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## The Miracle at Cedarville, Ohio

R. T. Ketcham

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# *The Miracle at Cedarville, Ohio*

BY R. T. KETCHAM, D.D.



*Administration building as seen through the trees on the Cedarville campus . . .*



*. . . a well-stocked library in which to spend the hours doing research or simply studying . . .*

*. . . and even a science building was included in this miracle . . .*



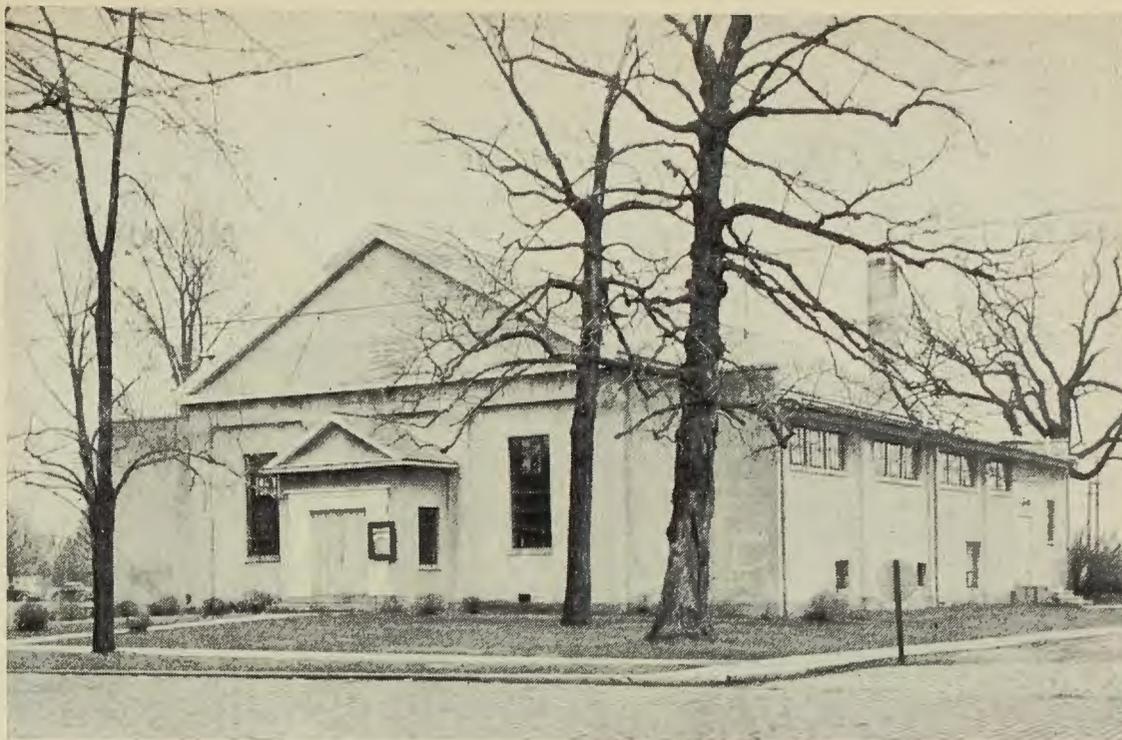
FOR MORE than twenty years, the constantly increasing forces of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches have been dreaming of and praying for a liberal arts college to be established in our midst. The need for a thorough-going Baptist liberal arts college, operating in the separatist field, has been acknowledged almost universally by our Fellowship. Nothing here stated is to be interpreted in anywise as derogatory to those exceedingly fine and wonderful colleges operating in the undenominational field. It has been to these colleges that our Baptist boys and girls have had to turn for their liberal arts education. Academically and spiritually these colleges have discharged their obligations well. However, this in nowise minimizes the need for our own Fellowship to add to its already fine list of Bible institutes and theological seminaries a great central liberal arts training center where our young people may have the added advantage of the training peculiar to our position.

As much as we had dreamed and prayed for such an institution, the actual realization of it in the minds of most of us was still remote. Then suddenly it happened! The "miracle of Cedarville" was a reality. Almost overnight God had opened the windows of Heaven and placed squarely in the midst of our Fellowship, a completely equipped liberal arts college, with a property and equipment value of between three hundred and four hundred thousand dollars, at an actual total cost of approximately \$10,000. That is the "miracle of Cedarville." The story of how this Reformed Presbyterian College, which was about to close its doors, became the property of the Cleveland Baptist Bible Institute, has already been carried in the pages of the BAPTIST BULLETIN.

