

# The SEMINARIAN



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Vol. VIII, No. 1

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February, 1955

## DENOMINATIONAL DAY—1955



DR. RILEY congratulates Dr. A. R. LASLEY on his address given in connection with the annual *Denominational Day* program. (See page 3 for details of program.)

Grouped around them from left to right are: Academic Dean VICTOR T. GLASS, Registrar CHARLES H. FITZGERALD, Dr. W. L. VARNADO, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Dean of Men J. L. POWELL and PROFESSOR JOHN F. GRIMMETT.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF THE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION U.S.A., INCORPORATED

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Incorporated, held at Hot Springs, Arkansas, January 19, 1955, opened promptly at 9:30 A.M. with brief remarks by President J. H. Jackson and continued in an orderly manner until the close of the session. One of the largest attendances in the history of the Convention, it brought representatives of all boards, departments and agencies throughout the country who sat in rapt silence and President Jackson got on with the meeting by calling for the reading of the minutes of the St. Louis session of the Convention held in 1954. The minutes revealed the fact that the Convention received, from all sources, \$131,029.75; a disbursement of \$120,947.40; and a balance in reserve, for the development of the program of the Convention, for 1955, of \$10,082.35.

While contributions to all agencies and boards showed an increase over that of the past year, the most significant fact in the report was revealed that the Convention, in its 1954 disbursements, broke all precedents, in that a total of \$71,672.26 was given for Christian education and publication.

Following the report, a discussion followed of the Convention's action on reports and budgets of the various boards and agencies. The presentation of the

agenda, plans for the Diamond Jubilee were completed, approval of a history of the National Baptist Convention and a pageant depicting stories of the first 75 years of the Convention, a campaign for ministers' and Christian workers' retirement fund, church extension and education. A special service honoring Baptist preachers above the age of 75, a factual report of the finance commission, a report of the Baptist World Alliance tour, and ministerial coverage of Social Security were discussed. While the Convention gave its attention rigidly to the business of the Convention, it nevertheless, did not neglect the spiritual life of the board. Worship services were effective and inspirational by those who delivered sermons in the Convention: Dr. M. H. Tynes of Chicago; Dr. M. E. Curry, Denver; and the closing address by Dr. E. W. Williams of Birmingham.

Representatives of boards and agencies as well as messengers of the Convention went away inspired and encouraged to undertake the responsibilities placed upon them by the farsighted program injected by President Jackson and the opportunities which lie before in the increase and on-going of the cause and work of one of the nation's largest and most effective religious bodies.

## NEW SEMINARY TRUSTEES ELECTED

The Board of Directors of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Incorporated, at its recent meeting held in Hot Springs, Arkansas, January 19, 1955, approved the following:

1. The creation of a Trustee Emeritus position
2. The election of two alumni trustees
3. The election of four other new trustees
4. A total of six new trustees.

Those named to Emeritus Trustees status were: Drs. E. W. D. Isaac,\* Tennessee; J. F. Walker, Ohio; E. A. Wilson, Missouri.

Named as alumni trustees were: Revs. L. J. Burt, Georgia; William H. Donaldson, Illinois.

Other new trustees were: Revs. T. E. Huntley, Missouri; M. Burrell, Louisiana; William McDowell, Illinois, and J. T. Boddie, Maryland.

The Board also approved the changing of the date of the American Baptist Theological Seminary's trustee meeting, from April 13 to May 4, 1955. The action regarding the change of the Board's meeting was taken in the light of evangelistic commitments during April on the part of National and Southern Baptist pastors, and was designed to make for a larger attendance in May than the previous date of April 13.

\*Deceased.

## In Memoriam

DR. E. W. D. ISAAC, JR., Former Secretary of the Baptist Training Union Board of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.; Member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the American Baptist Theological Seminary; Founder of the E. W. D. Isaac Foundation, and Donor of the E. W. D. Isaac Prize—

Many students were benefited as recipients of the Isaac Scholarship, and each year some member of the graduating class has received the Isaac Prize.

## THE SEMINARIAN

DR. RALPH W. RILEY, *Editor-in-Chief*  
DR. VICTOR T. GLASS, *Managing Editor*

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AMERICAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
NASHVILLE 7, TENNESSEE

February 1, 1955

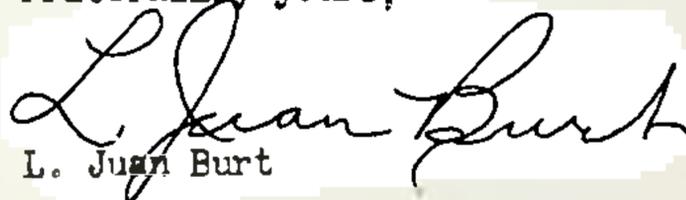
Dear Alumnus:

At the Annual Meeting of The Alumni Association of The American Baptist Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri last September I was given the responsibility of leading a financial drive to secure \$1,000.00 for the Seminary by May of 1955.

