

## **A READING: NANNIE HELEN BURROUGHS SCHOOL 1943 FACULTY MEETING FROM HER FILES IN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**

“WITH THREE O’CLOCK HAVING BEEN SET AS THE HOUR FOR THE FACULTY MEETING, PRESIDENT BURROUGHS OPENED PROMPTLY WITH A PRAYER. IN A VERY INFORMAL SETTING, THE PRESIDENT STATED THE FOLLOWING PERTINENT FACTS AS THE OUTGROWTH OF HER OBSERVATIONS, MEDITATIONS AND CONFERENCES...: ”IF WE CAN SEE THE OPPORTUNITY AND CHALLENGE TOGETHER, IT IS POSSIBLE TO WORK TOGETHER MORE EFFECTIVELY. AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR, I WANTED EVERYBODY TO FIND THEMSELVES AND I HAVE TRIED TO GIVE THAT SORT OF OPPORTUNITY. I AM EXPECTING A GREAT DEAL IN THE MATTER OF ADMINISTRATION, AND I AM GIVING PROFESSOR LORMANS, OUR ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, MY WHOLE-HEARTED SUPPORT BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN HIS CAPABILITIES. WHEN I GIVE PEOPLE SOMETHING TO DO, I LET THEM DO IT, AND WHEN I FIND OUT THEY CAN’T DO IT, I LET THEM GO.

I BELIEVE GOD IS HELPING ME BY GIVING ME THOSE WHO TAKE THIS WORK AS SERIOUSLY AS I DO. A ‘CAUSE’ LIKE THIS REQUIRES THAT WE KNOW YOUNG PEOPLE AND INFLUENCE THEM IN IDEALS. A ‘CAUSE’ LIKE THIS REQUIRES HEART-INTEREST IN OUR IDEALS, AND A ‘CAUSE’ LIKE THIS MEANS TEAM-WORK. I LIKE PEOPLE WHO CAN MAKE SUGGESTIONS, BUT THEY MUST BE PRACTICAL AND POSSIBLE, AND THE PERSON WHO MAKES THEM MUST GO THE SECOND MILE TO CARRY THEM OUT. CRITICISM IS ALRIGHT, IF IT IS CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM TO THE RIGHT PERSON, IN THE RIGHT PLACE, AT THE RIGHT TIME, AND IN THE RIGHT SPIRIT.

I HOPE THAT AS TEACHERS YOU ARE READING AND SEEING THINGS THAT ARE NEW IN YOUR FIELD, AND I HOPE YOU ARE GOING TO

DEMAND THE OUTSIDE READING FOR YOUR STUDENTS, DICKENS' "CHRISTMAS CAROL," MOORE'S "T'WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS," ETC. IF YOU WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE YOU WANT TO HELP THEM. EVERY TEACHER SHOULD BE CONSCIOUS OF WHAT IS TAKING PLACE IN THE LIVES OF STUDENTS, ESPECIALLY GIRLS. STUDENTS SEE OUR LIVES. SOMETIMES THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT WE SAY, BUT THEY UNDERSTAND WHAT WE DO. SO, TODAY, I AM ASKING YOU, AS TEACHERS, TO DEDICATE YOURSELVES TO THE 'CAUSE'.

FINALLY, WE DON'T MOVE ON TIME. BELLS DON'T RING ON TIME. IT IS THE LITTLE THINGS THAT COUNT. MICHAEL ANGELO SAID, "TRIFLES MAKE PERFECTION AND PERFECTION IS NO TRIFLE". I AM DESIRING NOTHING LESS UNDER THE SUN THAN PERFECTION. I HAVE PUT MUCH INTO THIS 'CAUSE' AND I HAVEN'T PUT IT IN FOR NANNIE HELEN BURROUGHS, BUT FOR MY LORD AND SAVIOR WHO WANTS WOMANHOOD GLORIFIED AND AS CHRISTIAN WOMEN, I WANT YOU TO CATCH THE SPIRIT OF THIS THING. PUT YOUR HEART IN IT. UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING ABOUT IT. THERE ARE NO SECRETS."