

Time Line of Christian School Movement

By J. S. Winston

- 1874** G.P. Bowser born in Maury County, Tennessee.
- 1897** Bowser, an A.M.E. preacher, is baptized into Gay Street Christian Church in Nashville, Tennessee.
- 1900** Bowser disassociates himself from Christian Church for what he believes are unscriptural practices. Marshall Keeble, S.W. Womack. Alexander Campbell, join him in this move. Group later becomes Jackson Street Church of Christ.
- 1902** Bowser begins publishing **Christian Echo** paper.
- 1907** **Nashville, Tennessee-Jackson Street School** opens. G. P. Bowser and S.W.Womack, teachers.
- 1909** **Silver Point, Tennessee-Silver Point Christian Institute.** Land purchased for \$250. 2 story building at cost of \$600. First called **Putnam County Formal Industrial Orphan School.** ^N
- Staff:** G.P.Bowser
Lillie Gipson
Alexine Page
Adeline Brown
Annie C. Tuggle
T. H. Busby (later taught music)
- Salaries:** Up to \$50 per month

Tuition: \$1.00 month

Board: \$6.00 month

Students worked in Echo Printing office, did yard work, helped with cooking and cleaning in order to pay for tuition and board.

Courses: Three R's plus Bible, Latin, History

Trustees: Alexander Campbell, S.W. Womack, P.

H. Black, Henry Clay, J.S. Hammon,

Marshall Keeble, S.P. Pittman, M. Burton

- 1916** Additional lots in Silver Point purchased for \$275 by A.M. Burton. Brick building erected for chapel. Wood frame four-room dormitory. Cost of materials was \$400.
- 1920** **Silver Point School** closes due to low enrollment and financial problems.
- 1920** **Southern Practical Institute** opens. A.M. Burton purchases 40 room Florence Crittendon Home building in Nashville, and donates it to Bowser for a school. Student preacher, R. N. Hogan joins him. Renames the school **Southern Practical Institute**. Closes six weeks later after Bowser refuses to have black students enter through back door, as instructed by white Superintendent.

Bowser moves to Louisville. Nashville blacks make down payment on what later becomes **Nashville Christian Institute**.

1920-32 Bowser begins publishing **Christian Echo** from Louisville, Kentucky in 1927. No formal school movement, although Bowser teaches in his home and in various churches.

1933 **Bowser Christian Institute** starts in Fort Smith, Arkansas in Bowser's home and is later housed in the Ninth Street Church of Christ. R.N. Hogan, J.S. Winston, G.E. Steward join school movement.

1946 **Bowser Christian Institute** closes with plans to reopen in Texas.
Bowser, meanwhile, moves to Detroit.

1947 **Bowser Christian Institute** opens in Joseph Campau Church of Christ Educational Building in Detroit.

1948 **Southern Bible Institute** opens in Lake Como Church of Christ building in Fort Worth, Texas.

1949 Southwestern Christian College opens in Terrell, Texas