Many of the members present promised to give as much as \$100.00 towards realizing this goal. The Association would be happy to receive any amount you give. As an organization we have yet to make a tangible and worthwhile contribution to the Seminary. The type of contribution will be decided upon at our May meeting.

Please make checks payable to The Alumni Association, A. B. T. Seminary and mail to me at 132 Griffin St., N. W., Atlanta, Georgia. Fill out the enclosed card and mail to me immediately. All finances should be in by May 1st. A thousand dollars is a very small goal from such a great organization for so worthy an institution. Let's try to make it \$5,000.00.

Fraternally yours,

  
L. Juan Burt

P.S. This letter reproduced here at the request of REV. L. JUAN BURT. In case you have not already heard from Mr. Burt, as an alumnus, please follow through with his request as stated here.

## PANEL LEADERS



Left to right: DR. GEORGE W. HARVEY, CHARLES H. FITZGERALD AND C. R. WILLIAMS

## DENOMINATIONAL DAY, 1955

Denominational Day was observed again this year on January 12. The theme was "The Growing Unity and Strength of Our Baptist Agencies and Institutions." Dr. W. L. Varnado, chairman, Board of Trustees, gave the devotion preceding the main address, which was delivered by Dr. A. R. Lasley, minister Virginia Street Baptist Church, Hopkinsville, Kentucky, in the chapel at the morning session.

After lunch a panel composed of Dr. George W. Harvey, Editor-in-chief Sunday School Publishing Board and Reverend C. R. Williams, assistant to the Secretary, National Baptist Training Union Board, was moderated by Registrar C. H. Fitzgerald. The subject was "Promotional Methods of National Baptist U.S.A., Incorporated Agencies and Institutions." Mrs. Corene Watts, Southern Director Young People's Department and Mrs. Edna B. Bronson, Editor *Star of Hope*, Director of Missionary Education, Sunday School Publishing Board, led the devotions and took part in the discussion.

A display of promotional materials, books and pamphlets was set up in the library by Acting Librarian G. C. Monroe, Jr., for students to become acquainted with and purchase. Agencies furnishing materials for the display were: National Baptist Training Union Board, The Woman's Convention and The American Seminary.

In the evening all of the visitors, board and agency personnel, students and faculty were invited to attend the annual birthday banquet of President Riley.

## FACULTY NEWS

Rev. J. L. Powell, professor of Philosophy, attended the Board of Directors meeting at Hot Springs, Arkansas, January 19, 20, 1955. Prof. Powell has been selected as a candidate for the Man-of-the-Year WSOK broadcasting contest of Nashville, Tennessee.

Prof. A. L. Campbell, professor of Theology, was one of the leaders in the Religious Emphasis Week of the National Baptist Missionary Training School, March 7-11. The theme of the Conference was: "Fulfilling the Mission of the Church." It dealt with courtship and marriage.

## PRESIDENT'S BANQUET



PRESIDENT RALPH W. RILEY addressing the banquet party of friends in attendance of his annual birthday dinner held in the dining room of Griggs Hall. Dr. and Mrs. A. A. Thompson, Tennessee A. and I. University, can be seen to the left, and to the right, Mrs. Ralph W. Riley. Each year the affair, which Dr. Riley likes to think of as a community fellowship dinner, continues to grow and become immensely enjoyable to all who attend.

## ANNUAL SEMINARY DAY

SEMINARY DAY, for years, has been a day of concern for National Baptists, U.S.A., Incorporated in the support of the American Baptist Theological Seminary.

On May 15 this year, unusual impetus will be given to the annual Seminary Day appeals for funds by the action taken of the Alumni Association in its efforts to raise one thousand dollars for the Seminary by September, 1955.

Seminary Days have been planned in Peoria, Illinois, with Reverends R. T. Jackson and Wm. H. Donaldson as sponsors; at Humboldt, Jackson and Milan, Tennessee, with Reverends C. M. Houston and J. T. Freeman as sponsors; and at Hamilton, Ohio with Rev. S. S. Hodges and other pastors cooperating.

Any group of Seminary alumni in communities throughout the nation could do this. We are anxious to see other alumni take similar action.

## SEMINARIANS HEAR VISITING MINISTER

Faculty members and students from the Seminary heard Dr. George F. McLeod, Scotch Presbyterian minister, speaking in a special chapel service at Vanderbilt University on January 27.

