

BULLETIN

SEMINARY EXTENSION DEPARTMENT

P. O. Box 1154

Jackson, Mississippi

Volume X

FEBRUARY, 1961

Number 2



Pictured above is the Seminary Extension Center of the South Fork Baptist Association, meeting in Lincolnton, North Carolina. Teachers and leaders in this program are seated on the front row: (Left to right) Rev. Frank Koger, Associate in North Carolina; Rev. C. E. Parker, teacher of New Testament; Rev. C. H. Greene, teacher of Religious Education; Mrs. Ruby Hoffman, secretary-treasurer; Rev. Alvin Walker, Associate teacher; Rev. Wade McKnight, director.

AN ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE

"This course has caused me to leave my comfortable church and go into a mission to begin teaching and working with a small group," states a student in the Seminary Extension Center at Lincolnton, North Carolina.

The Fall semester closed recently with an enrollment in two classes of 56 people, including 8 ministers, 23 laymen and 25 women, reports Rev. Wade McKnight, director. Accurate records have been maintained by Mrs. Ruby Hoffman, secretary-treasurer.

"Our Seminary Extension Center sold the people on the idea of adult education on the level of seminary extension work," says Rev. Alvin Walker, superintendent of missions for the South Fork Association. "The people are convinced of the value of disciplined study."

The enthusiasm of Rev. Walker is shared by the teachers. "Our center closed on a high note of enthusiasm," reports Rev. C. H. Greene, pastor of Lincolnton Avenue Baptist Church and instructor in Religious Education 115. "The students studied diligently and impressed me in two ways. First, they put into practice many new concepts learned in class. Second, they expressed unanimous desire for a center in 1961." It is Rev. Green's feeling that the "center began with a divine sense of need, and that it must be and will be continued through the years."

Interest among the students impressed the teachers. "The greatest proof of the students' interest in the center was the fact that they prepared well the subject matter before each session," comments Rev. C. E. Parker, pastor of First

Baptist Church in Lincolnton and instructor in New Testament 112. "I sincerely hope the extension center will continue," says Rev. Parker, "and that more of our people in the South Fork Association will avail themselves of the opportunity in future schools."

"South Fork Association is to be congratulated for a job well done," states Rev. Frank R. Koger, Associate in the Seminary Extension Department for North Carolina. "It is readily seen," he continues, "that there will be more seminary extension classes in Lincolnton."

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETS

A sub-committee of the Seminary Extension Commission met in Jackson on January 13 to draft a manual on policies and procedures of the Seminary Extension Department.

Dr. Duke McCall, President of Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, convened the meeting and presided as chairman. Committee members were Dr. Leo Eddleman, President of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and Dr. Stewart Newman, Professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, and current Chairman of the Seminary Extension Commission.

Attending the Committee meeting in an advisory capacity were Rev. Badgett Dillard, Manager of Administrative Services of Southern Seminary, and Rev. G. Ray Worley, Associate for Texas and Interim Director of the Seminary Extension Department.



Pictured above, during a radio broadcast, is Rev. Gene Rainwater of Villa Rica, Georgia. Mr. Rainwater began studying with the Seminary Extension Department in August 1959. He has continuously studied during that time and has now received the Certificate in Pastoral Training awarded by the Department. His testimony is: "Studying under the supervision of the Seminary Extension Department these few months has been most helpful and enjoyable."

STATISTICAL REPORT

Dec. 15, 1960—Jan. 15, 1961

Correspondence Students	710
New Enrollments this month	13
Re-enrollments this month	10
Extension Center Students	1379
Total	2112

FOR MRS. PREACHER

"We went to seminary to get an education. Of course, I had to work, until the baby came. John got the education. My seminary education consisted of typing notes and papers and of hearing John and his friends talk about Hebrew,

Greek, theology, philosophy, and B. I.—whatever that is."

This is a typical statement of many preachers' wives. Frequently they are consulted as much as their husbands for guidance in religious education and Bible teaching. Natural ability and knowledge gained by assimilation help fill part of the recognized void. Many wives, however, are not content to meet the challenge with such meager preparation.

The Seminary Extension Department with headquarters in Jackson, Mississippi, is part of the answer to this need. Sponsored jointly by the six Southern Baptist Seminaries, it was begun to help provide training for persons who could not attend college and/or seminary, and yet are called upon to furnish leadership in a church.

