

# GOD'S REVIVALIST

September 2016

*Bible Advocate*



honoring  
**Marcia Davis**  
for 25 years  
of service

special issue:  
**Christian Education**  
K-12





# about this issue

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Here is the progression of my vocational aspirations: cowboy; cowboy preacher; architect; civil engineer; printing manager; math teacher; preacher; Christian educator. A lot of change!

Even after my conversion there was uncertainty. I knew God wanted me to attend GBS, and I assumed it was to study for the ministry. It took me a year to understand that God had other things in mind. I began to focus on two possible areas of study—psychology/counseling and law. My mentor, R.G. Flexon, thought our movement would get better use of someone with a background in psychology and counseling. His rationale was that good legal help was always available if and when it was needed. I followed his advice and began my psychology training in 1977. Thanks, Dr. Flexon. I have been blessed to be working in Christian education since August 1978.

This special issue of *God's Revivalist* is a collaborative effort between GBS and Renewation to focus on the importance of Christian Education (K-12) and a biblical worldview. An assortment of articles (pp.12-23) have been adapted from the *Renewation Review* and are used here with permission.

This issue also pays tribute to Dr. Marcia Davis, who has been involved in Christian education for 37 years. However, our focus here is to commemorate her 25 years of service as a faculty member at GBS. Thanks, Dr. Davis! —KF ■

*God's Revivalist and Bible Advocate*, the official organ of God's Bible School, is a magazine founded by Martin Wells Knapp in July of 1888. We seek to proclaim the good news of salvation; to stir a revival spirit among Christians; to stimulate Christian growth and responsible Christian living; to present the happenings and interests of God's Bible School.

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God's Bible School and College seeks to glorify God and to serve His Church by providing higher education centered in Holy Scripture and shaped by Wesleyan conviction, thus preparing faithful servants to proclaim Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness throughout the world.

Contact us by telephone at (513) 721-7944 (Revivalist Press, ext. 1351); by fax at (513) 763-6649; by email at [revivalist@pbs.edu](mailto:revivalist@pbs.edu). Visit us online at [www.gbs.edu](http://www.gbs.edu) or [www.godsrevivalist.com](http://www.godsrevivalist.com).

COVER: Dr. Marcia Davis is honored for 25 years of service to GBS. The Americana knick-knacks decorating the pages dedicated to her in this issue are from her distinctive collection on display in her office.

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# the president's page



**For 37 years, Marcia Davis has modeled what a Christian teacher should be. She has also mentored and molded hundreds of young people as they fulfilled their calling of being a Christian teacher.**

## THANKS, DR. DAVIS!

*by Michael R. Avery, President*

In an issue that celebrates Christian education, it is very fitting that we also honor a woman whose entire professional life has been given to teaching in Christian schools. Dr. Marcia Davis could well be called a “model teacher” for Christian education. I have known Marcia since our time together at GBS as students. Marcia was a diligent student who performed well in the classroom. She was well liked by her friends and loved having fun, including light-hearted mischief in the dorm. While she had her share of times being “called on the carpet” in the Dean of Women’s Office, the school took note of her character and leadership abilities and gave her a student-staff position working in the girls’ dorm as a resident assistant during her junior year. In her senior year, she was promoted to assistant dean, a position she continued to hold for a year after her graduation (BA ’76) while she was attending the University of Cincinnati for her graduate work. In 1978 she finished her MEd and went back to her home state of Michigan, where she taught in a Christian school. Three years later, she returned to her alma mater to begin a distinguished teaching career. We now celebrate 25 years of dedicated service by Dr. Marcia Davis to God’s Bible School and College.

Born in Flint, MI, to Ray and Helen Davis on May 29, 1954, Marcia joined older siblings Mary Ann (14) and Ray, Jr. (11). She described herself as a “tag along.” Her father worked at General Motors and her mother Helen was a lifelong homemaker. The family faithfully attended the local Pilgrim Holiness Church where Marcia was converted at the age of 14. At age 16, while attending a camp meeting in southeastern Michigan, she felt a definite call into full-time Christian work, although she was not clear about exactly what that work would be.

Marcia's pastor, the Rev. R.K. Fay, and his wife were very involved with the youth group and took them on a couple of trips. One was to Brainerd Indian School in Hot Springs, SD, during the summer of Marcia's 11th-grade year. There she met a team from GBS who were holding vacation Bible schools. Although she had never really considered going to GBS prior to that, the GBS team made quite an impression on her. So, during her senior year, as she considered attending various Christian colleges, she decided that GBS was where she should go. However, the decision was not well received by her public school counselor. She was warned that she would lose eligibility for some of the scholarships for which she had qualified. It didn't matter. Her decision was made. She would follow God's will and attend GBS. After graduating from high school in 1972, Marcia enrolled at GBS as a music major.

After two years and 50 hours accumulated toward a music degree, Marcia went on a summer mission trip to the Indian reservation at Rosebud, SD, where a Christian school was being started. It was there that God began talking to her about teaching. She recalls: "I really came to GBS thinking that I wanted to do almost anything but teach. My sister was a kindergarten teacher, and I just thought I wanted to do something different." When she returned from the mission trip,

she changed her major to English with the intention of finishing a degree at GBS before going on for licensure and a master's degree. She graduated from GBS in 1976 with a BA in English.

