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Bible Institute

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BIBLE VISION

October, 1947

Except the Lord conduct the plan,
The best concerted schemes are vain,
And never can succeed.
We spend our wretched strength for nought,
But if our works in Thee be wrought,
They shall be blest indeed.

Lord, if Thou didst thyself inspire
Our souls with this intense desire
Thy goodness to proclaim,—
Thy glory if we now intend,—
O let our deed begin and end
Complete in Jesus' name.

John Wesley

OCTOBER, 1947

VOL. 12

NO. 1

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From The President



S. A. WITMER

Those of us who were privileged to hear the late Rev. J. E. Ramseyer, saintly cofounder and president of our school, will recall his favorite description of the Bible Institute as "a vine of God's own planting."

That figure has a Scriptural precedent. According to Isaiah 5, Israel was a vine upon whom God lavished His tender care. He prepared the soil of Canaan by gathering "out the stones thereof." He fenced it and built a "tower in the midst of it." With infinite pathos God spoke through the prophet: "What could have been done more to my vineyard than I have done in it? By gracious design and loving care, He transplanted Israel from Egypt to Canaan, where the vine was to bring forth the fruits of righteousness, pleasing unto God. Instead, the nation brought forth the wild grapes of greed, pride, sensuality and intemperance from her natural depravity. She forgot her divine origin and mission.

As we think about the origin of our school, we are convinced that it was conceived in the heart of God, established according to His

plan, and committed to the faithful care of chosen servants. It is indeed "a vine of God's own planting." But with the dignity of being related to that which is truly sacred, there also comes a sense of responsibility lest that which is begun in high expectation should end in disappointment. If the vine of God's own planting is to fulfill its purpose, we must keep several things clearly in mind.

First, **the vine belongs to God.** It is His. No man, no organization has a right to claim it as his own. They are only caretakers. Anything that we do for the Institute, either to help it or to hinder it, is done as unto God. Just before school began I heard of a student who gave considerable help to an improvement that needed to be completed, and without asking for employment or wages, he simply worked. I trust that he was prompted by a sincere desire to further the work of the Lord.

Second, **a vine is a living organism, not a dead organization.** There is a vast difference. Here is a factory workman assembling pieces of varied colored paper. I ask him what he is doing, and he replies that he is making flowers. By organizing materials he makes simulated flowers, but the blossoms are dead, artificial things. Over there is a gardener, busily hoeing and fertilizing the soil, pruning plants, and keeping them free from disease. The result of his labor is a fragrant bloom of delicate beauty—the handiwork of God. The one is dead, inert matter organized into the likeness of a flower. The other is a living organism that develops through a life-principle within.

It is possible through modern promotional methods and clever advertising to build up a religious or-

(Continued on page 14)

Missionary



Speaks

GOOD NEWS IN THE NEW INDIA

One of the greatest events in the history of India has just taken place. At midnight, on the 14th of August, the Constituent Assemblies of India and Pakistan met to assume full power as rulers of their country. After the striving of 60 years she has attained her political freedom from Great Britain by a mutual and peaceable agreement. Thus has ended a period of foreign rule covering nearly 200 years. Although a divided country, India is now free and independent.

Those of us who are interested in the increase of the Kingdom of Christ are especially concerned with the way independence will effect missionary work. For some time it was feared that with independent government would come definite curtailment of liberties in Christian work. Some leaders, including Mr. Gandhi, were unhesitant in expressing their views that Christian workers should refrain from preaching among non-Christians, and from any ministry designed to making converts. However, the Interim

Government, ruling the past year, has taken a very fair attitude. And just recently the Constituent Assembly made the following decision which is of a most encouraging character: "Freedom of conscience, freedom of belief, and freedom to propagate one's religion" is guaranteed to all citizens. An amendment, however, has been proposed which if adopted might become a decided deterrent to the progress of Christian work. Of course those opposed to Christian activities will feel less constraint than in the days when a Christian government was in control. The Pakistan areas and Native States governed by Mohammedans will undoubtedly be less accessible. But in some of these areas the church has already taken root and there is bound to be growth and increase. It is likely that for the next few years confusion will abound, and conditions are a challenge to us to pay for the church of Christ in

Mr. J. S. Ringenberg has a clear understanding of the missionary and his work and future in India. This article is backed by 26 years of experience as a missionary to India.