The actual property consists of a 15-acre campus on which is located a beautiful three-story administration building, a comparatively new two story and high basement science building, a one story biology laboratory, and a very pleasant and attractive dining room with a seating capacity of approximately 200. Since the property was taken over, a new and modernly equipped kitchen has been added. On this campus, also, is a large and very lovely 12-room dwelling which is the President's home, and a very attractive, long, two-story girl's dormitory. The baseball diamond and the football field with its bleachers are also on this 15-acre campus. Across

the street and approximately a block to the right, the college owns practically the entire city block. On this is located the beautiful gymnasium which, for auditorium purposes, could be made to seat at least eight hundred people. It is a fully equipped modern gym building with everything in the finest shape. The rest of this city block area is vacant and is bordered on the opposite side by the Cedarville High School (what a spot for some good Baptist with money to erect a lovely memorial chapel).

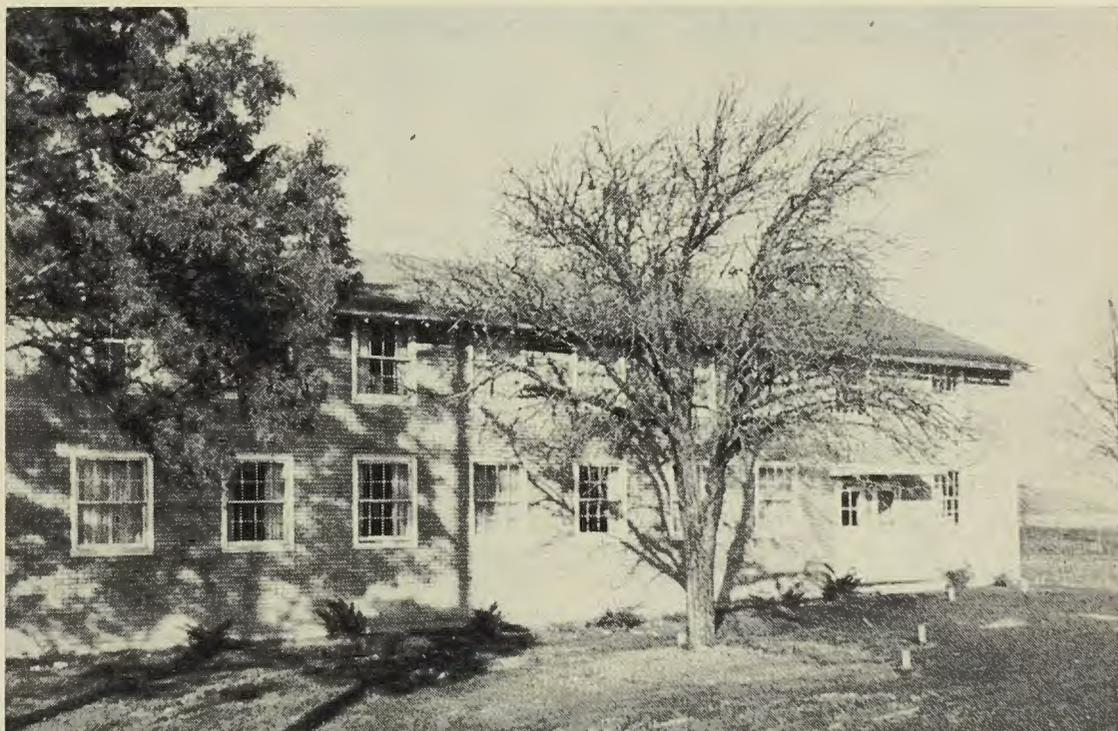
Moving down the main street of the village of Cedarville about a block and a half, is the two-story and high basement library building. Immediately next door to this library is another large twelve-or-thirteen-room dwelling house, which serves for some faculty headquarters as well as student dormitories. This constitutes the actual real estate possessions of the college. Another large residence is leased by the college for a boys'



... and not to be neglected is the physical exercise provided for by this gymnasium . . .

### Thanksgiving Offering

This Editor spent some time with the Board of Trustees of Cedarville College, and he found that they were going to need approximately \$15,000 between now and the first of January in order to clear the year 1953 without debt in the operating fund. We would like to suggest that all of our churches, if possible, take a special Thanksgiving offering for the "Miracle of Cedarville." The offering can be taken at the Thanksgiving service, or at some service immediately preceding Thanksgiving. We are sure that all our other schools will take no offense to this special appeal on behalf of Cedarville, under the circumstances.



... former men's dormitory which is now being used to house the women students . . .

