



The Bible College

In its sixty year history, it has contributed to the cultural development of University of Missouri students.

THE BIBLE COLLEGE OF MISSOURI has been the highly important adjunct to the University of Missouri over these last sixty years. Particularly in the last fifty years it has served, among other things, as a Department of Religion for the University and has given the University the advantages that many private universities enjoy but are usually denied to public institutions.

A very significant proportion of our students have also taken work in religion that has been of great usefulness to them. The standards of instruction and scholarship in the Bible College have been equal to those in other divisions of the University. Its faculty has been made up over the years of reputable scholars and inspiring teachers. It is difficult to see how the University of Missouri's development could have been as significant as it has, without the close cooperation and assistance of the Bible College of Missouri.

ELMER ELLIS, *President, University of Missouri.*



*President Ellis,
Dean Slaughter*

LOOKING BACK OVER SIXTY YEARS, the Bible College of Missouri is sincerely appreciative of the cordial relations it has had with the University of Missouri. The founding fathers established it as a college of religion, not as a Bible chair, because they wanted it ultimately to represent the unified impact of religion to the campus. This has been achieved in a large measure through the fine understanding of the various religious bodies in associating their work in the University through the Bible College.

We must not rest on past achievements. As the University will be spending millions of dollars to prepare for an enlarged student enrollment, so the religious bodies of the state must cooperate in increasing the teaching staff of the Bible College.

The invitation is open to any religious communion in the state to place a member on the faculty of the Bible College. This carries with it the privilege of representation on the Board of Trustees of the Bible College.

The Bible College is deeply gratified over the development of the pioneer curriculum on agriculture and religion which was jointly announced by the College of Agriculture and the Bible College in 1946. As a result of this forward step in training a rural ministry, the Bible College became convinced it ought to establish a full graduate rural seminary through which its students could have not only the advantages of the rich resources of the College of Agriculture but also have access to the many other departments of the University. After four years of operating The Rural Seminary and graduating the first class of students, the Bible College realizes the wisdom of its decision.

The past sixty years have been a profitable and happy experience for both institutions. May the reciprocal benefits to each institution increase in the next sixty-year period.

SETH W. SLAUGHTER, *Dean, Bible College of Missouri.*

THEIR VISION FULFILLED

Academic parity for
religion was dream of
Missouri leaders who
foresaw need for
Bible College at M.U.

By SUE MEYERS GERARD, B.J. '36, M.E. '41



J. H. GARRISON
The man who started it.



W. J. LHAMON
The man who made it go.



R. A. LONG
He helped pay the way.

OZARK, Missouri gave us the man of vision, James Harvey Garrison, who felt "a sort of compulsion" to proffer the teaching of religion in the enlightened atmosphere of the state University. He subscribed to Thomas Jefferson's dream of joining religion and science in education to develop "leadership of common mind," but was faced with the American tradition of separation of church and state in tax-supported institutions.

Garrison proposed no narrow sectarian dogmas, no musty or antiquated theology; he sought to present the Bible's fundamental and vital truths to those who "commend themselves to a moral sense and the judgment of the people and find an answering response in the human heart." Recognizing that religious phenomena are integral factors in man's complete culture, he sought "academic parity" for study of the Bible and of the history, literature, and philosophy of religion.

For a time sentiment surged through the various denominations to establish universities of their own to compete with the state University in offering academic instruction plus religious instruction. The Disciples of Christ appointed a board to proceed with such a project, but a few years later the group reported that the idea was impracticable. Dr. J. H. Garrison and Dr. T. P. Haley, a Kansas City minister, pointed out the advantages of locating a Bible college adjacent to the University of Missouri.

In a genuine desire to cooperate rather than compete, these farsighted leaders of the nineteenth century saw the value of making scientific and academic instruction available to students of religion. They saw, too, the wisdom of placing religious study within the reach of academic students and thereby assisting the University in adequately achieving its broader purposes of culture.

The enterprise was strongly supported by Dr. J. H. Garrison, St. Louis; D. O. Smart, Kansas City; The Reverend C. H. Winders, Columbia; John T. Mitchell, Centralia; and Christian College's president, W. A. Oldham. President Oldham had been teaching classes in Bible at the request of a group of University of Missouri students.

