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ALUMNI BREAKFAST—MIAMI



PRESIDENT R. W. RILEY, standing left center, is addressing the Alumni Association at its Annual breakfast.
(See page 2—for details).

CONVENTION REPORT... 1953

PRESIDENT R. W. RILEY

The Miami Convention

THE PAINS OF PROGRESS

Someone has well said that "Nothing succeeds like success." When we think of the inevitability of change—that experience in our lives which makes for growth, we are suddenly brought face to face with the stern fact that the very name of the term "progress" suggests pain, disappointment and suffering. To sit through an election in a church body as influential as that of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., can be a meaningful experience as well as a rare opportunity. Truly a large group of our constituency participated and yet, the majority of our lay constituency was not present and has never witnessed at any time in their lives an election of our national body.

To those of us who were present, there was an opportunity to see this great drama of life from many viewpoints. To the careful observer, one could see power and strategy combined to play a role in the fulfillment of avowed purposes on the part of those who either took the drama in one or two ways, from a more serious view or from a lighter view. To the unscrupulous, it was an effort to achieve what the supporters and those who were in the running felt was correct. To others more serious minded, one could see the justice of God, a ripening purpose being fulfilled in spite of themselves.

HEADLINES WHICH HURT

Perhaps never before in the history of our Convention did so many of our leaders make headlines. Prior to the opening session, an unprecedented number of our leaders openly offered themselves for service. Others, while not openly expressing it, held their breath and (dreamed) nursed a hope in their own favor if and when the unusual and unexpected really did happen.

When the election was over, sentiments mingled with joy, disappointment and even surprise were evident. Some of those who were in the forefront, I feel, were actually hurt because they saw this inevitable change taking place in our Convention; others disappointed because in the end it did not seem to take recognition of their life and worth so as to include them. While there were others who went away rejoicing that they were the people's choice and yet just a little apprehensive that Providence had brought them to the Kingdom at such an hour as this.

A FAR-REACHING PROGRAM

Since 1922, we have watched our Convention in its slow but sure march of progress. Men have come and gone and we grow larger each day and each year. This 73rd session of ours made history in the provision of a worthy president who honorably retired and the election of an able leader who has the foresight and future to lead us on to unprecedented heights. And moreover, his proposals in the creation of a committee on international and intercultural relations, on the United Nations, on current and civic issues, on problems of labor and management, on denominational coordination, on theological education, and on problems of church-supported colleges convinced us all that we were once again going in the right direction, following a great leader like the National Baptists have always had and which only National Baptists now or in the future will follow.

HOW SUCCESS SUCCEEDS

During these thirty days which have expired since President Jackson's election, National Baptists might well be petitioning God for our leaders; that they shall have the fullest cooperation, Godly guidance, strength, wisdom and vision to continue in the leadership of our church in a

Alumni Breakfast Breaks Precedence

Each year in connection with the annual session of the National Baptist Convention, the Seminary sponsors a breakfast for alumni, their families, and invited guests and friends.

The breakfast this year was planned by the Rev. L. J. Burt, pastor of the Beulah Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia, with the assistance of the secretary, Rev. William Howe Donaldson and faculty members at the Seminary. After a brief program on which alumni and friends brought greetings, the group consisting of 96 alumni settled down to a delicious breakfast on the beautiful terrace of the Lord Calvert Hotel.

Among the many things worth-while which may come as a result of an alumni breakfast each year, nothing I think can be more important than the opportunity to fellowship, the joy of meeting newcomers to the Seminary family and the privilege again to relive in the larger world, some of the experiences of Seminary life. A.B.T. alumni not only did just this, but gave evidence of being greatly pleased and appreciative of the progress being made at the Seminary, and commended President Riley at this time for his constructive leadership at the Seminary. At a subsequent business meeting of the Association, the members took recognition of the passing of Rev. G. W. Tolbert, B.Th. '42, and sent a message and donation to his wife, Mrs. Tolbert, at Port Arthur, Texas, where Rev. Tolbert served as minister of the First Baptist Church.

Sponsorship of the Garnett-Nabrit Lectures, larger support to the Seminary, plans for recruiting more students to the Seminary, and an effort to secure more funds for scholarships were some of the items of business considered in the meeting.

Greetings by Dr. Porter Routh, fraternal messenger from the Southern Baptist Convention to the National Baptist Convention; Dr. J. W. Parrish, minister of Shiloh Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio, and trustee of the Seminary; other guests and President R. W. Riley, were brought to the body.