Included in the group were President Ralph W. Riley, Professors C. H. Fitzgerald, J. F. Grimmett, and Acting Librarian George C. Monroe, Jr.

Dr. McLeod, speaking on the priesthood of believers, said that the reformation did not convert the priesthood to the laity but converted the laity to the priesthood.

He further stated, "There's an immensity of priesthood going on among working people that we as ministers fail to recognize. We must recognize it and use it as a lever to a higher vision of Jesus Christ."

## SEMINARY HOST TO STUDENT CONFERENCE

THE SEMINARY will be host to the tenth annual meeting of the Fellowship of Baptist Theological Students March 30-31, 1955. The conference was organized in 1946 on the campus of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, by National and Southern Baptist theological students. Since that time the conference has grown to number hundreds of students and alumni from twenty or more colleges and seminaries from every section of the United States including American Baptists, National Baptists of America, Southern Baptists and National Baptists U.S.A., Incorporated.

The main purpose of the conference is to bring together Baptist theological students to discuss problems related to their field of work and to fellowship one with the other across convention and racial lines.

Rev. John S. Harris, a student at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky is the executive director and will have charge of the over-all planning for the conference. All students, alumni and schools that have participated through the years are invited to come and share in the discussions.

Henry J. Franklin, of the American Seminary, is a member of the executive committee and will serve as the general chairman of the conference.

## CORRESPONDENCE DEPARTMENT

This department was organized in 1930, and has been carried on through the years in order to help men and women who desire to study and better prepare themselves for Christian service. Through these years this department has been able to help more than 500 young men and young women. The department is open to all men and women who desire to better prepare themselves for the work of the Lord, and who are not in a position to attend the classes of the Seminary.

We have thirty-two (32) students enrolled in this department this year so far. They come from sixteen (16) states and two (2) foreign countries. Most of them have had some high school training, however, a good many have not completed grammar school, but this department is glad to assist any one who desires to study under the direction of the Seminary.

Two courses are offered to students by correspondence. The first course is a course leading to the *Certificate in Christian Training*. This course is open to those who have not reached high school and it comprises two (2) years of study in religious subjects to complete it. The second course is one that leads to the *Diploma in Theology*, and it is open to persons who have had some high school training or beyond high school. This course requires three (3) years of study to complete. The Seminary is happy to serve through this department all who wish to study under direction of the Seminary. For full information address:

J. C. MILES, D.D., *Director*  
1800 White's Creek Pike  
Nashville 7, Tennessee

## THE CHORAL CLUB IN RECITAL

The Senior Class of the Trevecca Nazarene College presented the Choral Club of the American Baptist Theological Seminary in a recital on Friday, February 4, 1955. Immediately after the recital a very fine social was given in honor of the Choral Club. Mrs. M. S. Fitzgerald, directress, and H. Joseph Franklin, President.

## SEMINARY ADDS ANOTHER EXTENSION UNIT



ON THE EVENING of October 23, 1954, the president and registrar of the American Baptist Theological Seminary met with the above ministers at the Second Baptist Church, Lebanon, Tennessee. Rev. Gilbert W. Bryant, pastor, to complete plans for establishing an extension unit of the Seminary in Lebanon. On the evening of October 30 students registered for the first semester of work. The members of the student body, administrative staff, and faculty are pictured above. Seated from left to right, are: Rev. Gilbert W. Bryant, Director; Rev. Ernest Latson, B.Th., '33, Instructor of Old Testament and Evangelism; Rev. Harry G. Alexander, B.Th., '51, Instructor of Homiletics; Rev. Leroy Jackson, B.Th., '45, Instructor of New Testament; Professor C.E.S. Payne, Instructor of English. Latson, Alexander and Jackson are alumni of the Seminary.

Classes are held on Monday and Thursday nights from 7:30 to 9:30 in the educational room of Second Baptist Church. Latest reports indicate a large enrollment and increasing interest in the unit.

## WOMEN STUDENTS PRESENT CHAPEL PROGRAM

The women students of the American Baptist Theological Seminary on February 10 presented an interesting program at the chapel hour. Among the features of the program was the biographical presentation of two outstanding educators and religious leaders, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune of Bethune-Cookman College and Dr. Howard Thurman, dean of the Chapel at Boston University.

## SEMINARIANS ORGANIZE BASKETBALL TEAM

Although the Seminary has no competitive athletic program, the young theologians voluntarily recently organized a basketball team. To date the young men have played eight teams with very little or no success. On February 5, they played a preliminary game with Tennessee A. and I. State University in the gymnasium building at Tennessee State University, and although the Seminarians were professionally outclassed, they put up a good fight.

