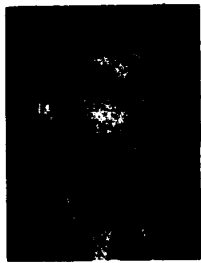


DBC opens for business

By CARL STODDARD

Just two weeks ago, Southfield's newest college opened its doors for the first time and a hail of criticism.

At issue was whether the Southfield School District, which owned the school Detroit Bible College (DBC) now occupies, acted correctly in leasing the site to DBC and not the city of Southfield.



WENDELL JOHNSON

The city offered to lease the building and land for \$12,000 a year for two years. DBC college offered to pay \$22,000 a year for two years and the board accepted the higher bid.

City officials objected, saying the city deserved first option on the building. The building, which housed Angling Road Elementary School, became available this spring when the school board closed the school due to declining student enrollment.

DBC officials, understandably, are quick to point out that they did not intend to cause any ill feelings on either side.

"I THINK THAT everybody understands we didn't create the problem," DBC President Wendell Johnson said during an interview last week. "Nobody's blaming us, we just became involved because we leased the facility."

The Bible college sold its land and building to Detroit to the Lewis Bible College and moved lock, stock and Bibles to Southfield following summer semester in late August. Johnson and the college intend to remain in Southfield two years while a new campus is built in Farmington Hills.

The college began in 1945 as an evening school, the Detroit Bible Institute. Later the name was changed to Detroit Bible College.

The college trains students to serve as pastors, evangelists, missionaries, teachers, youth leaders and to work in other church-related occupations.

The interdenominational Bible-based, Christ-centered college offers three bachelor degree programs and several other educational programs. A four-year course of study in general Biblical knowledge leads to a Bachelor of Religious Education degree. A second four-year program leads to a Bachelor of Music degree. A five-year program leads to the Bachelor of Theology degree. DBC also offers a one-year basic Bible program and evening courses.

THE COLLEGE IS not affiliated with any specific church. Among the 260 students currently enrolled, Johnson said, more than 100 different churches are represented. A similar blending of religions is also found among the 15 full-time instructors.

Despite its interdenominational stance, the college places heavy emphasis on Christian teachings. The student catalog says:

"Through involvement in the disciplines of faith, of testing, of service, of moderation, and of stewardship, the college seeks to foster that learning climate where students can mature in Christian grace and understanding, develop particular competencies and eventually contribute significantly to the extension of Christ's work on earth."

The catalog also points out that students are required to attend chapel services daily at the college and to adhere to a student dress code.

Courses at the college include such standard subjects as English, speech, Greek, history, archaeology, music appreciation, philosophy, science and anthropology.

Spread among the course offerings also are such subjects as pastoral theology, survey of Christian education, evangelism, hymnology, Biblical literature and systematic theology.

SINCE THE MOVE, the college has not attempted any major renovations of the 25,000-square-foot building. Where necessary, movable partitions have been placed in larger classrooms to create smaller office space. A new sign will be erected outside and a movable bookstore will be set up on the grounds. Most other features of the school, including the fountain and other elementary school fixtures, will not be changed.

DBC began its search for a temporary home in June when plans to sell the Detroit property became final. Johnson said school officials in Birmingham, Livonia, Farmington, Dearborn, Royal Oak and Southfield were contacted in an effort to locate a new facility for the college. The districts contacted had all experienced recent drops in student enrollment and it was hoped that one of the districts might have a vacant building which might be used by the college.

"We looked at a lot of facilities and we were impressed with this," Johnson said. DBC is one of about 250 Bible colleges in the U.S. and Canada, and one of 70 college accredited by the American Association of Bible Colleges. It is recognized by the Veterans Administration and approved by the state to grant bachelor degrees.

Bible College sets Southfield classes. Several new courses will be offered this fall at the Detroit Bible College's new location in Southfield, near Eleven Mile and Telegraph. The college is expanding its adult education program and is also offering Tuesday and Thursday evening classes at the Strathmore-Johnson Baptist Church facilities on northwest Detroit. The Southfield classes will be on Tuesday evenings.

Dr. Norman Sweeting of Pontiac will teach two new classes at the Southfield location—"Basic Exegesis" using the book of Revelations and "New Testament Church Problems" from First Corinthians. Other classes in Southfield include Theology, Creative Teaching Methods, Bible Study Methods, Church History, and Dramatized Old Testament—a unique method of making the Bible come alive.

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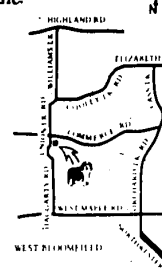
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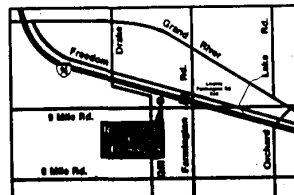
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