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Series VI: Speaking Engagements, 1917-1964.

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Sewanee, Tennessee (University of the South), 1939-1942.

Vice-Chancellor's Office
The University of the South
Sewanee, Tennessee

May 24, 1939

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street and Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

In July of last year I became Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee. Ever since I have been here I have been thinking of how fine it would be to have you on our campus. I recall so well your visit to Chattanooga during the Semicentennial and your perfectly magnificent address. Would it be possible for you to find time to make a trip to Sewanee to spend a day or two in this historic place?

There is no man in our nation whom I had rather welcome to this institution than yourself.

With best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

Alex. Gruenig

AG/p

Part Episcopal 1867
Theology
and Science
of Medicine
24/ 29 teachers

June 13, 1939

Dr. Alex Guerry, President
The University of the South
Sewanee, Tenn.

My dear Dr. Guerry:

I deeply appreciate your kind letter and your invitation to come to Sewanee and spend a day or two on the campus of the University of the South. I assure you that nothing would give me greater pleasure. Unfortunately at this writing, I am unable to say whether I shall be able to come. I am leaving for my vacation and I shall not return from abroad before September. My schedule for the Fall and Winter is quite uncertain. I have already made many commitments in connection with my work as national chairman of the campaign for overseas relief and refugee work. This, I am afraid, will take up pretty nearly all of the time that I can spend away from my ministerial duties at home.

If you will get in touch with me sometime next Fall or Winter, and if good fortune will favor me, I shall make every effort to come to you. I recall with great pleasure my visit to Chattanooga on the occasion of the Semicentennial celebration.

With all good wishes for a pleasant summer, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

Vice-Chancellor's Office
The University of the South
Sewanee, Tennessee

June 16, 1939.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th Street at Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I hope this letter reaches you before you leave for Europe. I am enclosing a pamphlet which I hope you will take a few minutes to read. Under separate cover I am sending you a book of views of the University of the South. When you know something of our ideal here and when you see how beautiful Sewanee is, I hope you will be tempted to give the University a day of your time in the fall, winter or spring. I must have you here.

I want these young men to catch something of your spirit and your philosophy, to know you at least for a few hours and to have contact with your own personality. Please work it out so that we will see you on our campus next year.

With best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

Alex Guerry

June 22, 1939

Dr. Alex Guerry, Vice-Chancellor
The University of the South
Sewanee, Tenn.

My dear Dr. Guerry:

I regret that your letter of June 16 arrived
after Dr. Silver left Cleveland for his summer's vacation
abroad. I shall, however, be pleased to refer it and the
pamphlets which you sent to his attention when he returns
in September.

With best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

BJK

Secretary to Rabbi Silver.

September 17, 1939

Dr. Alex Guerry, Vice-Chancellor
The University of the South
Sewanee, Tenn.

My dear Dr. Guerry:

I have recently returned from Europe and find your lovely letter inviting me to visit Sewanee this coming season. I need not tell you that I am greatly appreciative of your thoughtfulness in extending to me this gracious invitation. I wish I were free at the present moment to state definitely when I could come, but I have so much to do this coming year in connection with refugee and war relief work that I find it difficult just now to make a definite commitment. I am National Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal which is engaged in raising a large sum of money for the victims of persecution abroad. Before very long we shall have to take care of the victims of the war disaster.

However, I should like to come to Sewanee and I shall make every effort to do so in the Spring. Would you drop me a note in January or February?

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

Vice-Chancellor's Office
The University of the South
Sewanee, Tennessee

September 19th,
1939.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, D.D.,
The Temple,
East 105th St. & Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Certainly you will hear from me in January or February. I want you tremendously at Sewanee. I can think of no-one else right now whom I would like as much. The spring would be fine for your visit. The campus and the domain around our buildings are lovely at that period of the year. Please keep us in mind. Come to see us.

I am enclosing with this letter a pamphlet which sets forth some of our educational ideals.

