

BULLETIN

SEMINARY EXTENSION

DEPARTMENT

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SIX YEARS OLD

This Department began six years ago July 1 in the Baptist Building, Jackson, Mississippi. We had no students, no texts, and no planned courses. All we had to offer were promises. Today nearly 8,000 individuals have been helped. Some are still with us; others are in colleges and seminaries; others have passed away, and some have not completed their course. Today we have seven full time and three part time workers. Almost from the first Mr. Grady Smith, Mr. Herbert Batson, and Rev. E. M. Fleming have been correspondence instructors. Their constituents have grown to more than 2,200.

NEW CENTERS PREPARE TO OPEN

New centers will open in Kentucky, Arkansas, Mississippi, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and Tennessee. Plans are under way in at least a dozen cities and towns. Centers planning to operate in September should: (1) Be sure the Advisory Committee has been selected and knows its duties; (2) be sure every sub-committee knows its function; (3) be sure every leader has ample supplies; (4) meet regularly to review and perfect plans. Ask and answer the big questions - Where will it meet? Who will teach? What will be offered? When will it begin? Does everyone know about it? What needs to be done next?

Lee Gallman

EXTENSION EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

The director and Associate W. A. Whitten attended the initial meeting of the Southern Baptist Extension Education Association in Nashville, Tennessee, June 18-19. At the meeting Dr. Davis Woolley was elected president; Dr. Clarence Watson, vice president; Dr. Brownlow Hastings, secretary; and W. A. Whitten, reporter.

QUALIFIED OBSERVERS

Scholars have been wrong in many ways. Their classifications of known factors and available information have not always been objective and fair. They have permitted prejudices to overrule their observations. At times they have taken the possible solutions of problems to be the probable solutions and have not infrequently accepted the probable as proved. Some have tried to ignore strong theories that still ask for solutions and have built answers upon out-dated traditional solutions. It is not possible to eliminate the human angle in the thinking process, for we are human beings. We become obsessed with pet theories and blindly ignore the implications.

The scholar is an important person, for most of us never get beyond the eddies in a stream of thought. The reason is simply that we are not qualified to do more than this. For example, a complete lexical study of a word in the New Testament may require competence in six languages. The interpretation of a passage of scripture may require a background of historical information that goes beyond most of us.

Theology is a language. Its use of a single word may so vary as to require a tremendous background of study. The use of value for example, is so loaded with accretions of ideas and meanings that one must be oriented to the language. Such words as eschatology, teleology, being, absolute, or even forgive have wealth of meaning. When Paul uses the term reconcile, or when John employs Word, the ordinary student has only a faint idea of what is involved.

The role of the scholar cannot, therefore, be avoided. He

is the one who (although he cannot preach like Truett or Sockman and might conceivably fail as an organizer or promoter) makes investigations for those of us who are too busy to study and too ignorant even after we are trained. Sometimes we do not want a scholar's investigation. We would prefer to have his blessings without the investigations. But we always want corroboration for our ideas. We prefer to jump to conclusions and then search for a "scholar" to verify our findings. He is not very smart either if he fails us, because there is always somebody with a doctor's degree that will verify our thinking (?).

Most of us have neither the time nor the patience for the sort of investigation, research, and evaluation that goes into scholarship. The most we can do is to become qualified observers. In theology, the Bible, and church related subjects we can do this. We can also reap the values of their research, but to do this we need to read works that grow out of research. Often a work is the product of the intuition of the writer rather than of research. Books are valuable only insofar as they contribute to our understanding. Too often we collect books that add nothing to our knowledge or understanding. Although one may buy a thousand books and read them, he may learn very little. Yet a single well chosen book may change him. The difference is often in the degree of research or rational thinking.

It is most unfair to avoid the purchase of sound works and then pose as a critic of such works. Those who do not keep up with thinking men are not in a position to judge their works. The matter resolves itself into the sober fact that only a few are willing to pay the price to become scholars, and not many more will pay the price to become competent readers. The pastor could not be expected to achieve a high degree of scholarship and make continuous research, but it is not unreasonable to expect him to become a competent observer. Failing in this, he should be gracious enough to admit that certain lines of investigation are beyond his understanding and training. Lee Gallman

STATISTICAL REPORT

Correspondence students	2,241
Extension Center students	5,258
Total	<u>7,499</u>

BOOK REVIEW

PREACHING WITHOUT NOTES, Clarence E. Macartney.

The title of this book is a misnomer, for it is not a book on preaching without notes although one full chapter is given over to a careful treatment of this subject. The book is a discussion of gospel preaching with all that this involves: the life of the preacher, the intended role of the preacher as prophet, the character of the preacher, types of preaching, sources of materials, series of messages, themes, etc.

The author unfolds a wealth of ideas for the preacher including sermon topics, ideas, sources, series, illustrations, sermon building, and general filing of materials. He urges strong reliance upon the scriptures for all types of preaching because of their pre-eminence as the truth and because of their great illustrative values in life situations.

In the chapter entitled "Preaching Without Notes," the author deals with the dangers and assets of this type of preaching, but strongly urges gospel preaching without reference to any notes whatsoever and without recourse to sermon memorization. This does not minimize preparation to him; it increases it. He maintains that the urgency necessary in gospel preaching requires freely spoken appeals from the preacher if the hearer is to be convinced. This can only be done to the maximum, the author says, by preaching without the use of notes. He suggests many aids to help preachers master this form of preaching and he states the results of some great preachers who have used this method.

This book can be very informative and helpful to any preacher. It is a very readable book, with pages full of lively and interesting material. Over-all it reflects the heart of a great preacher concerned about lost people and an effective means of reaching and convincing them with the gospel message.

Ray K. Hodge

Graduates this spring include: Judson Baldwin, Va., Jason Lee, N. C., Elmer Poorman, Mo., Eugene Baxley, Fla., Gus Johnson, Fla., Edgar Mayes, Ill., and Sherwood Glazener, Okla.