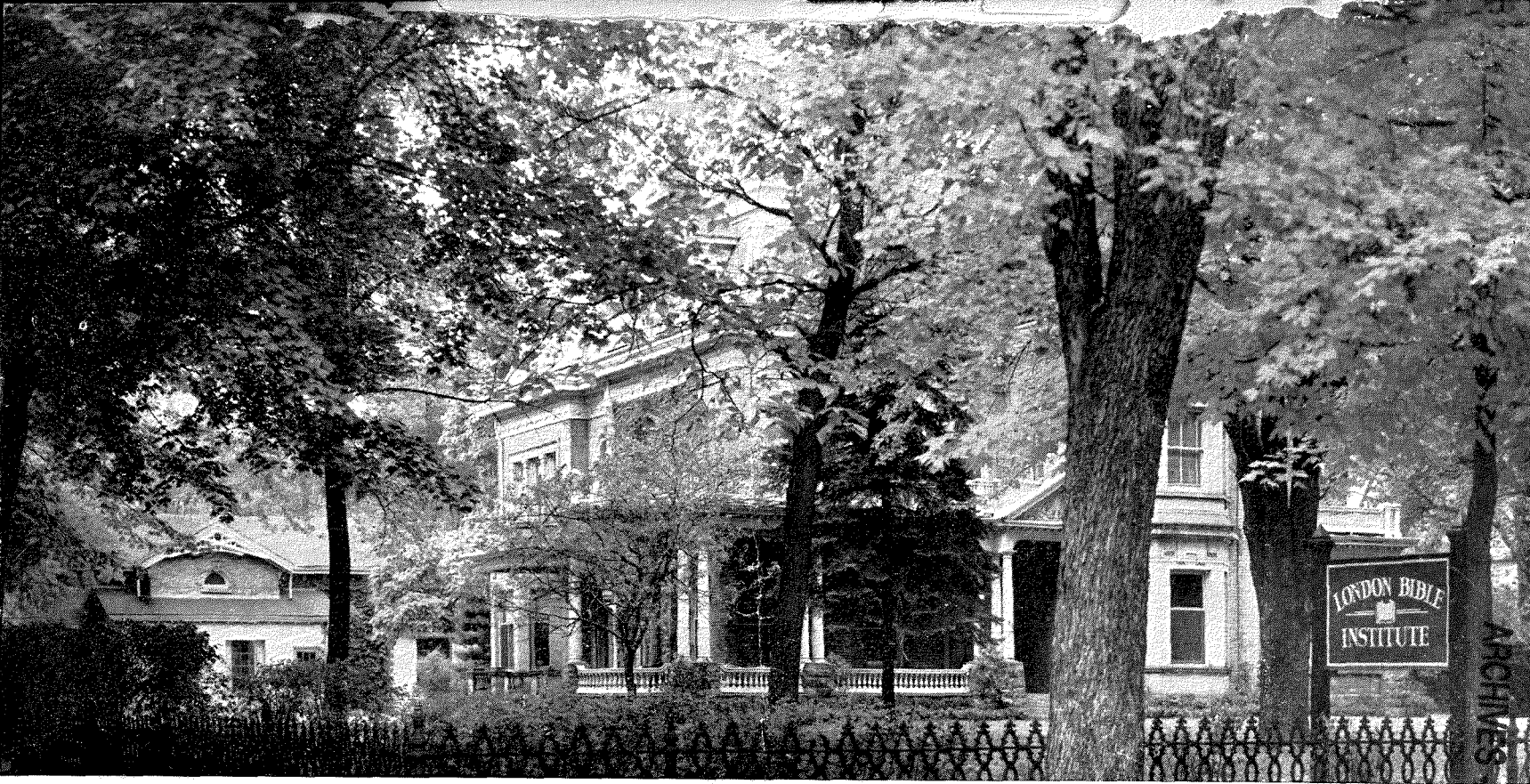


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Bulletin of the London Bible Institute, 1, no. 2 (March 1946)



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BIBLE SCHOOL GRADUATES?

President Bedford of the L.B.I. discusses this important matter

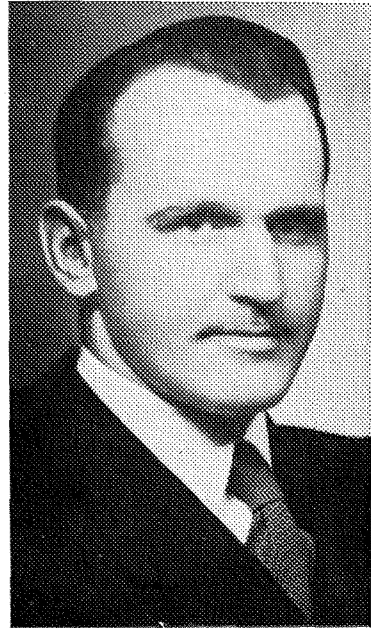
What opportunities for service can the graduate of a Bible Institute expect in the field of full-time Christian work? Is there a reasonable assurance that he will find open doors? The uninformed public seems to think that, because Bible Institutes are without denominational support, the graduate has limited his field of service. We must face the problem and present as reasonable an answer as possible. If the graduate of a Bible Institute can expect no avenue of service, he would be well advised to choose some other place of preparation.

One of the basic principles of economics is the law of supply and demand. Articles are valuable and saleable in proportion to public need or demand. Such a principle persists in the spiritual realm. Those who are preparing for Christian service will have opportunities according to the need on the home and foreign fields.

An appalling number of vacant pulpits is indicative of existing conditions on the home front. For example, a news item from England reveals a shortage of pastors and the government, recognizing this need, has released from the armed forces fifteen hundred theological students. These men will be selected by appropriate church authorities.

The need in the small villages and rural communities, where no evangelical testimony is maintained, is pressing. They may be thought of as outposts, but they are people with perishing souls for whom Christ died. As this article is being written, one of the representatives of an established home mission is pleading for young people to carry the Gospel to these out-of-the-way but desperately needy sections here in Canada.

To an even greater extent there are opportunities in the regions beyond where the "fields are white already to harvest." Missionary effort has far from reached its zenith, and the war period through which we have just passed has been one of retrenchment and curtailment of the missionary program. With the cessation of hostilities many doors are again open and many formerly inaccessible regions have been opened up by the activities of warfare. In increasing numbers, Bible School graduates are offering themselves for foreign missionary service through interdenominational faith missions which operate on every



REV. J. N. BEDFORD, B.A.

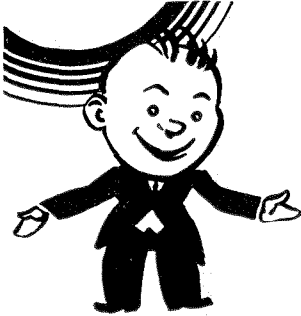
continent. One such mission during 1945 sent 79 new missionaries to the field. The fact is that the need and call for workers on both home and foreign fields is far greater than the supply.

There are some denominational groups that recognize the course taken at a Bible Institute as adequate preparation for the ministry. Others expect the students to take further training in one of their own schools. However, the majority of students entering Bible Institutes come from evangelical groups that look largely to the Bible School for the basic preparation of their pastors and Christian workers.

We do not want to give the impression that the Bible Institute claims to be a finishing school in the formal sense. It is not competitive with the Christian college and theological seminary. It is a foundational school of indoctrination in the Bible. For it to assume any other role would be to deviate from its God-given purpose. Its excuse for existence is to prepare young people for life, whether at home or abroad, with a thorough knowledge of the Word of God. The believer's greatest offensive and defensive weapon is the "Sword of the Spirit." To use it effectively he must know it and know how to use it in life's struggles. It is to this teaching ministry that we are dedicated. The curriculum is, therefore, Bible-centred. We seek primarily to be students of the Bible and not of those subjects that are merely related to the Bible.

(Continued on Page 4)

ITS HAPPY FAMILY



At the annual meeting of Kitchener Park Baptist Mission (H. Hood, '42, pastor) reports showed that the total income was nearly \$1,600, that six had been baptized and a total of ten received into the membership. The Sunday Schools, both Junior and Senior, are prospering and there are four mid-week meetings for children.

BORN—To Vernice Smith, '43, and Mrs Smith, on Jan. 18, 1946, a son, James Frederick.

Bill Wright, '45, is in Deloraine, Man., with the Canadian Sunday School Mission. He hopes to continue his course in linguistics at the Wycliffe Bible Translators' School in Norman, Okla. He still anticipates going to Africa.

Ruth Wardell, '45, and Beatrice Fawcett are pursuing further studies at the Child Evangelism Institute in the sunny (and warm) south in Dallas, Texas.

Dr. J. W. Mahood, founder and former president of the L.B.I., has written a new booklet for the encouragement of Christian workers, in whom he has a heartfelt interest. Called "Modern Miracles," the booklet is a collection of remarkable experiences demonstrating the power of the Gospel of Christ. Those who desire copies may order them through the school.

Rev. J. N. Bedford, president of the London Bible Institute, completed his first year with the school on February 1, this year.

— STAFF CHANGES —

Because it was physically impossible for him to continue, Rev. Gerald Stover, Th.B., of Kitchener, has retired. Third year theology and an analysis of Revelation, which were the subjects Mr. Stover taught, will now be expounded by the Rev. John Dunkin, B.A., Th.M., minister of the Wortley Road Baptist Church in this city. Another new member of the faculty, Rev. Thomas Maxwell, Th.M., of the Wallace-ton Presbyterian Church, is assuming part of the teaching work of the Rev. McK. Esler and the subjects formerly taught by Mr. Dunkin.

— WELL THUMBED BOOKS —

Though the Institute Library boasts quite a healthy stock of books, the demand for them among the student body is causing a severe shortage. The need is great for reference books of a conservative type. Commentaries, encyclopaedia, lexicons and other similar books could be used. Any person having such and willing to donate them for the students' use, please contact the school.

. . . ALUMNI GATHER AT SCHOOL . . .

Tuesday, January 29, the day following the commencement of the second semester, was Alumni Day here. A representative group of alumni conducted the special chapel service, under the direction of Peggy Randall, '40, with Dick Adamson, '45, of Fergus, as song leader. A brief message on the need of rural evangelism was brought to the student body by George Hunt, '40, of St. Marys. Mr. Hunt's challenging message pointed out from his experience the genuine need for evangelistic effort in the rural districts. He also pointed out the need for opening new churches in Ontario and based his observations on his experience in organizing and building the Bethel Baptist Church in Fergus and the nearby work commenced in Arthur, as well as his present project in Thamesford, where he has started a thriving Sunday afternoon meeting. Mr. Hunt expressed his feeling that Ontario is ripe for pioneering Gospel work such as he described.

At the same meeting Albert Fairbrother, '39, brought a message on the requirements of the Foreign Mission Field. He based his talk on the experience he has had with the South China Boat Mission near Canton.

A special gift of canned goods was made to the school by the Alumni, who also have on hand a sum of money to purchase a set of the International Standard Bible and Encyclopaedia, edition of 1939. This is a valuable set of reference books, which while out of print at the moment, will be reprinted in the near future. When the set can be purchased it will be given to the school library.

A STAUNCH FRIEND

"God's work if it is done in God's way will never lack God's supply." These words appeared in last month's Bulletin in enumerating the school's financial policy. God has amply proven our trust in Him, as He always does. One of the true friends He has given to the Institute lives forty miles away among the trees and the fields of the farmlands near the town of Exeter. Mr. Wm. F. Abbott is a beekeeper. During one of his visits to the Institute he casually inquired how and where the kitchen got its supply of potatoes. Told that the source was a local warehouse, he remarked that he might be in a position to do better for the students by dealing direct from the farmers near his home. True to his promise, one day recently he appeared at the school with fifty bags of potatoes and various other farm produce valued at \$140. Just to have the pleasure of returning the check, Mr. Abbott allowed the Institute's office staff to make out a check for the full amount and then he graciously handed it back—marked paid. Mr. Abbott also made the very first contribution to the school when the subject of purchasing its present splendid building was first broached. No school has a better friend than he.

STUDENTS ENJOY SKATING PARTY

Through the kindness of the Ontario Hospital, which placed their indoor skating rink at the disposal of the student body, L.B.I. students enjoyed a skating party on Feb. 1. Faces (and appetites) glowing, the party ended where such affairs normally do, around a table spread with refreshments. In this case the tables were in the cafeteria of the L.B.I. A devotional period concluded the evening.

GIFT FURNISHES DORMITORY

The generous gift of \$120 from the Young People's Society of the Wortley Road Baptist Church has made possible the furnishing of a new dormitory on the third floor of the Institute. Now called the Wortley Dormitory, the room is one of three that was created out of an unfinished attic by members of Central

Baptist Church, near which the Institute is situated. The former attic is now divided into two large dormitories and a smaller one. Crusaderettes, a class of young women of the Central Baptist Sunday School, recently donated fifty dollars to furnish the smaller room.

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES

(Continued from Page 1)

Such a course of training in Bible knowledge offers abundant avenues of usefulness. First, it becomes a sound foundation for further education. When higher education has so far departed from a Biblical foundation that it is destroying the faith of our young people, it is imperative that the Christian student obtain whatever help the Bible Institute has to offer in arming him to meet the impact of university liberalism.

Secondly, the Bible Institute prepares the Christian layman with an effective basis for Christian living and leadership in his own community and local church. All are not called to preach, but all are called to bear an effective witness of God's grace. If more laymen in the local churches had a Bible School background, the entire church outlook would be much better today.

Thirdly, those going to the foreign field as missionaries find that the preparation received from the Bible Institute has been of inestimable value to them. A survey of this field will convince one that the majority now serving the Lord in world-wide missions have had their basic work at some school of this nature.

Lastly, we mention its place in the ministry. Personally I am convinced that it is basic. For those who feel that they haven't adequate preliminary education for the seminary nor time to spend in such preparation, the Bible Institute affords an unusual opportunity. It gives them a foundation that can be built upon in the local pastorate. For those desiring a more thorough training educationally, the Institute lays a foundation that gives direction and purpose throughout their higher education.

Evangelical groups are realizing, more and more, the value of the Bible Institute training. The crowded halls of these schools reaching across the continent reveal that the Lord is blessing such a ministry. Surely the Lord will use those whom He thus trains.

- HAPPY TO RECEIVE BULLETIN -

Such a remarkable response met the appearance of The Bulletin last month, the number of copies available proved totally inadequate. The number has been doubled for this issue in the hope that this will accommodate the requests that have come to the Institute for our little paper and meet the additional requirements of new friends. If our readers know of interested persons who would like to be placed on our mailing list we would appreciate having their names and addresses. The Lord is so wonderfully favouring this school that staff, faculty and students would like nothing better than to keep friends posted on its progress and the events of school life.