

AMERICAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

R. W. RILEY, President
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE



The newly constructed road seen in the picture begins at White's Creek Road and completely surrounds the entire campus.

Across the road on the Seminary's spacious grounds can be seen the home of the Custodian, Dr. J. C. Miles; a part of the dairy-barn, farm-buildings and other lands which comprise but a small portion of the 109 acres owned by the Seminary.

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

WHY THE AMERICAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY MOVES FORWARD

If ever an institution fills a need in the life of a people and has a sufficient constituency to answer that need, The American Baptist Theological Seminary is that institution. When viewed in these lights, this institution is in the most favored position of many of its stronger contemporaries.

Different from most Negro institutions in America, The American Baptist Theological Seminary is solely charged with the responsibility of training a Baptist Ministerial leadership for four million of its young as well as adult adherents. No one can overlook the fact that many of its present-day followers, as lay people, due to education and travel are developing a wide variety of theories and conceptions about religion and in many instances, they are not only putting church-membership to a test, but what it actually means to be a Christian, after all. Only a trained ministry can match this all important condition. To assume spiritual leadership to such people will require the best type ever produced in the annals of our history.

The encouraging thing about the situation as we face it, is that Baptist Christians have their eyes wide-open to these facts.

American Baptist Theological Seminary is different in that she does not have a single dime of endowment such as earned increment is concerned, but she does have approximately ten million Baptist Church-people, Black and White who give consistently a portion of their income for her subsistence and her future well-being. On account of this, she boasts of a "Living Endowment" and as long as people



Dr. Ralph W. Riley
Completes three years as fifth president of A.B.T. Seminary

join Baptist churches A. B. T. Seminary's future will be on good footing.

However, conscious of a responsibility and being a part of an organization or constituency which is in a favored position to fulfill its duty in this respect, is no guarantee that we will ever actually do it, nor will the Seminary compete, in the days ahead, and grow in prestige and influence as it must do in the next trying quarter of a century facing all private education in American life.

In the twenty-four years the Seminary has just made a beginning and now that some progress is being realized, Baptist cannot afford to let her stand still or slip back. She must move on and upwards.

In the next decade the Seminary must have a faculty of the best scholars in America, one

of the best libraries with every periodical written by or on Baptist and fifty-thousand volumes, or more, of the most recent thought by the foremost scholars of the world on most every available subject; a chapel which lends dignity to theological devotion and worship and a curriculum sufficiently set up and geared to reach everyone.

To match this opportunity and live up to this responsibility, Baptist of America shall have to, in the immediate future, provide not less than five-hundred-thousand dollars for its expansion program and give to the Seminary directly, for operating expenses, something like one-hundred-thousand dollars, annually.

By facing the facts frankly and giving more largely each year, can Baptist establish and operate an accredited Theological Seminary for the training of a spiritual and intelligent church leadership for the Negroes of future America.

It must be remembered that the Seminary is not a local church school, even though Tennessee State Baptist Convention contributes to its budget and provides the majority of its students, each year an increasing number of students from every section of America enters its doors.

Baptists cannot afford to secularize a National Baptist School or limit its services due to lack of facilities to any of her sons, whether they come from East or West, North or South or even the isles of the sea. As more come, the greater must be the provision for others. As Baptist grow so must her Seminary, increasing daily in services and educational opportunities for her sons everywhere.



THE FACULTY



STUDENT BODY 1946-1947

RURAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING SCHOOL FOR PASTORS, 1947



The above picture shows the speakers and delegates of the Rural Leadership Training School for Pastors. The school was sponsored jointly by the American Baptist Seminary and the Sunday School Publishing Board, of the National Baptist Convention, U. S. A., Inc. Rev. V. A. Edwards, Director of the Rural Church Division of the Board directed the school.



SECOND SOUTH-WIDE CONFERENCE OF BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS

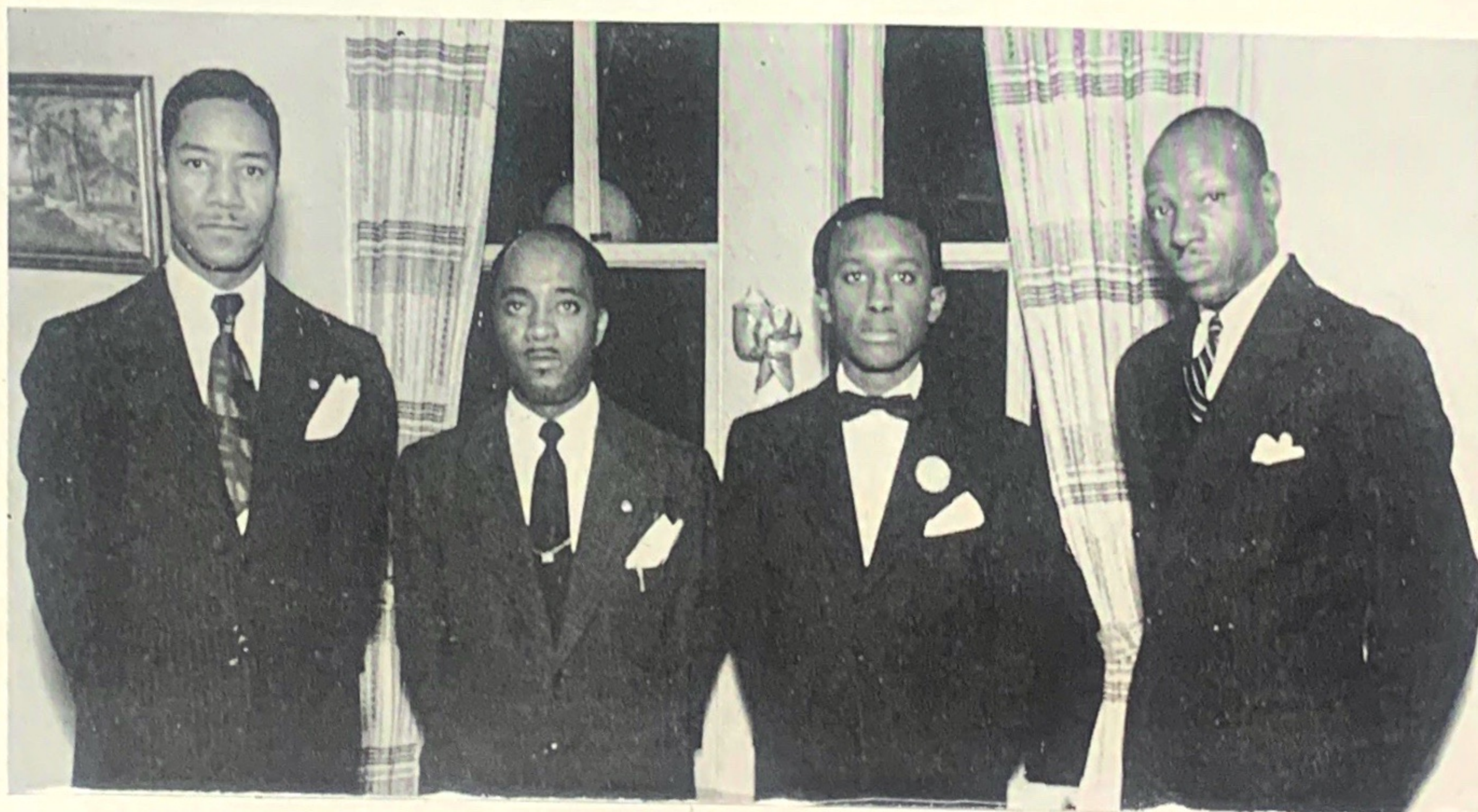


The students and leaders shown in the picture above represented seven schools and seminaries in the South-wide Conference for Baptist Theological Students held at the Seminary March 27-28. The Conference will meet next year at Southwestern Baptist Seminary at Fort Worth, Texas.



