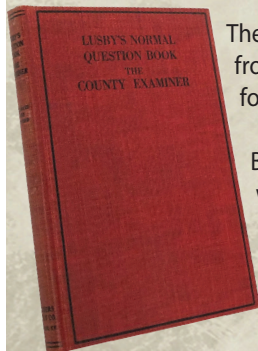


# CONTINUING FOR THE GOOD OF THE CAUSE

## THE EARLY YEARS: CHRISTIAN NORMAL INSTITUTE

Kentucky Christian University turns 100 years old on December 1, 2019. This is an incredible accomplishment by God's grace because of the dedication of faithful servants. Over the next three issues of *The Voice*, we are going to share some of the highlights of our beloved institution. The extent of these articles come from the writings of Dr. Lowell Lusby, the University's second president, and our archives. Our story begins with the Christian Normal Institute years.

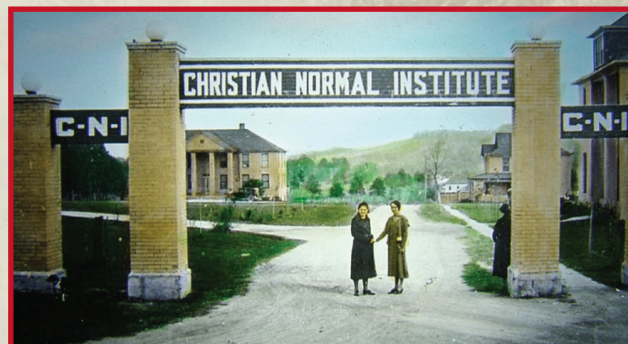


The year was 1901 when J. W. and Emma Veve Lusby came to Grayson, Carter County, Kentucky from Owen County, Kentucky. Their announced purpose was for Mr. Lusby to practice law but for four years he struggled as a "newcomer" attorney.

By 1905, he changed vocations, being chosen as the principal of the Grayson Graded Schools which, at the time, included a Grayson High School. In order to acquire qualified teachers, Mr. Lusby established the Grayson Normal School, a private institution. The purpose of the Normal School was to prepare students to pass the County Examination, whereby certification was granted. In 1923, Mr. Lusby would go on to write his own book called *The County Examiner*.



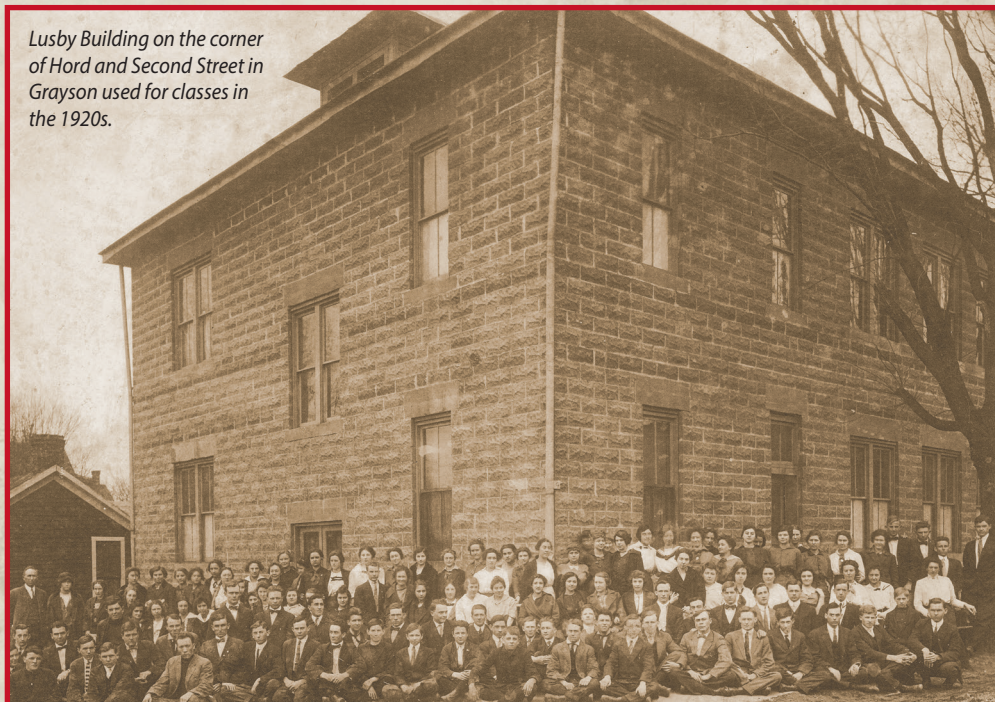
It was during this interval that J. W. Lusby concluded there was a real need for a school with a definite Christian emphasis. He advertised in the pages of *Christian Standard* for someone to come to Grayson and assist him in a Christian-school venture. J. O. and Rosella Snodgrass of Iowa answered the plea for help. They came to Grayson and with the assistance of a Board of Trustees, all of whom had an interest in the promotion of Christian education, established Christian Normal Institute on December 1, 1919.

