

BULLETIN SEMINARY EXTENSION DEPARTMENT

Lee Gallman, Director

P. O. Box 1154

Jackson, Mississippi

Volume IX

JANUARY, 1960

Number 1

RESOURCES FOR GROWTH

The Seminary Extension Department is one of many services offered for growth in maturity. Within our denomination there are college extension centers, night classes in colleges and seminaries, and church centers of study. Here we offer correspondence and extension centers as our two-fold method. We are limited to religious studies.

The pastor and church leader needs more than this. They need the studies offered by universities and colleges in extension and correspondence. Every university has an extension program that seeks to enlarge its area of service. They offer both the formal and the informal approach. In addition there are numerous agencies ready to assist. The National Council of Churches has bulletins on church life and thought; the government has innumerable bureaus printing pamphlets and books. Some are free and others cost something. The U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare has many pamphlets and speeches. The Great Books Foundation, 37 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago 3, Illinois, offers a program of classical books. In our particular field, The Adult Education Association, 743 North Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, lists some 16 leadership pamphlets besides two publications, *Adult Leadership* and *Adult Education*.

Think of your needs—then find the proper agency for help.



*New Year
Greetings*

DORRIS-CARVER LIBRARY
S. S. S. HISTORICAL SOCIETY
JANUARY 1960

For Teachers

BUILD UP THE RESERVOIR

Those who would lead others, whether in the role of a teacher or a pastor, need to consider their own needs very frankly. Our capacity to help others depends on the reservoir of knowledge and understanding we build up for ourselves. This is why we must forever be on guard against waste of time and energy in non-productive activities. We should take every opportunity for growth offered us.

Part of this is found in the development of a library adequate for our needs. The pastor-teacher-director needs a growing library of good accepted books in the many fields of his interests and activities. The knowledge of books is itself educational. This calls for a plan of buying. Let your buying be divided between classical and contemporary works. Watch for good book reviews. *Christian Century*, *Review and Expositor*, *Southwestern Journal of Theology* and *Journal of Bible and Religion* offer choice reviews. Follow your denominational literature cautiously. They are offering books for all levels of education. They have the better books, but they give a good sign to books far below your reading ability.

A second need is to plan your reading so that you balance it with the old and new. Also make a balance between various fields of study.

Build the reservoir if you would help people meet their needs.



Lee Gallman

*"Think
on
These
Things"*

FREEDOM IN THOUGHT

The churches that emerged from the Puritan movement are always in a spirit of restlessness. The spirit seeks solid ground for every phase of life and Christian thought. Believing generally in the inner light in every man, this group lives with its background and is always trying to bring the past into the historical present. For the past seems to have the solid ground underneath and the slight movements of the present always appear to be unstable. These bodies (Presbyterian, Congregational, Baptists, etc.) have problems relating to their culture and to their doctrinal statements. How does the present cultural situation fit into the traditional understanding? It is taken for granted now that the "justified man will set forth to redeem society." This sounds good, but how does it apply to labor disputes, to the sensualism of our age, to Negro education, and to political issues? We like the classical statement for we can inject it into our public pronouncements, but the issue applied to actual situations is disturbing.

The same is true with respect to the historical statements. Insisting that every man has the right to his own belief, rejecting orthodox tests as violating the principle of the leadership of the Spirit, early Baptists took pride in their varieties. Today we take no such pride in variety. We pre-

fer conformity. Although we presumably have "no creed but the Bible," we contend that truth is contained in eighteen articles of faith written by a Mr. Brown.

A book that asks questions about these gems of divine essence is not supposed to be! One of the tragedies of our Baptist life is that we reject the very freedoms for which our forebears suffered. For those who would circumscribe our thoughts and insights with the tradition of the past one hundred years should read Dr. Stealey's *A Baptist Treasury*.

This is a crucial hour for Baptists for we are confronted with the open highway of freedom on the muddy road of tradition. There seems to be a feeling that we can get a few experts who have all the tools of scholarship but who will not tamper with the tradition to teach our young preachers the truth as Baptists know it. Brethren, this is a false hope. Either we must free our men to seek out the truth and give them the freedom to proclaim what they discover, or we should get out of the way for a new movement within our ranks. The conscience cannot accept perpetual paradox.