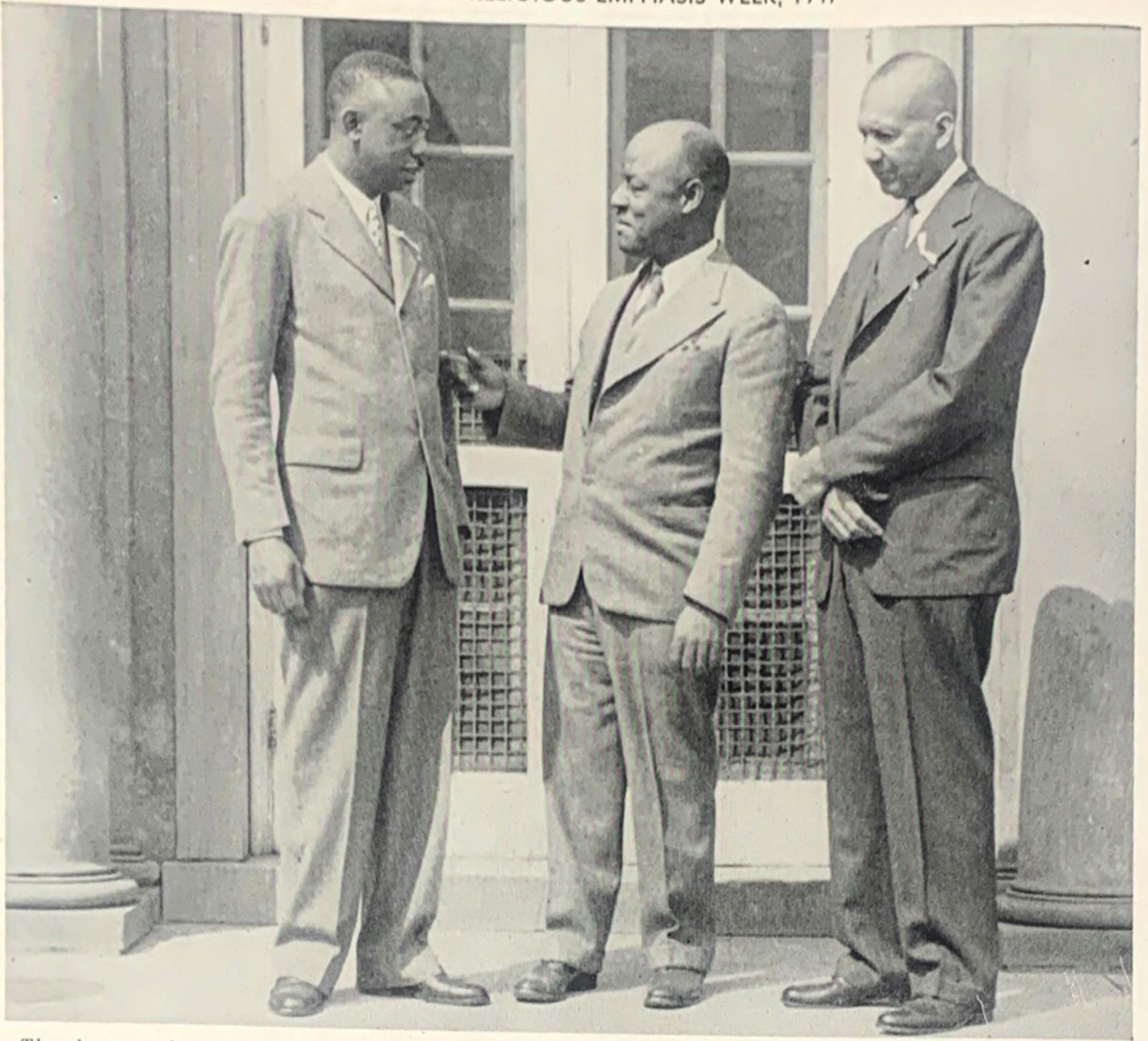
STUDENTS OF THE GRADUATING CLASS

Each year an increasing number of promising young men graduate from the Seminary. In 1947's class 13 received the degree of B. Th., and one with the B. D. Two of the graduates are absent from this group.

