



HISTORY OF SOUTHERN BIBLE

First 30 Years: 1927 - 1957

The Southern Bible Institute & College had its beginning in 1927, when Rev. L. G. Foster, Sr., an African American elevator operator at the Magnolia building in downtown Dallas, once stated, "I was walking down Elm Street and I saw some white men who were there at Stone Place. They were preaching and I had never heard the Bible preached so profoundly. I listened as I waited because I wanted to know where they had gotten so much knowledge about the Bible from." Rev. Foster then recalled, "They told me that they were from Evangelical Theological College and the book they kept referring to was written by a man named C. I. Scofield called, *Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth*. I knew that I couldn't attend the school because I was colored, but I asked them if they would teach me. Finally after many days of listening and much persistence, they told me that they were going to introduce me to a man who might be able to help me. And they took me to Mr. Edmond H. Ironside, who was also a Caucasian student at the Evangelical Theological College".

This took place just four years after, what is now Dallas Theological Seminary (DTS), was organized. Rev. Foster met Rev. Ironside and became friends. Rev. Foster was so impressed with what Rev. Ironside taught, that he was prompted to contact many other black preachers to study with them. As a result, several other black preachers criticized them because they had gotten a white man to teach them, but God revealed to them that regardless of their racial divide, Ironside had a strong knowledge of the Word, and thus *Dallas Colored Bible School* was born.

During the many years of Dr. Ironside's sacrificial service, the school's name was changed from *Dallas Colored Bible School* to *Southern Bible Training School* and in 1940 was renamed again to *Southern Bible Institute*. In August of 1941, the Lord he loved and served called Dr. Edmond Ironside home.

In 1945, Dr. Henderson S. Fox was called to serve as the school's President. In the summer of 1948 under the leadership of Dr. Fox, land was purchased and a building was erected at 1415 Fleetwood Street. As the school grew, two additional lots were purchased. Night classes met on this campus only three times a week since most of the ministers worked full-time jobs and/or pastored during the day.

Although the majority of students were men, there were several women who benefited from the first three decades of Southern Bible's history. One in particular was Ms. Dessie Webster, who attended the school along with her husband, and graduated in 1938. She later earned her doctorate degree and in 1953, opened the Fellowship Bible Institute in San Francisco, California.

Second 30 Years: 1958 - 1987

In June of 1971, Dr. Henderson S. Fox retired and Dr. Gordon R. Mumford was appointed President. Some of those who taught under Dr. Fox and Dr. Mumford while at the Fleetwood location included, Dr. Martin Massinger, Dr. Aldon Gannett, Dr. Harold Hoener, Dr. Erwin Lutzer, Dr. Stan Orth, Dr. Paul Fink, Dr. Kenneth F. McKinley, Dr. Alfred Martin, and Dr. Ron Anderson.

In May of 1976, Southern Bible moved its location to 830 south Buckner, which tripled its

size and building space. It was at this location that the school began both day and evening classes and substantially grew its student population. This location served the school well until such time that the growth of the school precipitated a need to relocate.

After decades of sending upper classmen from Dallas Seminary to teach classes at Southern Bible such as Dr. Anthony (Tony) Evans, the school began allowing its own graduates to teach, a number of them became professors at the school. Alumnus, Dr. Charles Reed became the first black instructor and later became an Academic Dean and Board member. Dr. Robert D. Reed, also an alum, was an instructor and later became the first African American Chairman of the Board of Directors.

The education and contribution of women during this period also proved to pay dividends of support. For instance, during this period of history there was a young lady by the name of Ms. Lillie Foreman, who attended and graduated from Southern Bible. The experience had such an impact that she promoted, recruited, and strongly supported the school until her death at the age of 96.

Third 30 Years: 1988 - 2017

In August of 1993, Southern Bible moved to their current location which consist of 12 acres of land and a building consisting of 27,000 square feet.

A major highlight of this period is the hiring of the school's first African American president, Dr. Martin E. Hawkins in September of 2005. Early in his presidency, Dr. Hawkins began making defining statements of leadership. Among them was affirming Southern Bible's commitment to the authority of God and His Word as the central focus of its educational philosophy and strategic initiatives. Some other major accomplishments during Dr. Hawkins' early tenure included:

- Successfully updating and beautifying the aesthetics of the campus facilities and grounds.
- Transitioning the curriculum from a 1 credit hour system to a 3 credit hour structure.
- Significantly increasing donor support and major fundraising events such as the Preach-A-Thon and the Annual Gala and Celebration which often included more than 1,000 guests.
- Tremendously increased donor giving and financial support.

Perhaps one of the most significant milestones of the Hawkins presidency to this point, is Southern Bible's determinative pursuit of accreditation through the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE). In tandem with this endeavor, and also under Dr. Hawkins leadership, the school entered into several distinguished academic partnerships. One of these partnerships is through ETA (Evangelical Training Association) whereby Southern Bible is offering to assist like-minded groups with servant leadership development in their ministry context through courses taught using ETA courses as a continuing education model. Another involves our academic degree programs. Southern Bible has a partnership with Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, Illinois bridged by a course articulation agreement. Students completing Southern Bible's Associate of Science degree can transfer all of these earned course credits into MBI's Bachelor of Science in Ministry Leadership and receive a regionally accredited degree at graduation from Moody.

Another significant improvement in Southern Bible's curriculum involves an academic partnership with Logos Bible Software. Logos has been selected as Southern Bible's primary pedagogical platform for enhancing student learning and research skills as well as the primary resource for the school's electronic bible study library supporting the curriculum and

learning outcomes. Southern Bible has also entered into a yet another academic partnership with Lumerit Education's *Learning Solutions* (formerly Knowledge Elements Education Network) for offering its general education curriculum online. A more recent relationship has begun with SBIC hosting an annual "Day of Outreach" in partnership with CRU (formerly known as Campus Crusade for Christ) during their annual regional meetings in the area which involves coordinating over 1,500 college students and staff in evangelism, throughout Oak Cliff and the metroplex at large.

Besides these partnerships, SBIC has implemented a campus-wide online information system (mySouthernBible). mySouthernBible connects all the functions of the School, gives our faculty important new instruction tools that will improve student learning and instructor-student communication, and also allows our students to have access to institutional information and events, their academic records, and course resources.

Southern Bible's students continue to benefit with current technology supported by a fiber optic line and cutting edge software and equipment in the computer lab. This technology has opened the door for Southern Bible to advance its academic degree programs online education. When you drive by our campus an electronic sign displays current information about events. In 2016, Southern Bible purchased a 9,000 volume library collection and in 2017 was bequeathed the personal library of Dr. Charles Ryrie at the time of his death.

next90: Forward Transition

2017 was most remarkable as being the year Southern Bible turned 90 years old. Accordingly, a transitional visionary campaign called next90 was prepared which articulated the foundational, transitional, and perpetual initiatives intended to support our biblical higher education mission for the next 9 decades.

In light of the next90 vision campaign, its pursuit of accreditation, as well as feedback from several focus groups of stakeholders—the Board of Directors approved the name change from "Southern Bible Institute (SBI)" to "Southern Bible Institute & College (SBIC)".