For one, I believe enough in our Baptist heritage and its relation to redemptive truth to open up the pathway to freedom and say, "Explore, young men!" There are a few strategic statements that simply will not stand this test of investigation and research. These are fairly well known as those narrow limits which were set to answer the needs felt at the time they were made. But our basic historic content can stand the test of Christian research. If it cannot, it should be discarded.

We should realize that our age is not deeply concerned over the minutiae of logical deductions on our presuppositions. We are in the basic contest today of whether man can have a faith at all. Our peo-

ple are asking the crucial questions. Can we answer with repetitious pronouncements? Science, philosophy, and psychology have come to dead-end streets. While world theologians are seeking answers for an extended scientism, we are in danger of repeating the catechism.

BOOK REVIEW

Religion And The Christian Faith, Hendrick Kraemer, (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1956).

For those who desire a work that presents a variety of religious thought, a study of ancients and contemporaries, yet one that is basically sound in the presentation of the Christian religion, this is a valuable contribution. The author takes a decisive position with biblical revelation. Without this, religion reduces the human attitude to an unauthoritative reality, thus bringing about distorting results in life.

Part Three has to do with the theological problem of religion and religions. It is stated that only as theology becomes the starting point can religion be valid. The early Christian apologies, the reformers, and Barth and Bruner, are discussed in a stimulating manner. The author is careful to give the strength and weaknesses of each. A close study here reveals some of our present day differences which have been handed down from the past. There is also an interesting section dealing with the European and American philosophy of religion. The author treats each from a theological view point. He considers the Christian professors of America as specialists in their defense of religion as supreme. At the same time he holds high esteem for European scholars.

Chapter 23 is an excellent chapter dealing with God's self-disclosure in Christ Jesus giving spe-



cial attention to special revelation and to the Incarnate Word and the expectant community. The last part of the book seeks to deal with some contemporary questions for the Christian faith. Syncretism, as a problem for religion and as a missionary problem, is shown to be one of great concern. Here methods are involved which effect the spiritual climate of the Christian religion by accommodation and assimilation, thus reducing the good news of the gospel to mere cultural and religious forms. The criticism of Paul Tillich's reconciliation is given in Chapter 27, and the author is frank to say that Tillich "is quite right in saying that no synthesis is possible." Yet at the same time his whole thesis is "falacious in the contest of his overall aim and his real concern."

This book is an excellent treatment of comparative religions, missions, and ecumenics. It is stimulating to those who are interested in the relationship of Christianity to other religions. It is a worthy book for any pastor to have in his study.

—Frank Koger

STATISTICAL REPORT

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Correspondence students | 495 |
| Extension center students | 768 |
| Total | 1263 |

The Robeson Baptist Association, Lumberton, North Carolina opened its first Seminary Extension Center on September 10 with 53 enrolled. Dr. D. Swan Haworth, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Lumberton is the director and also teaches the course in Preaching 113. Mrs. Jackie Dunie is the registrar-treasurer. Dr. Henry Walden, associational missionary teaches Dr. Edge's course, Teaching Principles 115. New Testament 112 is being taught by Miss Ruth Martin, a college teacher there.

The aims of the center were emphasized in the opening address by



Rev. Frank Koger, Associate of the Seminary Extension Department. They were better church leadership, better preaching, and better teaching. Interest has continued throughout this semester which will close in January. Other studies are being planned.

On October 12, 1959, Mrs. Grace Wollerman, pictured below, of Vandalia, Illinois was awarded the Certificate in Religious Education from the Seminary Extension Department. She has taken several of the courses that are not required, in fact she has completed twenty-two and is now enrolled in two others. Mrs. Wollerman writes, "I am a Sunday School teacher and your courses have been a benefit to me. I can explain the lessons more quickly and easily and it has been interesting to study the historical progress of the church through the ages. As I studied many of the courses, I thought, 'This is one of the best subjects.' I am now Y. W. A. director for my church and I recommend your courses to leaders of youth organizations."