At the Disciples' State Convention in 1895, Garrison, Haley, and Smart were entrusted to make arrangements and this committee secured the services of Dr. W. T. Moore as dean. Instruction began in the Christian Church, a frame building about a half mile from the campus, in January, 1896, with 154 students enrolled.

David O. Smart, first president of the Board, steered the Bible College through its early years, arranged with Dr. Garrison for the purchase of the acre of ground on which Lowry Hall now stands, and assisted with the plans of erecting the building.

The Trustees felt that if they could raise \$10,000 it would be feasible to erect a \$25,000 structure, but they met with continued discouragement in trying to secure the money. On the way out to see an elderly Scotchman and his unmarried sister, Charles Winders remarked to his companion, "We might as well ask for a large amount as a small one." When

they suggested a gift of \$15,000, B. F. Lowry replied, "Brethren, I couldn't raise more than seven or eight thousand just now." The solicitors asked him if he could give the larger amount if the Bible College arranged for the purchase of his farm, at his price, with annual payments to be made to Lowry and his sister during their lifetimes. "Well, I reckon I could," he replied. Lowry actually gave more. He became a member of the Board of Trustees and helped the nation's first Bible college move into its new building in 1905.

Task to Make Ends Meet

It is no small task for a non-tax-supported institution such as this to operate and the Trustees knew that the future would be uncertain. Therefore, they located classes on the first floor of Lowry Hall and reserved the second and third floors for dormitory space, the income from room rental to provide for building expenses as well as for the payments on the loan. At the time of World War I, the Board of Trustees felt they had enough income from friends and churches to give up dormitory space on the second floor. The dormitory was left on the third floor and the second floor was made into a chapel, offices, and three class rooms. Today, both University and Seminary students live in the third-floor dormitory.

For the past sixty years the Bible College and the University of Missouri have joined hands across Ninth Street in a cooperative venture that has proved so successful that the idea has spread to other institutions.

At the inaugural ceremony on January 21, 1896, President R. H. Jesse proclaimed, "The Curators desire me to invite cordially every denomination on the soil of the state to follow the good example of these brethren and to establish similar institutions."

Several other religious groups made preliminary plans to set up denominational colleges here, but were thwarted by the financial load of such a venture.

In 1914, the Bible College took a great pioneering step. Dean Granville D. Edwards, following the instructions of the Board of Trustees, officially invited all religious bodies to cooperate with the Disciples of Christ in placing a teacher on the staff of the Bible College.

University President A. Ross Hill spoke of this pioneering task as one to be undertaken with due caution and care. A year later he publicly praised the work of the Bible College and expressed confidence in the promise of its non-sectarian spirit. Thus, "academic parity" becomes a possibility for all denominations through the Bible College enterprise. It was not until after World War I, however, that the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. placed Professor Samuel R. Braden on the faculty. Other faculty members supported by the Presbyterians have been Milton C. Towner, 1924-1930; Virgil Scott, 1930-31; Frank A. Hoerner, 1931-35; and William S. Minor, 1935-44.

More Denominations Cooperate

In 1922 the Congregationalists appointed Dr. David E. Thomas, who remained on the faculty through the summer session of 1928 as Professor of Theology. In the following year the Methodists employed a student pastor, Lawrence E. Murphy, and asked that he be approved to teach one course in the Bible College. He was approved by the University to teach Hebrew History. In 1925 Dr. Helen Sarah Stafford was placed on the faculty by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South through the cooperation of the Woman's Missionary Council and the Board of Education. She closed her work in June, 1927.

Since 1928, Professor Walter A. Hearn has been a member of the faculty, supported by the Wesley Foundation of the Methodist Church. The Jewish faith has been represented on the staff by Dr. Isadore Keyfitz since 1929.

Jack Bodard, rural church extension minister, discussing community church survey with lay members of three churches in New Bloomfield, Mo.





These Seminary enrollees and dormitory residents are from Nebraska, Korea, Missouri, and New Jersey.



Prof. Walter A. Hearn, religious educator in United States and in China, where he was born of missionary parents.



Prof. Isadore Keyfitz with one of his classes; is the recipient of a 1954 distinguished citizenship award.

W. J. Lhamon, second dean of the Bible College, was the first to organize instruction into classes and put the institution on a scholastic basis. Dr. Lhamon obtained University of Missouri credit for Bible College courses and was instrumental in making Lowry Hall a reality. He deserves to be called "the man who made it go."

