

Christian Ministry Conference Names Principal Speaker

Rev. Gordon Wishart, pastor of the Gospel Tabernacle of Dubois, Pa., will be the principal speaker for the Christian Ministry Conference to be held at Fort Wayne Bible College February 28 to March 2, it has been announced by Cyril H. Eicher, assistant professor of pastoral training and chairman of the conference planning committee. Rev. Wishart will speak each of the four evenings at 8 p.m. and in extended chapel services on the last three days of the conference.

The theme for the conference will be "Evangelism", with sessions centered in the area of evangelism for the local church. Other participating lecturers, together with their topics, are as follows: Rev. Jack H. Watt, pastor of the Campbell Baptist Church, Windsor, Ontario—"Sunday School Evangelism"; Rev. Russell R. Kauffman, pastor of the Hope Christian and Missionary Alliance Church, Indianapolis, Ind.—"Missionary Evangelism"; and J. Francis Chase, commercial artist and Christian layman, Chicago, Ill.—"Evangelism Through Publicity."

The conference is geared especially for pastors, Christian workers and interested laymen. There will be a registration fee of \$2.50 for the total conference, or \$1.00 per day. Room and board will be available at moderate costs. A complete program of the conference will be given in next month's issue of the VISION.

Our manifesto...

An important statement concerning the future of Fort Wayne Bible College appears on pages 2 and 3. Be sure to read it!

Second Semester Evening Classes

Three evening classes are scheduled for the second semester of the school year, planned especially for friends who live in the vicinity of Fort Wayne Bible College. The classes will meet each Monday at 7:30 p.m. beginning February 6. The courses are as follows:

Organization and Administration of Christian Education

Taught by Herbert W. Byrne, dean of education. This course will emphasize the organization and planning of the total Christian education program in the local church. It is especially valuable for pastors, directors of religious education, Sunday School supervisors, and department superintendents. Three hours credit.

Thessalonian Epistles

Taught by W. O. Klopfenstein, assistant professor of Theology. The course is an extensive study of these epistles with attention given to the occasion for them and a special analysis of the doctrine of the second coming of Christ as taught by Paul. Two hours credit.

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Professor Don Kenyon Appointed Bible And Theology Chairman

Don J. Kenyon, assistant professor of Greek and Bible, has been named the chairman of the Department of Bible and Theology, it is announced by Dr. S. A. Witmer, president of the college.

In assuming the new position, which is effective immediately, Mr. Kenyon will correlate all academic and curriculum planning in the Department of Bible and Theology. He plans to stress inductive Bible study methods, with emphasis on educational leadership which is effective in producing skills in



Kenyon

students for expository preaching.

Mr. Kenyon joined the faculty of the college last September. Previously he had been instructor at the Detroit Bible Institute, St. Paul Bible Institute, and the Nyack Missionary Training Institute. He was also pastor of the Christian and Missionary (Continued on Page 4)

Messiah Performance Draws Overflow Audience

An overflow audience of more than 1,100 heard the performance of Handel's "Messiah" when it was presented by the Fort Wayne Bible College oratorio chorus and orchestra in Founders Memorial auditorium on Sunday afternoon, December 11.

Lansing W. Bulgin, director of the School of Music, conducted the 100-voice chorus and the 26-piece orchestra before an audience that filled the combined auditorium and gymnasium. Some stood at the rear of the gymnasium while others went to an overflow classroom where they listened through the public address system.

Soloists were Betty Gilchrist, soprano; Margaret Albert, contralto; Darrell Gerig, tenor; and Dale Jorgenson, bass. It was the first time for Mr. Bulgin to conduct the oratorio in Fort Wayne. He had previously conducted its performance at two other colleges.

Portions of the oratorio which were transcribed during the performance were later broadcast in a special half hour program on WGL in Fort Wayne. The transcriptions were also used on SUNRISE CHAPEL two mornings during the Christmas season.

Fort Wayne Bible College—our manifesto

How far have we come? Where do we go from here? Can we realize our vision?

What about achievements, goals, facilities, support, accreditation?

This special feature article, prepared by Dr. S. A. Witmer, president of Fort Wayne Bible College, has a message of importance to every friend, every alumnus, every supporting church of the college.

Hitherto

By a gracious Providence, this "vine of God's own planting" has come a long way. Some thousands of students have received preparation in its halls. Its 1200 graduates are serving Christ in all parts of this country and in many foreign lands. From an average student body of only 75 during the first 25 years, the enrollment has increased to over 350 in recent years.

The expansion of the physical plant has paced this growth in enrollment. One building served the college during the first 25 years. Now there are 6 major buildings, 4 apartment-homes, and a fine site of 14 acres for further development.

