

# Great Expectations— A. C. Today And Tomorrow

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following is an article by Russell Rawlings, Wilson Daily Times Reporter and Atlantic Christian College Alumnus, as it appeared in the September 2, 1978 edition of the Wilson Daily Times.

By **RUSSELL RAWLINGS**  
Harold Doster listens patiently with the telephone receiver pressed firmly between his ear and shoulder. The caller is Tom Hackney, chairman of the Board of Trustees at Atlantic Christian

College.  
"That's fine, and I'll meet with you soon to discuss this further. Yes, thank you for calling."  
And so goes the job of a college president.  
Doster took over nine

months ago following the lengthy tenure of Arthur Wenger and the subsequent interim term served by Milton Adams. During that short period of time he has been faced with quickly learning the role he must play not only for the college but for the community of Wilson as well. Thus far he has played that role extremely well.

"It hasn't really been nine months, has it," says Doster as he hangs up the phone. "That's right, the month ends this week. Well how about that. It really doesn't seem like its been that long. Thus far everything has gone so well, it just hasn't seemed like that long."

It has been a short nine months for Dr. Harold C. Doster, but in those nine months he has settled into the president's chair and effectively administered one of North Carolina's most successful private institutions. He is proud of the school's traditions, but in a realistic tone he admits that as is the case with every school, there are some changes which will have to come about in order for the college to flourish to its highest degree.

#### Planning The Key

"Planning is the key to the whole thing, if you plan for something then you will be able to accommodate it when the time comes. That is one of the most important phases of this job, and we realize that there are things which need to be done, and we're doing our best to set up our priorities so that we may do those which are needed the most as soon as possible.

"We are by no means where we want to be, but we know where we're going, and we have a carefully designed plan to get us there."

The plan is indeed carefully designed. Doster is a man of many meetings, but he looks forward to basically all of them because he realizes that his function as president is best served by contact with a large cross-section of people. During the normal working day he will sit in on a number of sessions with various groups. Students, trustees, faculty, administrators, clergy, and members of the community demand a great deal of his time and energy.

"At times it does seem like one meeting after another, but you have to recognize what can be accomplished through meetings, and if you do then it doesn't tend to overwhelm you. Looking at the afternoon's schedule I have a meeting with three faculty members, two administrators and a clergyman scheduled, and that's just half a day. One could get discouraged, but not when you realize the opportunity which is provided here to work on the strengths and weaknesses of the college."

#### Countless Meetings

Although his day is filled with countless meetings, Doster still holds firm to his belief that he must stay within close contact of the student body in order to hold a firm grip on the situation. He admits openly that there is a need to divide his time among certain groups, but that it would be tragic if he was not able to interact with the student body.

That is why one of the earliest steps, and possibly one of his more major moves in the directions of student affairs, was the organization of a Council of Presidents. This group meets once a

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## COLLEGIATE

ATLANTIC CHRISTIAN COLLEGE, OCTOBER 5, 1978

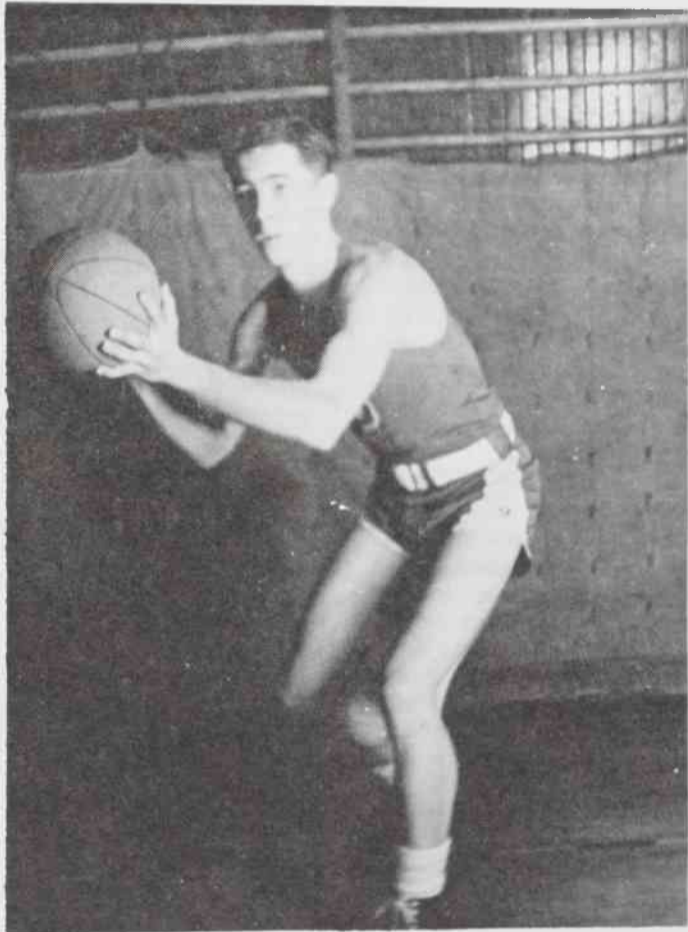
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# A Different Side Of The Man On Top