India, and for Assemblies now forming constitutions.

Independence will bring about vastly changed conditions in which the missionary will be working. Perhaps this may be best understood by the explanation given by a Hindu college professor: "Jesus has stood before our doors four times in history. In the early days He stood before the door in company with a trader and knocked. We looked out and said, 'We like you but we do not like your company' and closed the door. The second time He came with a diplomat on one side and a soldier on the other, and knocked. Again we looked out and said, 'We like you but we don't like your company' and closed the door. The third time He came in modern history as the Uplifter of the outcaste. We said, 'We like you better in this role, but we are not sure what is behind it.' Is this the religious side of Imperialism? And again we shut the door. Now He comes disentangled. He comes no longer as the sponsor of white rule but as the Brother and Saviour of Men. To this disentangled Christ we open the door and say, 'Come in.'" It will be no longer the acceptance or rejection of their conquerors' religion but India will be free to choose the disentangled Christ. India will look upon the missionary as one unaccompanied, unguarded, unsupported, by any government. He will no longer retain his position because of having a white face, or because he is of the ruling race. He will be there because he loves India's people and is interested in their welfare. He will commend

himself to the people by his kindness, humility, and willingness to serve. It will be a changed outlook for the servant, and for those served, but a more natural and wholesome one. May it result in a greater ingathering of souls.

In consideration of India's greatest need in this important and crucial time of her history, a veteran missionary says, "The greatest enemy to Indian progress is the Indian who betrays his trust by petty dishonesty, untruthfulness or neglect of duty. The thing upon which the whole future of the race in our generation depends is, not how much does he know but how far can he be trusted." This writer has made a truthful and vital observation. And nothing is so adequate for the building of character as the change of heart and the strength of purpose which Christ gives. But most solemn is the fact that men and women are eternally lost without Jesus Christ. And to the one who believes God's Word, the greatest need of India today is regeneration, and the evangelizing of the 200,000,000 people who are still without the knowledge of the Gospel. After nearly 2,000 years they are still waiting to hear that Christ died for them and rose again for their acceptance with God.

"Can we whose souls are lighed
With wisdom from on high,
Can we to men benighted
The lamp of life deny?
Salvation, O salvation;
The joyful sound proclaim,
Till each remotest nation
Has learned Messiah's Name."

Cover Photo—A quiet summer day at the Fort Wayne Bible Institute. On the right is Bethany Hall. Far building is Founders' Music Hall.

A GOOD DEGREE

By HARVEY L. MITCHELL

The back-slapping, mutual admiration introductions at the summer conference left me slightly groggy. So many "Doctors" were there, I hardly knew whether I was listening to a gospel service or visiting the emergency ward of a hospital. It was "Doctor This" and "Doctor That." Not a "Reverend" was in evidence; not even a "Brother."

It set me to reflecting. Just what is in a degree?

Most of the titles there were honorary. They had been conferred upon favorite sons of this or that college. Now, granting of honorary degrees is a traditional and respectable practice. Of course, it is subject to abuses. When a university drapes a Doctor's hood over a coat that covers a bulging purse, spectators may be excused for lifting a quizzical eyebrow. If a man of wide influence among young people is suddenly given a D.D. by some aspiring school, pure-minded people hope the motive isn't what it appears to be. Usually, however, the generous heart assumes that honorary degrees are deserved.

Less respectable is the practice of selling titles. In one western city nearly a thousand persons per year are given ordination credentials, Doctor's degrees, and even the title of Bishop—for a price. One man, to expose the racket, obtained ordination, a D.D., and a rating as Bishop in exchange for a mere forty dollars. Significantly, patrons of these degree mills include chiefly clairvoyants, palmists, and other fakers who need the titles to bring their

practice within the law. It is hardly conceivable that a genuine Christian would stoop to the buying of a degree for sake of prestige.

Ordinarily, degrees represent attainment of prescribed educational levels. The first is earned by four years of college work. Others are added after varying amounts of graduate study. As granted by schools of moral integrity, they are standard, bona fide recognition of merit. They represent some measure of scholarship in the pursuit of a given course of study. Behind them is real work, under supervision, and accompanied by unmeasured quantities of blood, sweat and tears.