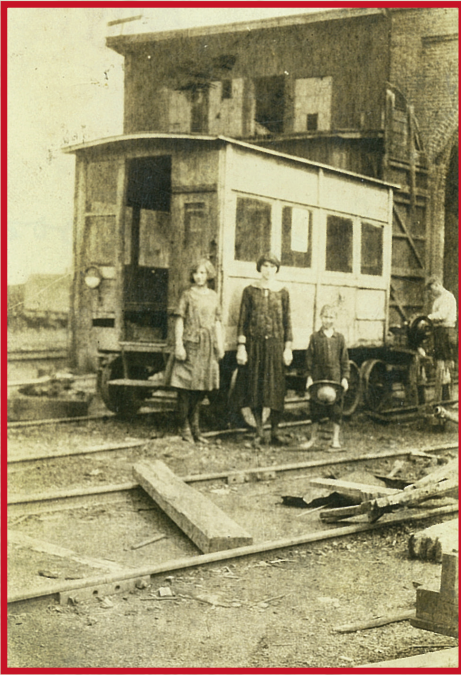


An interesting side note is that the school almost did not happen. If the roads and railways had been better in the early nineteen hundreds, Lusby may have set up his law practice in Pikeville. Mr. Lusby evidently made his way by train to Catlettsburg, Kentucky, and from there traveled by riverboat to Pikeville. At that time, the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway had not been completed into the Big Sandy River Valley and the roads were of such poor quality that it was almost impossible to get in or out of the area. As a matter of fact, it was necessary to wait until the Big Sandy River (Levisa Fork) was in flood stage before Mr. Lusby could make his journey to Pikeville. It was the lack of means of travel into Pikeville which helped bring about the decision to settle in Grayson, which could be reached by the Chesapeake and Ohio and the East Kentucky Railway lines.

Although the purpose of the school was left rather vague in the Articles of Incorporation, the printed materials of the time list the term "Bible College," which was to be included with the continuation of both high school and normal school.

*Lusby Building on the corner of Hord and Second Street in Grayson used for classes in the 1920s.*





### FIRST DECADE (1920s)

The first sessions of the new institution were in the Lusby building, located on the corner of Hord and Second Street. At times, the Grayson First Church of Christ was also used, both for Chapel and classes. The founders realized another location was needed, so property was acquired on the northern city limits of Grayson by purchase from T. S. Yates and a gift from J. W. Lusby. By 1923, R. B. Neal Hall, a dormitory for women named after the circuit riding preacher and trustee, was occupied and three other buildings were under construction (the Administration Building, along with homes for the Lusby and Snodgrass families). Both of the homes were constructed to accommodate students in the upper stories.

Many students during the first decade found living quarters in the homes of Grayson residents, and others commuted from nearby areas, either by train or by what was known as the Blue Goose (a vehicle using railroad tracks and powered by a Model T Ford motor). In the late 1920s, Pablo Pacheco, Jr., of Mexico, was the first international student to enroll at the school. Extracurricular activities included two literary societies, Hi-Y Club, Baseball and Tennis.

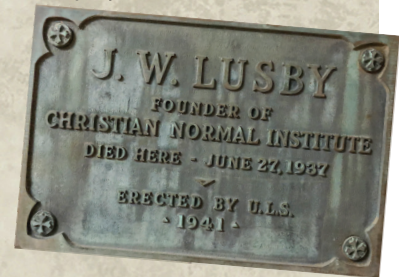
### Second Decade (1930s)

In the early years of the 1930s housing was a desperate need and the problem was partially solved through the construction of log cabins. Using mostly student labor, the one room cabins (later expanded to two rooms) were built for about two hundred dollars each. At first, young men lived in the cabins, but when a second room was added, they were used for married couples.