With best wishes and kindest regards, I am

Cordially yours,

Alex Guerry

AG/W
Enc-1



MOTHER OF
GODLINESS,
DISCIPLINE,
and FREEDOM





Mother of Godliness, Discipline, and Freedom



ONE of the most beautiful war memorials in the world is on the campus of Winchester College in England. This memorial is built in the form of a cloister around an open court. On the walls beneath the cloister ceiling are carved the flags and shields of the allied nations and the names of five hundred young men from this school, who lost their lives in the last great conflict.

Above the names, deep-cut in the stone, is the remarkable inscription composed by the old headmaster himself in memory of his own boys:

IN THE DAY OF BATTLE THEY FORGAT NOT GOD
WHO CREATED THEM, NOR THEIR COUNTRY,
THE STRONGHOLD OF FREEDOM, NOR THEIR
SCHOOL, THE MOTHER OF GODLINESS AND
DISCIPLINE THOU, THEREFORE, FOR
WHOM THEY DIED, SEEK NOT THINE OWN,
BUT SERVE AS THEY SERVED, AND IN PEACE OR
IN WAR, BE EVER AS CHRIST'S SOLDIER, GEN-
TLE IN ALL THINGS, VALIANT IN ACTION,
STEADFAST IN ADVERSITY.

Here is the meaning and purpose of education. The young man who comes

from college or university shall be one of Christ's soldiers, with all the lofty conception of life that this implies, willing and proud to seek not his own advantage but the common good of all, to enrich human society by unselfishness and sacrifice.

He will be gentle in all things for he will have learned that tenderness, not coarseness, or vulgarity, or cruelty, is the badge of courage and manliness, and that next to food, raiment, and shelter, kindness and consideration are the necessities of life.

He will be valiant in action, bold and fearless in whatever he undertakes. He will understand that education is not intended to lead a man into cynicism, mockery, or inertia, but to endow him with fortitude as well as with wisdom for the doing of great deeds.

Finally, he will be steadfast in adversity. He will know that the test of any man is his courage in difficulty and in danger. He will not bemoan his fate when misfortune assails him, nor content himself with futile protests against an unkind world. He will not sit helpless in idle vanity or despair, blaming others for his weakness. He will feel that every difficulty is an opportunity for resourcefulness and achievement. He will understand that man is born to be stout-hearted in adversity, stronger than adversity, if he is to be of the stuff to justify his creation.

Thus the inscription sets forth the meaning and purpose of education. It

does more. It defines a school or college. Recall the phrases, "the school, the mother of Godliness and discipline", and "their country, the stronghold of freedom." Let it read "a college, the mother of Godliness, discipline, and freedom." These words speak a true definition of an institution of learning.

Godliness: Faith in God and the conviction that "to believe in Him and His love is not to escape from reality but to stand upon the rock of the only certainty known to man:" Faith in Christ, the Son of God, and the revelation of God to man: Belief in the power of goodness and the permanence of spiritual ideals: Not faith and belief alone, however, but a life in which character and virtue find expression.

Discipline: The discipline of hard work, of genuine scholarship, of fine academic standards, of intellectual attainment, and of careful training of mind and body: The discipline of a sense of duty, of self-control, and of self-reliance: The discipline of good taste, good manners, and of high ideals.

Freedom: That freedom of the mind and conscience which is the very breath of life for college or university: That freedom of mind and conscience which is man's most precious possession, the source of creative talent, the means and opportunity of man's finest growth and development: That freedom which preserves and defends the dignity of human personality, one of the great concepts of

life: That freedom which is the avenue to happiness and peace:

But not an irresponsible freedom; not a freedom that confounds license, disorder or violence with liberty; not a freedom that confounds rudeness, selfishness or self-indulgence with independence: A freedom rooted in responsibility, in self-discipline, in a sense of obligation to serve society and government, and to champion the principles of justice and decency, on which civilization rests.

This is Sewanee's ideal for herself: That THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH shall always be the mother of Godliness, discipline, and freedom. And this, the ideal of the University for Sewanee men: That they shall not seek their own gain, but that they shall serve their people, and shall be ever as Christ's soldiers, gentle in all things, valiant in action, and steadfast in adversity.