Educational degrees were probably not plentiful in apostolic days. Neither were ecclesiastical titles dealt out wholesale. Yet there was the feeling that a piece of work, well done, earned for the doer a mark of distinction. After probation, a worthy man was ordained as Deacon or Bishop in the church. Then, by the efficient effective use of his office, declares the Apostle Paul in 1 Tim. 3:13, he might "purchase to himself a good degree."

Money played no part in the purchase. A certain Simon had tried that once (Acts 8:18), and had been rewarded by having his name attached to all evil of that sort. We call it simony. Neither the gifts nor the favor of God can be bought with money. It is an insult to Him to even suggest trading wealth for privilege.

Sincere Christians, whether students or workers, will neither seek

nor welcome honors that are hollow. In a sense, we deserve nothing of what we receive from God. On the other hand, He has instituted among His servants a system of reward. Merit is gained by faithfulness to duty. Conscientious service does not escape His eye. Neither does pretense. Knowing this, and recognizing the transparent fairness of the plan, we should never look for short cuts to honors.

There must be an uneasy sense of guilt attached to the display of titles and degrees that are not deserved. It seems that a D.D. of that sort would always cry out "Deliberate Deceiver." Uneasy lies the head that wears a bogus degree.

But there is great satisfaction in knowing that, whatever honors may be conferred upon us, we have fulfilled God's purpose, we have "finished the course." Altogether apart from letters and titles, the faithful doing of one's duty brings its own reward. To master a subject, to perform an assigned task, to stay by when others fall away, to fulfill a calling—this, in Christian service, is to purchase indeed a good degree.

A minister was praying just before Woodrow Wilson was to speak. The secretary stepped up and whispered in his ear, "Make it short. We have a lot to do." The President whispered in his other ear, "Pray on. What you have to say is more important than what I have to say."

Wanted — Christian piano instructor.

There is an opening for a Christian piano instructor in a city of 50,000 population in western Ohio. Also opportunity for using musical ability in a church. Make contact by writing to Bible Vision.

Mother Lugibihl

Back in 1904 when the school bell rang the first time, Mrs. B. P. Lugibihl was down in the dining room putting on the finishing touches for the first dinner. Her husband, one of the founders of the Bible Institute, was busy upstairs in the office. That first day in the dining room started 35 years of service at



the Institute. Her first job was to supervise the kitchen and dining room. Later she became Matron.

It wasn't long before she became known as "Mother" to all of the students. She seemed to have a wealth of information on people and how they lived. Many spiritual victories came from the little talks with "Mother."

Her work is done now. On September 4 the rustle of angel's wings was heard and she slipped away to her reward.



Every year at the Institute there are students who have pastorates. Some have churches near the school, others have a church so far that they cannot go back and forth every day. Usually these men are in their senior year. Howard Dunlap is a typical student-pastor. Upper photo, Howard stands in front of his church in Craigville, Ind. He drives 25 miles to school every day. The study, lower, is in the parsonage. It is convenient, but also has its disadvantages. Judy Kay knows that she shouldn't bother her Daddy when he is studying, but it still happens every once in awhile.

