

THE RECORDER - 1921-1930

## Toronto Bible College

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CANADA

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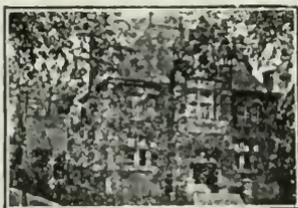
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# Toronto Bible College



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## Recorder

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### In Transit

A transition period is a time of testing. The present session is a transition period for the Bible College. The work is in process of being carried over from the old building on College Street which we occupied so long, and which we gave over to the University last fall, to a new building which is being prepared for us but will not be ready for occupation until next fall. We hardly expected to pass through this period of transition with unimpaired efficiency in the ministry of the College or undiminished attendance on the part of students. And yet this has been our experience, and we record the fact with grateful thanks to Him whose guiding hand is upon us.

Our friends will be glad to know that the registration of students in the Regular Course is ten in excess of the total registration last year, while the Evening Class enrolment is equal to that of last year. The comfortable and commodious rooms in Knox Church placed at the disposal of the Day Classes by this generous congregation have enabled the staff to carry on all the regular curriculum, and have provided the students with

the necessary opportunities and privileges of their own self-government. Thus the Bible College spirit and fellowship are being preserved in the same old way. The Sunday School room in Zion Chapel which had been placed at our disposal by the friends there for our overflow work several years ago is now crowded by devoted young people who come from all parts of the city for our Evening Class programme.

The administration offices and the headquarters of the College for the time being are splendidly located in the beautiful old Wanless House at the head of Spadina Avenue. From this commanding centre we look out upon the whole Bible College field and its ministry. A mile away to the south-east is Zion Chapel where the Evening class work goes on close by the old site. Two blocks to the south is Knox Church with the daily programme of regular lectures. And about one hundred yards to the north up Spadina Road we can see through the trees the front walls of the new building, where all the work will be gathered in again when the days of transition and pilgrimage are ended.

## The Living Christ

An Address delivered by John Harney at the Graduation Exercises last April

The fact that Jesus Christ is a living Saviour and Lord rests upon His resurrection. No event in human history is supported by more conclusive evidence. But this event was only a step to His ascension into the unseen world.

Jesus Christ has ascended to the position of glory which He had with the Father before the world was. Having spent forty days on earth after His resurrection, He took His disciples to Mount Olivet where He was parted from them and received into the unseen world. He ascended to His rightful place of glory and majesty at the Father's right hand. He is exalted "far above all principality and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named." Jesus Christ has been exalted to the place of pre-eminence in the heavenly realm. All power has been given unto Him in heaven and in earth. He is clothed in glory and honour, made better than the angels, given the name which is above every name, and all things have been put in subjection under His feet.

"Thus throned in light the Son of God ascends,  
Crowned on His chariot throne as King of kings,  
With hosts that form a countless multitude."

If the veil could be torn aside we would see the reality of the living Christ in all His heavenly glory and majesty even as Stephen did.

The Holy Spirit bears witness of the living Christ to believers, giving them an assurance of His resurrection and of His present existence in the unseen world. Without this it is impossible to know the reality of the living Christ. We do not know that

Jesus Christ is living by merely reading about Him or by hearing others relate their experience of Him in their lives. We may be convinced that He was raised from the dead by the many evidences which prove this to be a fact and yet not know the reality of the living Christ. The Holy Spirit partakes of the things of Christ and shows them unto us. "He shall glorify me," said Jesus, "for He shall receive of mine and shall show it unto you." The Holy Spirit makes Jesus Christ a bright living reality to us. The same Spirit who made Jesus Christ real in the lives of the apostles and of all saints is still waiting to make His presence real in our lives. A profound conception of the reality of Jesus Christ was not confined to Paul or any of the saints, but is an actual possibility for all of us. It is God's will and purpose to reveal Jesus Christ to every honest seeker.