# ALUMNI NEWS



**Rev. H. W. Brown, B.Th., '38**, minister of Bethel Baptist Church in Nassau, moderator of the Bethel Baptist Association with a constituency of 1200 members, Vice-president Bahama Islands Baptist Convention, Member The Board of Education of the Bahamas, Teacher in the Baptist Bible School auspices Missionary National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Incorporated, was a visitor on the campus while visiting this country on an itinerary which included Ocala and Miami, Florida, Chicago, Illinois and other cities in the United States.

**Rev. I. H. Henderson, Jr., B.Th., '41**, Friendship Baptist Church, Kansas City, Missouri, visited the campus and served as guest minister at the Progressive Baptist Church. Rev. Henderson has also been elected as a director of the Twin-City Federal Savings and Loan Association of Kansas City, Kansas.

**Rev. R. T. Jackson, '52**, plans a second annual Seminary Day for the institution May 22, 1955. A representative from the Seminary will address the Peoria Baptist Ministerial Alliance where the pastors of Peoria and vicinity plan a financial effort for the Seminary.

**Rev. William L. Cottrell, Jr., '52**, has been recently installed at The Beulah Church of Quitman, Georgia. Rev. Cottrell continues his education at Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Rev. William P. Vaughn, B.Th., '46**, now serving the Tabernacle Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama, has been called and accepted the Providence Baptist Church, Rockford, Illinois.

**Rev. Moses Williams, B.Th., '50**, has recently been called to the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, Lexington, Tennessee.



**Rev. Alfred Julius King**, graduate of American Baptist Theological Seminary, M. Th. degree and B.S. degree from Tennessee State University, member of the Board of Directors of the National Baptist Missionary Training School and the Sunday School Board of the National Baptist Convention, Inc., who has served successfully as a pastor at Humboldt for a decade, is the present president of the Alumni Association, who assures President Riley that the campaign for the Seminary in Memphis, Tennessee, September, will be a success. In addition to having served as a teacher at the Seminary and also Howe Institute at Memphis, is now the minister of the Kayne Avenue Baptist Church.

**Rev. Robert D. Blossom, '53**, has been recently called to the pastorate of the historic Springfield Baptist Church, Augusta, Georgia, and will assume duties April 1, 1955.

**Rev. Ernest Hutcheson, '48**, is district missionary of the Atlantic Coast Baptist Association in Florida.

**Rev. William H. Donaldson, '41**, of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Peoria, Illinois, has been elected to The Board of Trustees of his Alma Mater.

**Capt. Robert Crawford, Jr., B.Th., '42**, recently returned from Germany where he served for three years in the United States Zone of occupation and soon will be stationed at Camp Chaffee, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

**Rev. James R. Tate, B.Th., '54**, was chapel speaker at the National Baptist Missionary Training School January 26.

**Rev. W. R. Brown, '42**, minister of New Hope Baptist Church, Evansville, Indiana, was a visitor to the campus February 2. He accompanied Rev. T. R. Brown, First Baptist Church, Henderson, Kentucky.



DR. M. C. CLEVELAND

## MINISTERS-MISSIONARIES CONFERENCE

THE TWENTIETH annual Ministers and Missionaries Conference will be held at the American Baptist Theological Seminary, March 7-11, 1955. The theme for the Conference: "Christ the Desire of All Nations."

Speakers for the occasion are Rev. M. C. Williams, minister of New Bethel Baptist Church, Denver, Colorado, and Dr. M. C. Cleveland, minister of Day Street Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama.

Rev. Williams is the former minister of Bethel Baptist Church, Omaha, Nebraska and president of the New Era



REV. C. K. WILLIAMS

State Baptist Convention of Nebraska, and holds the Master's degree from the University of Omaha. He has traveled extensively in Europe and is much in demand as a speaker and lecturer.

Dr. Cleveland is a graduate of Selma University, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the same institution, chairman of the Home Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc. and a successful pastor, Biblical scholar and teacher. He is the author of several tracts, among them, "Bible Qualifications of Deacons," "Youth and Amusements." Dr. Cleveland will address the Conference daily on the theme: "The Good Minister of Jesus Christ."

## FACULTY NEWS

Dean Victor T. Glass spoke to the Nashville Baptist Pastors Convention in January. In February he spoke to the Baptist students on Vanderbilt and Peabody campuses. The subject on both occasions was "The Issues To Be Faced in Segregation."

He also delivered an address to the Fourth Sunday Meeting of the Concord Association Baptist Training Union in February.

Professor J. F. Grimmert, professor of Homiletics and Church History, has been elected as president of the Tennessee Conference of NAACP branches and addressed a mass meeting on February 13 at St. John A.M.E. Church in Nashville.

