

BULLETIN

SEMINARY EXTENSION

DEPARTMENT

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WANTED: A THEOLOGICALLY SOUND
EVANGELISM

SEMINARY EXTENSION WORKSHOP
Carbondale, Illinois

Does all evangelism have to be unsound theologically? Isn't there somebody who has thorough theological insight who is also awake to the great need of the world for Christ? Does one have to be illogical, unscriptural, egotistic, and irrational to preach effectively?

Evangelists can be as effective knowing Christian truth and preaching it as in following a shallow, false syllogistic if plausible message. If this is not true, then something is basically wrong with evangelism as such. For if error alone can produce results, then the results are not worth the efforts.

But an intelligent evangelism is possible! Luther, Calvin, Menno Simons, Balthasar Hubmier, and John Knox were evangelists whose theology gave a solid content to their preaching. This is the preaching that produced the Reformation. A shallow Sunday School devotional talk with platitudes instead of provocative theology cannot change this world of educated sinners. This shallowness is not content to bask in its innocence and be done; it often prods, goads, and slanders the few men that have taken time to make some investigation and have written the results of their research.

Actually the simple claims of the Gospel are sufficient for evangelism. All the theorizing that comes up with quick answers and know-it-all attitudes detract from the wonderful simplicity of evangelism. The sinner needs no theological scheming to find his way to God. Repentance and faith in Christ Jesus is sufficient.

Last week, the Seminary Extension Department conducted the second workshop in Illinois with what we hope will prove to be effective results. We felt that we had more maturity for offering a workshop this year than last. Both Brother Hodge and Brother Whitten have had more than one year's experience, and the director has added a few gray hairs and wrinkles.

Among those who participated in the workshop was Dr. Allen Graves, who is the able successor to Dr. G. S. Dobbins in Southern Seminary. Dr. Graves brought two messages; one dealt with the observation of sound principles in adult education, and the other dealt with working toward a mature ministry.

Dr. Thomas Messer discussed the importance of teaching in words that are understandable, while Mr. Hodge and Mr. Whitten dealt with the mechanics of the program. In addition to this, a roundtable discussion was set up for Tuesday evening with a representation from various groups. In attendance we had a member of a seminary faculty, Seminary Extension Department workers, directors of centers, teachers in centers, and other participants.

A number of pieces of literature have gone out of the workshop, among which are "Financing Your Center" by Ray K. Hodge; "Using Sound Publicity and Promotional Methods" by W. A. Whitten; and the "Principles on Which We Operate" by Lee Gallman. These articles are available upon request.

NEW ASSOCIATE

Albert H. Fauth began his work as an associate with the Seminary Extension Department January 1, 1957. He is well qualified, coming to this position from Central Baptist Seminary, Kansas City, Kansas, where he served as Director of Extension.

He is a native of Missouri and was ordained by the First Baptist Church of Columbus, Indiana in 1945. He received his A.B. from Franklin College, Franklin, Indiana, his B.D. from Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, and his Th.D. from Central Baptist Seminary. Dr. Fauth served the following churches as pastor: First Baptist Church, Columbus, Indiana; First Baptist Church, Plainfield, Indiana; First Baptist Church, Salisbury, Missouri; and the First Baptist Church, Vandalia, Missouri. He became associated with the Central Baptist Seminary in June 1955 serving as Director of Extension, Dean of Night School, Professor of New Testament, and part time Public Relations Assistant.

The coming of Dr. Fauth brings the third associate to the Department. The Reverend Ray K. Hodge works primarily on the eastern seaboard, the Reverend W. A. Whitten works primarily in Kentucky, Western Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi, and East Texas. Dr. Fauth will supervise the work in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas.

Dr. and Mrs. Fauth and daughter, Rita Marie, will live in Kansas City.

RECENT GRADUATES

We congratulate Rev. L. J. Ready of Eudora, Arkansas, for the fine work he has done. He received the Certificate in Pastoral Training for the completion of Series A by correspondence on November 28, 1956.

Rev. Gus Johnson of Jacksonville, Florida, received the Certificate in Pastoral Training January 9, 1957. He completed his studies by correspondence and in extension classes. Brother Johnson is assistant to the Executive Secretary of the Florida Baptist Convention.

Rev. Elmer Poorman was awarded the Certificate in Pastoral Training for his work

done in the Extension Center in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Dr. Thomas S. Messer is the teacher of the center and director of student activities in the college there.

BOOK REVIEW

THE MINISTRY IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES, Edited by H. Richard Neibuhr and Daniel D. Williams. New York: Harper. 331 pages. Price \$5.00

THE MINISTRY IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES is a compilation of some nine themes on the ministry by eight different authors. It deals with issues that are pertinent today. No one can read this book without the realization that from the New Testament times the office of the minister was held to be of high quality, both in scholarship and spirit. One will be happy to have John Knox's chapter on "The Ministry in the Primitive Church," along with Oscar Cullmann's work in the early church for he deals with the offices of the apostle, bishop, deacon, etc.

As one would expect there is a high degree of ecumenicity in the latter chapter but this should not keep Baptists from reading and appreciating it as one of the very fine works in this field. This book follows Neibuhr's other work THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH AND ITS MINISTRY.

CONTINUOUS STUDY

Although 82 years of age, Mrs. Clara Ratliff of Bell Gardens, California is still active in her church. As a Sunday School teacher she is interested in pursuing her study of the Bible. Mrs. Ratliff has completed Old Testament 111 and is planning to continue her studies.

This should be an inspiration to Sunday School teachers and church leaders throughout the Convention. "Study to show thyself approved unto God . . ." Why not begin new studies or continue the ones in which you are now enrolled?

STATISTICAL REPORT

Extension Center students	4,986
Correspondence students	2,113
Total	7,099