in the Office of Student Affairs during his last year of college, and will now join Dr. Cummer's Dean of Students staff, which already includes Mr. Randy Cobler, Director of Housing, and a Director of Counseling—whose appointment is soon to be announced.

### Other new staff

Bob Harbert, another '78 graduate, has taken a position as Physical Plant Expediter. Gary Cox, of Tiftonia, Tennessee, is the new carpenter for the Maintenance and Operations Department.

### Weddings

Lois Barnes and John Gildernew on Lookout Mountain on June 24.

Susan Antonacio and Michael Simmermon in Lansdale, Pennsylvania on June 10.

Jaci Fricks and Reid Sweeney in Chattanooga on May 29.

Marjie MacNair and Tom Larson in St. Louis on May 27.

Arline Wetzel and David Cadwell on Lookout Mountain on May 27.

Becky Hamilton and Phil Vierling in Newark, Delaware on May 27.

Berenice Kuiper and Steve Rarig on Lookout Mountain on May 7.

Mariam McKowen and March Bell in McLean, Virginia on May 13.

Chris LaVasseur and Gary Helrigel on Lookout Mountain on May 5.

Heather Rand and Rey Beardsley on Lookout Mountain on June 11.

Deanne Lindauere and Russ Grier in Chattanooga on June 24.

"In all things . . . Christ pre-eminent"

## Covenant College

Mailing Address: Lookout Mountain, TN 37350  
Location: Dade County, Georgia