

Albert Ong interviews Allan MacRae

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Question: Could you relate your family background and upbringing to the stage of conversion?

Answer: I was raised in a Christian family in northern Michigan. My father was a physician in a copper-mining district, helping patients who had come from many different countries. My parents were earnest Christians and I came to know the Lord at a very early age.

Q: How did you prepare for your present work?

A: After attending excellent elementary and secondary schools I spent five years at a so-called Christian college that had a high academic standard but was turning away from its former evangelical background. I gained much from the intellectual training available there and came in contact with a number of fine Christians who benefited my spiritual life. The college awarded me the B.A. degree in 1922 and an M.A. in history in 1923. After finishing college I spent a year at the Bible Institute of Los Angeles and then studied three years at Princeton Theological Seminary and Princeton University. In 1927 I received the Th.B. degree from Princeton University and another M.A. (this time in Semitics) from Princeton University. At the end of my seminary course I was awarded a special fellowship which enabled me to study in Germany for two years. In the course of the second year there I spent four months in study and research in Palestine under the direction of the noted archaeologist, Dr. William F. Albright. In 1929 I was called back to the United States to help in the establishment of a new theological seminary. In 1936 the University of Pennsylvania gave me the Ph.D. degree. After 42 years of teaching and administration at two seminaries I participated in the founding of Biblical Theological Seminary in 1971.

Q: How old were you when you decided you wanted to spend your life training Christian leaders?