

BULLETIN

SEMINARY EXTENSION DEPARTMENT

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NEW CENTERS TO OPEN

I SAW SACRIFICE

In our pioneer work there is real Christian sacrifice. I know a preacher and his wife who are living on a salary of less than \$3,000 per year. Another pastor's wife discovered a malignancy. Their salary is inadequate. An evangelist works as a garage mechanic and preaches at night in revivals. There are scores of such sacrifices now being made by our cultured refined pastors who get much criticism on the field and are often misunderstood by their denomination. Is it a useless sacrifice?

It is a sacrifice of missions that men and their families are making. The people they are seeking to reach were once isolated tenant farmers moving almost annually, or they were small farmers over the hills from the big road-isolated. Now they are on the move and their denomination is moving with them just as their forefathers did as they passed through the Cumberland Gap going westward.

The missions meet in stores, halls, residences, and abandoned churches all around the Great Lakes area, and there are at least a million people yet unreached. Cautious leaders do not like it, but caution is out of place now. These Mississippi-Alabama-Kentucky-Arkansas folk must be reached. Some will return to their homes, but most of them are in these areas to stay. To see and meet these folk is almost tantamount to receiving a call to work with them. The situation grips the heart of anyone who has seen it first hand.

The spirit of venture is almost an abandonment of reason. Churches in Indiana that are barely two

New centers will open in Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, Texas, Michigan, Missouri, and Ohio this fall. Advisory committees have been set up in at least twenty-five new locations and some six inactive centers will be re-activated. Extension education of our type began with the Howard College Program and has spread through many other states utilizing several patterns so that now the Seminary Extension Department, the Department and colleges jointly, and college extension departments all have more than 250 extension centers in operation reaching above 12,000 students.

The extension center begins with the election of an advisory committee of from three to seven members. Their work consists of:

1. Selecting a director and a registrar-treasurer
2. Selecting teachers according to qualifications in the PLAN BOOK
3. Selecting courses.
4. Setting time, place, date, etc.
5. Giving wide publicity and promotion. (Free folders may be secured from the Department.)
6. Enlisting pupils
7. Operating the school.

It is not too late to begin a fall center, but "time's awasting."

years old have a half dozen missions. Michigan began 21 missions in a single day (July 7, 1957). A struggling church in Ohio set up a mission and called a mission pastor before the church became self-supporting. The pioneer missionaries are on the move, strategically setting up missions in the great cities so that the encircling areas can also be reached.

There has been a decided

change in emphasis doctrinally. The middle of the road ideas prevail. One pastor said, "I'm not going to try to set up any strange theology. I want my people to know Southern Baptist thought as they learn Southern Baptist methods."

Our Department is finding new areas of service among pioneer fields. We not only help the minister, we help the people.

Lee Gallman.

BOOK REVIEWS

(These may be secured through your Baptist Book Store.)

FAITH HEALING AND THE CHRISTIAN FAITH, Wade H. Boggs, Jr. Richmond: John Knox Press, 1956. 216 pages.

In this book the author deals with faith healing and faith healers both past and present. These groups and individuals constitute varying levels of Christian adherence among Catholics and Protestants as well as non-Christian groups.

Dr. Boggs makes an examination of some of those professedly healed by healers. He seems gracious throughout the book in giving credit where genuine healing seems to have taken place, but questions the types of illnesses and the degree of healing in most cases. His judgment comes in the avoidance shown by the healers toward seriously ill persons as against their acceptance of cases involving minor physical ailments directly related to psychological maladjustments. The whole area of healing is studied in the light of normal channels as against what the faith healers call "supernatural" or the "miraculous."

This book refutes short cuts to healing by faith healers and treatment by aloof intellectual physicians. The Christian philosophy must be foremost and the author has done an excellent job in setting this forth.

Ray K. Hodge.

THE THEOLOGY OF THE SACRAMENTS, Donald M. Baillie. New York: Scribners, 1957. \$3.00.

In this book, the author approaches the Lord's Supper and Baptism from the expected sacramental - utensils of Grace standpoint. His emphasis is in calling back a more serious regard for the sacraments. In attempting to accomplish his purpose he re-hashes some of the historically debated

issues such as: Infant baptism. Why? How far does the symbolism of baptism depend on immersion? How ought the church regard and treat its children? Should it treat them as outsiders? as little pagans? or as Christians?

In his attempts to be objective he almost works himself into the position of accepting the Baptist tenants of immersion and believers' baptism. His objectivity is swiftly overcome by his efforts to be comprehensive. In admitting the baptismal motif to be chiefly the graphic presentation of the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord, he forthwith relinquishes immersion in favor of sprinkling which better symbolizes the second motif in baptism - that of cleansing. W. A. Whitten.

A MISSIONARY'S SYLLOGISM

The other day I approached an associational missionary about the possibility of starting an extension center in his association. His immediate response was interesting, and I share it with you.

Like many others he had given it some thought, but came up with the following syllogism:

"Informed pastors make better churches; Better churches make longer pastorates; Longer pastorates make a better association; A better association makes my job easier."

Extension centers will do just that for the pastors and churches of your association. It will increase their knowledge in Bible, theology, and related subjects. With additional information pastors will find it easier to remain longer in their churches. This will keep them longer in the association, and they will work more effectively with their associational missionary for the associational program.

Albert H. Fauth.

STATISTICAL REPORT

Extension Center Students	5,216
Correspondence Students	<u>2,266</u>
Total	7,482

The director and associates have been busy making contacts in their respective areas. If you feel your association needs special help please write and we will do our best to include you on our itineraries.