Who is the man in this picture? He is our new president Dr. Harold C. Doster, but not as we now know him. Most of us have met him by now or at least know who he is and something about his future plans for Atlantic Christian College. The little we know about him is connected with the college. What is behind this man? Where is he from? What was he like when he was younger? What has brought him to his present position? In other words, what is his other side? Continue reading and meet the personal side of Dr. Doster.

Life began for Dr. Doster on March 6, 1931, in a small private hospital in Mayfield, Ohio. He lived in the small village of Mayfield with his father, Donald; mother, Mary; and younger sister, Nancy. Although he lived in town he was actually a country boy. Much of his early years were spent working on his grandfather's farm. As he grew older his family bought a potato farm, a dairy farm, and an all-purpose truck farm. Farming wasn't the only family business; actually, it was more of a sideline. His father owned a Chrysler Company Agency and was also Mayor of Mayfield for 15 years.

Dr. Doster attended grade school in an old-fashioned little, red schoolhouse; the same schoolhouse that his grandfather had attended as a little boy. President Doster's junior high and high school years were busy and action-packed. He was active in the choir and traveling octet, played cornet in the band, did photography for the school newspaper and annual, and was in one musical and at least two plays a year. Dr. Doster's participation did not stop with culture oriented activities, but went on into athletics. He was starting quarterback and defensive end for the Mayfield High football team, pitcher for the baseball team, and center at 6'0" on the basketball team. Six feet sounds mighty short for a center now, but he was the tallest man on the team and he only lost one jump ball in four years. He kept his grades up in spite of all his activities and graduated as an honor student.



Harold Doster then ...

Dr. Doster spent his summers working at interesting jobs. He built houses in Florida one summer, worked on the farms, and spent his most interesting summer working in a carnival and traveling all over Ohio to different fairs. His position was that of a barker or talker for a glass show. Perhaps this is where he developed his talent for public speaking.

Many of Dr. Doster's activities centered around the church. He sang in the choir and participated in the youth group. At one time he was President of the Tri-County Christian Youth Fellowship and President of N.E. Ohio's Interdenominational Activities. Because of the challenge his church work offered him and his deep respect for his Grandfather Smith's ministry, Dr. Doster decided at the age of twelve to make the ministry his life's profession.

Dr. Doster attended Bethany College in Bethany, W. Va. and majored in Philosophy and Religion and minored in Jour-

nalism and Psychology. He belonged to the social fraternity, Beta Theta Pi and held the office of Alumni Secretary. He was active in the band, Photo Club, newspaper work, Athletic Club, student government, Campus Pre-Ministerial Association (president), Campus Christian Association (president), and Intercollegiate baseball. He made the Dean's List and was a member of Gamma Sigma Dappa (similar to our Alpha Chi).

Dr. Doster received his B.D. from Yale University. While studying there for the ministry he met June Carolyn Marken who was studying to become a missionary to the Congo. They married in June of 1955 and, needless to say, June never made it to Africa.

After graduating from Yale, Dr. Doster accepted a job as Minister to Shade Valley Pastoral Unity in Ohio. This job included a ministry to 4 to 7

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And Dr. Doster Now.