

D. H. BENDER  
PRESIDENT

EDWARD YODER  
DEAN

PAUL ERB  
REGISTRAR

S. E. MILLER  
ASST. BUSINESS MANAGER

## Hesston College and Bible School

Hesston, Kansas

Dear Brother,

Greetings in Jesus' name. We are writing you a few lines to solicit your help, cooperation, and prayers in a special way for the work of Hesston College and Bible School. There has come upon us here at Hesston a calamity which will be a great shock to all our friends and patrons, and which drives us to the throne of grace for the help we need at this time.

We are sorry to inform you that Brother D. H. Bender can no longer serve as President of our school. About ten years ago Brother Bender was overtaken by the enemy and fell into gross sin, which has not come to light until recently. The Missouri-Kansas Conference in session near Inman, Kansas, August 18-22, took action relieving Brother Bender of his office as minister and bishop. A committee of bishops, composed of the brethren Harry A. Diener, Joe G. Hartzler, and I. G. Hartzler, was appointed by the conference "to counsel with the Hesston congregation and discipline according to Scripture." Brother Bender was officially expelled as a member of the Hesston congregation and at a later meeting on August 24th his full confession was received and he was reinstated as a member of the church. Brother Bender and his wife have left the community, going to the far west.

We have briefly written these official facts for your first-hand information, so that you will understand any rumors you may hear. The time is very short until school opens on September 10th, and we who are left with the responsibility of carrying on this work are desirous of the help of the ministers and leaders of our constituency. Should any unfavorable reports reach your community we hope you will help to correct them and give the facts. Especially assure prospective students in your community that the school will go on as usual with the full cooperation of the Mennonite Board of Education.

While we greatly regret this tragedy, nevertheless we believe this is the Lord's work and that the Lord's cause is greater than any individual. It is our firm belief that the friends and patrons of Hesston College and Bible School will rally to her support with renewed energy, in order that she may continue to serve the highest interests of our church and her young people.

Members of the Executive Committee of the Board of Education have been on the ground to receive suggestions and to investigate the situation. The Executive Committee of the Board of Education met at Archbold, Ohio, Aug. 28, and effected an organization to administer the duties of the President's office for the time being. They appointed a committee composed of the following brethren: Edward Yoder, Paul Erb, Maurice A. Yoder, Irvin E. Burkhardt; Dean Edward Yoder to serve as chairman.

Requesting your most prayerful cooperation and support and trusting you will use this official information only in such ways as will build up the cause of the school and the church, we beg to remain,

Fraternally yours,

Signed: Edward Yoder, Dean

Maurice A. Yoder, Business Manager.

Paul Erb, Registrar

Irvin E. Burkhardt, Head of Bible Dept.