... Harriman Hall, now home of the married students on campus.

dormitory. When we remember that all of these buildings came to us furnished and equipped, and this statement covers the science and laboratory buildings, then our readers will understand what is meant when we say "the miracle of Cedarville."

Some years ago I remember hearing a song that was then popular, the title of which I think was "Did You Ever See a Dream Walking?" As I remember it, the first line went, "Did you ever see a dream walking? Well, I did." I would like permission to lift that phrase out of its cheap and secular connotations, and say that that is exactly what I saw at Cedarville. The dreams and the prayers of God's people in our Fellowship all of a sudden materialized right there before our very eyes!

But now what do we do? Where do we go from here? The God who gave to our blessed Fellowship in general, and to the Cleveland school in particular, this magnificent gift is able to develop and complete the hopes and



dreams and aspirations of our people in the years ahead. But, as always, God works through people; and in this case we Regular Baptists are the people. I am not a prophet, but I venture a prophecy. If the board of trustees of the Cedarville Baptist College walk carefully and wisely before God, as I know they will, there is no reason in the world why, if the Lord tarries, in ten years from now there should not be a student body of at least one thousand in Cedarville. Ten years from now, and even possibly in half that time, Cedarville management should have drawn around itself a faculty and an administrative program and policy which will make Cedarville second to none in the field of academic training. In the providence and grace of God there is ahead of us a day at Cedarville when our Regular Baptist young men and young women can go to their own school and come

out with diplomas that are prized as highly as any offered by any other sound, evangelical college in this country. Indeed I am not so sure but what my prophecy of one thousand is an underestimate. If Cedarville, as I know it will, moves on and takes its place in the academic world, not only will our own young people flock to it, but here too, will be a college of such high standing and trustworthiness as shall attract Baptist youth from the Conservative Baptist ranks, as well as from the "independent" field.

All of this is going to require sacrificial giving on the part of our people. At the present moment the school stands in deep need of a steady, continuing financial support. In some measure it is like being given an expensive Cadillac without an accompanying gas station. Enlargements must be made. Improvements must be undertaken. Faculty and

help must be paid; and there is no one to do it but Regular Baptists. As the National Representative of our Fellowship, I plead with our people not to forget their already existing schools, for everyone of them is in dire financial need.

I may not enhance my popularity (however much I may have) by what I am about to say, but I would like to add a gentle reminder that perhaps it is time for all of our churches to take a new look at the necessity of supporting our *own* institutions and agencies, instead of spending over a million and a half dollars each year on projects outside our Fellowship. Understand, I am not suggesting that these extra projects be abandoned, but certainly there must be room somewhere for some adjustments. *We have a liberal arts college of our own now.* It is a gift of God to us. Our people *must* support it.

## ***Ketcham Speaks at Cedarville Conference***

BY LEONARD WEBSTER, TH.D.

**W**ITH AN ENROLLMENT of more than one hundred, Cedarville Baptist College passed through the last days of registration and prepared for the Bible Conference with Dr. Robert T. Ketcham as the speaker. This Conference was the special feature of the opening week of the new school year. As a bold act of faith, two hundred chairs were placed in the gymnasium where the meetings were to be held, and it was hoped that enough visitors would come to fill all the seats.

On the opening night, Wednesday, September 16, the chairs were soon filled and the students very graciously began to move back to the bleachers. By the time the opening hymn was announced, every chair was filled and more than one hundred were seated on the bleachers, making a total of more

than three hundred in attendance in this small village, where no Baptist testimony had ever before been established. And the large crowds continued to come, and attendance increased.

In his unique way, Dr. Ketcham always preaches the Word of God, but never has he preached with more power. Many visitors were attracted to hear the simple, clear-cut Bible exposition. Many were stirred by the factual presentation of the ecclesiastical issues of the day. Through every message no doubt was left regarding the testimony and position of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches and of the Cedarville Baptist College. As one friend expressed it, "I have heard Dr. Ketcham preach many times, but he has never preached with such power."

In addition to the friends of the

College in the Cedarville area, many delegations came from GARB churches to hear their beloved National Representative, Dr. Ketcham, and to express their interest and confidence.

This was a great historic occasion, the opening of a fundamental Baptist liberal arts college, holding to the separated position. By a miracle God has provided this beautiful campus for the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches. By His continued favor. He had enabled the College Administration to be ready for the opening of school on schedule. By His presence, He owned the testimony of His servant.

Now Cedarville Baptist College is on its way into the school year in complete dependence upon the abiding presence and provision of the Lord Almighty.

*Below, part of the crowd in attendance at the Bible Conference at Cedarville.*