While there was a large group in attendance, the absence of some of the most ardent Seminary enthusiasts was conspicuous. The reason for this however, is because of the prominent places in Convention administration held by these men which made it impossible for them to be present. But those who were not present expressed regret that they could not be present and some not only sent contributions, but a scholarship was provided for a worthy student from all those who could be present.

time, and with people like those with whom our fathers never had to contend.

While we wait and pray, let us remember that we must never try to rule the Eternal out; Christ must be pre-eminent in all things, otherwise, He will not be pre-eminent in anything. When we realize these things, some of our frustrations will be void, for we will come suddenly to realize that His way and will must be done.

THE SEMINARIAN

DR. RALPH W. RILEY, *Editor-in-Chief*

DR. VICTOR T. GLASS, *Managing Editor*

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Convocation



Pictured above are participants in the 1953 Convocation, left to right: Dean V. T. Glass; Dr. William L. Crump, director, Bureau of Public Relations and Press, Tennessee A. and I. State University; Dr. C. A. Dent, medical director, Riverside Hospital and Sanitarium; J. L. Powell, Dean of Men; Rev. Roy Hinchey, chairman, Southern Baptist Commission; Mrs. M. L. Talley, instructor, National School of Business; Prof. J. F. Grimmett; President Ralph W. Riley; Rev. Kelly M. Smith, trustee representative; and Dr. W. F. B. James, Meharry Medical College.

Faculty News

PROFESSOR CHARLES H. FITZGERALD represented the Seminary at the Fifty-fifth Annual Session of the Ohio Baptist General Association, which was held at the Second Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio, October 12 and 13. Dr. Charles H. Crable, President and Mrs. Ednah L. Lewis, President of the Women's Auxiliary extended to him every courtesy. Several graduates of the institution were in attendance. On October 14-16, Professor Fitzgerald represented the Seminary at the Thirty-fifth Annual Session of the Ohio Baptist State Convention, Inc., which was held at the Corinthian Baptist Church, Dayton, Ohio. Dr. J. Franklin Walker, President and Mrs. Augusta Shaw, President of the Women's Auxiliary were very gracious in their reception of him.

PROFESSOR J. L. POWELL attended the Sunday school and B.T.U. Congress of the Virginia Baptist State Convention, held at the Jerusalem Baptist Church of Roanoke, Virginia. Mr. C. H. Wilson of Suffolk, Virginia, is the President.

He attended the Rowan Association in Charlotte, North Carolina, which met at the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Rev. A. J. Ryan is the pastor. Rev. J. H. Hairston is the moderator.

He represented the Seminary at the Obion District Association, which met at the Macedonia Baptist Church of Jackson, Tennessee, Rev. C. V. Derrick is the pastor. Rev. C. M. Houston of Milan, Tennessee, is the moderator.

He visited the General Baptist State Convention of New Jersey in October. The convention convened at the Salem Baptist Church of Jersey City, New Jersey, Rev. R. A. Laws is the pastor. Rev. C. P. Harris of Plainfield, New Jersey, is the President.

Denominational Day

President Riley has set aside December 9th as "Denominational Day" at the Seminary. He has invited the secretaries or some other representative, from all the denomination's boards and agencies, to come and visit the classes, display their literature, explain their board's function, and have personal conferences with the students.

Rev. Coleman A. Kerry, corresponding secretary of the Educational Board, will bring a special message at the Chapel period as a part of the day's activities.

Trustee Chairman Visits Campus



DR. W. L. VARNADO, Pastor of the Jackson Avenue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tennessee, and Chairman of the Trustees, made a visit to the Campus while in the city attending the State Convention of Tennessee B. M. & E. convention. He is shown here, after visiting the new library, with Seminary officials. Reading from left to right: President R. W. Riley, Commission Secretary L. S. Sedberry, Dr. Varnado, and Academic Dean, Victor T. Glass.

Junior Class Officers

The Junior Class of '53-'54, organized October 26. The class sponsor, Dean J. L. Powell, presided, and gave an inspirational address. The officers are as follows: George W. Reece, president; Jasper J. Northington, vice-president; James C. Wray, secretary; Harding Atkinson, treasurer; Charles Willoughby, assistant secretary; Alice Williams, reporter.

Chapel Speakers

We began our series of Chapel services for the current school year with a timely message by President Riley. Subsequently we have listened to the following visitors, whom we were happy to welcome to the campus:

Dr. K. C. Piliai, Madras, India.

Rev. E. W. Williamson, pastor, Greater Middle Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.

Rev. A. L. McCargo, pastor, Salem Gilfield Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.

Dr. C. H. Miller, secretary, Christian Life Commission, Southern Baptist Convention.

Rev. A. J. King, pastor, Kayne Ave. Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn.