With plans now to teach high school English, Marcia enrolled at the University of Cincinnati and began working on an MEd in Secondary Education with a cognate in English. Her studies were part-time as she continued to work as assistant dean at GBS. The next year, she worked at Bethesda Hospital as a Unit Clerk while living in Norwood. After completing the MEd in 1978, Marcia returned to Michigan to teach for three years at Bible Heritage School in Jackson—an independent, holiness school that used traditional curriculum. She taught English and social studies for grades 9-12.

In the fall of 1981, she moved back to the Hilltop and began working in the GBS General Education Department, teaching English grammar, literature classes, and other subjects, such as American history. Around 1983 Marcia decided to work on another master's degree. She met with University of Cincinnati professor Dr. Charles Weilbaker, who had always been a friend to GBS students, and he convinced Marcia to begin working on a doctorate instead of a second master's. She completed all the coursework for her doctorate in 1985. The death of her mother that year was

# Letters

## TO THE EDITOR

Letters should be addressed to the Editorial Office, 1810 Young Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202, or emailed to [revivalist@gbs.edu](mailto:revivalist@gbs.edu). Letters reprinted here do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editor of God's Revivalist nor those of the administration of God's Bible School. Names and locations of writers will be withheld at their specific request or at the discretion of the editor. We reserve the right to edit and condense.

I was 90 years old on May 9th of this year. [God's Revivalist] has been in my family for over 80 years. My father, Samuel Riddle, subscribed for it when I was a child. It was the only paper that was allowed in our home.

HELENA M. GOMMEL  
Columbus, IN

Enclosed please find a check for renewal of our Revivalist subscription. What a great publication! We do not want to miss an issue.

PAUL & LEILA PIERPOINT  
Hobe Sound, FL

Enclosed is my 2-year renewal to your top-notch religious periodical of our day! I delight in its informational, heart-searching truths from beginning to end. It is a beacon in our sin-darkened world. Thanks for leading the way.

MARGARET R. SMITH  
Hobe Sound, FL

You are a blessing in my 90-year-old life! Thank you for the magazine! I'm still an avid reader!

NORMA SHELTON  
Ft. Wayne, IN

quite a blow and caused a delay in completing her dissertation for a of couple years. She graduated in the spring of 1989 with an EdD in Curriculum and Instruction with cognates in English and Higher Education.

Even while working on this degree, her responsibilities at GBS did not suffer. Outside of the classroom, Marcia played clarinet in the Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble and directed the annual GBS Christmas plays. She remembers this time with great fondness. "I was one of several young faculty members who were very good friends as well as colleagues, but we also had some older faculty whom we really respected. There was a strong sense of camaraderie with them." Well-liked by both students and coworkers, she was voted as one of two "favorite teachers" in a student survey sponsored by the school newspaper.

Marcia left GBS in 1989 accepting the position of principal at the Wesleyan Christian Academy in Dayton, OH—a position and a place she didn't really want to go. "In late July I was on the way to Michigan for a funeral. It was getting close to the beginning of the school year and I had to come up with something to do. I felt like God said to me, 'When are you going to quit telling Me what you will and what you won't do?' So I said, 'OK. If You want me to go to Dayton, You have them contact me again,' because I had told them no several times. A couple of days later, just around midnight, the call came." As this was an answer to her prayer, Marcia moved to Dayton in 1990 and became principal and teacher there for 12 years.

Shortly after I came to GBS as president in 1995, I asked Marcia to move back to GBS. She turned me down. Later, however, she agreed to commute from Dayton and do some adjunct teaching (2000-02). Finally, in 2002, Marcia rejoined the faculty on a full-time basis as Chair of the Division of Christian Teacher Education, a position she held until the division was merged with the Division of General Studies to become the Division of Education and Professional Studies (DEPS) in the fall of 2014. She is now a part of that division as Program Coordinator for Education.

When asked what were a couple of things that have stood out to her since she "came back," she mentioned HLC accreditation as being good for the school and that working through that process also helped her to grow professionally. She also really enjoyed her 12 years as division chair, especially the sense of community within the division. She quickly added, "But, I am enjoying the freedom of not having all of the administrative responsibilities."

For 37 years, Marcia has modeled what a Christian teacher should be. She has also mentored and molded hundreds of young people as they fulfilled their calling of being a Christian teacher. Join me in thanking Dr. Marcia Davis for 25 years of exceptional service to God's Bible School and College. We hope that she will grace our campus for many more years! 🇺🇸



Marcia served on the GBS social dean staff while a student, along with her contemporary, Mike Avery.



# Tributes to Marcia Davis

Marcia has always been a wonderful example to my wife Carolyn, to me, and to our children and grandchildren through her consistent Christian walk. As an older brother, I have “looked up” to my younger sister for her unwavering faith and her dedication to serving God at GBS.

When we get together we are very competitive at the many table games we play. Sometimes we even let Marcia win, but we always enjoy our time together. I thank God for our loving family, and that Marcia is such a big part of it. Thank you for honoring her.

**Ray Davis** retired from General Motors in Flint, MI. He and his wife Carolyn live in Largo, FL, where they attend the Oak Ridge Wesleyan Church.



I first met Marcia when I came to GBS as a student and she was assistant dean of women. From the beginning we were good friends and still are.

One of the things I liked so much as a student at GBS were the friends that were serious about serving the Lord and enjoyed having a good time. Marcia was one of those friends. She’s still like that.

