

February 6, 1956

Dr. J. Will Harris
Dilley, Texas

Dear Dr. Harris:

I am very glad to have your long letter in which you took so much time to give me valuable information concerning the construction and work program here. As you probably know, we are in the process of overhauling our entire work experience program so that it will once again become the kind of motivating force it was in the early days of the institution. Furthermore, it is our hope to start the students in once again to building buildings at the Polytechnic Institute.

I was certainly very glad to have your comments concerning the size of the Polytechnic Institute. I have never believed that it ought to be a tiny institution, and I think that everything we do from now on ought to be done in such a way that it can grow any size the demands for Christian education in Puerto Rico require. This means that every building built must conform both in architecture and location to an over-all plan for institutional development.

Your continued interest in and support of the institution is a great source of strength. You more than anyone else will know how often a person in this position must rely on prayers and the guidance of the Lord in the essential things which are to be done. One must rely upon faith in so many things. Your example and deeds in the past and your support in the present are, I believe, helping us to find a new vision for the future.

While we are somewhat uncertain at the present time whether the steps will become a part of the chapel or will be covered by some sort of pavillon. In either event, your generous offer to make a contribution to the final end is greatly appreciated. We shall be working on plans during the next few months, and I hope to keep in touch with you.

One of the most essential things at the Polytechnic Institute is to bring the institution before the public. We are trying to do this in a number of ways. At the present time, the Polygraph, which has served so well in the past, is inadequate to tell our story. Therefore, we are dividing it into a student publication, an alumnae quarterly, and a quarterly for friends of the Polytechnic Institute. While we have to operate on a limited budget, in the beginning we expect to make these high-quality publications as soon as money will permit. Another thing we want to do is collect a very careful list of the friends of the institution. For the last several years, no attempt has been made to bring information about the Polytechnic to these people. Letters and publications will go out to them just as soon as we have suitable materials. I should be very happy if you could send me a list of all people in Texas or in any other place who at any time in the past have been interested in the institution, or people who can be interested in the institution. This mailing list and personal contacts with these people is absolutely essential.

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We are also involved in the initial steps that will bring our farm up to suitable standards. We want to use the farm as a demonstration center integrated with our school program and provide a place where our college students may have excellent work and work experience. One of the prime requisites is to stock it with pedigreed livestock. I hope that we can ? friends in the north to send us registered Holstein heifers so that we can begin improving the dairy stock. We need to do the same kind of thing for our hogs and for our poultry.

Furthermore, I find that there has been very little planting on the campus for many years. We have to begin planting and landscaping in order to make the institution look like a going concern. No one and most of all, a philanthropist, will not invest in anything that is run-down. So, there is much to do from this angle.

I could go on telling you about the numerous fronts on which we must make progress. One of the most essential, of course, is the area of Christian training and education. We are going to identify four or five areas in which Polytechnic will lead not only in the island, but in the entire Caribbean. There must be some areas in which the Polytechnic Institute stands head and shoulders above any other institution.

We were gratified by the gift of \$100,000 from the Ford Foundation. Since then, Lawrence Rockefeller has given us \$30,000. However, this is only the beginning. We must get many more people to invest in this institution, and I believe we shall be successful with God's help.

It is wonderful to hear from you and I hope you will continue to write me at any time when you have suggestions or ideas that will help the institution. May God bless you and strengthen you.

Very sincerely yours,

Ronald C. Bauer,
President

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