The living Christ is the power and life of the Church. He is the Head of the great invisible Church which is not constituted of any one denomination, but of all who have real faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This Church has a vital union with the Living Christ. When this is lost by an individual church, it becomes powerless and fails to carry out its true mission in the world. The Church is the body of Christ and through it He wishes to show to the world His power and glory. It is the only means by which God can make known to the nations His mighty saving and keeping power.

We know the function of a head. It is the controlling centre of the body. From it issue the commands to the various members of the body. As Head of the Church the living Christ exerts a direct influence and power

over it. The Head is indissolubly united with the body. Every injury to the body affects the Head. What a glorious privilege we have of being members of the body of Christ! His purpose for the Church is that it should go forth in His power conquering every foe. His promise to those who obey His command in taking the Gospel message to the world is, "Lo, I am with you alway even unto the end of the world." What more could the Church desire than this promise that He who has all power will grant His continual presence in His body?

"All the words He ever spoke,

Still to us He speaketh,  
All the bread He ever broke,

Still for us He breaketh;  
Still the faithful Shepherd feeds;  
Jesus lives, and Jesus leads."

The living Christ is the power by which the believer is enabled to live the Christian life. We are told that

men need more knowledge of what is right. But the fact is men do not live up to the light that they have. Man lacks the power in himself to live up to the best he knows. Heathen religions may have high ethical standards but they do not furnish the individual with any power to maintain those standards. Jesus Christ did not stop at telling men what to do; He also gives them the power to do the right. Before Jesus was crucified He told His disciples that He would not leave them comfortless, but that He would come to them again and make His abode in them. This promise was fulfilled at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended. Jesus Christ is now present with us in a more real sense than He was with His disciples. There is also greater reason for us to be faithful to Him because we have His abiding presence. He wishes to live in His fullness in the life of every one of us.

## The Student Activities

Despite the handicap of being in temporary quarters there has been no slackening of interest in the College activities. The students are finding ways of expressing the Bible College life and ministry in all its old forms.

The fall devotional meeting of the student body, Day and Evening students together, was held in Zion Chapel at the end of October. Dr. McTavish gave a searching and impressive message on John 12:24.

The fall social was held in the Sunday School room of St. James' Square United Church, which had been placed at the disposal of the students through the kindness of the minister and officers of the church. The spacious hall was filled, and the main feature of the evening was an entertaining and helpful address by Mr. Thos. McGillicuddy on "The Grace of Thankfulness."

On the evening of February 18th the students of the College were the guests of the Young People's Society of Knox Church. The programme was presided over by Rev. A. R. Gibson, and consisted chiefly of vocal and instrumental music provided by the students and brief addresses by Dr. Inkster and Principal McNicol. A very happy evening was spent together closing with "God be with you till we meet again."

The morning prayer meetings at 8.15 have been held daily from the first day the classes moved into Knox Church, and there has been no appreciable decrease in the attendance. The members of the graduating class are now giving their testimonies at these meetings. Every Wednesday morning some six or seven of the young men come at 7 o'clock, and meet in one of the smaller rooms to

devote an hour to special prayer; and every Friday morning at the same hour some fifteen or sixteen of the young women will be found gathered for the same purpose.

The Missionary Society is going on with its usual meetings on Wednesday afternoon and its mission study classes on Thursday afternoon. The College Volunteer Band is co-operating with the Student Volunteer Union of the city.

The Evangelistic Society is carrying on all its departments. Sunday evening Gospel services have been conducted in a few of the missions, in a number of Baptist churches and in some United churches. Several students are carrying on regular services both in and out of the city every Sunday. As this goes to press two of the students are engaged in conducting revival services in one of the city churches at the request of the pastor.

The students give regular service in Yonge Street Mission every week, conducting the Thursday evening meeting and assisting at the free lunches for the unemployed on Tuesdays and Fridays. The singing of the Evangelistic Choir at the Friday lunches is specially appreciated.