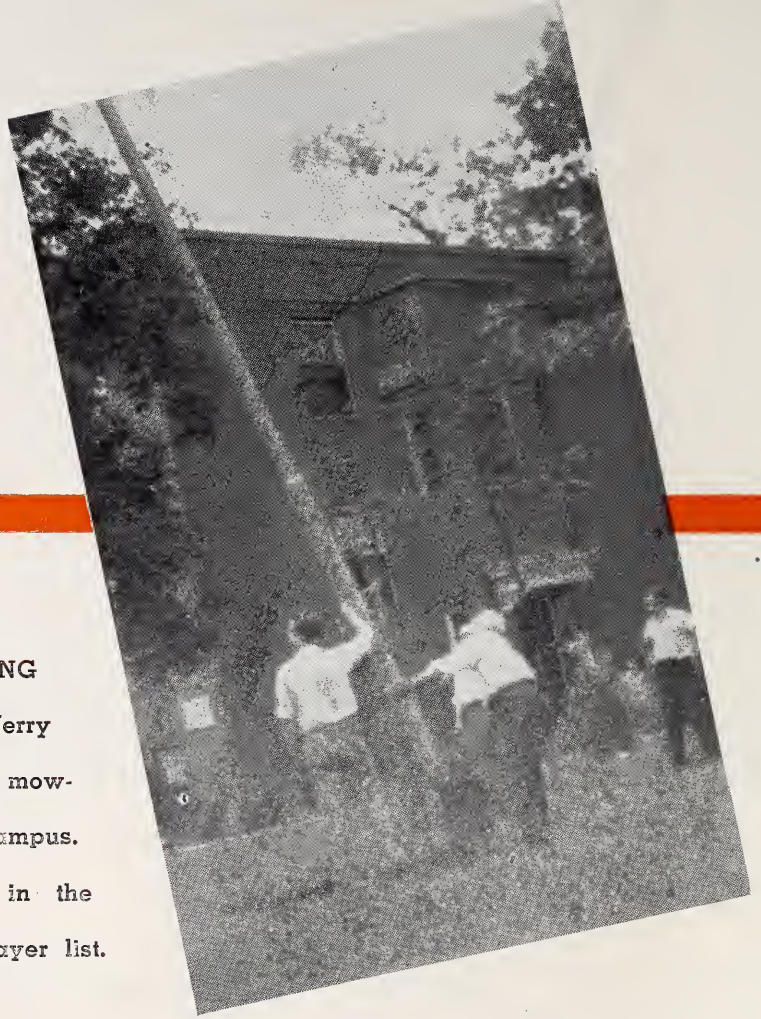




Part of pastoral work includes calling on members of the congregation and making new friends of the church. Howard's favorite sport is hunting. Not much time for it, but just in case he finds time the gun will be in good condition. One of the twins—the Dunlaps have 3 children—sits on Howard's left at the table. They have just finished eating; it's time for devotions. Yes, the children are young, but if they start young they will not depart from it when they are grown.



● OLD GLORY waves from the campus. During the summer the flag pole was erected. Presented by Senior Class.



● GROWING PAINS, Harlan Wright gives Jerry Schoeph, on tractor, a hand at mowing the newly acquired south campus. This is another step forward in the Lord's work. Put it on your prayer list.





A new classroom was finished in Founders' Memorial in time for the opening of school this fall. Harlan Wright, Francis DeCaussin and Gerald Gerig are getting ready to put up the blackboards.



Time out. It's not all work around the Bible Institute. The tennis champs are, L to R: Leon Gerig, Bob Quay, Gerald Gerig and LeRoy Caddy.

Fellowship Circle

Junior Alumni

Clyde (Robert) Collins ('40-41) and Julienne Johnson Collins (student in '42), have announced the birth of Steven Anthony on January 14 in Quayaramerin, Bolivia. They are serving as missionaries there.

Mr. and Mrs. Clinton E. Leightner have received into their home a little daughter, Ann Marie, who was born May 4. The mother was formerly Genevieve Dilgart '39. They are making their home in Houston, Texas.

Mrs. Victor Reichow (student '45-46) writes that they have a fine baby boy, Carl Louis, born June 11. Mr. Reichow was a student '45-47.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert McFarland are the parents of a baby boy, Robert Gordon, on July 31. Mrs. McFarland will be remembered as Esther Gabrielson, '44-45.

Ruth Ann was born August 17 to Rev. ('46) and Mrs. James Geahlen (nee Mary Cable '43-45). The Geahlens are pastoring a church in Hollidaysburg, Pa.

Mr. ('44-47) and Mrs. Dean Freed (nee Waneta Bolten '44-46) proudly announce the arrival of their baby, Stanley Dean, born August 29, weight 7 lb., 15 oz.

* * *

Weddings

On June 19 Doris Goehring ('45) and Rev. Elmer Marquardt were united in marriage in the bride's home church at Evans City, Pennsylvania. Previous to their marriage they were engaged in

home missionary work with the Rural Home Missionary Association. They are now pastoring the flock at the Parker Memorial Baptist Church in Lansing, Michigan.

In the Mount Olive Missionary Church, Peoria, Illinois, on August 24 Colleen Krahl became Mrs. Robert Smith of Peoria, with Rev. Daniel Demmin, ('42) officiating. Both Mr. and Mrs. Smith are enrolled in school this year.

At 12:00 High Noon on September 3, "Los Cerros" Province of Manabi, Esmeraldas, Ecuador, So. America, Rev. Charles V. Glenn ('42) and Miss LaVerne Terrell were united in marriage. They are carrying on their missionary work very faithfully in Esmeraldas.

