

John MacArthur, Jr.

April 2, 1985

Dr. Paul Tassell
National Representative
GARBC
P.O. Box 9550
Schamburg, IL 60195

Dear Dr. Tassell,

I am confident that you are aware of my acceptance of the presidency of LABC. Since the school has been affiliated with the GARBC over the years, I want to assure you that I would desire to see a good relationship continue. I stand with your fellowship in the things of the Scripture.

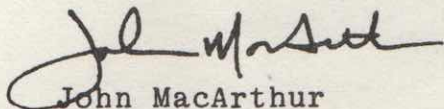
You can be confident that the historical, doctrinal position of the school will continue. If anything, we would want to preserve it with great enthusiasm, and share its biblical heritage with a wider constituency for the sake of influencing many more to godliness.

The primary effort I would want to make in the school would be to build greater spiritual fervor in the students and to see them graduating with a heart to serve effectively in a local church.

If there are any questions I can answer for you or any way that you see I could serve the cause of Christ more effectively through the school, I would appreciate your input.

May the Word of Christ continue to dwell in you richly.

Yours in His service,



John MacArthur
Pastor-Teacher

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OVER FOR
DR. TASSELL'S REPLY

GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF REGULAR BAPTIST CHURCHES



1300 North Meacham Road
Post Office Box 95500
Schaumburg, Illinois 60195
Telephone (312) 843-1600

Paul N. Tassell, Ph.D.
National Representative

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Official Organ
The Baptist Bulletin
Editor
Merle R. Hull, D.D.

April 16, 1985

Dr. John MacArthur, Jr.
13248 Roscoe Blvd.
Sun Valley, CA 91352

Dear Brother MacArthur:

Thank you for your gracious letter of April 2 with reference to your acceptance of the presidency of LABC. Your pledge to keep the school true to the Word is greatly appreciated. Training students to serve in the local church is surely a high and holy responsibility.

We are, of course, disappointed that the trustees of LABC have chosen to move the school out of the GARBC constituency. We are of the sincere conviction that the Baptist distinctives are Biblical distinctives. We firmly believe that our congregational polity is a Biblical corollary of our belief in the priesthood of every believer.

We feel like you would feel if, after many years you retired from the pastorate of Grace Community Church, your elders then voted to change the name of your church to the Grace Baptist Church and then established Baptist polity in place of what you had taught for all of your years of ministry. Although I honestly have no malice in my heart toward anyone involved in the changes, you must understand how many of our people do feel a sense of betrayal of our dearly held and, we believe, truly Biblical positions.

Having said the above, my brother, let me hasten to add we thank God for your fervent determination to make the school a force for God and His Work in the days to come. Although we may have some disagreements, I do appreciate the fact that you courageously and compassionately hold your convictions as a sacred trust. I assure you that we in the GARBC do likewise.

Sincerely in Christ,

Eph. 3:20

Paul N. Tassell, Ph. D.
National Representative

PNT:je
cc. Dr. John R. Dunkin
Council of Eighteen Members

OVER FOR
DR. MACARTHUR'S LETTER



GRACE
Community
Church

John MacArthur, Jr.

April 12, 1985

Dear Pastor:

In recent days I have faced a decision of far-reaching proportions of which you are aware. The Board of Los Angeles Baptist College has asked me to become president of the school and lead it in fulfilling a vision for a wider impact on our nation.

For several weeks, I have sought the Lord and the counsel of those men to whom I am accountable, and with whom I share intimately in the work of the Kingdom. The unanimous accord of all of them in encouraging me to accept this responsibility, in addition to my own sense of enthusiasm for the potential of teaching godly young people, has led me to accept with an eager heart.

There will be an immediate widening of the base of the college from its Baptist nomenclature to a new name, The Master's College. My commitment is that there will be absolutely no wavering or compromise from the integrity of the historical doctrinal posture that the school has held for all its faithful life.

I seek the continued prayers, confidence and support you have given in the past. My prayer is that you may see the vision of reaching and teaching hundreds more than the school has been able to serve with its limited constituency. It would be a grief to our dear Lord if an issue of non-biblical labels caused any pastor or church to restrain itself from standing with all those whose highest goals are to make this college not different, but more what it was designed to be than has ever been possible in the past.

April 12, 1985

New ministries of confrontive, aggressive, non-compromising Christian discipleship are going to be implemented on campus. The goal is that every student not just get a Christian education, but live a holy life to the glory of God. The objective will be to integrate each student into the life and ministry of the local church, so that when they return to their home church they are an asset to the pastor and people. This means a practical, strong emphasis on church ministry that refuses to let the school become a substitute church. The only institution Christ came to build is the church and it is expressed in local fellowships. Every student needs to understand and commit to all that the local church is and does.