Vice-Chancellor's Office
The University of the South
Sewanee, Tennessee

November 21st
1940

Rabbi Abba H. Silver
The Temple
E. 105th Street & Ansel Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am delighted to have word from President Hinson that you will speak on the program of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in Memphis in December. That is indeed great news. I shall look forward with great pleasure to hearing you and I hope to see you also.

I recall most happily your visit to the University of Chattanooga and your splendid address at the Semi-Centennial celebration of the University of Chattanooga. Since we were last together, I have come to Sewanee as President (Vice-Chancellor) of the University of the South, my own alma mater.

Nothing would make me happier than for you to visit our campus and speak to our students and faculty. Please keep this in mind when you can spare a few hours and turn your steps to our campus.

With best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

Alex Gruen

AG:KS

December 2, 1940

Dr. Alex Guerriy
The University of the South
Sewanee, Tennessee

My dear Dr. Guerriy:

I was delighted to receive your note, and I am looking forward with pleasure to seeing you at the conference of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in Memphis on December 12. If it is at all possible, I should be very happy to visit the campus of the University of the South.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

Vice-Chancellor's Office
The University of the South
Sewanee, Tennessee

January 30th
1941

Rabbi Abba H. Silver
The Temple
E. 105th St. & Ansel Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Ever since I heard you speak in Memphis in December to the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, I have been more anxious than ever to present you to the students and faculty of the University of the South. Your address was magnificent! I don't want our people here to miss it. Can't you send me a choice of several dates? I am certain we can find a time to meet your convenience. You will recall that you promised to come to Sewanee if you did not take a long trip to the West coast.

I am sorry I did not see you again. It just happens that I was and am a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Association. This means a good deal of extra work and a special demand upon my time and attention to details of the business of the Association.

With best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

Alfred Gurney

AG:KS

February 19, 1941

Dr. Alex Guerry, Vice-Chancellor
The University of the South
Sewanee, Tenn.

My dear Friend:

Please pardon the long delay in answering your kind letter. I have been traveling a good deal of the time and my correspondence has lagged.

I am going to the Pacific Coast the latter part of March and I will probably be gone until well into April. Upon my return, I have quite a number of campaign meetings to address in the East in connection with overseas relief and refugee work. I am afraid that I shall have to forego the great pleasure of visiting the University of the South this season, and the additional pleasure of spending some time with you. The pressure of work upon me in the last few years has been terrific and I have had to decline many invitations which normally I would have been delighted to accept.

I do hope that I shall have the pleasure of coming to you next season. With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

Vice-Chancellor's Office
The University of the South
Seawane, Tennessee

February 21, 1941

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, D. D.
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Put us down for next
year without fail! We want you on the
campus of the University of the South
in October, if it is possible for you
to make the trip to Tennessee at that
time.

I understand about this
spring. You are much too crowded with
the pressure of work to entertain the idea
of an address to our students and faculty
in March, April, or May.

With kindest regards,

I am

Cordially yours,

Alex Gruen

AG/g

Vice-Chancellor's Office
The University of the South
Sewanee, Tennessee

July 22, 1941.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th Street at Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

You will recall that when we were together in Memphis you promised you would visit Sewanee this fall if you could not come to see us last spring. Would it be possible for us to set a date for your visit? We are most anxious to have you on our campus. I am determined for our students to hear you speak if there is any way for you to make the trip to Sewanee.

With best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

Alex Gruen

AG/dp

August 13, 1941

Dr. Alex Guerri
The University of the South
Sewanee, Tenn.

My dear Dr. Guerri:

I have just returned from my vacation and was pleased to receive your invitation to visit the University of the South this Fall. I should very much like to come to you this Fall. Please let me know what days during the week are most convenient for you. Tuesday or Wednesday would be most convenient for me.

With all good wishes and hoping that you are having a pleasant summer, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS: BK

Vice-Chancellor's Office
The University of the South
Sewanee, Tennessee

August 16, 1941

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Your letter makes me very happy. I am delighted with the idea that you will really visit the University of the South this fall. That's fine. Please don't change your mind. I am very anxious for the students and the faculty of this institution to hear you.