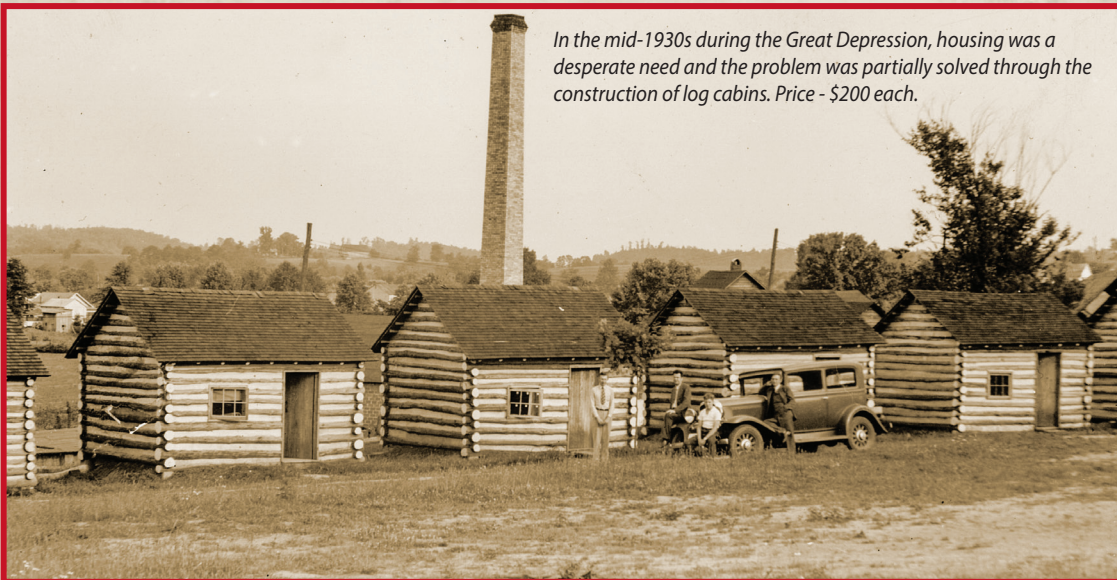


During the mid-1930s, the college purchased what came to be known as the J. W. Lusby Memorial Farm, a total of 769 acres south of Grayson.

The idea behind the project was to have facilities for extensive gardens and the raising of cattle. The farm would eventually be sold in the 1960s and the funds used to construct the first free standing library. That building, now called Trinity Hall, has since been remodeled and is presently being used by the Biology department.



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, C.N.I. GRAYSON, KY.



*In the mid-1930s during the Great Depression, housing was a desperate need and the problem was partially solved through the construction of log cabins. Price - \$200 each.*

On June 27, 1937 J. W. Lusby suffered a fatal heart attack while surveying the J. W. Lusby Memorial Farm to locate more trees with which to build additional cabins. Mrs. Lusby was named acting president by the board, and retained that position until her son, J. Lowell Lusby, was named second president at the age of 22. J. O. Snodgrass was named Vice President. Lowell Lusby would begin steering the school toward becoming Kentucky Christian College.

# CONTINUING FOR THE GOOD OF THE CAUSE

## THE KENTUCKY CHRISTIAN COLLEGE YEARS

From 1944 until 2004, our school was affectionately known as Kentucky Christian College. Most of our alumni reading this article attended school during those 60 years. It was administered by three honorable presidents, Dr. J. Lowell Lusby, Dr. L. Palmer Young, and Dr. Keith P. Keeran.

### **Dr. J. Lowell Lusby**

Shortly after the death of President J.W. Lusby in 1937, J. Lowell Lusby became the second president at the young age of 22. J. O. Snodgrass continued as Vice President. As the young president was acclimating to his new position, the winds of war were blowing across Europe. World War II would have a great effect on the College with many potential students electing to join the armed services. In fact, Dr. Lusby himself was sent a draft notice to report to Huntington for his physical but the day before receiving his orders a large newspaper roll crushed the tip of his finger and it had to be amputated. He was then re-scheduled to take another physical on May 8, which ended up being V-E Day in Europe. He would soon receive his notice that he would not be called into the draft. Although he had been able to obtain deferment for many ministerial students, he never succeeded in obtaining such for himself.

Toward the latter part of the war years it was becoming obvious that the school name "Christian Normal Institute" should be changed. A survey was conducted during 1944, primarily among alumni, and several new names for the school were recommended. The name Kentucky Christian College was suggested by Lela Lusby and Bob Warfel and was unanimously approved by the Trustees.