Prof. George C. Monroe, Jr., librarian of the American Baptist Theological Seminary, appeared on WSIX-TV, February 20 at 3:30 p.m., on a library panel, "Know Your Bible." The program, "Know Your Bible," is sponsored in the interest of increasing Bible reading and Bible study for Nashville citizens and Middle Tennessee.

Professor C. H. Fitzgerald was Youth Day speaker at the First Baptist Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma, on Sunday, February 20. On the same afternoon he spoke in behalf of the Seminary at a mass meeting. He was assisted by two Seminary alumni, George C. McCutcheon and T. Oscar Chappell.

## Denominational Day Officials Attend President Riley's Birthday Banquet



ON THE EVENING of the Denominational Day, out-of-town representatives remained for the annual Birthday Banquet of President Riley.

In the picture can be seen members of the faculty and guests attending the gala occasion.

## Registration, Second Semester

ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, January 27 and 28, the institution registered its students for the second semester. At the close of the registration period the enrollment had increased to eighty-one.



Rev. L. Juan Burt, graduate of the Seminary, also holds the B. D. degree from Morehouse College, the A.M. degree from Atlanta University, and has done further work at Union Theological Seminary. He has recently been elected as trustee of his Alma Mater and has further evidenced his interest in the institution by assuming the responsibility of raising \$1,000.00 among alumni in 1954. Rev. Burt has been the pastor of Beulah Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia, for thirteen years.



Rev. W. Howe Donaldson, graduate of American Baptist Theological Seminary, in addition to finishing his work at his Alma Mater, graduated from Tennessee A. and I. State University and studied at Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois. He has held pastorates at Pontiac, Michigan; Murfreesboro, Tennessee; and Champaign, Illinois, is a member of the Board of Directors of Carver Community Center of Peoria, the Executive Board Area Church Council, and is presently pastor of Zion Baptist Church at Peoria, Illinois. He was recently elected as a trustee of his Alma Mater.

## STUDENT NEWS

### PERSONAL

J. W. Salley, '56, was the guest speaker for the morning worship hour of the First Baptist Church, Winchester, Tennessee, Sunday, February 13, 1955. The occasion was the Second Anniversary of the pastor, Rev. M. A. Matthews, '53.

Albert Patterson, '58, was the guest speaker at his home church in Greenville, South Carolina; the Gethsemane Baptist Church. Rev. Mr. Shumate is pastor.

Charles Alvis, '58, is in the hospital in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, where he underwent an appendectomy. We wish for him a speedy recovery.

Bettye Wray, '58, was the guest soloist Sunday, January 30, at the Rogers Heights Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee.

Ophillis McCoy, '58, delivered the Sunday evening message at the Zion Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee, January 16. Rev. John L. Copeland, '48, is the pastor.

W. L. Owen, '58, was the guest speaker at the Zion Baptist Church in this city, Sunday night, February 6, 1955. Rev. J. L. Copeland, '48, is the pastor.

McKinley Calhoun, '58, delivered the morning message at the Kayne Avenue Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee Sunday, January 9. Rev. King, '39, is the pastor. Mr. Calhoun was also the guest speaker at the Shiloh M. B. Church, Chicago, Illinois, Sunday morning, January 26. Rev. W. W. Taylor is the pastor.

Paul B. Calloway, '56, and Robert F. Williams, '58, are working with boys between the ages of ten and fifteen, at the Baptist Student Union Center of Nashville, Tennessee. The boys are being trained in Bible studies and crafts.

William K. Richardson, '58, spent the Christmas holidays at home in Buffalo, New York, where he preached at Zion Baptist Church. He also spent the New Year's weekend with his parents in Barnesville, Georgia, and worshipped at the Hopewell Baptist Church in Dalton, Georgia, January 2, and at the Mount Zion Baptist Church in Watertown, Tennessee, Sunday January 9. From January 26 through January 29, he visited his wife in Buffalo, New York, and reports her condition improved.

### PHILOSOPHY CLASS SOCIAL

On February 3, the class in Philosophy, Dean J. I. Powell, professor, in a social, presented Dr. A. A. Thompson, professor at A. and I. State University, as guest speaker on the subject: "A Christian View of Plato's UTOPIA." Other members from the class, together with faculty, administrative staff and their wives, enjoyed a repast after the lecture.

### SEMINARY QUARTETTE ON TV

The Seminary Quartette appeared over WSM-TV in "Devotional Moments," Friday, February 11, at 12:00 noon. President Ralph W. Riley delivered the message on the subject: "The Powerful Christ and Powerless Christians."