The following dates for the fall have been set for lectures and addresses: ✓ October 20, November 22, and December 15. Almost any Wednesday except one ✓ within these three weeks will be entirely satisfactory. Tuesday is not a good night at Sewanee. Please select the date you want or give me the choice of two or three dates.

Thanks for your letter.

With best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

Alec Gruen

AG/dp

Oct 15th & etc above

*WED
Nov. 18
Nov. 26
Dec. 3*

August 18, 1941.

Dr. Alex Guerry,
Vice-Chancellor's Office,
The University of the South,
Sewanee, Tennessee.

My dear doctor Guerry:

Thank you so much for your
kind letter of August 16. Would Wednesday, November 12,
be a convenient date for you? If so, I shall make every
effort to come to you on that date. Is the meeting
a morning, afternoon or evening one?

With all good wishes, I remain,

Very cordially yours,

AHS:me

Vice-Chancellor's Office
The University of the South
Sewanee, Tennessee

August 20, 1941

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th Street at Ansel Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver;

I am delighted to have word from you that you will be in Sewanee November 12. The date is entirely satisfactory. It would be better for you to speak in the evening. Everyone would be free at that time to come to hear you. If it is particularly convenient, we could arrange for you to talk at 12:00 noon.

Please write me about this detail.

With best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

Alec Guerry

AG/dp

August 22, 1941.

Dr. Alex Guerry,
Vice-Chancellor's Office,
The University of the South,
Sewanee, Tennessee.

My dear Doctor Guerry:

It will be perfectly satisfactory
for me to address the meeting in the evening of
November 12. I am looking forward with pleasure to
seeing you again.

With all good wishes, I remain,

Very cordially yours,

AHS:me

October 5, 1941

Dr. Alex Guerri
The University of the South
Sewanee, Tenn.

My dear Dr. Guerri:

I find my self embarrassed because of the necessity of asking for a change of date for my address at the University of the South. The Women's organization of my Temple has planned for Wednesday, November 12 -- the day I was scheduled with you -- an all day institute on "The Home and National Defense", and the members insist that I participate in this Institute.

I am wondering whether your schedule is not entirely filled and whether either November 26 or December is still open. If so, I shall be very happy to come on one of these dates, or early in 1942. I am sorry to cause you this trouble.

With all good wishes, and trusting that you are well, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

Vice-Chancellor's Office
The University of the South
Swannee, Tennessee

October 7th, 1941

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th St. at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Please do not be embarrassed. I realize the many demands upon your time. We are very fortunate in your willingness to speak at the University of the South. Any time convenient to you suits us. Neither date you suggested is, however, very satisfactory. Wednesday night, November 22nd is the night before the Thanksgiving holidays. That would be a bad time. On Wednesday December third, I am to be at the meeting of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. I would like to be here when you visit our campus. At the same time, you can come on that date if you will pardon my absence. Would the second, third, or fourth week in January be convenient?

With best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

Alley Grueney

AG:KS

October 9, 1941

Dr. Alex Guerri
The University of the South
Sewanee, Tennessee

My dear Dr. Guerri:

Thank you so much for your kind
letter of October 7th and for your
kindness in releasing me from my engagement
on November 12th. I shall be very happy to
be with you on Wednesday, January 7, 1942.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

Vice-Chancellor's Office
The University of the South
Sevanee, Tennessee

October 13th, 1941

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th St. at Ansel Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

The date of Wednesday, January 7th, 1942 is entirely satisfactory. We shall look for you at that time. Thursday, January 8th would be a better day since the University reopens on Tuesday, January 6th. Thursday would provide another twenty-four hours for us to get under way after the vacation. If Thursday, January 8th is not entirely satisfactory to you, however, come on Wednesday because practically all of our student body will return on time and be here, therefore, by Tuesday night January 6th.

