

Class of 1983's Historian's Address

“The Book of the History of the Class of 1983”

Chapter I

1. And it came to pass in the twenty and third year of Free Gospel Bible Institute,
2. That there came together threescore and nine believers, mostly in their youth,
3. Who together formed the Freshman class, for the purpose of studying the Word of God,
4. And preparing themselves for the work and ministry to which He had called them.
5. Thus we began to enter into our studies, eagerly receiving the truth from God's Word.
6. This was the month of September, in the year one thousand, nine hundred, and fourscore.
7. We, who came together, came nine from Ohio, nine from Pennsylvania, eight from Kentucky, five from Illinois, five from Indiana, five from New York, five from Virginia.
8. Four from Missouri, three from West Virginia, two from Oklahoma, and one each from Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, and Maryland.
9. In addition came two from Canada, two from Sierra Leone, one from Ghana, one from Jamaica, and one from the Netherlands Antilles.
10. At this same time that we arrived began also the series of classes offered to adults on Monday evenings by the Bible Institute.
11. One of the first activities of the year was the baptismal service upon the first day of the month of October,
12. In which twenty and three persons were baptized in water, nineteen of whom were students of the Bible Institute.
13. Eleven of whom were members of our class.
14. Then we were witnesses to the second annual alumni convention, with Rev. A.C. Wilson speaking.
15. We also took part in our first of several prayer meetings for the unsaved, one of which was held each semester of our training period.
16. With from two thousand to eleven thousand names included in the prayer barrel each time.
17. We were also privileged to hear Rev. Leroy Hay speak in a Fall Revival.
18. The annual Christmas play, “The Greatest of These” was presented,
19. With the case, including Cathy Calandrella of our class, travelling widely to several states.
20. Christmas time brought the departure of David and Wendi Cook, 1980 graduates, to join the Free Gospel Missionary staff in the Philippine Islands.
21. In the month of January we selected officers to guide us through our times of training.
22. Selected as President was Benny Napier; Vice President, Gordon Mills; Secretary, Janet Kromer; Treasurer, Kent Wilson; and Historian, Robert Sears. Brother Steve Carlisle was chosen as our faculty advisor.
23. Our first semester concluded with the first January Graduation Convention.

24. Although two students had previously received diplomas at mid-year, this marked the first January Convention for this purpose.
25. At this time six students graduated, five of whom had accompanied us through our first semester of classes.
26. Rev. Gene Huff addressed this group as they prepared to enter the whitened harvest field.
27. We regret that during the course of this first semester fourteen of our classmates left our ranks, giving us a total of fifty and four.

CHAPTER II

1. Our second semester began with the loss of three classmates who did not continue with us.
2. But also with the addition of eight new students and one transfer student, giving us a class total of three score and one.
3. Threescore of whom were present to finish the semester in the month of May.
4. We were blessed by the visiting ministry of Rev. John Bedzyk,
5. And by the Holiness Convention, with Rev. L.L. Collins, Rev. Johnny Wade Sloan, and Rev. William Hill ministering.
6. We were presented with the challenge of the mission field by Rev. Royce Roy before he and his family returned to the field in Sierra Leone.
7. We were thrilled just before the school year ended by the new dressers for the men's dormitory, which were purchased by the Alumni Association.
8. An accident involving one of the institute vans occurred as a number of students,
9. Including three of our class, traveled to an outside ministry in the state of Oklahoma.
10. Fortunately, by the grace of God, no one was injured, although the van received substantial damages.
11. This semester was concluded in the month of May with the Graduation Convention.
12. Rev. Ralph Cox delivered the Baccalaureate address, and Rev. Gene Huff addressed the Commencement audience,
13. As twenty and seven students received diplomas and went forth "Holding Forth the Word of Life."

CHAPTER III

1. The intervening summer between our first and second years was an eventful one for most of the members of our class, as most became involved in some type of ministry.
2. The summer began with a sad note as Mrs. Marion Beam, mother of our Institute President, and an individual we had come to love, passed on to be with the Lord.
3. As the summer continued, a goal was realized as a transmitter was installed to enable the radio broadcast to be aired directly from the auditorium to the broadcast station.