We have taught together, attended church together, and shared many fun (and not so fun) times together.

There’s nothing like “old” friends, but as she reminds me many times, I will always be older than she is.

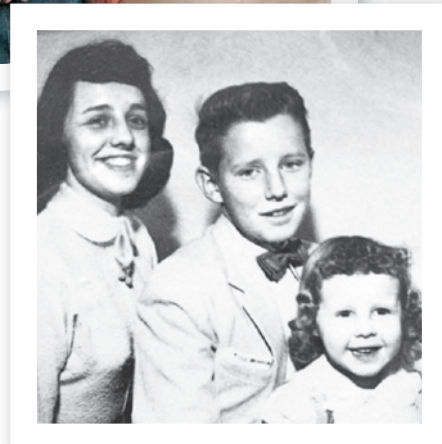
**Viola (Miller) Durr (BA '78)** was on the staff/faculty at GBS from 1976 to 1989. An Instructional Design Specialist at TriHealth in Cincinnati, OH, and a member of the GBS Board of Trustees, she lives in Franklin, OH, with her husband Bennie.



Dr. Davis and Teacher Education graduate Esther Byer



The Davis siblings, then and now



Marcia was such a great addition to our family. I was a teen when she was born. One day, when she was three, she was sitting in a little rocking chair holding a small testament open (upside down). Our insurance man was there and asked her what she was doing. She said, “I’m reading the Psalms.” We all laughed.

Marcia has a great sense of humor. She also has been a Godly example to all of us. She is such a wonderful aunt to her nieces and nephews. I know that our parents, who are in Heaven, are so proud of her, as all of us in her family are.

**MaryAnn (Davis) Green** taught school for over 50 years in the inner city of Flint, MI. (She retired after 30 years and has continued to substitute teach for over 20 more years). MaryAnn lives in Fishers, IN, with her husband Delbert.



What a privilege it is to be able to be part of a tribute to my younger sister, Marcia.

We have always been a very close family. Being several years older than Marcia, my sister MaryAnn and I were very proud to have a “younger sister” to enjoy. At a very early age it was obvious that Marcia would do something special with her life.

GOD’S REVIVALIST and BIBLE ADVOCATE

**M**arcia and I have been friends for many years. We are truly kindred spirits. During our nine years of teaching together at GBS, I learned to appreciate her sincerity and willingness to work and share with staff and students. She is truly a very humble and talented servant of God. So worthy of notice.

We have laughed, cried, and shared together in numerous situations. She has been a real source of inspiration to me. Her consistent Christian life and faithful friendship is a clear witness of God's faithfulness.

Our Touching Lives for Christ (TLC) trip to Taiwan is one of the highlights of our years of friendship. We traveled together in the Children's Gospel Team and for vacation Bible schools during the summers. These were fun times and her musical ability was always a life saver for me. We would have many tales to tell.

*Helen (Leigh) Reiff (BA '70) is a retired teacher and missionary. She was a member of the GBS faculty from 1968 to 1971, from 1983 to 1989, and from 2008 to 2010. She now lives in Florida where she is involved in Spanish ministries with her husband Glen (ThB '57).*



**W**hen I first met Marcia, one of our mutual friends said of her, "She is true blue." I have found that to be true through the 25 years that I have known her. When the Lord called her to Christian education, she made a life-time commitment to that calling, and continues to serve Him through her teaching at God's Bible School. GBS is blessed to have Marcia as a teacher today.

Marcia also faithfully serves at her home church in Dayton, Ohio. Two areas that stand out are her musical abilities and her service on the church board. Her wisdom has had a positive impact on the church, and it is blessed as she still serves there today.

While Marcia takes her calling to Christian education and her Christian service seriously, she is always ready for fellowship with friends and family. She still cherishes friendships she made in high school and especially in her college days at God's Bible School. Many of those friendships are as strong now as they were then. "She is true blue," and I'm blessed to call her my friend!

*Candy Davis lives and works in Dayton, OH, where she serves as a customer service representative.*

**Vacationing with friends on Lake Superior**



Dr. Marcia Davis was one of the first faculty members I met when I began working here. She was warm, gracious, approachable. Marcia has continually exhibited those traits—even when I, and maybe others, are perhaps excessively energetic in committee meetings, Marcia keeps calm and carries on. She's a wonderful example of GBS's culture of dedicated service, humility, and careful godliness!

Dr. Aaron Proffitt  
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Marcia Davis has exuded such a welcoming and warm spirit on campus. Both faculty and students have appreciated her humility, grace, and friendship in classes, at meetings, and off to lunch at favorite Cincinnati eateries. As a younger faculty member, I have valued Marcia's sincerity as she has intentionally inquired about and continues to take interest in my life, family, and interests. Her service to the institution and to the teacher education students has been impactful. Thank you, Dr. Davis, for your investment.

Dr. Jana Pop, Chair  
Division of Music

It's a joy and honor to work with Dr. Marcia Davis. Her kind, patient manner endears her to students. Her helpfulness and affability make her a pleasure to work alongside. Thank you, Marcia, for serving so faithfully your students, your colleagues, and the institution!

Lyle A. Witt, Chair  
Division of Education & Professional Studies

As we have served together many years on the Academic Committee, what stands out to me about Dr. Davis is her dedication and faithfulness. She has a way about her that injects calm and effects unity in the midst of differing opinions. She is a pleasure to work with! She is also to be commended for getting up each morning and making that commute from Dayton to Cincinnati to be a part of making God's work at GBS a success. Thanks!

