

# BULLETIN

## SEMINARY EXTENSION

### DEPARTMENT

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#### Just a Country Preacher

I am getting on in years now, and still I have failed to have two ambitions fulfilled. Of course, like many, I have unfulfilled dreams, but I have a deep seated ambition which has not yet been fulfilled to my liking. The first of these is to meet a man and ask, "Are you a preacher?", and hear him say, "No, I am not a preacher, I am a layman." Instead, it usually runs like this, "No, I am just a layman."

The other ambition is to meet a pastor of a country church and hear him say, "I am pastor of a country church." But instead, too often I hear the preacher declare, "No, I am just a country preacher." It is an assumption that to be a country preacher is to play an inferior role in the Kingdom of God. But it is not true. A country preacher is a most important leader in Baptist life. He has an envious position as leader of his folk. He can get close to them.

Some ten or fifteen years ago we used to hear the warning that the day of the country church and its great influence was waning; soon the religious education program of the city will tell; soon the majority of our preachers will be coming out of the cities. But such a warning was unnecessary. The country church is greater than ever; stronger country churches exist. The hearts

of country people are more responsive than ever. Tithing, stewardship, and life commitment have become more potent factors than ever in the rural church.

Among rural young people the heed to the call of God is more evident now than ever. Just a country preacher, indeed! It is important to ask, "What kind of a country preacher?" It is possible for a preacher to so live in the past and become such an "anti" that he doesn't actually contribute anything to the growing life of his people. It is possible for a country preacher to hold back the drive that is found among the young people. Too often country preachers do not realize the importance of study and actually "pastoring" his folk. But this is not only a condition that exists in the country. It is often true in towns and cities. The time has come when all leadership in Baptist life will have to have something more than a general knowledge of things.

The time has come when Baptists are demanding that their pastors have an understanding of a growing church, a fuller understanding of the scriptures, and a planned program of work. Of course, ideally, this means college and seminary education, and young people are responding to the call of God by entering colleges. Yet, God is

still calling men who are mature and who already have their life's work planned, who are not trained to be preachers, pastors, and evangelists.

The Seminary Extension Department of the Southern Baptist Seminaries and the college extension departments are working together to bring about "grass-roots education" of those who for any reason find it impossible to attend college or seminary. The Extension Department serves in states where the colleges operate to supplement their work by offering correspondence work, and in states where the extension programs by the colleges have not been projected, the Seminary Extension Department promotes these centers. Surely no preacher can excuse himself now by saying that he does not have an opportunity for an education. It is brought to the county site, and if he cannot go to the county site, it is brought to his mail box. For further information write, Lee Gallman, Director of the Seminary Extension Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, Mississippi.

#### Important Electives

Some of our courses are required for a certificate; others are electives. One should not be misled by their apparent innocence. Some of the finest works we offer are electives. For example: Old Testament 131 is a course in the study of the Psalms and Wisdom Literature by Dr. Clyde T. Francisco. Students are high in their praise of the help this course has given them.

The same can be said of Hebrews (New Testament 142), The Epistles and Revelation (New Testament 132), Recreational Leadership (Religious Education 155), Visual Aids (Religious Education 165), and others.

#### McDowell's Course Ready

Dr. E. A. McDowell, head of the New Testament Department, Southeastern Seminary, has written a course on The Book of Matthew using Broadus' Commentary on that Gospel. In these two Baptist scholars, we have a broad spread in scholarship. Dr. Broadus' work has been accepted as the finest work in its field among Baptist scholars. Dr. McDowell combines classic scholarship with sound present-day thinking to offer the student one of our best courses. Correspondence price--\$8.50.

#### Director's Travels

During recent months we have been in every section of the South. Trips in Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Louisiana, and Georgia have required more than 10,000 miles of travel. Our trips have been made in "Little Joe" for the most part. "Little Joe" is a 1948 blue Studebaker with creaking joints but a lively spirit.

Centers will be set up all over the areas where we have traveled. We attended three important meetings during these trips: Rural Life Conferences in Mississippi and Georgia and National Extension Association in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The Convention is next. "Meet me in St. Louis."

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Are you one who failed to put your name on your lesson? If you have sent lessons and have not gotten them back let us know.

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