CHAPTER IV

1. Our third semester began with forty and nine students, as fourteen did not return, but one of our former classmates rejoined us, and two former students entered our ranks.
2. We found it necessary to select a new faculty advisor. Rev. Ken Roles was chosen.
3. Rev. William Hill ministered at the third annual Alumni Convention.
4. A new van was purchased to replace the one damaged in the accident the previous year.
5. As an addition to our auditorium twenty and two flags were mounted representing the countries from which students had come to this Institute.
6. A roof overhang was erected outside the office entrance.
7. The Christmas play, "Another Babe of Bethlehem," was presented here at Export, and thirteen times in several states.
8. The cast included Benny Napier, Mark Goins, Cathy Calandrella, and Altheia Mason of our class.
9. The semester ended with the second January Graduation, with Rev. Gene Huff speaking.
10. Seven graduates left for the work of the Lord, two of whom had been in our class for their final semester.

CHAPTER V

1. Our fourth semester began with a total of fifty and one students, as one left our number.
2. And two of our former classmates returned, and one transfer student joined our class.
3. We were greatly blessed during the thirteenth annual Holiness Convention by the ministries of Rev. Johnny Wade Sloan, Rev. L.L. Collins, and especially Rev. William Hills's message, "What is Holiness?"
4. We were so privileged to hear Rev. John Bedzyk and Rev. Earl Douglass.
5. During this semester began a series of all-night prayer meetings on Fridays;
6. A practice which continued not only through this semester, but also through our senior year.
7. As spring approached, many of our class members were busily involved in plans and preparations for the Senior Banquet which our class presented in honor of the class of nineteen eighty-two.
8. "In Him We Live" provided the theme for the Roman-style décor of the transformed dining hall. We arranged for Sister Diane Sloan to minister in song. The evening was a great success.
9. The class of 1982 presented the school with instantaneous water heaters to serve the kitchen.
10. We watched as twenty and four students graduated, with Rev. W.H. Wyatt ministering, Rev. Ralph Cox speaking in the Baccalaureate service, and Rev. Gene Huff delivering the Commencement address.

CHAPTER VI

1. Shortly after graduation, the Ralph Heath family returned to the mission field.
2. And Sister Carol Woods, a 1980 graduate, joined them in the country of Sierra Leone.

3. Once again, most of our class members became involved in some form of ministry over the summer, between our junior and senior years.
4. During this summer, four of our classmates were married and returned in the fall, bringing to twelve the number of married students among us.

CHAPTER VII

1. We returned for our senior year with fifty students, having lost four classmates who did not return, but gaining two former students and one transfer student.
2. Kathy Carter was chosen to fill the office of class secretary.
3. We were saddened as three of our fellow class members left during the fall.
4. The fourth annual Alumni Convention featured the ministry of Rev. Leon Belt.
5. We were greatly blessed in the Fall Revival by the ministry of Rev. J.D. Beckett. Of particular benefit was his message, "The Plague –Rock Music."
6. We also heard the preaching of Rev. Phil Russell, Rev. Fred Goldizen, and Rev. Jack Walker.
7. We were blessed by the singing ministry of Rev. Hisel Carpenter and his touring group,
8. And welcomed the return home for furlough of the Lyle Berg family from their missionary labors in the Philippine Islands.
9. Upon the second day of the month of November, a baptismal service was held.
10. Before this service was completed, the Spirit of the Lord touched many, and thirty and three persons were baptized, thirty-one of whom were students, and six were members of our class.
11. Then, upon the sixth day of the month of December another baptismal service was conducted,
12. With seven students, including one from our class, following the ordinance of the Lord.
13. We were blessed by the presentation of the Christmas play, "To All People." The cast of eight included Sandy Secrist and Cathy Calandrella from our class.
14. This presentation, which travelled to several other states, was directed by our classmate Doug Gabbard and his wife, Lana.
15. An additional excitement was added to the year when the daily radio broadcast, Echoes of Faith," was expanded at Christmas time from fifteen minutes, to thirty minutes daily.
16. The semester ended with the graduation of four students in the month of January.

CHAPTER VIII

1. Thus we of Free Gospel Bible Institute, Class of One Thousand Nine Hundred, Eighty and Three stand awaiting our final days of training for the ministries to which God has called each of us.
2. A total of fourscore and four have been a part of our class along the way,
3. While thirty and eight are looking forward to graduating in the month of May.
4. While an additional nine of our classmates will anticipate receiving their diplomas in the month of January in the following year.

5. These all are prepared to go forth in the harvest field “Making Known His Might and His Majesty.”
6. Greet in the Lord all they who are friends of this class, and of the Free Gospel Bible Institute.
7. My fellow classmates salute you.
8. Be strong in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Written to the friends of the Free Gospel Bible Institute, Class of 1983 from Export, Pennsylvania, by the Historian of the class, Robert Sears.