Chris Lambeth  
College Registrar

Dr. Marcia Davis is a gracious and excellent college professor demonstrating Christian love and kindness toward her students. She is a team player as she works with academic committees and fellow faculty members and desires God's very best for all involved. Marcia has a wonderful sense of humor and loves to laugh. She is a fun person to be around.

Dr. Allan P. Brown  
Division of Ministerial Education



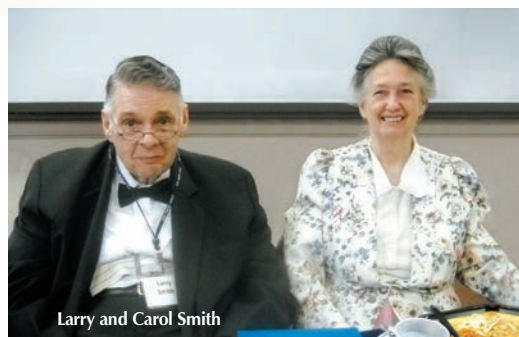
## LARRY SMITH HONORED AT ASBURY CONFERENCE

More than fifty scholars representing a broad cross section of the Wesleyan tradition gathered on June 2-3, 2016, at Asbury Theological Seminary to explore the history of "The Radical Holiness Movement in the Christian Tradition." Papers were presented reflecting the global impact of the Wesleyan/Holiness Movement, with attendees representing numerous institutional affiliations.

The meeting began with a banquet honoring Rev. Dr. Larry D. Smith for his distinguished service to the cause of Christian holiness through preaching and teaching ministries, and particularly through two decades of editing *God's Revivalist*. After Rev. James Plank, General Secretary of the Interchurch Holiness Convention, gave remarks bearing upon Larry's contributions to the Conservative Holiness Movement, Dr. Smith was presented with a festschrift—a book prepared in his honor and consisting

of scholarly essays on various aspects of Wesleyan/Holiness history. The book (available from [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)) bears the title of the conference and was edited by William Kostlevy and Wallace Thornton, Jr., as part of a series of "Studies in World Christian History" under the general editorship of David Bundy.

The highlight of the evening was Larry's response to the presentation, in which he spoke with evident anointing from the Lord reminiscent of his powerful preaching two decades earlier when he first joined the faculty at GBS, especially remarkable in light of his recent health issues. Other highlights of the conference included a panel discussion that sparked vigorous debate over the role of the Bible in the Wesleyan tradition and a powerful sermon from Daniel Stetler warning against the dangers of compromise on one hand and Phariseism on the other. The conference was truly



Larry and Carol Smith

# REVIVALIST FAMILY

On these pages, we feature items about GBS alumni, significant events scheduled throughout the "Revivalist Family," and brief news notes from across the Holiness Movement.

## MARRIAGES



**Brittany Potteiger (2013-current) to Loren Albright (AAS '14)**, June 4, 2016, at Kenwood Baptist Church, Cincinnati, with Rev. Richard Miles officiating. Loren works on the facilities staff at GBS. Both continue their studies at GBS.



**Angie Carpenter (BA '16) to Andrew Blankenship (BA '16)**, June 11, 2016, at Bible Wesleyan Church, Whitehouse, TX, with Rev. Bob Blankenship and Rev. Dennis Cable officiating. Andrew, an IT specialist at ABC Auto, plans to continue to

work on a degree in computer science with the goal of being a blessing to many churches that need technology support training. The couple reside in Longview, TX.

## BIRTHS



**To Arlette (Silva) (BA '05) and Tim (BA '06) Makcen**, a daughter, **Abella Kate**, born June 1, 2016, at The Christ Hospital, Cincinnati. Tim is an academy instructor and assistant principal of Aldersgate Christian Academy. Abella is welcomed by her older sister Aliyah (2).



**To Jessica (Stroup) (BA '07) and David Hartkopf (BA '07)**, a son, **Judson David**, born August 16, 2016, in Cincinnati. David is a member of the music faculty at GBS and the director of



a historic occasion, bringing together a denominationally and culturally diverse group of scholars to celebrate Dr. Smith's contributions and those of the tradition he represents so well.  
—Wallace Thornton (BA '92, ThB '94)

## 2016 HILLTOP PIANO INSTITUTE

For the second year, Hilltop Piano Institute, a 5-day summer piano camp, commenced on May 30 and ran through June 3. Two highlights of the camp were the Tuesday evening recital, which showcased the versatile 2016 HPI piano faculty (Timothy Crater, Dr. Paul Peak, Dr. Jana Pop, Lucas Ryder, and Jessica Smith) in an evening concert, and the Friday afternoon student recital, both featuring classical and sacred works for piano in both solo and col-



laborative settings. The twenty-two campers and seven sponsors benefited from daily instruction in general music classes (theory, piano literature, performance, technique, music technology), music exploration courses, as well as daily private and collaborative lessons in traditional and hymn-based literature with assigned instructors. Evening activities, jointly sponsored by the GBS recruitment staff, incorporated outings to several beautiful Cincinnati venues and incorporated planned

social activities. Campers and sponsors benefited from lodging in the dormitory and meals in the cafeteria. Eleven out of 14 campers returned from HPI 2015, and 11 additional campers came, mostly, as strangers, and left as great friends. God is continuing to bless this event, and we are all jointly excited about the years to come! —Dr. Jana Pop, Music Division Chair

## SERVICE RECOGNITIONS

At the end-of-year staff meeting, GBS had the privilege of recognizing several employees for their contributions to the school.