Mr. S. E. Grinstead, national executive secretary, Baptist Student Union.

Mr. Dave Alexander, Baptist Student Union secretary, Nashville, Tenn.

WHAT ONE CLASS IS DOING



All three of the above students are receiving scholarships from one class in a Baptist Church—The First Baptist Church of Greenville, S. C. Reading from right to left: Grady Donald, senior, candidate for the B.D. Degree, C. L. Manning, junior, and Nathaniel Brockman, freshmen, candidates respectively for the B.R.E. and B.Th. Degrees. The Ives Bible Class of this Church was directed to this project by Dr. Leon T. Latimer, now pastor-emeritus, in 1951. They sent Mr. Donald in 1951, Mr. Manning came in January, 1953, and Mr. Brockman September of this year. None of these students live in Greenville. The class went out and found them; suggested they continue their study and made it possible through SCHOLARSHIPS.

Special Notice—All Alumni

Professor Charles H. Fitzgerald is chairman of the Alumni Committee. Please send all alumni news to him. He is interested in news about your family, church and other denominational activities. Please keep in mind the publication dates of the SEMINARIAN so your news will come in at the right time.

Student News

A. P. CRUTCHER, pastor of the Morning Star Baptist Church, Stevenson, Alabama, closed his fall Evangelistic service recently. Rev. M. H. Ribbins, pastor of the Second Baptist Church of Chattanooga, Tennessee, was the Evangelist.

Rev. W. L. Douglass of Detroit conducted an Evangelistic service for the Friendship Baptist Church of Cross Plains, Tennessee, LEROY MCFADDEN is the pastor. Mr. McFadden also pastors the Macedonia Baptist Church of Old Hickory, Tennessee.

E. J. SMITH, a student of the Seminary, conducted Evangelistic services for the church in September.

W. L. DEMENT, pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church of St. Louis, Missouri, had an Evangelistic meeting in September. The meeting was conducted by Rev. C. C. Bass, the pastor of the Mt. Nebo Baptist Church of Nashville, Tennessee.

REV. ENOCH JONES, minister of the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, 32nd Avenue, North, and congregation are working to complete their educational unit. In a period of less than six months, more than half of the necessary funds have been raised toward the completion of the unit.

In Memoriam

REV. G. W. TOLBERT—1903-1953

Class of '42

HOME MISSION BOARD CONFERENCE



In the above picture Dr. Bellamy is standing in the center and to his right (dark suit) is President Riley. To Dr. Riley's right is Rev. Harold D. Gregory, City Missionary of Nashville, Tennessee, who directed the group on a tour of the city.

The second annual conference of teachers and missionaries, under the direction of Dr. Guy Bellamy, secretary of Negro work of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, met on the Seminary campus September 29-October 1.

More than fifty persons attended the conference this year. They were teachers in Negro Baptist Colleges, Mission Center directors, state directors of Negro work and school presidents. Sixteen states and the District of Columbia were represented in the group.

The program consisted of Bible teaching in colleges, institute work, children's work and the successful operation of mission centers.

Dr. James H. Sullivan, executive secretary of the Sunday School Board, and Dr. Porter Routh, executive secretary of the Executive Committee, addressed the group.

Alumni News

REV. S. S. HODGES, '48, Pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church, Hamilton, Ohio, played an important part in the deliberations of the Fifty-fifth Annual Session of the Ohio Baptist General Association which convened in Columbus, Ohio, October 12-18.

REV. OTHA J. REEVES, '49, attended the Thirty-fifth Annual Session of the Ohio Baptist State Convention, Inc.

REV. ROLLEN F. HANS, '52, now enrolled at Central State College, Wilberforce, Ohio, was appointed special missionary of the Ohio Baptist State Convention, Inc., at its Thirty-fifth Annual Session.

REV. ERNEST WILLIAMSON, '50, pastor of the Greater Middle Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., addressed the student body on October 22.

MR. JACK D. THOMAS, B.Th., '51, is attending Union Theological Seminary, New York, New York, after having received the B.A. from Morehouse College in June, '53.

MR. ARIE LEON MANGRUM, B.Th., '51, received the B.A. degree from Bishop College, Marshall, Texas, in May, 1953.

Graduates from the class of '53 attending Fisk University: ALONZO WASHINGTON, MAJOR A. MATTHEWS and MRS. GENEVA BEARD HOWZE. Attending Tennessee A.&I. State University: MOSES HERRING and ALVANDON TAYLOR.

REV. JAMES M. ALLEN, B.Th., '51, was recently called and installed Sunday, October 25, as minister of the New Hope Baptist Church, Middletown, Ohio.