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Miracle at Cedarville

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New Cedarville Baptist College has lovely administration building . . .



. . . men's dorm, which Cleveland location did not afford . . .

. . . a modern, well-stocked library building . . .



Miracle at Cedarville

IT'S A MIRACLE!" with this heart-felt ejaculation, one delegate to the annual meeting summed up his reaction to an amazing bit of news he had just heard — and unconsciously spoke for thousands of other independent Baptists across the country.

To what was he referring? To what is by now probably not news to most of our readers — the thrilling story of God's provision of a new home for the Baptist Bible Institute of Cleveland.

"B.B.I.," as it has been familiarly known, is one of the five Baptist educational institutions approved by the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches. While these cooperating schools are autonomous institutions, in no sense operating "under the control" of the GARBC, thousands of us have come to think of them as "our" schools.

This month a small army of consecrated young people march forth from these five schools to man our pulpits, to swell the ranks of our approved and cooperating mission agencies. They are "our" young people — and we thank God for them and for the schools that have so effectively prepared them for the Master's service.

Naturally, the members of our Regular Baptist family across the land are usually most interested in the schools near them, or those which they or their friends have attended.

But Regular Baptists everywhere rejoice at this time with the administrative faculty and student body of B.B.I. of Cleveland in the new *Cedarville Baptist College and Bible Institute*.

When we said, above, that the account of God's provision of this new property was a "thrilling story," we meant it. Briefly put, this is it:

Since its forming in 1942, the Baptist Bible Institute of Cleveland has occupied class rooms in the educational building of Hough Avenue Baptist Church. A large residence has served as girls' dormitory and dining room. There was no dormitory for the young men.

As the school grew, a committee was appointed to look for suitable property. Some time elapsed, and still no suitable property was secured. Then Pastor James Jeremiah of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Dayton, Ohio, brought news of a college in Cedarville (near Dayton) offered for sale on most unusual terms.

The committee investigated, found nine buildings in good repair on fifteen acres of beautiful campus. The one question in the minds of all (as one member of the committee phrased it) was "What's the catch?"

Cedarville had been chartered as a liberal arts college in 1887, started in 1897. Originally affiliated with the Reformed Presbyterian Church, it passed in 1928 into the hands of an independent board. The churches supporting the school had begun to merge with the other Presbyterian denominations, and consequently support and enrollment had dwindled.

Now the school faced two alternatives: sell the college property to liquidate the operating deficit for the year — or *transfer ownership* to a group that would pay the debt and continue to run the school.

As a release from B.B.I. of Cleveland put it:

“It was the proposal of the Cedarville College Trustees that the interested church group or school selected by them should assume full responsibility for any deficit in the present school year (estimated at \$25,000). In return, of their board of twenty-one members, all except a quorum of ten would resign. The remaining quorum would first elect eleven new members designated by the new group, then they, too, would resign. The eleven new Trustees would then elect the remainder of their own Board of Trustees. In this manner, *the ownership and control of Cedarville College would be transferred completely into the hands of the new Board of Trustees to be operated without any restrictions or conditions.*”

Several groups had applied to take over Cedarville on these most unusual terms. but Cedarville made its choice. It might better be put, *God made His choice.* And that choice was B.B.I.!

The release from Cleveland continues: “The two boards of trustees met in Cedarville College on Saturday afternoon, April 4. In a meeting charged with spiritual blessings indicative of the reality of the presence of God, the ownership and control of Cedarville College passed into the hands of the Baptist Bible Institute of Cleveland!

“Before adjourning, the Trustees of B.B.I., now also serving as Trustees of Cedarville College, changed the name to ‘Cedarville Baptist College and Bible Institute,’ and made a formal declaration of purpose for the new institution. The Bible Institute courses shall be continued but greatly enlarged and strengthened. In addition, liberal arts college courses shall be offered leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree and the Bachelor of Science Degree in Education.”

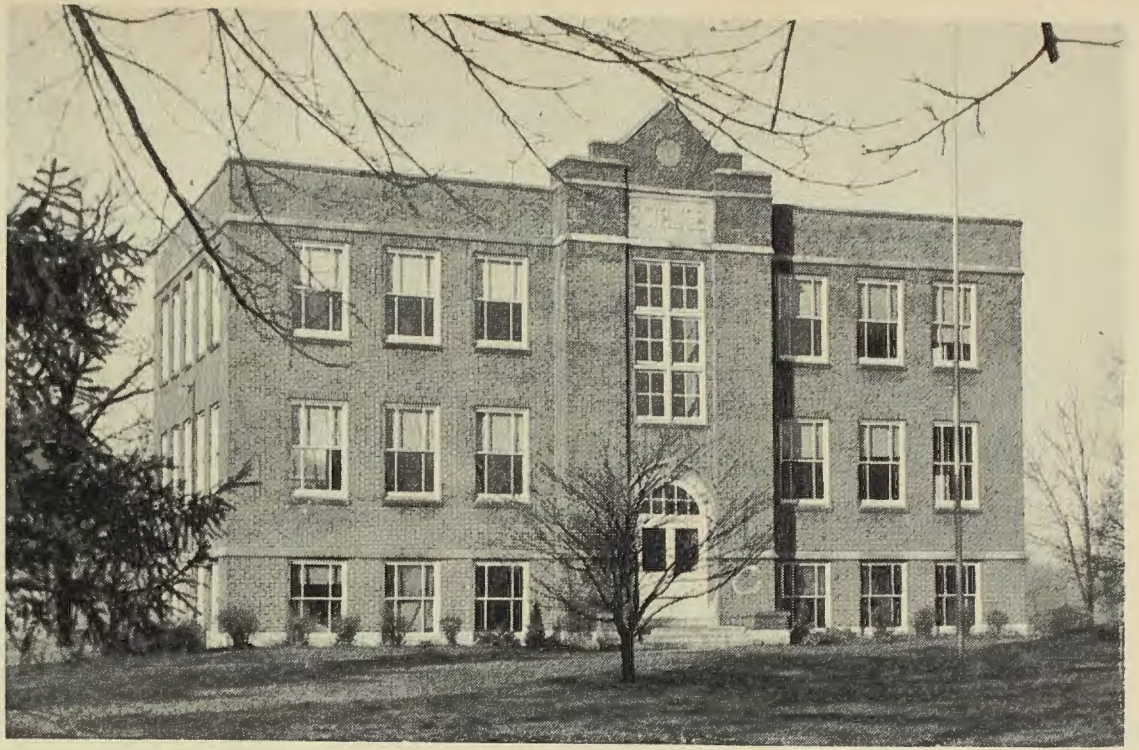
Naturally, all the problems have not been solved. In addition to the deficit of \$25,000 to be faced (a sizeable sum, even though it represents only a fraction of the value of the property), the school had to face the prospect of repairs, painting and improvements. Even though the classrooms and laboratories are adequate for considerable growth, dormitory and dining room facilities will be filled to overflowing the first year, beginning this September. By another year it will be necessary to build a girls’ dormitory with a large dining room.

The leaders of the new Cedarville College recognize, too, that it takes more than a name and equipment to form a liberal arts college of accredited standing. They will need capable instructors with advanced degrees.

But they are confident that God Who has so wonderfully provided this lovely new home will continue to “supply all (their) need, according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

So thank God for His blessing and provisions; continue to pray for the new Cedarville Baptist College and Bible Institute.

— Larry Ward



... this attractive educational building, with ample classrooms ...

... a modern gymnasium, to minister to physical needs ...



... and Harriman Hall, comfortable girls’ dormitory.