Those honored for their length of service were: Floyd Hyatt (40 years); Martha Miller (35); Marcia Davis (25—see pp.3-7); Allan Brown (15); Tim Makcen, David Reynolds (10); and Scott Blackmon, Cheryl Comparativo, Stephanie Hoffpauir, Shane Muir, Cheryl Watters, and Ryan Watters (5). ➡



the Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble. Judson is welcomed by sisters Mallory (5) and Emily (2).



To **Ivon (Garcia) (BA '11) and Brennan (BA '10) Muir**, a boy, **Brennan Alexander**, born June 26, 2016, in Lebanon, IN. The Muirs are serving under Bible Methodist Missions in San Gabriel Mixtepec, Oaxaca, Mexico.



To **Alicia (Durham) (HS '05; BA '09) and Paul (HS '02) McIntyre**, a boy, **Zane Edward**, born June 22, 2016, on the shoulder of Interstate 24 West between Murfreesboro and Nashville, TN. Yes, you read that right.

Ed (GBS 1975-79) and Heather (GBS 1978-79) Durham, missionaries to Hungary, were recently visiting their daughter Alicia in Murfreesboro. Heather was driving Alicia to her doctor's appointment at Vanderbilt



University Medical Center when the baby decided he would like to come 12 days early. A 911 operator instructed Heather to pull off the road and coached her

through the birth. Although Alicia said she had planned a natural birth, the front seat of her mother's car wasn't what she had in mind. "That was not in the plan...but everything turned out well," she said. Grandmother Heather said that she and her new grandson will always share a special bond.

Zane was welcomed by brothers Darren (4) and Kyle (2). Paul currently works as an electrician and Alicia is a stay-at-home mom. ■

**GBS NAMED A TOP CINCINNATI WORKPLACE SIX YEARS IN A ROW!**

The *Cincinnati Enquirer*, in partnership with Workplace Dynamics, a research firm that specializes in employee surveys and workplace improvement, created the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky 2016 Top Workplaces list.

GBS began participating in the surveys in 2011 and has placed on the Top Workplaces list for six years in a row! Moreover, GBS was again the only institution of higher education to make the list this year. To be a repeat winner indicates that workplace practices “consistently make employees happy and keep their workers believing they are valued.” GBS is indeed a great place, not only for students, but also for its employees! All are valued.

**ALDERSGATE FORUM, OCT. 31–NOV. 2**

This year the Aldersgate Forum will overlap the GBS Missionary Convention (see announcement, p.11). We are excited to have Pastor Jim Cymbala on campus and believe you will enjoy hearing him. The forum will begin on Monday evening, October 31, with Cymbala speaking. Cymbala will speak again Tuesday morning, and then the standard forum format will take place Tuesday afternoon through noon on Wednesday, November 2. Come hear Jim Cymbala and stay for the presentations, book reviews, panel discussions, and great fellowship! For more information, go to [www.gbs.edu/news-events/aldersgate-forum](http://www.gbs.edu/news-events/aldersgate-forum).

**NEW STAFF & FACULTY**

**Elias Abraham** (BA '13) has moved from the office for academic and student affairs, where he has been the administrative assistant for several years, and is now teaching high school English, creative writing, and physical education in Aldersgate Christian Academy.



**Luke Boldon** (BA '16) is the new director of custodial services after recently marrying Montana Hagan, who works in Aldersgate Christian Academy. Luke was a member of the social dean staff during his last two years of college.



**Esther Holloway** is the new phone desk receptionist. A former campus nurse and administrative assistant to the campus administrator (2009-12), she has lived in Florida and has worked in the health care profession, recently relocating to Cincinnati to be able to spend time with children and grandchildren.



**Rev. Rodney Loper** (BA '01) joins the GBS family as president-elect. While a student at GBS, Rev. Loper was assistant pastor at Franklin Bible Methodist Church (1999 to 2001). Following graduation, he pastored in Oklahoma City, OK. In 2007 he joined the pastoral staff of Hobe Sound Bible Church, where he served as senior pastor beginning September 2009. Rev. Loper and his wife, (p31) ➡



You are cordially invited to attend a special GBS service to mark the book release

**A Century on the Mount of Blessings**  
**7:00 PM, Monday, September 26, 2016**

(on the 116th anniversary of the GBS inaugural dedication service)

the official history of God's Bible School  
*by Jerry D. Smith*



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God's Bible School and College streams Wednesday chapel messages, as well as other special services and events during the school year. Livestreamed events can be accessed at [www.gbs.edu/news-events](http://www.gbs.edu/news-events).

Additionally, new videos are posted to YouTube each Tuesday. Below are four such sermons which have been uploaded for your edification and enjoyment.



Nathan Purdy Commissioning Weekend 2016

The Challenge: [www.gbs.edu/Purdy16-6a](http://www.gbs.edu/Purdy16-6a) Streamed 5/20 (136 min, sermon begins at 40:05)

You may have "torn your idols down," but have you fully turned to God to satisfy your heart?

