

UNIVERSITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI LIBRARY  
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

# EIGHT EVENTFUL YEARS



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The Story of the Development of  
THE UNIVERSITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

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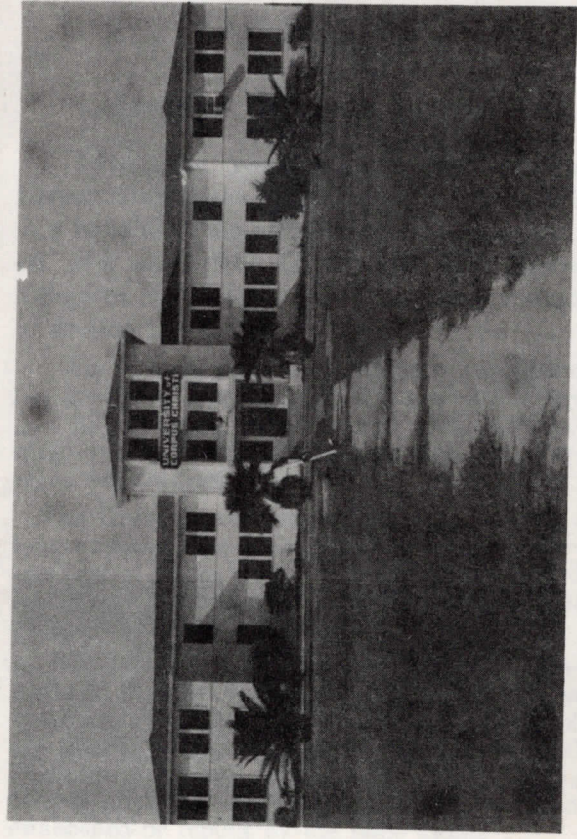
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THE UNIVERSITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI  
THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI



EIGHT  
—EVENTFUL  
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*Administration Building, University of Corpus Christi*

## PART ONE

### **An Idea Becomes Reality**

Twenty-five years ago the University of Corpus Christi was only a dream in the minds of a handful of Baptist pastors and church leaders. Not until 1946 did the idea of a Baptist college in South Texas take hold strong enough to develop into reality.

Yet in eight years the University enrollment has grown to approximately 600 students. There is a full collegiate program, and UCC is recognized by state academic groups and the Veterans Administration.

The University of Corpus Christi is meeting a long-standing need among Baptists of the southern part of Texas. It is the only church related school south of San Antonio and the only Baptist college within 250 miles.

In addition to its excellent academic program, its students and graduates lead the way in building strong churches vital to the growth of our denomination. At present, approximately 60 churches are being pastored by UCC students or graduates. Twenty-seven churches have been established or rebuilt by the same group.

The University has already contributed its first foreign missionary. She is Anatole Morrison Richardson, and she and her husband are now serving in Brazil.

University of Corpus Christi students have helped to spread the Gospel to every area of South Texas.

To quote just one Baptist leader, the Rev. Joe Amerine, missionary of District 5, says "The upsurge of Baptist growth in South Texas is directly connected with the growth of the University of Corpus Christi."

From its beginning, Corpus Christi Baptist leaders and other civic-minded citizens have been instrumental in development of the University. Although it draws its student body from throughout Texas, its main support has always come from the immediate Corpus Christi area.

Among strongest boosters of the University have been Lon C. Hill, president of Central Power and Light Co.; Guy I. Warren, president of Renwar Oil Co.; H. E. Butt, president of H. E. Butt Grocery Co.; Rep. John E. Lyle, and Joe Dawson, former city commissioner.

Support has also come from churches and Baptist leaders throughout the state. Had it not been for Dr. J. Howard Williams, state Baptist secretary at the time UCC was founded, it is

doubtful that the college could have succeeded. A. D. Foreman, Sr., Houston realtor and long-time Baptist leader, was also instrumental in founding the University.

As far back as 1900, the idea of establishing a Baptist college somewhere in South Texas was being talked. Baptist schools were springing up in West and Central Texas, but the southern area felt left out.

This feeling grew over the years and came to a head in 1946 when talk materialized into action. The Rev. A. A. Sanders, pastor of the First Baptist Church at Beeville, began urging establishment of a college there. During October of that year, Dr. E. S. Hutcherson and Dr. E. H. Westmoreland, both Houston pastors, were asked by the Baptist State Executive Board to investigate the possibilities at Beeville.

Dr. Hutcherson met with Beeville backers and was impressed with the idea, but because of the magnitude of the problem asked that additional members be appointed to the survey committee. These included Dr. George Mason, Dallas; Dr. Williams, Dr. W. R. White, then pastor of the First Baptist Church in Austin; the Rev. D. B. South, early-day Corpus Christi pastor, and Dr. C. E. Hereford, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Corpus Christi.

Appointment of Dr. Hereford to the survey committee was the beginning of a continual period of service to the University. He became first vice-chairman of the board of trustees, has served on the committee which has selected the University's three presidents and was the man who rallied Corpus Christi interests in the movement which eventually shifted the college to Corpus Christi. He is serving again now as vice-chairman of the board.

The enlarged survey committee approved the plan to establish a college at Beeville and a holding committee, which later became a board of trustees, was formed. The group voted to open the college in September, 1947. This action was supported by the state Baptist board, and the University was on its way.

