

**THE BAPTIST BIBLE INSTITUTE
TWENTY YEARS HENCE**

President W. W. Hamilton

It is encouraging and stimulating to recall the progress made by the Baptist Bible Institute since its doors were opened to students on the first day of October, 1918, and then to consider what may come to pass in another twenty years. It is almost impossible for us to realize that there were only six small struggling Baptist congregations in New Orleans in 1918, and that only one of these was self-supporting. We can with difficulty imagine ourselves here without the Baptist Bible Institute, without the Southern Baptist Hospital, without the Rescue Homes for men and women, without Good Will Centers and Missions, and without the great vigorous churches and Sunday schools and organizations for men and women and young people.

Yet, it was only twenty years ago, and after a hundred years of most discouraging work, that our churches had only 1242 members enrolled and when the First Church rejoiced on one Sunday-school rally day over an attendance of eighty-three. Now the average for this one church is more than eight hundred, and it has several paid workers in addition to the pastor. The twenty-seven churches in New Orleans Association reported last fall an enrollment of 8,308 and total gifts of \$122,628.44 with \$26,266.32 of this for missions and benevolences. The same rate of growth would give us about fifty white Baptist churches in 1958 with maybe forty thousand members, and with gifts amounting to hundreds of thousands annually.

1. **Twenty years hence** the Baptist Bible Institute will have no debt. The present obligations are all to be paid before the time set for "A Debtless Denomination in 1945." There will not any longer be "Save Our School" campaigns, nor semi-annual appeals for gifts to meet the interest on bonded indebtedness and second mortgage. We have prayed many, many times for these grinding burdens to be lifted, and yet have tried to say earnestly to our Father that if it be better for us to continue as we are then to give us all needed grace.

2. **Twenty years hence** the Institute ought to own the property surrounding its central square, with an open court on which would face the new one hundred thousand dollar library building and the new apartment buildings for housing single and married students. Across this open court and beyond the dividing street, there

should be another structure facing the present administration building and of the same sturdy Spanish type of architecture. The school will not move out on the edge of the city, but will continue in its very heart and will increasingly be recognized as "the beauty spot of New Orleans" and the friend of sinners and of all who seek to serve the Master.

3. **Twenty years hence** there will be an endowment of five million dollars, from which there will be income sufficient to guarantee our great Seminary and Training Institution against untoward emergencies and to make possible the aid so needed for eager and worthy young men and women called of God to be witnesses here and everywhere. The scholarships thus provided will not be gifts to these students, for they will continue as now to contribute of their time and talent in many ways toward the welfare of their beloved Baptist Bible Institute.

4. **Twenty years hence** the Institute will probably enroll as many students as there were members in our white Baptist churches when the school was founded. The 1242 students signing "The Big Book" in the year 1958 will be in addition to a like number in the Correspondence Department, and also in addition to the 621 who will that year be in attendance upon the summer school and to the 621 who will be taking night classes in order to fit themselves for more effective service in New Orleans churches. Of the 8,888 students enrolled in the history of the school there will be worthy representatives and faithful witnesses in every part of our own land and in every country around the world.

5. **Twenty years hence** it will have become necessary for our school to double its faculty, and the younger men of the present teaching force will be known and honored wherever Baptists are working for their genuine scholarship, for their constructive statesmanship, and for their unflinching loyalty and devotion to Jesus

Christ as Saviour and Lord, to the Bible and to the Bride of Christ, and to the giving of the message of salvation to every creature. The Institute will be increasingly recognized as pivotal in all of the history and work and future of our Baptist cause, and it will be said of this one and that one, "He was trained at the Baptist Bible Institute."

6. **Twenty years hence** the purpose written into the charter of the Baptist Bible Institute will still be placed at the beginning of its catalogue, and will read then as it does now: "This Institution shall center around the study of the Bible as the Word of God, and its purpose shall be to provide religious instruction suited to needs of a constituency varied in its educational equipment; to require courses of religious activity, as well as courses of intellectual development; to secure training for service by training through service; to equip all types of religious leaders for efficient service, whether as pastors, missionaries, evangelists, church and Sunday school workers, gospel singers, women's and young people's leaders, financial secretaries, deacons and pastors' helpers; to endeavor to train its students intelligently to present the doctrines of grace; to seek so to instruct them that they may become efficient workers and directors in modern church activities in city and country, and missionaries at home and abroad; to strive to inspire them with a passion for souls and a willingness to yield themselves in sacrificial service to Jesus Christ as Lord in the evangelization and upbuilding of the world today."

Greetings

To Our Missionaries

from

The Mission Band

HARAHAN BAPTIST CHURCH

New Orleans, Louisiana

"The Friendly Church"

Jesse Dudley Hughs, Pastor

D. B. Powell, S. S. Supt.

A. G. White, B. T. U. Director

Mrs. Ed. Brent, W. M. S. President