Lydia Fiedler, '40, and Earl Fuller were married in the bride's home on September 5th. Mr. and Mrs. Fuller are from Newton, Kansas and are making their home there.

* * *

Called Above

Dr. Henry C. Thiessen, graduate of the first class, '09, and also Principal of the Bible Institute for several years, died recently in Los Angeles. He was president and dean of the Los Angeles Baptist Theological Seminary at the time of his death. Formerly professor of Bible and chairman of the Graduate Division of Wheaton College, Dr. Thiessen went to California in 1946 for his health.

* * *

Pastoral Changes

Rev. Wm. Uphold, Jr., '36, made his departure from Phoenix to join the faculty of the Pacific Bible College at Azusa, California. Filling this vacancy is the Reverend Tillman Habegger, '29, from the First Missionary Church in Cleveland, O.

The Humboldt Park Gospel Tabernacle, Chicago, loses its pastor, Rev. Robert Strubhar, '36, who,

along with his wife and brother-in-law, Robert Magary, '47, is entering the evangelistic ministry. His successor, Rev. George Hewitt, has been active in evangelistic work.

Coming from Ontario, California are Rev., '40, and Mrs. Herald Welty, to take the pastorate of the church in Decatur, Indiana, where Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Steiner, '45, have been laboring. The Steiners are now in Midland, Michigan. The former pastor at Midland was Rev. Vincent Rupp, '37, who is located at Princeton, Illinois at the present.

Other ministers have accepted the following charges: Rev. Wm. Whiteman, '43, Cleveland, Ohio; Rev. Robert Harle, '43, Fleetwood, Pennsylvania; Mr. and Mrs. Lyndell Cash, '46, Macungie, Pennsylvania; and Rev. Roy Whittum, '41, Fowler, Kansas.

Rev. and Mrs. Harold Spencer are pastoring the Church of the Nazarene in Angola, Indiana, after labouring in Redkey, Indiana for two years. Rev. Spencer attended "B. I." in '29-30, and Mrs. Spencer will be remembered as Erma Garmon, '29.

* * *

Student Pastors

Wayne Caulkins, Olive Branch Christian Union Church, West Unity, Ohio.

Howard Dunlap, Mount Union Christian Union Church, Edon, Ohio, and Bethlehem Williams County Christian Union Church, Edon.

Clifford Habegger, Royerton Evangelical United Brethren Church, Muncie, Indiana. Rev. Habegger pastored this church for 3½ years prior to coming to the Bible Institute.

Morris Jackson, Jr., Shiloh Christian Union Church, Delta, Ohio.

Elvin Jones, Stroh Church of Christ, Stroh, Indiana.

Harry McElhone, Christian Union Church, Craigville, Indiana.

Rev. Lloyd Null, Antioch, M. B. C. Church, Decatur, Indiana.

Russell B. Persons, Monroe Friends Church, Monroe, Indiana.

Paul N. Rager, Gospel Tabernacle, Hicksville, Ohio.

Donald Rohrs, Hollywood Missionary Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Wm. K. McIver, Jr., Cedarville Community Church, Grabill, Ind.

* * *

Flying

Rev. and Mrs. Wayne Brenneman, '45, along with Miss Betty Best, '45, flew from New York on September 16th for Nigeria, West Africa. We trust the Lord to give them many precious souls.

* * *

Missions

Rev., '17, and Mrs. Tilman Amstutz and son, Kenneth, sailed for India, September 18. Their other four children are making their home in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

An interesting letter from a former instructor is as follows:

Dear Praying Friends,

Your Gabon missionaries have not been neglecting writing because they have nothing to report. We permit our days to be filled with work and often leave little time for writing. These few paragraphs may possibly give you a glimpse into our evangelistic work.

It was still dark Saturday morning at 4:40; our baggage was sent ahead and left waiting at the river near Bongolo. Brother Waldo Schindler and I met the carriers there and after boating to the other side, enjoyed a brisk walk with them in the cool morning hours as the rising sun splashed color over the sky and lighted up the deep green of the tropical landscape. We were off on a two-day evangelistic trip into an area where missionaries

had not been for several years. As we turned onto a less frequented route, we got into our special chairs and were carried swiftly along the winding jungle paths. The squatty villages lay far apart in little cleared areas under the bleaching sun. Black forms would continue to emerge from mud and bark huts until we had nearly everyone in the village attentively listening. As Brother Schindler gave forth the Gospel fluently in their own language, they were greatly impressed and many gladly accepted.