## PART TWO

### Establishment, Progress

Dr. E. S. Hutcherson, who had served with the survey committee, was elected president of the new college on Jan. 3, 1947, the name Arts and Technological College was chosen on Feb. 14 and the school received its charter from the State of Texas on April 1.

Original trustees were: Dr. W. R. White, now president of Baylor University, chairman; Dr. C. E. Hereford, vice-chairman; the Rev. W. B. Billingsly, then of Alice; Dr. W. Boyd Hunt, then of Houston; the Rev. A. D. Norris, Corpus Christi; Dr. M. L. Rhodes, Houston; H. D. Hughes, Beeville; Jacob S. Floyd, Alice; Dr. C. C. Quillian, Kenedy; R. A. Hall, Beeville; M. M. Cunningham, Houston; Dr. H. E. Lancaster, Beeville; the Rev. Avery Rogers, Victoria; the Rev. W. L. Shuttlesworth, Houston; the Rev. T. A. Gray, McAllen; the Rev. Earl Hill, then of Taft; the Rev. Ted Lott, Mission; V. E. Lanfear, Corpus Christi, L. M. Fischer, Corpus Christi, and Rev. A. A. Sanders, who was board secretary.

First officers of administration of the college were Dr. Hutcherson, president; Dr. John

W. Cobb, acting dean, and A. H. Wilcox, registrar. Dr. R. M. Cavness served as dean in the preliminary planning phases, but resigned because of ill health.

There was an original faculty of 24, of whom eight are still teaching or working with the University. These are Dr. Cobb, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Craighead, Mr. Frank Ing, Dr. and Mrs. G. C. Kenyon, Miss Jewel Westerman and Mr. Wilcox.

Rev. Sanders took time off from church duties to lead a finance campaign for the new college and was killed May 9, 1947, in an automobile accident. His death was a severe blow to the infant school. Today, the library has been named Sanders Memorial Library in his honor.

Original plans were to locate the school at Beeville on Chase Field which was then deactivated as a Navy base. Early in the planning, difficulties over lease negotiations and other problems caused the board of trustees to consider relocation. Offers came from San Antonio and Alice, but the Corpus Christi offer, the most attractive, was accepted.

On July 25, Guy Warren, president of the Citizens Council; Oscar Koepke, vice president of the Chamber of Commerce; Willard Perkins, head of the Zoning and Planning Commission,

and Truett Barber, representing the Brotherhood of Corpus Christi's First Church, made their proposal in a session at Beeville.

First home of the college in Corpus Christi was at Cuddihy Field. Classes met there from September to December, when the University moved to University Heights, then known as Ward Island. This has become the University's permanent home. Title to the 233-acre campus and its 50 major buildings now rests with the University's board of trustees.

First session of the trustees in Corpus Christi was held at the White Plaza Hotel on Aug. 8, 1947.

Despite many problems, the University opened its doors to students on Sept. 15, 1947. During the first fall session, there were 233 day and 78 night students. Night classes were held in the educational building of the Downtown Baptist Church.

On Oct. 7, 1947, trustees voted to change the name to University of Corpus Christi. First plans called for the school to be a college with emphasis on arts and sciences and technology. With the move to Corpus Christi the concept was changed to that of a university, with a still broader educational program.

Dr. Hutcherson served as president until 1948 and was succeeded by Dr. R. M. Cavness, the first dean. Dr. W. A. Miller became president in 1952.

## PART THREE

### **Building For the Future**

The University of Corpus Christi has been gaining steadily in enrollment for the last three years. Outlook for the future is for continued growth until the University enrollment reaches approximately 2,000. UCC officials believe a school of this size will be large enough to offer a complete educational program, yet small enough to retain the advantages of individual attention.

A \$15 million, 20-year campus development program has been approved by the UCC trustees. This plan was prepared by Harland Bartholomew and Associates, St. Louis firm of city planners.

Construction of the first permanent building will begin this fall. It is to be a \$150,000 brick dormitory for women.

Increased support for the University is coming from the Baptist denomination, local and area churches and civic groups.

Academically the University has made long



strides since its founding. It is an associate member of the Texas Association of Colleges and the Texas Association of Music Schools. It is recognized by the Texas Education Agency and the Veterans Administration.

For purposes of administration, the University is divided into six divisions: Religion, Education, Fine Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Science and Engineering.

The University offers bachelor of arts, bachelor of science, bachelor of music education, bachelor of business administration, bachelor of science in chemistry and bachelor of science in petroleum engineering degrees.

Students may now major in accounting, Bible, biology, business administration, chemistry, education, English, health and physical education, home economics, mathematics, physics, piano, speech, voice, wind instruments and religious education. Minors are offered in all these fields, plus Greek, sociology and secretarial science.

The faculty, of whom 40 per cent have earned doctors degrees, has grown from 23 to 34, and several new fields have been added to the curriculum.

Special education, petroleum engineering and additional music training are among the newest additions to the curriculum. The University of

Corpus Christi is to be the only Baptist college specializing in petroleum engineering.

The long-range view of the University includes increased working endowment and a graduate school. The University will approach a graduate program when it has completed thorough undergraduate preparation and when there is a sufficient need in the Corpus Christi area.

University officials feel that the hard years of becoming established are past and that UCC is on the verge of its most rapid growth and largest service to the denomination and South Texas.

The University is proud of its past, but has its coat off to the future. The next 25 years should be among the greatest in history for Texas Baptists and the University of Corpus Christi. The University is the fastest-growing major educational institution in the Southwest and its future development plans are in line with the expected continued growth of the area.