Dean Edwards, on the staff twenty-six years, built up one of the outstanding Biblical museums in Missouri. Dean Carl Agee taught for twenty-four years. Dr. Alva W. Taylor, an early leader in the rural church movement, made one of the first rural surveys in the state.

So close has been the association of the Bible College and the University throughout their sixty years of cooperative operation, that the general public takes for granted they are a single institution. From a financial standpoint, this popular assumption does not work to the advantage of the Bible College, inasmuch as no tax money goes to its support. Financial aid comes, rather, from cooperating churches, friends, foundations, endowment interest and other sources.

In response to a long-felt need for a specialized rural seminary dedicated to training young men and women for a Christian ministry in Town and Country, the Bible College of Missouri opened the nation's first Rural Seminary in 1952. Graduates who completed their work last June are now serving rural communities of Missouri, helping them rebuild churches and strengthen rural life.

In spite of the added enthusiasm and money needed for implementing the Seminary, services to the students of the University of Missouri are at an all-time high. Resident enrollment last year totalled 786 different students, and 83 persons study religion through the University's extension correspondence classes.

How Measure the Influence?

Evaluating the sixty years of teaching, Dean Slaughter observes: "The Bible College hopes it has given an enlarged vision of religion and the church to thousands of the leading laymen of our state and nation. Just as the state depends on an educated electorate, so character-building institutions depend on alert, intelligent membership. One cannot estimate the influence for strong, stable community life that has emanated from the students of the University of Missouri who have taken courses in religion at the Bible College. How can you measure the influence of over 3000 teachers in our public schools, the columns of our press written by over 1800 journalists, or the nearly 1200 ministers and the thousands of others in the various vocations?"

In a day when the religious institutions are calling for more leadership from the laymen, the Bible College stands as one of the indispensable factors in our University life. True insights into the deeper meanings of life have been gained in these classes—insights that will give moral integrity to the momentous decisions which face our people in helping to mold the world mind of the immediate future.

THE OPEN DOOR

Behold, I have set before you an open door. Rev. 3:8

ESTABLISHED sixty years ago as an institution to provide religious training for students enrolled in the University, the Bible College today does that and much more. It is an open door to all M.U. students, and more than 17,000 of them have accepted the invitation to study there. It is an open door for churches and communities of the state who seek help in enriching their programs. It is an open door for the training of rural ministers and agricultural missionaries. It is an open door to Christian nationals to study here and take an enlightened message to their people in foreign lands.

The Bible College functions without sectarian consciousness. A Jewish girl, enrolled in Fundamental Moral and Religious Values, comments on her broader understanding of fellow men because of her work there. A Protestant student in engineering feels that his education would be incomplete without reaching a sound evaluation of religion, taking grateful account of the findings of science. A Catholic majoring in rural sociology recognizes religion as of inestimable value in the agricultural progress of a community.

The Bible College, operating since 1896 as an institution to supplement the education of University students, four years ago added a curriculum leading to the degree of Bachelor of Divinity at The Rural Seminary. University students pay no fees for Bible College courses. Seminary students pay fees to the Bible College, but none to the University.

Religion courses are listed in the University catalog and in the schedule of courses; the institutions share registrations; class hours are the same; faculty members have comparable privileges and responsibilities. Few persons realize that they are not one and the same educational enterprise.

The Bible College has a recurring income of \$12,500 from endowments, dormitory rent, cooperating denominations, individual churches, banks, foundations, and individuals. The current budget is now requiring about \$86,000, however, meaning that \$13,500 must come from new resources.

Since the opening of The Rural Seminary, needs have increased more rapidly than revenue. It is hoped that success and continued operation will be insured by sizeable increases in the permanent funds. The program will go forward in proportion to the revenue forthcoming.

The teaching staff of nine members is small in

Bible College places
broader aspects of
culture within reach
of M.U. students, and
17,000 have responded.

proportion to the number of teaching hours and the number of students accommodated. The Wesley Foundation of the Methodist Church and the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation each provide and pay the salary of one full-time professor. Until a few years ago, the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. had a professor at the College. The Disciples of Christ and the Episcopal Church have also given yearly to the budget. Other denominations have a similar opportunity to reach young men and women in all fields of training by placing a faculty member on the Bible College staff.