The curriculum of the Seminary Extension Department is modeled after courses offered in the seminaries. Some courses are available which are intended as refresher courses for seminary graduates. Most of the courses are ideal for the beginning student. Thirty-three courses are offered currently, with new courses being added from time to time.

Credit for study leads to a certificate in Christian Training offered by the Seminary Extension Department. Up to sixteen hours credit is given toward a diploma or certificate from the seminaries.

Courses are available through two methods, (1) Classes may be organized in a local center; (2) for those who cannot attend classes, courses may be taken by correspondence.

The cost is minimal. The basic fee is \$8.00 per course plus the cost of the text book.

For correspondence courses, a syllabus for guidance in study is supplied by the Jackson office. Answers to study questions are sent to the Jackson office, where they are checked, graded, and re-

turned. Students may enroll for as many as four courses. It is recommended that the beginning student start with one or two courses and pace his study according to time and interest.

For the preacher's wife who has not received all the education she desires, study with the Seminary Extension Department, either by classes or correspondence, partially permits keeping pace with her preacher-husband.

A folder explaining the courses, the cost, and the method of enrollment will be sent upon request to The Seminary Extension Department, Box 1154, Jackson 5, Mississippi.

TESTIMONIALS

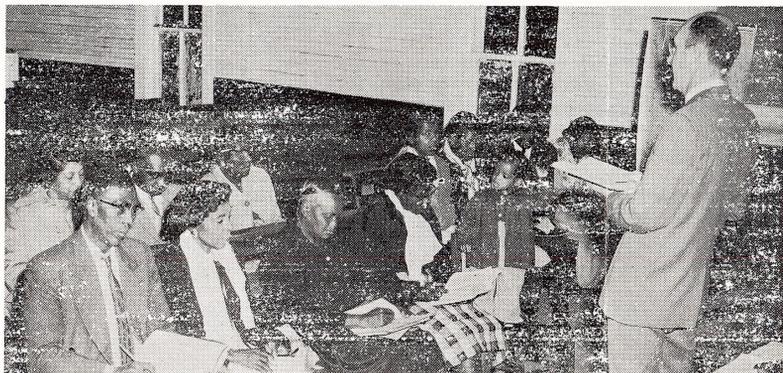
"Thank you so much for providing this opportunity to study and prepare. Please keep the Seminary Extension and correspondence work going, for it is a great encouragement to all of us who have families and are trying to prepare for God's work."

—C. N., Virginia

"I have just completed Old Testament 111 and now will be looking forward to studying Old Testament 121. I know it took me a long time to finish the course but you will never know how much I used it while taking it. God used it in Newfoundland and now on down to Ecuador. **The Heart of Hebrew History** has certainly brought to me a clearer picture and meaning of the Old Testament. I had a wonderful time teaching Genesis to our Ladies' Bible Class here for seven months

"Wish I had time to tell you of the wonderful work the Southern Baptist missionaries are doing here in Guayaquil. What a blessing to be a little part"

—Mrs. O. R. H., Ecuador



EXTENSION WORK IN JASPER, TEXAS

Pictures of classes given on this page are typical of those scattered throughout Texas. The Seminary Extension Department offers courses and the classes are jointly sponsored with the Direct Missions Department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. In Jasper, one class is offered for ministers and another for lay people. In nearby Newton, ministers and lay people meet together.

Beginning of Work in Jasper

No longer do the four men have to travel 81 miles from Jasper, Texas to Nacogdoches, Texas, to attend Seminary Extension classes. Even though they were pastoring churches, these preachers had not completed their formal education. When the opportunity for Seminary Extension classes was presented to them, they drove the 162 miles round trip each week to study Bible and other subjects which would help them become better preachers.

In 1958, Rev. T. S. Huff, Superintendent of Missions for the Sabine Valley Association of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, became interested in the seminary extension program. Several pastors in the association had not attended seminary. Brother Huff realized the importance of college and seminary study for the pastor. Consequently, he contacted Rev. G. Ray Worley, Associate of Texas, who presented seminary extension work to the executive board of the association.

