



## BIBLE SCHOOLS

### *Raison D'Être*

In the interests of God's Kingdom, it is imperative that we make an intelligent appraisal of the ways and means by which the Kingdom advances. Ends are not realized apart from means. Effects do not occur without causes. Things do not just happen. Consequently, we must concern ourselves with those means which contribute to the fulfilment of our task. For one thing, we must see the relationship of the Bible school to the missionary cause. Too often we have thought of them as separate entities and interests—even in competition with each other.

In his book "Education With Dimension" the late Dr. S. A. Witmer makes clear the relationship between the Bible school and the missionary cause. Referring to the Great Commission, he says: "This parting command of the risen Lord is the *raison d'être* (reason of being) for Bible institutes and colleges. It is the base of reference for the direction, the purpose, and the subject matter of Bible college education. The founders and their successors were dominated by the conviction that the church is under a compelling obligation to make the gospel of salvation known to all mankind."

In fulfilment of this high calling: "Bible institutes and colleges have made their most significant contribution to evangelicalism in the preparation of Protestant missionaries. It is conservatively estimated that half or more of the 27,000 active Protestant missionaries from North America received their preparation, or a part of it, in a Bible school." (Dr. Witmer)

A great missionary challenge faces today's Bible schools. The Congress on World Missions held in Chicago in the latter part of 1960 called for "a total mobilization of evangelical forces in order to evangelize the world during the immediate generation." The combined need of eighty-seven evangelical mission societies was estimated to be 18,347 new missionary personnel.

Dr. Witmer comments in this connection: "Bible institutes and colleges 'have come to the kingdom for such a time as this.'"

Bible schools and missions must go forward together.

—Rev. C. E. Stairs

## FIRST MISSIONARY PILOT



Lic. Wayne Briggs

Pictured above is Lic. Wayne Briggs of Plaster Rock, N. B. Wayne completed the three-year Bible course at Bethany last June, and in September entered Moody Bible Institute to take the course in missionary aviation. Lord willing, Wayne will be our first missionary pilot.

The King's Highway

## Why I Am At Bethany

by Howard Cogswell



God called me to come to Bethany. He called me, not with an audible voice, but with the (I believe) Spirit-inspired, growing realization that Bethany is the only reasonable place for me to serve Him at the present time. This call has become gradually clearer over a period of years.

The Lord did not allow me the luxury of having very far-reaching goals while I was in college. For some reason, He did not allow me the privilege of planning my future. I was graduated in 1958 with no plans for the future, reluctantly relying upon God's leading, one step at a time. My first interest in teaching at Bethany was aroused unexpectedly and at a rather low level. At Fort Lee, Virginia, in January 1959, a Christian Army friend was describing to me the kind of life he expected to lead after he got out of the Army. I suddenly realized, on a strictly human and personal level, that I would always be a villager at heart and would be happiest living among the people I knew in Maine and the Maritimes. At the same moment, something within me made a specific application of that realization by asking, "Well, why not teach at Bethany?" I had never before considered that possibility even for a moment but afterward it was always there whenever I thought or prayed about the future.

I believe I can see a definite pattern in the things God allowed to happen to me before and after that moment at Fort Lee. They all brought together and given eternal meaning for me, however, in another moment of intuition in the Spring of 1961. Mrs. Cogswell and I were led, we believe, by the Holy Spirit to attend Park Street Congregational Church during most of the time we lived in the Boston area. During one service of that church's 1961 Missionary Conference, Dr. Frank Laubach spoke for about ten minutes. While he spoke, my world-view, however limited it must be, was totally changed. Using as illustration the robust, rising political far right in the United States, Dr. Laubach said, "America is running scared." He went on to assert that neither political movements nor economic or military forces can ever finally defeat evil (including Communism) in the world, but that Christian missionaries are continually winning battles against all forms of evil (including Communism) and that the final disposition of forces depends upon God, who still rules the world. I cannot in two sentences do justice to Dr. Laubach's thesis; I can testify to what happened in my heart. In one intuitive flash, I suddenly knew that the only eternally significant things being done in the world are being done by members of the body of Christ, and that my life must be spent in work that is specifically Christian. Later messages by such missionary speakers as Robert Smith, Harold J. Ockenga, Clyde Taylor, and Paris W. Reidhead have given language and form to my vision, but that one moment of revelation and commitment remains a turning point in my life. Under its impact, I accepted the offer of a position at Bethany. I pray that I may be engaged here in eternally significant work, and that my life will always be open to the leading of the Spirit.

PROMOTE BETHANY SUNDAY — FEB. 16