The school began to grow again following the war with many students using the GI Bill. Mr. and Mrs. John Pemberton and Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Pruett were part of that generation of students. It was while he was in a Nazi prison camp during WWII that John Pemberton made a vow to God to give the rest of his life to Christian service. Dennis Pruett would make a similar vow. The results would impact and change thousands of lives in Zimbabwe with the establishment of the African Christian Mission now known as the Hippo Valley Christian Mission.



the Restoration churches. Before taking the office of President, he traveled extensively throughout the state of Kentucky preaching in dozens of churches and asking each church to support and send students to KCC. Under his leadership, a connection to working ministers was established through the creation of the Master of Ministry program. Guest lecturers from across the country would come and teach in the program. Other buildings built during his 10 years as president included Dorcas/Pifer Hall, Nash Chapel, and Young Library. It was during the 1980s that the college received accreditation through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.



*Dr. Keith P. Keeran, Dr. L. Palmer Young, & Dr. J. Lowell Lusby together at the Ground-breaking of the McKenzie Student Life Center.*

Dr. Lusby oversaw many changes during his tenure as president. With the administrative help of men like Jim McKenzie and Lester Pifer and the leadership of trustees like Hugh Sensibaugh, the campus expanded and grew. Under Lusby's leadership Jones Hall, Snodgrass Hall, Dale Hall, and Lusby Center were built. The school became accredited with the American Association of Bible Colleges and the curriculum changed to support students going into vocational ministry and missions. In 1977, after 40 years as the second president of KCC, Dr. J. Lowell Lusby retired and Dr. L. Palmer Young took over.

### **Dr. L. Palmer Young**

Palmer Young was a well-known preacher throughout

## Dr. Keith P. Keeran

In 1987, Dr. Keith P. Keeran became president and held that position until 2009. Great strides were made under his leadership in establishing and maintaining programs to give students opportunities to obtain majors in Education, Music, Social Work and Human Services, Humanities, Bible and Ministry, Business, and Nursing. The Master of Ministry program was phased out with the establishment of the Graduate School. The formation of these schools played an integral part in changing the school's name to Kentucky Christian University in 2004.

KCU continued to expand adding the McKenzie Student Life Center, Waters Hall, Wayne B. Smith Center for Christian Leadership, East and West Halls, the Apartments, the Ruth Building, the Maintenance Buildings, and the Yancey School of Nursing Building.

One of the crowning achievements of Dr. Keeran's tenure was the establishment of the



Construction of Lusby Center after the campus was reoriented in the early 70's.



Keith Keeran, presents new Coat of Arms to Coach Loran Dace after the official mascot was changed from the Rockets to the Knights.

Commonwealth International University that was conceived in 1992 as a partnership between Kentucky Christian University and Crimean American College in Simferopol, Ukraine. Unfortunately, the school closed at the end of 2018 mostly due to the Russian Federation takeover of Crimea. According to Dr. Keeran "the CIU graduates continue to serve as translators for Christian publishers, ministers to local congregations, directors of various para-church and benevolent ministries, missionaries, and Christian educators to the underserved, including some impoverished communities in the United States and Muslim communities in the Arab world. Over 40 CIU graduates have studied or earned degrees on the campus of Kentucky Christian University."

## The Students

The measure of any institution is the type of students she produces. Without a doubt Kentucky Christian College produced some of the finest laborers for the Kingdom, bar none. There are hundreds of thousands, perhaps even millions, who have come to know Christ because of the faithful work of KCC alumni and we thank God for the men and women who sacrificed so much to teach, train, and lead our students by example during the KCC years.



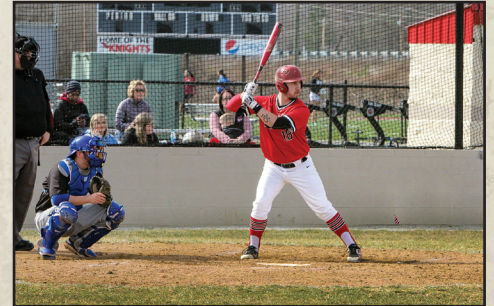
Neal Hall

# CONTINUING FOR THE GOOD OF THE CAUSE

## THE KENTUCKY CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY YEARS



On September 10, 2004, Kentucky Christian College became Kentucky Christian University. Dr. Keeran wrote in the 2004 issue of *The Voice* that the Board of Trustees along with the administration took over six painstaking years to arrive at the decision. KCU was and still is classified as a “comprehensive” higher education institution, thus making its distinction from a liberal arts institution. The emphasis of a “comprehensive” institution is on diverse professional preparations, whereas a liberal arts institution emphasizes to a much greater extent the arts, sciences, and the humanities.