Academically, there has also been definite progress. Ten years ago the college had no accreditation whatever. Now it is an accredited member of the Accrediting Association of Bible Institutes and Bible Colleges and is thereby listed with the United States Office of Education and other governmental and educational agencies. It is also accredited by the Indiana State Board of Education, becoming the first Bible College to achieve state-accreditation for teacher training. Its degree programs are also recognized by Indiana University for related graduate study.

All of this, together with strengthened faculty and curricula, adds up to more effective training for youth.

Whereto?

But where do we go from here? The one question is: Does the cloud of divine leadership rest here or does it move on? From the depth of conviction we believe it is beckoning on.

This is no time to rest on past achievements. Human need has never been greater. The demand for Spirit-filled, thoroughly trained servants of Christ is unprecedented. Preachers of the Word, Christian teachers, Christian nurses, competent missionaries, Christian musicians, Christian writers and broadcasters will have to be multiplied in number to serve the increasing billions of the world's population. There is only one direction that is morally defensible in the period ahead and that is FORWARD.

But direction of advance is important too. Where are we headed educationally? The answer is plain. The compass heading was set by the founders who were committed to education for heart and mind through emphasis on Bible instruction and the spiritual life. There is no thought of dissipating this priceless spiritual heritage. We believe that the filling with the Holy Spirit and a substantial amount of Bible study are essential for Christian maturity and service.

But within this framework preparation can and should be strengthened in terms of breadth and specialized training for effective service at home and abroad. We therefore want our students to have a broad general education integrated with Christian faith. We want them to have the necessary skills for the various kinds of Christian service.

There is no question about the dimensions of need nor the demands for the kind of preparation offered by our college. The question lies within our hearts. Do we have the vision, the faith, the joy of sacrifice to meet this challenge?

Wherewith?

The next consideration follows: What does it take to realize this vision? In the order of physical, academic, and spiritual resources, they are as follows:

1. *More Facilities.* In the past our school has grown as it was given room to grow. As long as it had only one building, it had a very limited enrollment.

Even with the present enrollment the college very much needs a much larger library and more classrooms. All but two classrooms are scattered in basements—most of them poorly ventilated and crowded. Recently the Dean of Education asked, "What are we going to do next year? We need two additional classrooms." As for the library, there is not enough room at times for those desiring to use it.

The answer to the immediate needs for more room is to build, as soon as funds are available, the library and the classroom-office buildings planned for the south campus. With a library that will care for 160 students and 44,000 volumes, with 12 classrooms and other facilities, the essential academic needs will be met for some time to come. Then for the first time, the college will have an education-administration building. Then,

too, the dormitory rooms now used for offices can revert to student quarters.

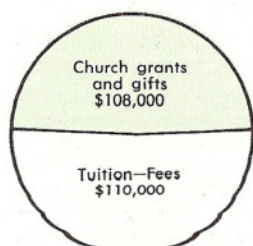
Building cannot begin, however, until 75 percent of the estimated cost of \$750,000 is in. We are grateful for a substantial beginning. The site of 14 acres is paid for and \$141,000 has been subscribed for buildings.

2. *Adequate Support.* Like all non-supported colleges, our school needs substantial income above tuition to maintain and to improve its services. Since it has no endowment, this support must come from gifts and subsidies.

Few, if any, colleges receive as little income above tuition as does our college. We are indeed grateful for the support received from the sponsoring society—The Missionary Church Association,

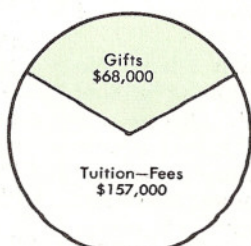
the Alumni Association, and the Patrons' Council. It has been invaluable; without it the budget could not have been balanced. But the total from all three sources last year came to only \$13,000—against an operating cost of \$226,000. In contrast, one nearby denominational college, two-thirds the size of FWBC, received \$68,000 last year from its denomination alone. One typical Bible college last year required for each student \$266.00 from outside sources. Our college managed on \$40.00. In fact, educators who are familiar with college operations have been amazed that our school could carry on such a sizeable program with so little help. The following statistics, illustrated for comparative analysis, point up the fact that without more adequate support, Fort Wayne Bible College cannot go forward.

SOURCES OF INCOME OF CHRISTIAN COLLEGES, 1954-55



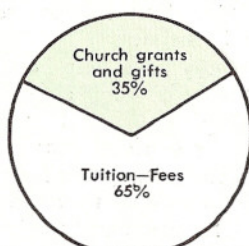
COLLEGE A

Enrollment 260

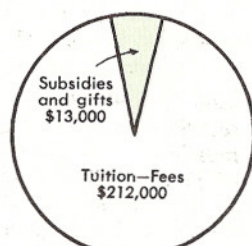


COLLEGE B

Enrollment 253



AVERAGE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE



FORT WAYNE BIBLE COLLEGE

Enrollment 349

Accreditation

As indicated, our college has made much progress academically, but it has not yet achieved regional accreditation, that is, by the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities. If it had, it would have benefited from the recent half-billion grant by the Ford Foundation as did all regionally accredited colleges.

Our college applied to the NCA last year, becoming something of a test case. We are glad to report that the Association did take action that hereafter its policy would be to accredit Bible colleges as such. However, our application was denied because of a few major weaknesses—lack of classroom and library facilities and inadequate support. (A third has already been strengthened.)

Thus the new buildings and more adequate support are a necessity if the college is to go forward academically.

Shared Vision

Spiritual resources are most important of all. Vision must be shared and realized by faith. A

great need and a big undertaking call for believing prayer. With God's blessing and the wholehearted cooperation of His people we believe that every need can be met. Not only will God then be glorified but His people will be enriched through shared vision and joyous participation.

We are thankful that interest is being kindled and steps taken to support the expanding program of the college. The Missionary Church Association is arranging to have an annual Fort Wayne Bible College day in all churches to stress the ministry of the college. (This year it will be March 4.) Some churches are also actively backing the building program. The Alumni Association under capable leadership is being organized to become a stronger fellowship and a supporting arm of the college. Many more patrons are needed who will support the college annually by a gift for current expenses. (Those making such a gift of not less than \$10.00 become members of the Patrons' Council.)

Will you ask God what part He would give you in realizing this vision and program? Will you pray earnestly and believingly?

Around the campus . . .

a word from the deans

He Wants More Education Like This . . .

Dr. Herbert Byrne
Dean of Education

A student entered my office the other day and asked this question: "Dr. Byrne, after my graduation from Fort Wayne Bible College, where can I go to do graduate work on an advanced degree in a school similar to ours?" In answer to this question, I have often sadly shook my head and revealed the fact that such schools are very scarce.

My purpose here is not to strike a sad note, but to point out something which has great significance to us here at FWBC. The key phrase in the question above is 'similar to Fort Wayne Bible College'. Why did the student say it just that way? The self-evident fact is that he has been impressed with our program here. *He likes Bible College education*, and he wants to take his graduate study in a similar kind of institution. Such students feel that *this kind of education is worthwhile and satisfying*.

Education and Christianity have long been closely related. No kind of education can possibly be adequate and satisfying without recognizing this relationship. The world cannot be divorced in meaning or origin from great spiritual concepts. It is the purpose of both education and Christianity to find the ultimate meaning of life, but such meaning comes only from Christianity. Education, therefore, is compelled to be Christian. Christianity needs education. Education without the Christian religion has no guiding light; but Christianity without education is blind, leading to superstition and fanaticism. Only informed and intelligent Christianity can live in our modern scientific-minded age.

It is our hope and prayer that FWBC, which relates all learning to Christ, will provide a Christ-centered program of education which will result in Christ-filled men and women dedicated to building a Christ-controlled world.

EVENING CLASSES

(Continued from Page 1)

Institutional Child Care

Taught by Martha I. Johnson, assistant professor of English and child development specialist. The course surveys the purposes and policies of institutions for children and prepares the student to recognize the problems of children from broken homes and to study their emotional needs. Two or three hours

CONFERENCE

(Continued from Page 1)

Alliance Church in Windsor, Ontario. He has attended Taylor University and Southern Baptist Seminary, is a graduate of Asbury College, and has the bachelor of divinity degree from Bethel Seminary.

credit.

The courses may be taken for either credit or audit. Registration can be made at the first class period.

Former Instructor Leaves For Haiti

Rev. O. Carl Brown, formerly instructor in missions at the college, has just left for Haiti with his family where they will assume a missionary ministry in Bible education in Pignon. Mr. Brown will be teaching the Bible to young Christians in a Bible school in Pignon which is conducted by the Missionary Church Association in Haiti.

Rev. Timothy Warner, formerly dean of students, is still awaiting final word on visas for himself and his family prior to embarking for missionary duties in Sierra Leone, West Africa. However, it is expected that the Warner family will receive its sailing date very soon.

Campus briefs . . .

RADIO STAFF IN ELKHART

The SUNRISE CHAPEL radio staff presented three programs in the Elkhart, Indiana area the weekend of January 14-15. The group presented the Youth for Christ program in Elkhart on Saturday night. On Sunday morning the program was given in the United Missionary Church where Dean Freed, '49, is pastor, and in the afternoon another program in the high school auditorium.

Dr. S. A. Witmer accompanied the group as speaker.

REV. J. F. GERIG SPEAKS

Rev. Jared F. Gerig, president of the Missionary Church Association, was speaker for the monthly day of prayer held at the college on Wednesday, December 14.

His topic for the 9 a.m. chapel hour was "Sides to Sanctification."

Are you a member of the Patrons Council?

If not, start 1956 with systematic giving to Fort Wayne Bible College

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