The noon hour factory meetings are being continued at Willard's and Christie's, as well as the early morning meetings at Greey's Foundry. Evidence of increased interest is shown in requests that have been made at some of these meetings. The blessing that followed the hospital work last year is being maintained. Two mixed quartettes visit the wards of the General Hospital every Sunday morning, and several conversions have resulted from their singing and their work. Visits by individual students are made week by week both in the General and in the Western Hospital. Other hospitals are occasionally visited, including the Sanitarium at Weston.

The Saturday evening prayer meeting presented a problem on account of the difficulty of securing a central and suitable place for it. The Mission Union Hall on Laplante Avenue has been kindly opened on that evening for the convenience of the students and they have been meeting there. The attendance has not been as large as in the old College building on Saturday nights, but the spirit and blessing have been the same.

### **The Alumni and the New Building**

We have always felt that the graduates and former students of T. B. C. were a great host, true to the ideals to which the College bears witness. We have never at any time doubted that, and yet we have oftentimes wondered why this body of people were not more visibly interested in the work of propagating the Word of God through the College ministry. There is a New Testament word about a certain people who "lacked opportunity". Well! the T.B.C. family lacked an opportunity to manifest its interest until, in the providence of God, the

College was compelled to move. And then, when the appeal went forth, we recognized, by the immediate response, that there was a great company of people who had this work on their hearts.

The Alumni objective of \$10,000 was just one-tenth of the total objective set for the new building. At the moment of writing about \$6,000 in cash and pledges has been sent in, but we have only heard from a fragment of our constituency. There are great numbers of our T. B. C. family who must be able to come to the help of

the Lord in this matter. Why delay? We would be extremely glad to be able to report at the Graduation Exercises on the last Friday in April that the Alumni objective had been oversubscribed. What a testimony this would be to the value of the work which the College has been doing during the years.

Many gifts received have been marked by real sacrifice. Many of these are for considerable amounts. To these we must add a great number of lesser gifts, given, too, in the spirit of self-denial. While we desire every graduate and former student to give to the utmost of his or her ability, we would far rather have it said that every member of this company made some contribution to our new College home. A letter came to the desk the other day in which was enclosed the sum of two dollars from one who has been sick many months. What shall we say of such giving? It exhales the spirit of the cross. This is an example of the sacrifice some are making so that they may have a share in the work of the College, so that when their eyes at last rest upon the new College building, they will be able to say, "This is our home."

The College family will be interested to know that the building is well on its way to completion, so far as its external form is concerned. The assembly hall is roofed over, and if the windows were in place and the boiler lit, we might almost hold lectures there now. The centre section is being roofed in as we write, and the front portion is almost complete in its brick-work. It has been our privilege to sit in the assembly hall and look toward the front, toward the platform from which our Principal and those associated with him will lecture dur-

ing the coming year, God willing. We have climbed the improvised stairs and viewed the assembly hall from the gallery. We can say nothing finer of it than that, in our estimation, it is a model of what a College lecture hall should be. Light streams in from large windows on the north and on the south, and "the light from the East" will be supplied by those who stand on the platform to bring the knowledge of our Lord to the students of to-morrow whose privilege it will be to sit in the halls.

We have meandered through the library and the reading room, the prayer room and the offices. We have even stood before the open fire-place in the apartments of the Principal, and as we stood, the fire of to-morrow burning in our imagination of today, we saw beautiful, commodious, yet compact rooms to meet every requirement of an expanding and growing institution.

To all of our graduates and former students we wish to express our sincere thanks for your backing in prayer; for your abounding interest; for your gifts, already given and yet to be given. It is you who have made this building a necessity, and you have in measure, at least, made it a possibility as well.

Those who seek to carry the spirit which dominated and directed the entire life of the College of yesterday over into the life of the College of to-morrow depend much upon your ministry. Your presence surrounds them continually, and as they step into an enlarged realm of opportunity, they do so in the assurance that our God and Father who has led us all in the past will lead us on still.