In one village our service was disturbed by a man who kept jabbering away in opposition to us. Timothy, our very faithful native evangelist, analyzed the spiritual situation more quickly than we and rebuked the evil spirit in the name of Christ, and the man was quiet and calm throughout the balance of the service. As we approached one large village, we heard the chilling cries of pagans wailing over the dead. We stopped and told them the story of hope and life through Christ, which seemed all new to them. The people were so interested that they were not willing that we should go until we promised that we would soon be back again. (The writer had the opportunity of returning three weeks later when nearly the whole village accepted Christ.)

The hardships of the jungles are soon forgotten when one sees the Gospel bringing forth fruit before his own eyes. Brethren, pray for us and the many in this dark land who need Christ.

In His service,

Floyd A. Shank,
Gabon, French Eq. Africa.
(Missionary Worker)

* * *

School Activities

On September 11, the Bible Institute students gathered together in Foster Park for a picnic, merely for

students to get acquainted with each other. The weather was fine, and we had a wonderful day physically and spiritually. After the playing of games, a wiener roast was enjoyed by all. Dean Gerig led the devotional period, consisting of songs, testimonies and prayer.

FROM THE PRESIDENT


(Continued from page 3)

ganization, but that is exactly what it is—a monument to fleshly effort, devoid of life. All of us—faculty and students—want our school to remain a vine, a living organism with the life and presence of God animating it from within. We want its development to be a growth, not an accretion.

Third, a vine is meant to glorify God. It is the fruit that determines whether an institution is glorifying God or man. If carnal ambition and pride are the driving forces, wild grapes of carnality will be the result. If the vine is watered by the dew of heaven and continually enriched by grace, it will bring forth the fruit of praise, worship, and righteousness unto God.

I do not know how God can be glorified amidst the bombastic claims that some religious leaders make for their organizations. It is in the sounding brass of vain egotism. It is not the utterance of a spirit humbled and awed by the gracious presence of God.

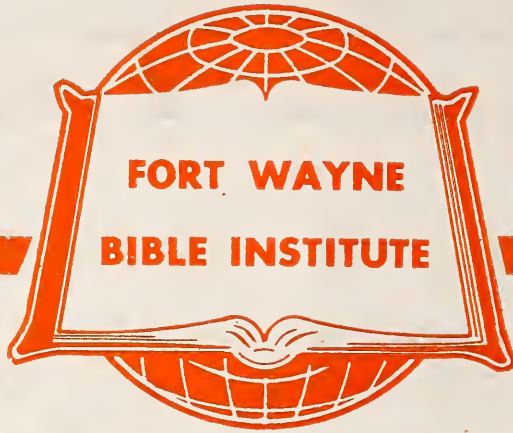
If God is to be glorified in our school, there should arise from this campus the incense of praiseful worship. There should be an enriching fellowship of kindred minds. No place should be given to carnal dissension, vulgarity and unkind criticism. May faculty and students ever walk humbly before God in obedience to the Spirit so that the Institute shall always remain "a vine of God's own planting."



The plagues of uncertainty and unrest are upon the world. Science is developing new and greater weapons of war. Men cry peace . . . and there is no peace. That places schools like Fort Wayne Bible Institute in an important position. The world must have more and more trained Christian leaders . . . men and women who have dedicated their lives to Christ and are prepared to minister under any condition.

Fort Wayne has one of the finest plants among Bible Institutes. It is a vine of God's own planting. And it is healthy and growing. Students go from the school to every field of Christian service—but there are needs that cannot wait. The larger task that lies before us demands that we have increased facilities.

This is the first step in getting the gospel to the world. You can help us. Pray for the Bible Institute of today—and the Bible Institute of tomorrow.



IT TAKES THE CALL OF GOD for one to go into full time Christian service. Your training and preparation are very important. Schools such as Fort Wayne Bible Institute have the facilities for your complete training.

Fort Wayne Bible Institute is an interdenominational school staffed by competent Christian leaders who have been called by God to this work.

Their combined knowledge and ability offer you reliable instruction in all lines of Christian service.

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No obligation, of course.

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