

AUTHOR OF THE BOOK ON JESUS, "THE MASTER PREACHER"

ALBERT RICHMOND BOND (1874-1945)

It was a Baptist ancestral tree that flowered and fruited into the life of the subject of this sketch. The records show that maternal and paternal lines of parentage contributed each its share of Baptist influence. Elder John Bond, the grandfather, served a country church as pastor for 39 consecutive years—a distinction calling for an unfolding power of ministry.

Albert Richmond Bond was born March 9, 1874, to James Houston Bond and Mary Cason Bond, in Wilson County, Tennessee. His father had just been graduated in medicine by the University of Nashville when the clarion call of the Confederacy sent him into military service where he gained a captaincy.



Though born in the country, he was reared in the city of Nashville, the family having moved there when he was about four years old. Without interruption he passed through the city schools, being graduated from the Fogg High School in June 1892. He then entered the University of Nashville, Peabody College, where he received the degree of Licentiate of Instruction in 1894, and Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in 1895. A. R. Bond has the sole distinction of being the only one in the history of the college to receive the bachelor and master degrees at the same time. He took an active part in the life of the student body, serving as president of the Students' Christian Association and of the Erosophian Literary Society; he represented the latter in the annual debating contest with the Agatheridan Literary Society in 1895, winning the medal. He also served as assistant librarian.

Dr. Bond applied for the Central Baptist church, Nashville, Tennessee, for Dr. George A. Lofton, during the Summer of 1895, and in the Fall entered the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky. He finished the full course and five post-graduate studies, receiving the degree of Master in Theology in 1898. During his second year he was department editor of the *Seminary Magazine*, succeeding then to the place of editor-in-chief, in which he was signally successful. He also acted as the seminary correspondent for three years for the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Dr. Bond was converted at the age of thirteen and was baptized by Dr. George Lofton, pastor of the Central Baptist church, Nashville. Immediately he became active in church work, being elected secretary and treasurer of the mission Sunday school. He continued in this work until a chapel was built and a congregation secured; as a young preacher he held services at the mission. The Centennial Baptist church is the result of this mission work.

He was licensed to preach in 1892 and ordained in 1895. In the council were, among others, Drs. George A. Lofton, I. J. Van Ness, J. M. Frost, Edgar E. Folk, and J. O. Rust. He preached frequently during his college and seminary days, though he did not serve as pastor until his graduation from the Seminary.

After graduating from the Seminary in June 1898, Dr. Bond engaged in supply and evangelistic work until January 1, 1899, when he became pastor of the Magnolia and Brookhaven, Mississippi, churches. Here he remained for a year and a half, resigning because of ill health. After two months of recuperation he accepted the pastorate of the Pembroke, Kentucky church, where he remained for three years, then accepting work with the Price Hill Baptist church, Cincinnati, Ohio, in order to engage in mission service among the Catholic population. His next pastorate was with the church at West Point, Georgia, for three years; Marietta, Georgia, three years. After a period of social service in the Associated Charities of Memphis, he was pastor at Clarksdale, Mississippi, and Aberdeen, Mississippi. In 1914 he moved to Nashville, Tennessee, to engage in literary work while recuperating from an operation. It was also in this year that he lost the beloved wife, Ruth (see below). In November, 1915, he accepted the pastorate of the Franklin, Tennessee, church, serving until May 1, 1917, when he resigned to become editor of the *Baptist and Reflector*.

As a pastor Dr. Bond has sought to give a distinctive trait to his church life in the development of the membership in sincere piety and denominational loyalty—his churches have grown in missionary zeal and liberality.

December 20, 1898, Dr. Bond was married to Miss Ruth Pugh, of Clarksville, Tennessee. Mrs. Bond was an A. B. Graduate of the University of Nashville, Peabody College, and was a brilliant speaker and writer. She published a number of booklets for use of Women's Bible Classes, besides being a frequent contributor to the Sunday school periodicals and magazines. Mrs. Bond died at Aberdeen, Mississippi, June 6, 1914.

One son, Richmond Pugh Bond, was born to them. The son, Richmond P., rose to the rank of Professor in the Department of English at the University of North Carolina. Research into American and British printing history led to his publishing "The Tatler: The Making of a Literary Journal", Harvard University Press, 1971; "Growth and Change in the Early English Press", Univ. Of Kansas Libraries, 1969; and "Queen Anne's American Kings", for Octagon Books, in 1974. This son, Richmond Pugh Bond, also served in the U.S. Naval Reserve as an aviation officer on active duty with the Pacific Fleet during World War II.

Our author providing us "The Master Preacher" made his distinct contribution along literary lines. For many years he has been a frequent contributor to the periodicals of the Sunday School Board and to the religious press. In 1910 the American Tract Society of New York published his book, "The Master Preacher: A Study of the Homiletics of Jesus."

Dr. E. C. Dargan in the introduction says: "The selection of topics, as shown in the chapter headings, is alike comprehensive and discriminating, giving evidence of careful thought and of a vigorous grasp of both details and general principles. The treatment of the topics exhibits firsthand and thorough study. The author's wide reading is apparent, but he has not been content to be a follower only. And, so, in addition to its general and special value as a contribution to a want in our literature, the discussion has a newness and suggestiveness of its own."

From "Baptist Biography, Vol II", Edited by B. J. W. Graham, D. D., pps. 25-27, Kessinger Publishing Company, ISBN 0548231036.