D. A. B.

## B. C. Sircar, M.A.

The letter sent out by the Board last fall to the members of the T.B.C. family telling of the plan for the new building brought one reply from India conveying sad news. It came from Mrs. B. C. Sircar and informed us that her husband had passed away on October 24th. He had been suffering from pernicious anemia for nearly eight months. The sympathy of the Bible College family will go out to the widow in her great loss. Mr. Sircar was one of our most widely known and honored graduates. In the course of her letter Mrs. Sircar writes: "He had a great love and respect for your College which he always gratefully expressed before others."

Since this news came we have received a copy of the December number of "The Young Men of India, Burma and Ceylon", which contains an account of Mr. Sircar's life and work written by one of his colleagues in the Y.M.C.A., and from this we gather the following facts:

Bepin Chandra Sircar was led to give himself to Christ in 1897 while he was a student in Calcutta University, through the influence of Campbell White of the Y.M.C.A.

From the year 1898 to 1901 he was connected with the Rangoon Y.M.C.A. In 1902 he came to Canada and studied for two years in the Toronto Bible College. He was ordained in the Baptist Church here and intended to enter the service of the Baptist Mission in Rangoon. On his return to India, however, he was appointed as one of the Secretaries in the branch of the Y.M.C.A. in Calcutta especially connected with the University.

In 1910 he was appointed as a special Secretary of the Religious Work Department of the National Council of the Y.M.C.A., and in that capacity he visited many Associations and Churches all over India and became a well-known figure in the Christian communities of the different provinces.

In the year 1919 he came to America again at the invitation of the International Committee of the Y.M.C.A. and visited the Associations throughout Canada and the United States. The students of that year will remember his address when he spoke one day at our Tuesday morning service, and the testimony he bore as to what his course in the Bible College had meant to him in his work in India.

## Mr. Sircar and the Bible College

When Mr. Sircar was returning to India from his last visit to America nine years ago, he wrote a letter to Principal McNeil from Honolulu in which he expressed his mind on the need of Bible students in the foreign field and the work of the Bible College in the preparation of missionaries. We give the following paragraphs from the letter:

"I am on my way home again and have been constantly thinking of you and the Training College. I met a few students of the College in different parts of the United States. They all look back to the days of the Col-

lege with a great deal of warm affection and gratitude. When I personally think of my own indebtedness to you and the College, I fail to express it in any language of my own. I wish to write to you today about the place of the Toronto Bible College in preparing workers for the foreign mission field, particularly in India.

The interpretation of the Scripture by Scripture, which is the genius of the instruction in your College, is being demanded in foreign lands. The non-Christians believe in the inspiration of the Scriptures, and respect and revere those who have a thor-

ough knowledge of them, and who, instead of explaining away the truths of the Scripture by subtle philosophy, interpret them by following up the whole Scripture teaching on any phase of truth.

This does not only keep the followers of Christianity in the straight way, but becomes a mighty instrument in their hands to bring many souls into the knowledge of salvation through Jesus Christ. In my work for the last twenty years as Traveling Evangelist of the Y.M.C.A., I have invariably found that where arguments failed to convince a man, a Bible reading on a particular topic, such as we used to have in your College, would at once arrest the attention of a Hindu, and set him thinking, and ultimately in many cases, bring him into the joy of salvation.

I sincerely wish the people of Canada would realize the benefits of the instruction in the Bible College as we people in India do in these days of doubt, unbelief and strange doctrines. The people in the East have lost faith in the organized Christianity of the West, but there has been no time when they have shown so much interest in Bible study as now, in order to make a fresh investigation of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. All other powers may fail, but the power of the Word of God is bound to prevail.

The greatest need in the foreign fields today is an increasing number of Bible students, and to furnish such the Toronto Bible College is to my mind, one of the most powerful factors for the extension of the Kingdom of God throughout the world."

### News of the T.B.C. Family.

A daughter (Joyce Louise) was born to Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Gibson ('24), at Toronto, on December 21st.

A daughter (Betty Ruth) was born on December 25th at Toronto to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Daney (Amy Marwood).

A son (Robert Alfred) was born at Toronto on January the 10th to Mr. and Mrs. James Rennieks (Bessie Ridgley).