The advisory committee's survey did not receive sufficient response to start a center for the Anglo brethren, but did uncover a widespread interest among Negro pastors in the area, several of whom had made the weekly trek of 162 miles round to Nacogdoches.

Classes were begun in January, 1960, with an enrollment of 16 under the instruction of Rev. M. W. White of the First Baptist Church, Jasper. At the request of the students, separate classes for preachers and laymen were begun later in Jasper.

Several pastors have shared the responsibility of teaching, includ-

ing Rev. Wilson Harmon, First Baptist Church, Kirbyville, Rev. Roy L. Johnson, Burkville Baptist Church, and Rev. Elvin Gibson, Broadus Baptist Church.

In neighboring Newton, several Negro Baptists heard of the classes in Jasper and approached Rev. Sheldon Simmons of the First Baptist Church concerning a class. A small class of 8 members was convened. Now, in January of 1961, there are fourteen enrolled.

This teaching ministry is regarded by Rev. Huff as home missions work at its finest. Co-operating with the Home Mission Board, the Direct Missions Department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dr. Roy Lambert, Secretary, has financially underwritten programs similar to the Jasper Center in 21 areas in Texas. During 1959-60, 304 persons participated in Seminary Extension Classes under this program.

Rev. Huff's sentiments are echoed by prominent Negro leaders in the Jasper area. "The problems of our day," says one leader, "are ominous. Better trained pastors can more effectively minister to the needs of our people in our churches. To train our ministers in meeting these problems, seminary extension classes are the kind of help we need."





MR. AND MRS. HARVEY LOWE

From time to time brief sketches of representative persons who have participated in seminary extension classes will be presented in the Bulletin. Our feature personality for this month is Rev. Harvey Lowe, pastor of the Shiloh Baptist Church in Denton Association in Texas and a diploma student at Southwestern Seminary.

Although Mr. Lowe surrendered to the ministry in 1941, he did not conceive of the ministry as a full time occupation. Growing up in Tennessee where it was customary for preachers to work, Mr. Lowe pursued his occupation as a miner. In 1953-54, opportunity permitted attendance at Clear Creek Bible School, Pineville, Kentucky, where his soul was set on fire for lost souls and he realized the need for full time service. When the Wood Dale Baptist Church near Hobart, Indiana extended a call in 1956, Mr. Lowe accepted. During his four years there, he baptized over eighty people. As a result of a decision during Home Mission Week at Ridgecrest during the summer of 1959, Mr. Lowe made plans to enter Southwestern Seminary in January of 1960.

While in Indiana, Mr. Lowe pursued h.s. studies through the local colleges and the Seminary Extension Department. Of special benefit were his seminary extension courses. Although he took courses by both methods, Mr. Lowe prefers classes to correspondence study. "Classes," he says, "force you to discipline yourself to do the work. Correspondence work permits you to drag on and to give way to interruptions that come in the busy routine of the pastorate." His classes with the Seminary Extension Department, he sees now, were excellent preparation for seminary study.

When asked why he left his church to attend seminary, Mr. Lowe said: "None of us can ever learn too much. The more you prepare, the better witness you will be. This is why I came to Southwestern. If anyone comes to the seminary and applies himself to learn, he will be a better witness and reach more people. That is why I feel it was the will of the Lord that I come."

While attending seminary, Mr. Lowe is working part-time in addition to his pastorate. Two children, Mr. James Edward Lowe and Mrs. Albert Wingo, are grown, permitting Mrs. Lowe to work to help meet expenses. Mrs. Lowe not only agreed to the move but wanted Mr. Lowe to attend seminary. To her, being a preacher's wife is an honored position, "If you can live up to it."

Mr. Lowe's one regret is that someone did not tell him about Christ earlier in his life. If someone had manifested interest in him as a young person, and had pointed out the importance of the Christian witness, Mr. Lowe feels that today he might be pastoring a church instead of attending seminary.

Mr. Lowe anticipates graduating from Southwestern in January of 1962.

The Seminary Extension Department salutes Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Lowe. We are proud to have had a significant part in the educational preparation of these servants of God.

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Published monthly by
The Seminary Extension
Department

of the Southern Baptist Seminaries
P. O. Box 1154
JACKSON 5, MISSISSIPPI

Second Class Postage Paid at
Jackson, Mississippi

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Southeastern Seminary
Wake Forest, N. C.