The freshman year will be a mandatory curriculum exclusively made up of Bible and theologically integrated into an effective, life-changing experience where the students focus on two things: the Word of God and their personal spiritual growth. My desire is that students get grounded doctrinally, begin the patterns of a holy life, and then go on in the final three years to finish training in their chosen field. The first year program will also stand alone as a diploma program, called The Master's Institute, so that those who want only a fully integrated, dynamic, practical year of biblical training can have that.

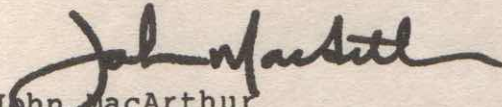
The work of the King in these waning days of man's tenure over the earth is so critical. All of you and the others who have held up this great school in the past will, I know, rejoice that God's Spirit has led to this wonderful new beginning for The Master's College. A good theme would be "continuity and change!"

My personal ministry will continue at Grace Community Church, and through the Word of Grace, tapes, books and radio, I will do all I am able to put in place in the college a team of people to reflect your convictions and mine and raise the standard of godliness to produce unique servants of Christ. I would not have accepted the challenge if I did not believe the present president, Dr. Dunkin, the Board, and my own forty-eight elders were all men who walk with our Savior and have fully sought His mind.

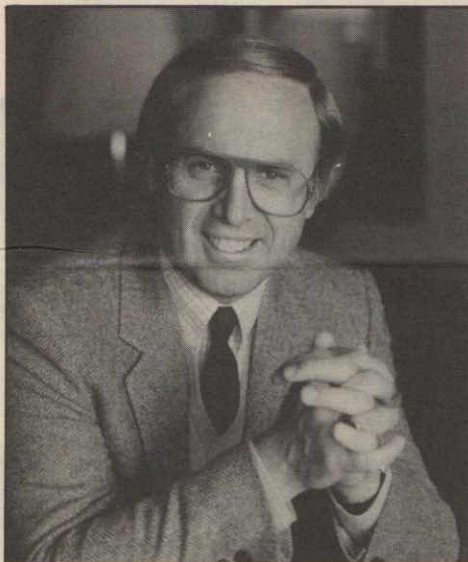
The whole responsibility comes to me as a mandate from the Lord -- unsought, but given. I find myself with Paul who said, "Woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel." He sought no such task and for it no honor, since he had not chosen it of his own will. That reflects my heart as well.

I need your prayers.

Yours in His service,


John MacArthur
Pastor-Teacher

JM:cf



NEW PRESIDENT FOR LABC, DR. JOHN MACARTHUR, JR.

On October 4, 1984 the Board of Directors appointed a Search Committee made up of seven board members and two faculty members to seek a President for LABC after the 1984-85 academic year.

Various contacts were made by phone but no individual prospect was firm enough to request or warrant an interview by the Committee. Periodically, the nine men met via a conference telephone call and brought each other up-to-date under the leadership of Chairman Jerry Smith.

Dr. John Stead had been a close friend with Dr. MacArthur having attended college with him and having enjoyed Dr. Jack MacArthur's ministry at Calvary Bible Church, Burbank. In casual discussion with Dr. MacArthur, Dr. Stead introduced the subject and, in due time felt led to suggest that Chairman Jerry Smith telephone Dr. MacArthur. In January the Committee was acquainted with the contact and it was felt that the possibility should be explored. On January 31 the Committee met with Dr. MacArthur for an extended, encouraging time of discussion. The result was that the Committee voted to recommend to the full board that Dr. MacArthur be

invited to become President. On February 20 Dr. MacArthur met with the Board of Directors for a thorough discussion which led to the Board voting to call him as President.

At this point Dr. MacArthur faced the decision with the actual invitation in hand. Over the next several weeks he shared this challenge with various friends and associates at Grace Community Church, realizing that if the Lord was leading in this venture, the church would need to be pleased with his decision. Step-by-step each committee proved to be supportive. Dr. MacArthur's wife, Patricia, and his four children were happy with the prospect and his father, Dr. Jack MacArthur, encouraged him from his own years of friendly association with the College.

On Monday, March 18, Dr. MacArthur advised the College that he would accept the invitation. The news was shared with the Board of Directors and with the student body on March 19. On Sunday, March 24, at the two morning services of Grace Community Church, it was Dr. Dunkin's privilege to announce the decision and publicly welcome our new President. At the same time the new name for the College was disclosed. LABC will become The Master's College immediately following Commencement May 11. A new name for a fifty-eight year old institution with the same Statement of Faith but with new horizons of service.

For those of us who have been a part of the process of bringing Dr. MacArthur to LABC, we simply relate, "This is the Lord's doing, it is marvelous in our eyes." (Psalm 118:23)

Dr. John MacArthur, a native Californian, pastors Grace Community Church in Panorama City, California. He has traveled in many countries of the world teaching and preaching. Additionally, an extensive radio and tape ministry reaches around the globe.