The Consecration: [www.gbs.edu/Purdy16-6b](http://www.gbs.edu/Purdy16-6b) Streamed 5/21 (119 min, sermon begins at 30:43) Christians must say, "Here is the pen of my life, I surrender it entirely to you. Write what you want, when you want, how you want. I am yours."

The Communion: [www.gbs.edu/Purdy16-6c](http://www.gbs.edu/Purdy16-6c) Streamed 5/22 (105 min, sermon begins at 18:52) Are you living only in "maintenance mode," or are you actively working to make things better? The latter takes more commitment but yields more reward.

The Commission: [www.gbs.edu/Purdy16-6d](http://www.gbs.edu/Purdy16-6d) Streamed 5/22 (149 min, sermon begins at 1:10:30) Neither a sense of weakness nor a feeling of inadequacy disqualifies you from ministry. However, pride and arrogance do.

[YouTube.com/GBSC1900](http://YouTube.com/GBSC1900) is your online source for chapel sermons, GBS history, college information, and even comical or candid glimpses of campus life that may include your son, daughter, sibling, cousin, or friend!



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Pres. Michael Avery

# Question & Answer

with Renewanation Founder  
Jeff Keaton

**C**hristian education is under assault and Christian schools are struggling, with many facing closure. This is a burden I shared in a discussion with Renewanation founder Jeff Keaton. Born from that discussion was this collaborative issue of God's Revivalist dedicated to Christian education. The following is an interview with Jeff. —President Michael Avery

\* \* \* \* \*

**For those unfamiliar with the work of Renewanation, please describe your vision and mission.**

Our vision is to transform culture by giving millions of new children Christian worldview education. Our mission is to promote this cause by supporting and expanding the work of Christian schools, home-schools, and ministries that are reaching public school students with biblical worldview training.

**In very practical terms, what are you doing right now to fulfill this vision and mission?**

- We are currently working in five primary areas to:
1. Influence parents and pastors through our speaking and writing to enroll 10,000 new children in biblical worldview training programs.
  2. Provide 1,000 students with scholarships.

**Children spend roughly 16,000 hours at school from kindergarten through 12th grade. They spend a fraction of this time in biblical training at church and home.**

3. Revitalize 50 existing Christian schools.
4. Help communities start 50 new Christian schools.
5. Build out a biblical worldview training program for churches to offer to public school students.

**When did you become passionate about the need to give children a Christian worldview education?**

There were two events in my life that led me to where I am today: the birth of our daughters and my

experiences as a pastor. When our girls were born, I really began to think about who was going to influence them. I knew that I had to protect them physically, but I also had this great sense that I needed to protect their minds. I was actually open to options other than Christian schooling and homeschooling when the girls were little. However, as I visited the non-Christian school they were to be enrolled in, I made a choice to only allow teachers with a Christian worldview to shape our daughters' thinking.

The second experience that led me to become passionate about Christian worldview education was my first pastorate. We were privileged to see many teenagers and children come to Christ. Since most of them were from low-income homes and could not afford Christian education, we decided to invest heavily in their public schools. Our student ministries pastor was responsible for 32 Christian clubs in middle and high schools throughout Broward County, FL. By speaking in those clubs and by talking with our new Christian teens, I was able to see first-hand the impact of secular worldview education on our young people. These precious teens would describe to me the battle that was raging in their school every day. It seemed like the school was working against everything we were teaching them. That's when it really began to dawn on me how serious the worldview battle is in American education. I began to dream about the possibility of having these kids all week long in a setting where we could really shape their thinking. It just seemed like the two hours we had them at church was simply not enough time to win the battle for their hearts and minds. Unfortunately, I was never able to see this dream realized in my first pastorate. However, in my second pastorate, we started a Christian school that grew to almost 400 students in its first seven years, and I saw the powerful difference Christian education could make. In 2007, God spoke deeply into my heart and told me I would be leading a charge to take Christian worldview education to millions of new children. In 2008, we launched Renewation, and I have been full-time since the fall of 2011.

**What do you say to the Christians who feel God has called them to teach/work in a non-Christian school?**

I commend them! I have no doubt God is calling many Christian educators

to work in non-Christian schools. I also know how difficult their mission is. I talk to public school teachers all the time, and many of them describe their mission field as a place where they struggle to make the impact for Christ they want to make. It is a high and holy calling when God calls a man or woman to work in public education. They can make a difference because they are mature disciples, and they are doing the influencing. However, I'm not nearly as quick to recommend we place children in that setting.

**Is there evidence to back up your claims that non-Christian education is having a negative impact on the spiritual life of children from Christian homes?**

Absolutely! Children spend roughly 16,000 hours at school from Kindergarten through 12th grade. They spend a fraction of this time in biblical training at church and home during those same years. Thom Rainer released a book on "The Millennials" in 2011, and according to his research....

- 80% of the 78 million millennials in America (born from 1980-2000) declare they are not born again.
- 94% state they do not believe one or more of the cardinal doctrines of Christianity.
- 76% do not attend church.<sup>1</sup>
- A large majority of them are in favor of same-sex marriage.<sup>2</sup>



Jeff Keaton

**There is no doubt secular education has played a key role in the loss of faith in this generation. What do you say to those parents who feel God has called them to place their children as missionaries in the public school?**

They must make sure their children are mature disciples of Jesus with a very well-developed biblical worldview. If a parent sincerely feels like God has called them to place their child in a secular school, then they must be prepared to homeschool their children in the evenings after school. Without intentional and habitual biblical worldview training at home and church, a child who is attending a non-Christian school has no chance of developing a biblical worldview.