SCHOLARSHIPS IN ADULT EDUCATION AVAILABLE

The Indiana University has announced Lilly Fellowships in Adult Religious Education. These are for persons seeking a doctor's degree in adult education who plan to pursue adult educational careers in religious institutions. Applications should be in the hands of the committee by February 15, 1960. For

full information write to: Bureau of Studies in Adult Education, Box 277, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

BOOK REVIEW

Saved by His Life, Theodore R. Clark. (New York: Macmillan Company, 1959). 215 pages, \$4.50.

Dr. Ted Clark, Professor of Theology in the New Orleans Seminary, has indebted us to him for this work. His thesis, spelled out in chapters five and six, is that the cross has overshadowed the resurrection in the theology of the church. This is not according to the teaching of the New Testament where the consciousness of the living, risen, reigning Lord indeed overshadowed the cross. It was the presence of Christ in the church that was the great event, not his death. There are others who have seen this—Forsyth, Conner, Barth, Brunner, Dillistone, and Beasley-Murray among them. But only here has it been spelled out in detail. The significance of this realization is shown in ten chapters dealing with "Man against God," "Saved by Jesus of Nazareth," "Saved by the Blood of the Lamb," "The Theology of the Cross," "Saved by His Life—the Risen Christ," "Saved by the Holy Spirit," "Saved Christ," "Saved by the Word," "Saved by the Holy Spirit," "Saved by the Church," and "Saved by His Life—Man for God."

Christian knowledge is not a set of propositions to which one responds, but an encounter with God — when the subject and object are not separated (as per Tillich in *Theology of Culture* etc.). Here it is basic to following Dr. Clark who insists that one is saved not by accepting historical statements but by meeting the Word of God who in the total incarnation event meets man as risen, living, Lord Christ, the Eternal Spirit present in the here and now. This would rescue us from the "Jesus cult" which DeWolf in the *Theology of the Living Church* exposed. This is a theology of the past. "Salvation is not" in Dr. Conner's words, "a backward look at the cross, but an upward look at God by faith."

What does this do with the traditional categories of theology? The author does not avoid the issue. "The Cross," "The Blood" are symbols, and they stand for the total event which can be seen by careful observation of the very scriptures which ostensibly emphasize the cross. These reveal that the writers saw the open tomb beyond the cross. Dr. Denny once wrote, "Except as risen and glorified, the apostles never preached Jesus as crucified."

The popular hymns are also criticized on this established criterion. The author offers several hymns that fit the theology here set forth.

Much more should be written but space will not permit it. Dr. Clark deserves a heading. He would be the last to insist that everyone agree with him. Those who would answer him should do so in the same spirit of searching, seeking, and fair play the author has displayed.

It is possible that some things are over-emphasized. This would be expected in one's first work. But basically Dr. Clark stands with theologians of the highest calibre of our age. He resists the cross literalism of fundamentalism and the naive optimism of liberalism. He is basically orthodox with a liberal perspective!

—Lee Gallman

PRICE CHANGES

Due to rising costs, the following books have advanced in price: **Christian Doctrine** by Conner, \$3.50; **Forward Through the Ages** by Matthews, \$2.95; all the study course books, including **Our Bible** by Adams, the Sunday School, Training Union, and Brotherhood books used in **Church Organization** are now \$.75. Directors of centers and teachers should take note as these prices will affect the cost of the courses to the students who enroll. The course fee will remain the same but the text will add a little to the over-all cost.

Church Leadership 135 has been revised by Dr. Lee Gallman, using the texts **Enlisting and Developing Church Leaders** by Milhouse and **The Church Committee Manual** by Graves. The cost is \$10.10.

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
JACKSON, MISS.
Permit No. 102

SEMINARY EXTENSION DEPARTMENT

Southern Baptist Seminaries

Mr. Davis C. Woolley
4513 Granny White Pike
Nashville 4, Tenn.

P. O. BOX 1154
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI