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Toronto Bible College



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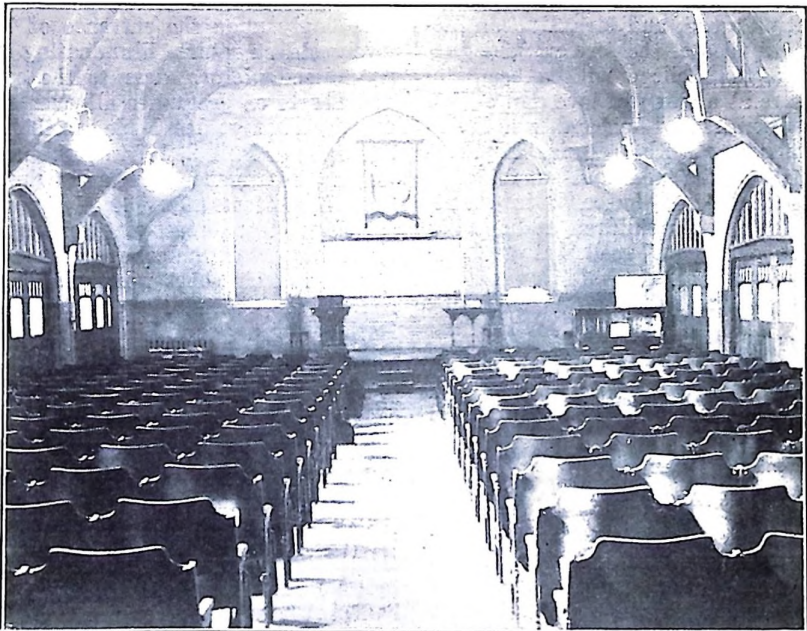
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Volume 35

Toronto, December, 1928

Number 1

Cordial Christmas and New Year Greetings
To All Friends and Former Students



The Old Assembly Hall

The Last of the Old Order

By a Graduate of the Class of 1915

The thirty-fifth session of the College began on September 18. The old doors swung wide, like loving arms extended, to welcome the new class as it stepped into the hallowed sanctum of learning. The lecture hall was filled to capacity with friends, students and graduates. Principal McNicol welcomed the new students, and in his usual acceptable manner presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Dr. R. P. McKay, Chairman of the Board, spoke appropriately of the leadings of God in the past, and pointed out the fact, that the workings of God were aptly illustrated in Ezekiel's vision of the wheels within wheels. Rev. George Booth, of China, President of the College Alumni, gave a short message representing the family abroad, and Mrs. Duncan McDonald, also of the foreign field, presented the College with a beautiful picture as a token of love and esteem from herself and husband, who are to resume their work in India. Mrs. McDonald read a humorous but touching letter from her husband in India, written for his children at home, in which one could read between the lines much of the meaning of the words "Take up thy cross and follow Me!" Prayer was asked for for Mrs. McDonald as she was about to set her face toward India to join her husband, travelling with her large family of small children.

Rev. D. A. Burns, Secretary of the Alumni, outlined in a few words the plans of the Alumni for the future. An urgent appeal was made for the support of all graduates and members in the coming campaign to raise funds for the furnishing of the new College home, the responsibility of which is being assumed by the Alumni Association.

Mr. Ernest Tatham, President of the Student Council, and Miss Grace Ferris, head girl, gave brief messages of welcome and advice to the incoming class.

Rev. T. B. Hyde expressed his great pleasure at having been 'prehistorically' associated with the Toronto Bible Training School, and voiced his belief that the new College would be just as beautiful and much more adequate than the present building. Continuing, he outlined the subjects which he is to consider in the coming months.

Dr. Waters, Secretary of the College, also spoke words of counsel.

It seemed very fitting that nature should put forth every effort to beautify every inch of the old school building on that particular day. The mellow rays of the late summer sun fell caressingly upon the entrance of the lovely old structure, illuminating an ivy-framed picture, dear to the eyes and hearts of graduates all over the world. That golden Bible which has lain open at Phil. 2, 16 through many seasons of summer sun and winter snow, has become affectionately known as the College breast-plate; it is in reality a part of the college vestment. It states in six short words the business of the Institution: "Holding forth—The Word of Life." Around that golden book the ivy clung, as if loathe to be torn away from so precious a friend as the old school sign.

As an old graduate, passing from our favorite rendezvous, we wondered if the ivy knew that the last class destined to enter the portals had been welcomed? Like the ivy, we lingered affectionately around the door, loath to leave, because we knew that we, too, had grown there. Grown into a life of fellowship known only to those who cling to the Word of God. And thus nature succeeded in painting a last

bright picture in the memories of by-gone class members. Wending our way east on College Street, we fell into a reverie, suddenly to be awakened by the voice of the Spirit quoting, "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the Word of our God shall stand forever." With this in mind we put to route the material things and thought upon the eternal.

To the 1931 class will go the honor of living in three distinct dispensa-

tions, so to speak, of Bible College history. They are to enjoy ten days of the present school life within the hallowed walls of the original Bible Training school. Then, as if by magic, they are to be transported back into the old order of things, the life of wandering which preceded the present school. After having endured for a season, they are to be privileged to step into a commodious building where they will undoubtedly enjoy a glorious future.

The Farewell Meeting in the Old Building

By a Graduate of the Class of 1916

On the last Thursday evening in September, a farewell meeting in the old building was conducted by the Principal. The building was filled. The service took the form of a great thanksgiving meeting and a renewal of our confidence and trust in the God who has led thus far and who has so signally honoured and blessed the work of this school. Dr. S. A. Dyke, a veteran Baptist minister of some eighty years, who was personally acquainted with Dr. Harris, Dr. Stewart and Mr. McWilliam, told some thing about the work in the days of beginnings. He with Dr. McTavish had been present at the laying of the corner-stone of the building, and the remarks of these two servants of the Lord were full of historical interest. The Principal then read an item from an old minute book which had been discovered in the moving of the College records. It was under the date

of May 14, 1894, and gave an account of a meeting called by Rev. Elmore Harris to consider the advisability of forming a Bible Training School in Toronto. This meeting is referred to in the Historical Statement which will be found on another page.

A wonderful spirit of thankfulness and of expectancy prevailed and the entire meeting was a fitting climax to the work of the past thirty-four years. Many travelled considerable distances to attend—not a banquet, nor a conference, but a meeting of thanksgiving and praise. And why? Because within the walls now levelled, they had seen the Lord high and lifted up. They came back to look in the old prayer room, to view again the spot they had occupied during the days of their College course, and to mingle their spirits with the spirits of others who, like them, had been blessed by the ministry of Toronto Bible College.

Historical Statement

Prepared by the Principal and placed in the Corner-stone of the New Building

On the 14th. of May, 1894, a meeting of those interested in the formation of a Bible Training School in Toronto was held at the house and at the invitation of the late Rev. Elmore Harris, who was then pastor of Wal-

mer Road Baptist Church. Twelve men were present, viz., Revs. Elmore Harris, Henry W. Frost, E. Hooper, Wm. Stewart and D. McTavish, and Messrs. T. S. Cole, Robt. Kilgour, J. D. Nasmith, R. M. Hobson, G. B.

Meadows, John Northway, and Wm. Ferguson.

As a result of the conference which took place at this meeting plans were made and carried out for the establishment of the Toronto Bible Training School. An Executive and General Council was organized with Rev. Elmore Harris as President, Rev. R. P. Mackay and Mr. J. D. Nasmith as Vice-Presidents, Mr. J. N. Shenstone as Treasurer, and Mr. Wm. Ferguson as Secretary. Rev. Wm. Stewart, D.D., was appointed Principal.

The first session of the school opened in September of the same year in Walmer Road Church with an enrolment of twelve students. The classes continued to meet there for four years, but it was apparent that the institution needed a building of its own. Early in 1898 a lot at 110 College Street was leased from the University, and plans were made for the erection of a building there. The corner-stone was laid on the 4th. of June and the building was opened for the classes in the fall of the year. For thirty years the work of the Institution was carried on in the building on College Street, attractive without and beautiful within, which grew dear, as time passed, to generation after generation of students.

In the meantime changes took place. The name of the School was changed to Toronto Bible College, and the course of study was extended from two to three years. Some of the founders of the Institution passed away and younger men came in to take their place. The building was enlarged to contain two new rooms. But even these additions could not provide adequate class-room accommodation for the steadily increasing attendance of students, and a few years ago the Sunday School hall of Zion Chapel was placed at the disposal of the College.

It was evident that the time was at hand when the Board must undertake the task of providing a new building. Eight years ago one of the friends of the College, a member of the General Council, seeing the pressing need for more accommodation for the work, had given the first contribution to start a new building fund. The Board of Governors realized the need but were not clear as to what steps to take, whether to rebuild on the old leasehold site or to seek a new location. In the meantime for several years classes continued to be held simultaneously in our own building and in Zion Chapel.

In the midst of the last session, early in the present year, the University of Toronto informed us that their enlarging plans made it necessary for them to call in their lease and appropriate the Bible College property,—And thus the matter was decided for us.

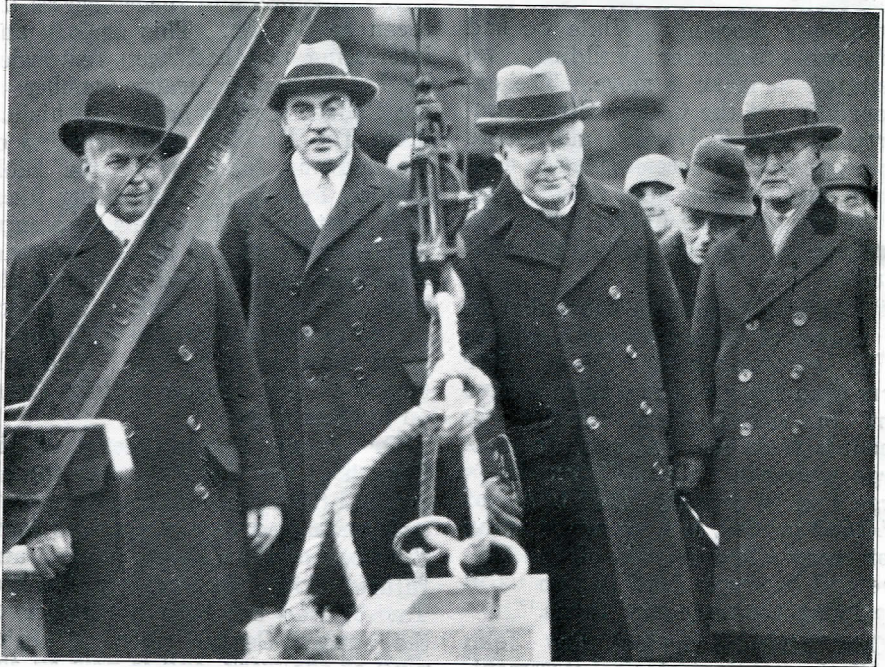
The Board of Governors at once began to seek for a new site for the College. After very careful consideration and a thorough exploration of all the central section of the city, this lot at 16 Spadina Road was purchased. The Board then proceeded to have plans prepared and carried out for a new building which would be in every way suitable for the present work of the College and adequate for its growing needs. These plans have been prepared by the architects, Messrs. Mathers and Haldenby and the contract for the construction of the new building has been awarded to Messrs. Thomson Brothers.

In the meantime the old building on College Street has already disappeared. It was handed over to the University on October 1st. and the College went into temporary quarters. But the work has gone on without intermission. The offices and headquarters are at 760 Spadina Avenue. The regular classes, in which 158 stu-

dents are now registered, are being carried on in Knox Church, and some 200 young people are meeting in the Evening Classes in Zion Chapel. Thus the work of the College goes on without interruption and without diminution of strength while this new building is being erected. When it is opened we trust a new era in the history of the College will have begun.

As the good hand of God has been upon the history of the College all

these years, may His good hand be upon the building whose corner-stone is laid today, that blessing may rest upon the men who planned it, upon the workmen who are building it, upon the friends whose gifts are making it a reality, and upon the students who will enter its halls and sit in its classes throughout the coming years in which it will be "holding forth the word of God"; and to Him be all the glory.



Above is a picture of the corner-stone just before it was laid, showing the box containing the records in the centre of it. From left to right are: Mr. Albert Maas, Chairman of the Building Committee, Mr. E. W. Haldenby, the Architect, Rev. Dr. R. P. MacKay, holding in his hand the Chinese mason's trowel, and Mr. J. B. Thomson, the Contractor.

Laying the Corner Stone

By D. A. B.

December First, Nineteen Twenty-eight! Fix that date in your memory, for on the afternoon of that day, the corner-stone of the new Toronto Bible College was "well and truly laid". And this is the story in brief.

At 2.30, Mr. E. G. Baker, chairman

of the Executive Committee, stepped to the front of the improvised rostrum. He announced the hymn, and the congregation, numbering over five hundred, and led by the students of the College, joined in the singing of "How Firm a Foundation". Then

in the following words Mr. Baker introduced the proceedings of the afternoon:

"We are very glad to have so many of our friends present with us at this ceremony. There are also many others, including a large number of graduates of the College, in various parts of the world, who will be with us in spirit today.

"This is an historic occasion which marks a forward step in the life of the Toronto Bible College. And it is not of our choosing. While we had outgrown the former building, we hesitated to make a move. The expropriation of the College Street property by the University authorities forced us to seek accommodation elsewhere, and we have been wonderfully led by our God and Father. For His gracious leading we offer grateful thanks.

"You will be glad to know that in the matter of finance we are receiving much encouragement. Up to date more than three hundred friends have sent in contributions ranging in amounts from one dollar up to some large amounts. We still require a large sum to provide the total of \$150,000 needed, and we are trusting that many other friends of the College will be constrained to join us in supplying the necessary funds."

Our beloved Principal, Rev John McNicol, read the historical statement, which is published elsewhere in this issue. Then Mr. Albert Maas, chair-

man of the Building Committee, deposited in the corner-stone this statement together with a number of other records, some of which had been found in the corner-stone of the old College building, when it was recently demolished.

It was Dr. R. P. MacKay, chairman of the Board of Governors, who laid the stone, and he had as his only tool a Chinese trowel which had travelled one thousand miles down the Yangtse River in China and thence across the ocean to Canada. This curious and interesting tool had been forwarded by Dr. Vokes, a former member of the College student body. In his address, Dr. MacKay made mention of the growing influence of the Bible College, and of the interesting place of importance it has come to occupy in the spiritual life of this growing Dominion of ours, and explained the real nature of the work it has been trying to accomplish, and with such a large measure of success. The substance of this address will be found on another page.

Dr. Dyson Hague, rector of the Church of the Epiphany, led the assembled throng in a dedicatory prayer and committed to our gracious Lord the work of the College, present and future. After the doxology, Dr. McTavish, who has been a member of the General Council since the beginning of the work, and is now on the teaching staff, brought the service to a close with the benediction.

The Place of the Bible College in the Religious Life of Canada

Address by Rev. Dr. R. P. Mackay at the Laying of the Corner-stone

We read daily about the great development of Canada, and what we read is not exaggerated. It is wonderful in agriculture, in commerce, in mineral wealth, and in other resources. Yet times of national prosperity have their perils. There is danger of that materialistic spirit that

forgets that man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things that he possesses, for what shall it profit if a man gain the whole world and lose his own soul?

If there ever was a time when emphasis should be placed on religion, it is now, and that in every section of

the population, among young and old, foreign and native born. It should find its way into the school, into political and educational life, and into the home and social life.

There is much being done, but not enough. In this city alone there are from forty to fifty organizations at work, trying to instil Christian truth, and each has its own constituency and is making a contribution.

The Bible College

But of all these, the most important is the Bible College, and it has its own constituency. It was founded thirty-four years ago with the special object of training young men and women who wanted better equipment for active Christian work in their own congregations and committees. The first year there were twelve students in attendance. Last session, there were four hundred and ten, of these one hundred and sixty-two were taking a full three-year course, and the remaining two hundred and forty-eight taking night classes.

With growth of numbers came enlargement in other respects. The curriculum was extended so as to include a general Theological Course, and with that came larger ambitions among the students, so that to-day graduates are found in charge of churches, in Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. work, and three hundred have gone into foreign fields, representing twenty-one Foreign Mission Boards.

Characteristics.

If asked what I regard as the spe-

cial outstanding characteristics of the College, I should specify the following three:

1. Emphasis upon as full and accurate a knowledge of the Bible as it is possible to acquire, and with that an honest attempt to discover the mind of the Spirit in the Word, avoiding all extremes and all bitterness, in lowliness and meekness seeking to be taught of God.

2. Cultivation of the prayer life. It is easy to speak of the importance of prayer; it is another thing to pray. In this Bible College there has been constant practice, a daily waiting that the spirit of illumination may rest upon them in all their studies, in the administration of the College, and in conduct throughout life.

3. Systematic training in methods of Christian activity, as, for example, in personal evangelism.

I do not wish to indulge in invidious comparisons. Other institutions are doing their work in their own way. It is not egotism to say, and to thank God in the saying, that the Bible College has made an important contribution to the spiritual life of Canada, and is recognized as one of the most important and successful of all institutions of its kind on this continent.

It is expected that with this better equipment a yet larger work will be done. For some years there was a measure of restraint, for want of room. With the erection of this new building this handicap will now be removed.

News of the U. B. C. Family

A daughter (Joyce Muriel) was born on May 6th to Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Groh (Nora Weber '22) at St. Catharines, where Mr. Weber is now teaching.

A son, Carlton James, was born on August 11th. to Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Lucas (Daisy Kaiser '21) of the Ganado Mission, Arizona.

A daughter, Mary Catherine, was born at Goderich on August 25th to the Rev. and Mrs. Geo. Booth of China.

A daughter (Helen Joyce) was born on Nov. 22nd. to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. McLean at South Mountain, Ont., where Mr. McLean is supplying the Presbyterian Church.

Miss Pearl Peat ('27) was married on September 1st, to Mr. Fred Hartwick, of Kitchener.

Miss Dorothea Y. Luton ('24) was married on September 4th, at Shanghai, to Mr. Russell H. Glazier.

Miss Emila Gertrude Wellington ('27) was married to Mr. Ernest C. Smith on September the 8th, in the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Toronto.

Miss Dorothea N. Jestin was married to Mr. H. Gordon Parsons ('28) on September the 15th, at Toronto.

Miss Jessie Manning and Mr. John Harvey, graduates of the class of '28, were married in the Assembly Hall of the old College building by Principal McNeil on the afternoon of September 25th. Mr. Harvey is Pastor of three churches at Varysburg, N.Y. These three churches are respectively Baptist, Congregational and Presbyterian. Here is an illustration of Christian unity as illustrated in the fellowship and work of the Toronto Bible College.

Miss Edith Mary Gibb ('25), daughter of the Associate Director of the China Inland Mission, was married at Shanghai on October the 3rd to Mr. Edward Alan Sadler.

The marriage of Miss Helen Fletcher Gordon ('18) and Mr. Victor W. Griffin ('28) is announced to take place on December 5th.

The marriage of Miss Enid Newcombe and Mr. Aubrey de Vere Hunt, graduates of the class of '27 and missionaries of the Sudan Interior Mission, is announced to take place in Nigeria on December the 12th.

Miss Barbara Stevenson ('28) has been accepted as a nurse in training at the Wyckoff Heights Hospital, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Miss Helen Anderson ('27) is taking a short medical course at the National Bible Institute, New York.

Rev. Geo. Medley is pastor of the Baptist Church at Jerseyville, Ont.

Mr. Arthur Burke is pastor of a Baptist Church in Chatham.

Miss Marie Barham ('27) and Dr. Warren Knight, formerly of the Evening Classes, have been accepted by the China Inland Mission, and both sailed for China this fall, Dr. Knight on September 27th and Miss Barham on October the 11th.

Miss Ada Herriman and Miss Nettie MacDonald, graduates of the class of '27, and Miss Dorothy Richardson of this year's class, have been accepted by the Sudan Interior Mission and expect to sail very soon for Nigeria.

Miss Hilda Duckworth, R.N. ('23), who has been Assistant Superintendent in Grace Hospital for the past year, sailed for England on November 23rd, having been accepted for foreign service by the Bible Churchman's Missionary Society.

Mrs. Duncan McDonald and her seven children were accompanied on their way back to India by Miss S. B. Elliott, who was going out to be married to Mr. Earl Toombs ('26). The wedding took place at Amkhut, Central India, on Nov. 15th, a few days after their arrival.

Mr. Louis E. Chinal ('06), of the financial firm of Proudfoot, Chinal & Company, New York, visited Toronto last August for the first time since his graduation. He came in order to see the old College building again and revive the memories of the old class room, when Dr. Harris and Dr. Stewart were teaching.

Miss Edith Peake ('28), has been teaching at Frederick House, twenty miles out of Cochrane, in Northern Ontario, where the saw-mill cook house served as a school, and a broken saw, dangling by the doorway, was used as a bell. The school has been closed for lack of funds, but Miss Peake has accepted another northern post of a similar kind at Coppel near Hurst, another mining town.