

# BULLETIN

## SEMINARY EXTENSION

### DEPARTMENT

LEE GALLMAN, DIRECTOR

P. O. BOX 530

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#### NEW SEMINARIES

I understood the action of the Convention to mean that Baptists would "scout around" to find the proper place for a new seminary at an undetermined time. A good case could be made for four seminaries now if we could finance them. Atlanta would be an excellent location. It would be in the center of our greatest need for theological education. Memphis lying close to the Ozark region, and not too far from southern Illinois, Missouri, western Kentucky, and north Mississippi churches presents a good case. Houston, Texas could make a good plea, for although it is in the same state as Southwestern it is too far removed to be greatly affected and the whole Corpus Christi-Brownsville state lies below Houston. St. Louis would also be a good location in view of its proximity to a large Missouri and Illinois constituency. These four cities could present a good case now.

How long will we wait before taking into view such areas as Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, Seattle, and Denver? Locating a seminary in these areas now would be premature, but I submit that within a few short years their situations will change. Los Angeles is too far from Golden Gate (San Diego is further south) and growing fast. Detroit and Chicago could become Baptist centers in ten years if the Home Mission Board were in a position to "enter in." Give us twenty well prepared men in either of these cities and the complexion would change quickly. The churches are evangelistic, brotherly and warm-hearted. This is the kind of church where God is apt to call more men to the ministry. It is true in these

younger churches to a great degree. Untrained preachers struggling to get training is a sight one sees everywhere. Now and not tomorrow these areas need some kind of educational help. While we think about the future, surely we must take these areas into account.

Possibly some plan could be devised for the time being to offer help by setting up departments of religion on the campuses of state schools which would develop into colleges or even seminaries at the proper time. These are mission areas in a real sense and should be helped. Such help will repay us many times over. The Seminary Extension Department realizes that what it offers is insufficient. In fact nothing short of standard college and seminary education will suffice.

#### RESPONSIBLE AND IRRESPONSIBLE CRITICISM

Baptists are great critics. Their love for independence may in part be responsible for this psychological trait among them. No one in public life or in leadership can escape the criticism of Baptists. Of course, there are other critics, also. It would be a sad day for our great church group if we should lose the critical approach. But the critic is always on the spot, for there are moral and ethical considerations involved. Therefore, we speak of "responsible and irresponsible criticism."

Responsible criticism is a conscious objective weighing of evidence. Responsible criticism seeks to have all the facts before passing judgment. And once this judgment is passed it is subject to revision based upon more

accurate information. Responsible criticism may have evidence; but still finds it best not to speak. For example, an opportunity to help one may be more desirable than to "lay facts upon the table." Newspaper folk often find themselves with facts that could do considerable harm, so refuse to print facts. Too many seem to think only of "blowing the lid off" or "uncovering sinister facts." This is not the approach of responsible criticism which seeks rather to help the situation.

Two of the most common types of irresponsible criticism are-- criticism without sufficient evidence and criticism based on emotional preferences. These two evil twins have been very destructive.

(continued next month)

#### CORRESPONDENCE STUDY

A new evaluation of correspondence study is on the way. Already certain guiding principles have been set up as a result of study and survey.

For example, the National University Extension Association's Bulletin for September 1953 declares that there should be no stigma to credits earned in correspondence because the learning is practically on the same level as class work. Some universities are allowing a significant amount of credit earned by correspondence to apply to degrees. It is noted that "while it may be true that some subject matter would be difficult to teach by correspondence, it is equally true that much can be done and many of the 'can't be done' courses have become the most effective correspondence subjects under the skill and talent of an able teacher and writer."

The P. T. A. magazine (January 1954) states "For more than sixty years correspondence courses, academic and vocational, have proved themselves an effective means of education for tens of millions of out-of-school youth and adults. Correspondence study is one of the most flexible approaches to adult education. It offers people the training they want, in the place where they are, on a schedule that best fits their needs, at a price they can afford." (page 27)

Our correspondence department files are filled with expressions of gratitude for the value the students have received through this medium.

#### NEW ASSOCIATE

Rev. Ray K. Hodge, pastor of the Youngsville Baptist Church in Youngsville, North Carolina will become the associate of Dr. Lee Gallman in the Seminary Extension Department on August 1. Mr. Hodge is twenty-nine years of age and is a native North Carolinian. He attended the public schools of Kenly, graduated from Mars Hill and Wake Forest Colleges, and Southeastern Baptist Seminary. He has held pastorates in Flat River Association, Dexter and Poplar Creek, and has been pastor in Youngsville for the past five years. Most of his work has been with the rural and small town churches which gives him a good background for the work he will be doing. Prior to college, he served in World War II in the Army Air Corps. Mrs. Hodge is the former Joyce Harrell of Edenton, North Carolina and is a graduate of Mars Hill and Meredith Colleges. They have one daughter two and one half years old, Joy Gwynne.

#### "Slow Me Down Lawd" (A Negro Preacher's Prayer)

"Slow me down, Lawd.  
Ah's goin' too fast--  
Ah can't see mah bruther  
when he's walking past.  
Ah miss lot o' good things day  
by day;  
Ah don't know a blessin' when  
it comes my way.  
Slow me down, Lawd.  
Ah wants to see more o' th'  
things that's good for me--  
A little less o' me an' a mite  
more o' you;  
Ah want th' heavenly atmosphere  
to trickle through.  
Let me help a bruther when the  
goin's rough;  
When folks work together, it  
ain't so tough.  
Slow me down, Lawd, so I can  
talk with some o' your angels;  
Slow me down t' a walk!

Copied.

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Statistical Report: Extension students 2,046; correspondence students 1,480.