“The distinguishing characteristic of Kentucky Christian University is that it is first and foremost “Christian” in its worldview and every academic program and degree offering, carefully integrates faith and scholarship. KCU is firmly committed to the biblical concept of the “priesthood of all believers” and to the preparation of all of God’s people, regardless of their career calling, to engage the world for Christ.” Since then, the University has diversified into several schools that center around the discipline that is taught in each school. Today you will find the Keeran School of Education, Yancey School of Nursing, School of Business, Keeran School of Bible and Ministry, School of Biological Science, School of Distance and General Education, and School of Social Work and Behavioral Health.

### Dr. Keith Keeran’s Presidency (cont. from last issue):

The year following the announcement of our new name (May 2005), we saw our first class from the School of Nursing graduate.

In 2006 the announcement was made that KCU would be adding intercollegiate football by 2008. Dr. Keeran wrote in the Summer edition of *The Voice*, “All across America there is a serious decline in the number of male students who are enrolling and graduating from college. Football may help to correct that problem at KCU where the student population is 40% male.” Today that number is above 50%.

In June of 2007, we lost one of our most beloved Professors and Coaches, Dr. Dick Damron.

In 2008, the School of Nursing was named the Robert and Nina M. Yancey School of Nursing. Nina gave a generous gift of \$500,000 in honor of her husband, the former President of Ashland Petroleum, who had passed away in 2006. This would open the door for a joint venture with King’s Daughters Hospital and the construction



Yancey School of Nursing



New Campus Entryway



Remodel of Nash Chapel

of the KDMC/YSN building which was finished in 2007. During 2008, the board of trustees began their search for the next President. Dr. Keeran would officially retire in 2009 becoming the Chancellor of the University.

### **Dr. Jeff Metcalf's Presidency (2009-2019)**

Dr. Jeff Metcalf would be chosen to follow Dr. Keeran as the fifth President of the University. Dr. Metcalf was a 1987 graduate of the school and returned, after furthering his education, to eventually serve as the University's Provost and VP of Academic Affairs. Dr. Metcalf was committed to making sure students would have a safe and productive environment where they would grow their faith in Christ, develop strong Character, and be prepared adequately for an excellent Career.



Prayer Garden

Under his leadership we saw an increase in Graduate school programs with the addition of the Master of Arts in Religion (MAR), Master of Arts in Education (MAE); and Master of Science in Nursing – Family Nurse Practitioner (MSN-FNP).

Campus facility additions and improvements included remodeling of Nash Chapel (2011), Knights Stadium (2012), Upper Level Recording Studio (2013), Trinity Hall refurbishing for a new Biology degree program (2014), a new entryway in front of Lusby Center, Nash Chapel and Young Library (2015); baseball field (2018), Campus coffee shop (2018), the renovation of the upstairs of the Ruth Administration Building (2018), the new Martha Lusby Jordan Memorial Prayer Garden (2019), and the construction of the New Mission Office building (2019).

Several sports (Women's Softball, Cross Country, Track and Field, Archery, Golf, Men's Baseball and Bass Fishing) were also added to give students opportunity to play at the collegiate level. In August 2019, Dr. Metcalf stepped down from the office of President and passed the baton to the sixth president in 100 years, Dr. Terry Allcorn.



Trinity Hall

Through the years, under the leadership of Dr. J. W. Lusby (1919-1937), and his successors in the presidency, Dr. J. Lowell Lusby (1937-1977), Dr. L. Palmer Young (1977-1987), Dr. Keith P. Keeran (1987-2009), Dr. Jeff Metcalf (2009-2019) and now Dr. Terry Allcorn (2019-), Kentucky Christian University has educated some of the most outstanding Christian leaders, both in the church and in other professions throughout the world.

Kentucky Christian University remains committed to providing a strong biblical foundation for each of her students. This foundation, then, becomes a source of beliefs, which will influence the way students conduct themselves within a chosen vocation. The belief that a Bible core and vocational preparation should coexist is distinctive at Kentucky Christian University and President Terry Allcorn, along with the faculty and staff, are committed to the task of seeing that this purpose remains central as the University's programs expand to prepare Christian workers for the future.



Knights Stadium