**Explain how you are seeing God's hand at work in this ministry.**

We are beginning to see an awakening amongst Christian parents and pastors. Our culture has fallen so far so fast that many parents and pastors are taking a second look at the influence of education. Over the last three years, our understanding of how we are to accomplish the mission has really come into focus. As a result, we have become much more effective in our work. Right now, we are engaged with nine revitalization or new school start-up projects with many more in the pipeline. We are providing scholarships for about 100 children. Our national magazine, *The Renewation Review*, is growing rapidly in influence and impact. God has brought us many new financial partners over the last 24 months, and He has even given us 800 acres of land where we are building out a fully-funded biblical worldview training center.

**For those who would like to get involved with your organization, or perhaps discuss starting a school or revitalizing an existing school, what's the best way to get in touch with Renewation?**

They can contact us by phone: 540-966-0648 or 1-855-TO-RENEW; by email: [info@renewation.org](mailto:info@renewation.org); or by visiting us online: [renewation.org](http://renewation.org). ■

1. Rainer, Thom and Jess. *The Millennials*. B&H Books, 2010, pp. 232-236.

2. *Ibid*, p.90.

*Jeff Keaton is the founder and CEO of Renewation. A successful pastor, church and school planter, and a ministry entrepreneur, Jeff has invested his adult life into helping people grow spiritually. He speaks across America challenging the Church to reach the world for Christ and to get involved in the great cause of giving children a Christian worldview education. He is the author of The Life of Radical Faith. Visit his website at [jeffkeaton.net](http://jeffkeaton.net).*

# Our Vision for Churches

by Jeff Keaton

If Christian worldview education is going to become accessible to millions of new children, churches will need to catch a fresh glimpse of the power of instilling a Christian worldview in the hearts and minds of children.

As I have written in other articles, I know what it is to pastor a church where almost all of our children were enrolled in non-Christian schools, and I know what it is to pastor a church where a majority of our children were enrolled in Christian schools or Christian homeschools. In my first pastorate in the Miami/Ft. Lauderdale area, we were not privileged to have a Christian school that the children of our church could afford to attend. We were winning fairly large numbers of teens to Christ, but at best we would only have them in our world for a couple of hours each week. They would often describe to us the struggle to maintain a serious walk with Christ in their non-Christian schools. I used to dream about what it would be like if I had them not only for two hours a week at church but five days a week in a Christian worldview school. I knew I would be able to see much greater transformation and discipleship.

In my second pastorate, I was able to test my theory because we started a Christian school. I watched first hand the amazing difference 35 hours of Christian education each week could make in a child's life. We would win them to Christ often through our church ministry and then we would disciple them all week long at school. No, it wasn't easy, and not every child responded perfectly, but it was light years ahead of our efforts at the church in South Florida.

Just last week I saw first hand some of the fruit of our labors as I was preaching at a Christian college in Ohio. As I was sitting on the platform waiting to preach, a young man named J.J. Powers walked in and sat in the second row. My heart leaped for joy because I had forgotten that J.J. was attending this school. You see, I remember when J.J. came to our school in the 5th grade. He was a young, insecure boy who obviously did not know where he was headed in life. His experience in

non-Christian schools had been somewhat difficult. I watched J.J. for seven years as he gave his life to Christ, went overseas on mission trips, and then received a call into the pastoral ministry. I and the others involved in J.J.'s life have no doubt that he would not be where he is today if it had not been for the seven years of weekly training and discipleship he received at the Christian school we provided for him.

Pastors, our mission is to teach children to know, love, and serve Christ through every means possible.

If this is going to happen, churches must make it their mission to provide serious Christian worldview training to all of their children and teens. This can be done in our churches using four primary avenues:

### **Every church should be evaluating its own training programs.**

We must ask questions like: Are we training the children in our care or are we just pacifying parents and using Sunday school, youth ministry, etc., as glorified babysitting programs? Summit Ministries, Answers in Genesis, and other organizations are providing first class, biblical worldview curriculums. Yes, we must teach all of the Bible stories to our children, but we must take the next step and teach our children how Christianity stacks up against the other worldviews that dominate our culture and world. If most of the children in a church attend non-Christian schools, that church must work overtime to offset the secular teaching their students receive every day. If we don't, we will continue to lose our children to the secular way of thinking. We can no longer afford to play church! We must seriously train the next generation to think from a biblical perspective.

### **Every church should be considering how it can support the local Christian schools in its area.**

These schools are usually doing their work with very limited resources. The staff members of most of these schools are sacrificing greatly. It is a huge encouragement when the leaders of a local church walk into a Christian school and say, "What can we do to help you give more children a Christian worldview education?" Every church should be promoting and supporting their local Christian schools. If you don't have a good school in your area, consider starting one.

### **Every church should be considering how it can help the Christian homeschoolers in its area.**

Homeschoolers need gathering places, recreational facilities, and many other things. When parents make the commitment to educate their own children, they should be supported and commended by the local church.

### **Every church should be considering how it can reach out to the public school students in its community.**

If a state allows for Christian education release time, churches should get involved in this program.