With best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

Alex Guerry

AG:KS

October 20, 1941

Dr. Alex Guerry
The University of the South
Sewanee, Tennessee

My dear Dr. Guerry:

It will be just as convenient for me
to come to you on Thursday, January 8th as on
Wednesday the 7th and so I have written down
the date of the 8th.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK

Vice-Chancellor's Office
The University of the South
Sewanee, Tennessee

October 22, 1941

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

We will put you down for Thursday, January 8,
for your address at Sewanee. We are delighted that you
are coming to the University of the South. There is no
man in all America whom I would rather welcome to our
campus than you. Please do not allow anything to change
your plans. To have you here will be a very real plea-
sure.

With best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

Alex Gruen

AG:js

December 31, 1941

Dr. Alex Guerrey
University of the South
Sewanee, Tenn.

My dear Dr. Guerrey:

Thank you for your kind letter of December 30. I shall make every effort to be with you on Thursday, January 8. Train connections between Cleveland and Sewanee are poor. I am therefore planning to take the plane Thursday morning, arriving in Chattanooga at 1:00 p.m. There is a train out of Chattanooga arriving in Cowan at 3:01. Would it be possible for someone to pick me up in Chattanooga and drive me to Sewanee?

I am looking forward with real pleasure to seeing you.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:BK

Vice-Chancellor's Office
The University of the South
Sewanee, Tennessee

December 30th, 1941

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
E. 105th St. at Ansel Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

We are looking forward with pleasure to having you with us on Thursday, January 8th, 1942. It will be a privilege indeed to welcome you to our campus. The students and faculty both are anxious to hear you.

Not having heard from you, I take it for granted that you are still planning to be with us next week.

At the same time, I realize that our country's entry into the World War may have brought upon you new and unexpected responsibilities. If such be the case, I would not press you unduly to keep the engagement with us so soon after the declaration of war. I leave it to you, therefore, whether you wish to come to Sewanee on January 8th or postpone your visit to some later date.

You have been very kind to agree to speak to us and I am indebted to you for your consideration.

With best wishes for a very happy New Year,
I am

Cordially yours,

Alex Guerry

AG:KS

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RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER, CARE THE TEMPLE=

EAST 105 ST AT ENSEL RD=

WRHS



I AM DELIGHTED YOU ARE COMING TO SEWANEE ACCORDING TO MY
SECRETARYS LETTER WILL SEND CAR TO COWAN OR CHATTANOOGA AS
YOU DESIRE PLEASE WIRE YOUR WISHES=

ALEXANDER GUERRY.

Vice-Chancellor's Office
The University of the South
Sewanee, Tennessee

January 14th, 1942

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple, on Ansel Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am very happy that you came to Sewanee...happy because I was anxious for our students and faculty to get to hear you and happy because I was glad to see you again. You have meant really a great deal to me. Your books and your addresses which I have heard have contributed so much to my own understanding of things and to a greater faith. I admire you more than you realize and you aid me more than you can understand.

My regret was that your visit was so brief. I had counted upon having you here for the next morning at least. I can realize, however, that you cannot tarry long in one place because you are a very busy man.

You must carry out your promise, however, to visit us again and to bring Mrs. Silver with you. If you will make the trip to this college domain in the mountains in the spring or fall, you will be enchanted by the beauty of Sewanee. There is nothing else like it of which I know in this whole country.

I am enclosing a check for \$100.00. I wish that it could be many times more. Our resources are, however, quite slender and, in all probability, will be more limited as the days pass by.

I trust that the affection and regard of the people here and of myself and Mrs. Guerry particularly along with our gratitude for your splendid talk will be compensation for the time you took to come to see us.

With kindest regards, I am

Cordially yours,

Alfred Guerry

AG:KS

January 16, 1942

Dr. Alex Guerri
The University of the South
Sewanee, Tenn.

My dear Dr. Guerri:

It was a joy to be with you at Sewanee.
My only regret is that it had to be so brief.
Someday I should like to come back for a longer
stay and wander over that beautiful country and
see more of the University, its faculty and students.
Thank you for the few lovely hours in your home and
for the generous hospitality of Mrs. Guerri and
yourself.

All good wishes to you.

Most cordially,

AHS:BK

P.S. Thanks for the check which you sent
along.