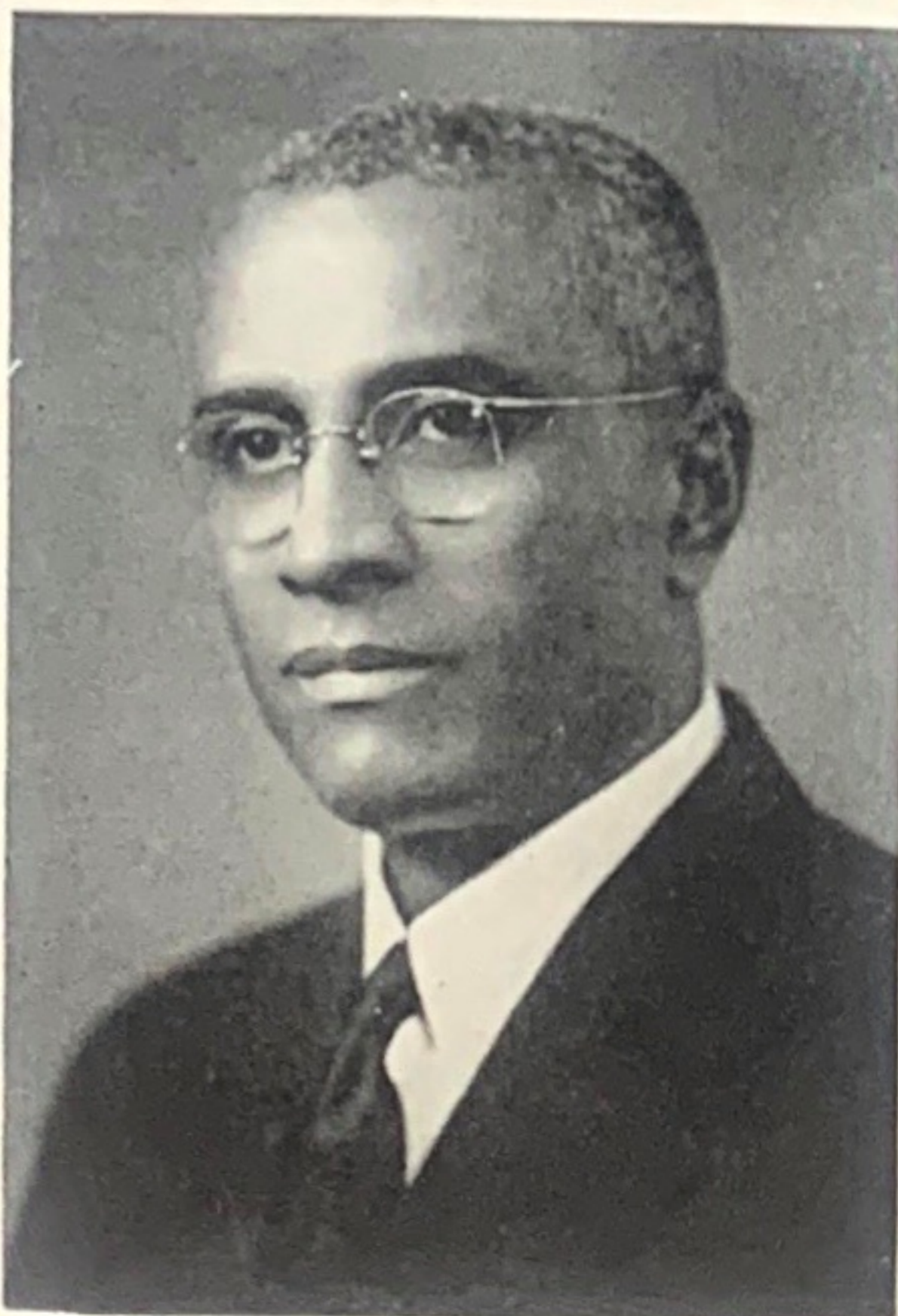


THE SEMINARY QUARTETTE 1946-1947

SPEAKERS OF RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS WEEK, 1947



The above speakers appeared on the program of the 12th Annual Ministers' and Missionaries' Religious Emphasis Week, March 10-14. Reading from left to right, Rev. James W. Parrish, Minister, Shiloh Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio. Dr. Ralph W. Riley, President, American Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. B. F. Reid, Minister, Zion Baptist Church, Cincinnati, Ohio. The theme of the week was "The Ministers' and Missionaries' Task in a War-torn World."



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Right—Dr. J. B. Lawrence, Secretary of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention who made possible through a gift of \$90,000.00 from the Home Mission Board the newly constructed J. B. Lawrence Building. Dr. Lawrence was the 23rd Commencement speaker before the graduating class and the first in the new building, June 2, 1947, during the closing exercises.

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Left—Dr. C. T. Murray, Minister of the Vermont Baptist Church, Washington, D. C., and trustee of eight years' standing of the institution. Dr. Murray was the Baccalaureate speaker on June 1, 1947.





Student Grill and Bookstore above is a typical scene of the Seminary Grill. The Grill does not only furnish tasty foods, between the regular hours for meals served in the dining hall, but affords also a wholesome social-center for relaxation and fellowship for the entire Seminary family. In another section of the building other minor needs of the students and textbooks used at this institution can be had at regular dealers' prices.



GROUND BREAKING OF THE J. B. LAWRENCE BUILDING

From left to right first, in the background, are two of our labor-friends; Mr. R. W. Hailey, Secretary of the Business Committee; Prof. E. W. D. Issac, Treasurer of the Committee; Dr. Ralph W. Riley, President of the Institution; Mr. R. B. Kennedy, outstanding member of the committee representing the Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention; and Dr. E. P. Alledredge, Co-chairman of the Business Committee and long-time advocate for the Seminary and its many urgent needs. The building began early 1945 and was completed in 1947.



THE NEW J. B. LAWRENCE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

The building given by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention at a cost of almost one hundred thousand dollars and now being furnished by the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc. is a well constructed building of three stories with the basement being used for in-door recreation and lounging. On the first floor are a temporary chapel, president, dean, stenographer, bursar, and three other offices. On the second floor is a temporary library-room and five other class rooms. The building is heated by steam from the central-heating-plant and has all other modern conveniences in keeping with trends in construction of present day buildings.