Lowry Hall is half a century old and in need of repair, but this does not affect the up-to-the-minute program. There is space, however, on the vacant lot between Lowry and the dean's home for expansion. A \$750,000 building program would finance a new administration building with offices, library, fellowship hall, classrooms, and a much-needed chapel. These ideas are now under study.

Some people have dreamed of a demonstration farm for the Seminary which would be near Columbia and where single students would live in dormitories and married couples in cottages. Students would learn good agricultural practices first-hand while helping to support themselves.

For sixty years the Bible College and the University have enjoyed a unique friendliness, each enriching the other's program. In the words of Dean Seth W. Slaughter, "Fortunate is the theological institution which is associated with a great university. Equally fortunate is the state university whose students have easy access to a strong school of religion." Together the University of Missouri and the Bible College face the future seeking to guide the student toward an appreciation of the values that challenge the human spirit and enable him to give meaning to his experience.



THE COUNTRY PULPIT

Bible College pioneers
in the training of
ministers for rural
areas, where need for
them is great.

By HAROLD F. REISCH

Extension Minister for the Rural Church

THERE is a great need for ministers who love the smaller communities, understand their potential, and appreciate their importance to the American way of life. The Rural Seminary of the Bible College of Missouri, established in 1952, is training ministers who are qualified to serve the fast-changing rural communities of our land.

The church is the logical organization around which a sense of community can be developed, and a town or country church must be led by a pastor who understands rural sociology, rural organization, and loves rural life. President Theodore Roosevelt recognized this fact, and in 1908 his Commission on Country life recommended that a seminary be established adjacent to one of the nation's great agricultural colleges. No one acted on this suggestion for forty years, when the University of Missouri and the Bible College pioneered in a program to combine the teaching of religion and agriculture.

"We spend millions to study soil, grains, and farm animals, but a pittance for human beings," says Dean Seth W. Slaughter of the Bible College. "After all, why develop better techniques of agriculture and give no attention to *the most essential factor*, human personality?"

It is not the purpose of The Rural Seminary to train all of the rural pastors and missionaries who are needed, but rather to be a pioneer research laboratory for studying and testing methods and materials

for Town and Country areas. Five men graduated last June and are serving rural areas where attendance is increasing, buildings are being erected, vital programs are being developed.

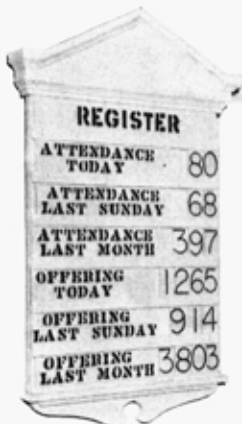
Dreams, hopes, and plans have worked into a practical program of action. In 1945 James W. Burch, director of the Agricultural Extension Service, sought a way to strengthen a new program called Balanced Farming. He knew that balanced farms needed balanced communities, and they were possible only with trained rural ministers and progressive churches and schools.

The Bible College and the College of Agriculture published a new curriculum called Agriculture and Religion. This first curriculum permitted a ministerial student to receive a B.S. in Agriculture with sixty hours of "ag" courses and sixty hours in religion and arts and sciences courses. The Bible College employed a successful Methodist minister who loved farming and farm people to work with churches of all denominations in the state.

Today three extension ministers work on the theory that the same good automobiles and roads which lead people away from the small community will draw them back if those communities and churches *have something to offer*. Meeting with small groups all over the state, they help churches open their doors more widely by offering vital and attractive programs. They recruit young men to preach, and then offer counseling service to both the church and the minister.

A number of promising young men who studied under this new curriculum went to established seminaries of different denominations to finish their training. Few of them returned to the rural church, but rather they moved on to more remunerative jobs in the larger churches of the cities. They did not return to the rural church!

While this program did not answer the needs of the country people, it did focus nationwide attention on an important rural religious problem. Both the religion-agriculture curriculum and the work of the first extension minister, Gene Wetherell, were so well received that it became evident that the solution was to be in a seminary to train farm-loving men for



the ministry. They must be men who loved rural life as well as men of God. Experience was proving the truth of the Roosevelt findings: "To have an adequately trained rural ministry it is necessary to have a *seminary* working in cooperation with a College of Agriculture."