His books include: *Found: God's Will, Keys to Spiritual Growth, Liberated for Life, Giving God's Way, The Charismatics: A Doctrinal Perspective, Take God's Word For It, Beware - The Pretenders, Kingdom Living - Here and Now, Why Believe the Bible, Jesus' Pattern of Prayer, The Family, Body Dynamics, The Ultimate Priority, Hebrews Commentary, 1 Corinthians*, and soon to be released *Matthew Commentary*.

Dr. MacArthur studied for the ministry at Talbot Theological Seminary where he graduated with high honors. He served as Student Body President and has taught as an adjunct professor on the faculty. Following in the footsteps of his father, Dr. Jack MacArthur, John represents five successive generations of pastors in his family.

The emphasis of Dr. MacArthur's ministry is the expository preaching and teaching of God's Word through a verse-by-verse exposition of the Scriptures. His studies pay particular attention to the historical and grammatical aspects of each biblical passage and, as a result, are extremely interesting and mentally stimulating. His sphere of influence has experienced a steady and substantial growth over the years with both youth and adults.

(Continued on page 3)

THE MASTER'S COLLEGE

On March 20 the Board of Directors voted to approve a new name for the College for two reasons. The designation Los Angeles Baptist College has implied a location in the central city. The school is actually 32 miles north of the Los Angeles City Hall in a lovely suburban location.

The second reason involved the decision to widen our ministry beyond denominational lines without modifying our theological position. Since the College will not carry the designation Baptist in its title or sub-title, we will not seek approval by the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches as we have done for many years.

LABC is appreciative of the organizational structure, theology, and Biblical emphases of the GARBC. We trust to serve many of the churches which fellowship in it as well as other fundamental churches which are Biblical but not Baptist. The Master's College is a good name for this ministry which is as our sub-title states, "A Christ-centered College of Arts and Sciences."

"Worthy Is The Lamb"

On Thursday, April 4, the music department of LABC presented their annual Easter program in the Hall of Crucifixion and Resurrection at Forest Lawn, Glendale. Mr. Paul Plew and his able associates ministered to a congregation that filled the magnificent auditorium. The program was integrated with the two huge paintings which depict Jan Styka's conception of the Crucifixion — 196 feet in width — and the newer painting of the Resurrection. Professor Benjamin Lall was the narrator.

We believe that there is no more appropriate Christian setting for this program anywhere in the world. We are indebted to the Forest Lawn organization for their complete cooperation with our music department.

Continued from page 1

John MacArthur, Jr.

Under the ministry of Dr. John MacArthur, Grace Community Church's morning Worship Services reach 8,500 in attendance, and the evening Family Bible Hour approaches capacity in the 3,500 seat Worship Center. Active Christian Training Seminars, community FLOCKS and various training programs spearhead the plan which equips members of Christ's body for the ministry. Their impact spreads across Southern California and even around the world.

Dr. MacArthur shares the ministry with his wife, Patricia, and their four children, Matthew, 20, (and his wife Kelly), Marcy, 18, Mark, 16, and Melinda, 11.



Pastor Darrell Beddoe, Boise, Idaho, speaking in Chapel after the announcement of Dr. MacArthur's invitation to become President of LABC.

REAFFIRMATION OF ACCREDITATION

Under date of February 27 LABC received word from the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of Western Association of Schools and Colleges that the Commission had acted to: Reaffirm the accreditation of Los Angeles Baptist College.

LABC is accredited by WASC as a Senior College and neither the College nor the Association takes this approval lightly. The College must constantly improve its educational distinctives in curriculum, faculty, equipment and facilities. This is an enormous responsibility which will test the convictions of both the leadership and the supporting constituency of the College. The proportion of our commitment to our Christian college students will be determined by the support which is forthcoming.

Church-related colleges are struggling to survive because their friends have cared little about the college mission or because the colleges themselves have turned from their founding principles. LABC needs a company of earnest Christian supporters who will uphold Dr. MacArthur in his special place of leadership for "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." (Psalm 127:1)

LABC SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS: A 25% tuition scholarship is given to the children of full-time Christian school teachers or administrators who are the principal support person of the family. The student must be full-time and may not be receiving a full California State Grant.

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY SCHOLARSHIPS: A 50% tuition scholarship is given to the children of full-time Bible-preaching church pastors who are the principal support person of the family. This would include pastors, associate pastors and youth pastors. The student must be full-time and may not be receiving a full California State Grant.

CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SCHOLARSHIPS: A 50% tuition scholarship is given to the children of full-time missionaries and evangelists. The student must be full-time and may not be receiving a full California State Grant.

GARBC State Talents for Christ: Winners from any state will receive a scholarship as follows:

- First Place: \$400 scholarship
- Second Place: \$300 scholarship.

GARBC National Talents for Christ: National winner will receive:

- One-half year tuition during freshman year and
- One-half year tuition during sophomore year.