A daughter was born at Toronto on January 24th to Dr. and Mrs. Isaac Erb.

A son (Robert Metford) was born to Rev. and Mrs. Alfred Fieldus at Little Falls, Minnesota, on January 24th.

Miss Gertrude Wellington ('27) was recently married to Rev. E. Smith, pastor of the Baptist Church at Brighton, Ontario.

Miss Lillian A. Hyndman ('26) was married to Mr. Cyril J. Forth ('27) on February 14th at Minna, Nigeria.

Miss Mukanik ('27) has been work-

ing in Saskatoon since May among the Ukrainians, in association with Miss Garbutt ('09).

Mr. W. R. T. Romain ('22) has been in Winnipeg since last September.

Miss Constance Knight ('28) has been appointed Secretary of the Pembroke Street branch of the Young Women's Christian Association, Toronto.

We deeply regret to announce the death of Mrs. Swamy, who, as Esther Peters, attended the classes of the College a few years ago. She passed away at Rangoon on January the 6th, leaving a little baby girl.

Rev. and Mrs. Lesslie Garrett (Mary Gomme '24) with their three children are planning to return to their work among the Indians at Trout Lake in the Hudson Bay region by seaplane early in the summer.

Miss Nellie Simpson ('22) has been appointed to a position in the office of the Inspector of Hospitals, in the Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

Miss Nettie MacDonald ('27) and Miss Ada Herriman ('27) sailed from New York for Africa on December 29th under the Sudan Interior Mission.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Bell and Mr. and Mrs. John Bell left Toronto with their families on February 4th for their long journey back to Kansu, West China, under the China Inland Mission.

Miss Dorothy Palmer has begun a course of training as a nurse in the Isolation Hospital, Toronto.

Mr. Leslie Rumball ('26) has left Woodbridge and is now pastor of the Oakwood Baptist Church, Toronto.

Mr. F. E. Manketelov, a former student of the evening classes, who was in charge of the summer prayer meetings in 1927, has been appointed supply pastor in the First Baptist Church, Kirkland Lake, Ont.

Rev. John Slimon, formerly of the evening classes, has resigned the pastorate of Adelaide St. Baptist Church, London, to accept the pastorate of Broadway Baptist Church, Winnipeg.

Miss Jennie Scott ('15) who for some years has been contributing to "The Globe" over the name of "Cheerful Jane" has been appointed

Editor of the Young Canada page in that paper.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Moore have accepted an appointment to a field in Northern Ontario under the Baptist Mission Board.

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Griffin are studying French in the Province of Quebec in preparation for their mission work in French Equatorial Africa.

Miss Hilda Duckworth ('23) who left Toronto last fall for England, sailed from there early in the year for her field of service under the Bible Churchmen's Missionary Society. Writing from shipboard in the Mediterranean she says: "As we follow the coast line of North Africa I am reminded of those happy days at T.B.C. when, with Mr. Hanna, we talked of the North African Church. Our ship is bound for Bombay. Port Said is the first port of call. From Bombay I take a ship going north to Karachi, thence by rail to Quetta and on to Duzdab which is to be my station. It is situated in S. E. Persia, thirty-six miles from the Afghanistan border." Miss Duckworth is the first T.B.C. graduate to enter the Persian mission field.

### Alumni Conference Notice

The Alumni conference which convenes each year in conjunction with the closing exercises of the College is being postponed this year until the fall and will be held in connection with the opening exercises of our new College home. Our friends will readily understand that the old building itself, with all its hallowed associations, was a strong factor in attracting many former students each year. Being in temporary quarters, we have felt obliged to alter our plans. The annual afternoon conference will be

held in the fall, but the Thursday evening meeting for student reports, when the members of the graduating classes of the year are welcomed, and when they listen to the address of the Alumni president, will be held as usual, convening in Knox Church, Spadina Avenue, on Thursday evening, April 25th, at 8 p.m. Definite information regarding the conference in September will be given in the next Recorder.

GEORGE BOOTH, *President.*  
D. A. BURNS, *Secretary.*