During the planning stages, advisors were called from the various denominations to discuss the possibility of establishing such a rural seminary. One of these men, representing the Disciples of Christ, was the dean of the College of the Bible at Drake University, Seth Warren Slaughter. The Board was fortunate in being able to employ Mr. Slaughter for the important task ahead when failing health forced Dean Agee to relinquish his leadership. Time will probably conclude that Carl Agee's most outstanding accomplishment was the conception of the new program for educating a ministry for the rural areas.

Dean Slaughter came with a clear understanding of the general plan and the progress that had been made toward accomplishing it. The Rural Seminary of the Bible College of Missouri was launched in the fall of 1952 as a graduate school for training ministers for Town and Country—the first of its kind in America and perhaps the world.

Twelve Denominations Represented

Guided by the Bible College of Trustees, made up of men of the Protestant, Jewish, and Roman Catholic faiths, The Rural Seminary students last year represented twelve denominations. The Seminary is closely advised by such organizations as the Department of Town and Country Church of the National Council of Churches of Christ in America and, in the field of rural missions, by Agricultural Missions, Inc.

Although doors are being closed to the preaching missionary, special missionaries representing education, medicine, engineering, and agriculture are continuing to be welcomed. The Rural Seminary is fortunate in that it has been enrolling Christian leaders of other countries. These leaders are free also to take any courses in the University which they choose.

Former students include such men as Taiji Takahashi, graduate of the Imperial University and the Japan Biblical Seminary, who spent a year at the University and The Seminary studying special courses in agriculture, sociology, and the agencies of the rural community as they relate to the church.

John Sathyanathan, Professor of History at Voorhees College, Vellore, India has returned to his homeland after two years' study here. He is an evangelist for the Church of South India in the Vellore district, and travels to various towns where he speaks to crowds numbering in the thousands.

Dr. Ki Hyuk Pak of Seoul, Korea, who received his Ph.D. degree in June from the College of Agriculture at the University of Illinois, has come to The Rural Seminary to study in detail the church and the community. He plans to establish a demonstration farm in Korea through which he can develop a better Christian family and community life.



Crawford Harmon, Rural Seminary student, pastor of the Olivet Church, near Columbia.

The ministers who completed a full four years' graduate training and received the degree of Bachelor of Divinity from this infant institution are now serving rural churches of the state. Director J. W. Burch has said, "We know from experience that a rural church with a pastor trained at the Bible College of Missouri and The Rural Seminary can be of inestimable value to the educational and agricultural progress of a rural community."

The rural pulpit is not new to these men, for they received academic credit for the apprenticeships they served during their residence at the College. They attended classes three days and ministered to rural churches of their faiths during the remainder of the week. Experienced Christian leaders of the Bible College faculty counseled and instructed them in the field in their communities as they tried out the knowledge gained in the classrooms.

Special Arrangements

Special arrangements are made for students who cannot attend the regular Bible College or Seminary classes.

As an example, on Wednesdays only, from 8:40 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., a minister may enroll in three courses for a total of six hours credit for each semester.

The Rural Seminary program is conceived in three parts: (1) resident study, (2) research, and (3) extension service. Resident courses are biblical, theological, historical, and practical. Research is an open field because of the newness of the rural church movement in America, the need for textbooks, and the need for surveying individual communities in order to determine their particular needs. Extension assists churches throughout the state on a non-sectarian basis, and cooperates with denominational leaders in supervising the students in their pastorates.

America needs rural ministers now. The Seminary's program is rolling, but its needs are many.

The Bible College of Missouri

on its sixtieth anniversary sends greetings to all former students and friends of the College. We have become a large family of more than 17,000 persons.

It would be gratifying to know how many of you are or have been officers, teachers, or active participants in the life of the church. Anyway from your letters and visits we know of your continued interest in the Bible College.

Our visitors this summer have included a former student of 1913, now residing in New York, who stopped to say, "thank you," for the value of the courses taken in the College. He also wanted to know about his former teachers. Another visitor, a professor in a state university, stopped with his entire family so they could take photographs of the buildings and particularly the residence, where he had lived while in the University. Another from Hawaii stopped to inquire about the progress of the College, and others of more local residence dropped in to chat for a few minutes and wish the College well for the future.

We want all of you to know that our interest follows you wherever you may be and we sincerely hope that you are giving leadership in religion in your community.

Drop in and visit with us when you are in Columbia.

Faculty and Staff



Members of the Bible College of Missouri faculty and staff, with student body of the Rural Seminary.