Public school students are not being disciplined in the Christian faith and are often being aggressively taught anti-Christian dogma. We must do all that we possibly can to reach them. Groups like Young Life, First Priority and Fellowship of Christian Athletes provide unique opportunities to be involved in the life of public school students. We must also support those who are called to work in public education. They are missionaries who are no longer allowed to verbalize the gospel.

It's time for every church to realize that unless we intentionally work to instill a Christian worldview in the hearts and minds of children, far too many from our churches will grow up and leave the Christian faith, and children who have no one to bring them to Jesus will be lost. This is happening at an alarming rate, and we know how to stop it. We stop it by giving every child a Judeo-Christian worldview through any and all means available to us. ■

# Are Your Children the Exception?

by Keith McCurdy

## *Are your children the exception to the rule?*

They'd better be, because the myth that continues to be pushed on us about education will inevitably fall apart at some point. The myth I refer to is that **putting children into a broken system of education with no moral foundation will prepare them to live in the "real" world.**

I have read this recently in different articles touting the benefits of today's public education system. Two even discouraged private, faith-based education because the healthier environment sheltered them and made them unprepared for the "real" world.

Well, the good news is all of these articles do get one thing right: environment matters—in fact, it matters a lot. The problem is that the suggested connection in this position is flawed—fatally flawed. For example:

- We know that children raised in abusive families are more likely to be abusive.
- We know that children raised in poverty are more likely to stay in poverty.
- We know that those raised around drugs, alcohol, gang influence, bad language, illegal behavior, sexual promiscuity, etc.—are all at higher risks of suffering the same in their lives.
- We know that children raised in broken homes are more likely to struggle in relationships and have a myriad of issues.

**We all know this.** But are we to believe that somehow, miraculously, when we enter the school building, what works in every other part of life regarding how our surrounding environment and social constructs affect us reverses and now has the opposite effect?

I will be the first to say, we all know kids who grow up in terrible situations and turn out to be great

individuals. But they are the exception to the rule. **Growing up in more dysfunctional or unhealthy environments in no way consistently prepares anyone for functioning later in life in a broken world.**

Why is the myth constantly being repeated? It could be fear that if families realize the unhealthiness in the system that there will be a mass exodus. It could be fear that if things such as vouchers or tax breaks for private, faith-based education is approved, money will dry up for the public system. It might all be political, or people just trying to keep their jobs.

Whatever the reason isn't really the point. The point is that it is a myth and a very dangerous one. The environment in which our children are being educated is of utmost importance, but for different reasons.

Our children, between the ages of six and eighteen, spend two-thirds of their lives—the overwhelming majority of their waking hours—in school and school-related activities. If we are going to weave the truth of God into our children's lives and provide a solid moral foundation for dealing with a broken and difficult world, then we cannot ignore the environment in which much of their youth and young adult lives take place.

School is not a time when we are to hope that our children will navigate a healthy path and steer clear of unhealthy things. It is a time when things will be "impressed" upon them. What they grow up and develop in, they will seek in life. A child raised in a healthy, morally grounded environment is consistently the most well equipped to handle the "real" world. ■

School is not a time when we are to hope that our children will navigate a healthy path and steer clear of unhealthy things. It is a time when things will be "impressed" upon them. What they grow up and develop in, they will seek in life. A child raised in a healthy, morally grounded environment is consistently the most well equipped to handle the "real" world. ■

*Keith McCurdy works with children, families, and individuals in the Roanoke Valley and surrounding areas in hopes of helping to rebuild the American family. For more information and ideas, take a look at his website and blog at [theradicalparent.com](http://theradicalparent.com).*





# a **Worldview** that **Revolves** around **God**

*anonymous testimony*

I thought I knew what was best for me. I tried to convince my parents that I would be better off in public school where I could make more friends, share God's love with people who had never experienced it, and be involved in the sports and activities that weren't offered at my Christian school. My efforts were in vain. I couldn't understand my parents' reasoning because all I saw were the present circumstances. I was so blind.

Three months after graduation, I ventured into the unknown, leaving all familiarity six hours behind me, to follow God's call on my life and attend college. Call me ignorant, naïve, or maybe just crazy, but I didn't expect to run into much trouble there. Non-Christians don't attend Christian colleges, right? Wrong again. Friends partied on the weekends; others discussed sneaking drugs in the dorms; guys took advantage of girls; girls took advantage of guys; students flunked out of school for lack of motivation; and others couldn't quote John 3:16 if their life depended on it. Seeing all of those things left me confused and hurting for them. I couldn't help but ask, "Don't these people know God? Don't they realize they're disobeying Him? Isn't this just common sense?" But after a deep conversation with one of my peers, I realized that the answer to all of those questions was simply "no."

I never fully understood the significance of a Christian worldview until that night. As this young man shared some of his past experiences from school and home, I listened intently and began to piece it all together. He wasn't aware of his worldview at the time, but he was speaking directly from it. He didn't realize that the more he talked, the more he clued me in on his values, beliefs, and convictions.

The conversation unfolded something like this: he spoke, and his worldview said, "I am the most important person on this campus." Then I spoke, and my worldview replied, "God should be the center of our life. The world does not revolve around us." He spoke again, and his worldview told me, "I care about people, but only if they have something to offer me, and only if they're not a burden." I spoke back, and my worldview said, "We are called to love others, put their needs before our own, and expect nothing in return." His worldview quickly argued, "Don't try to tell me I'm wrong. There can only be one correct

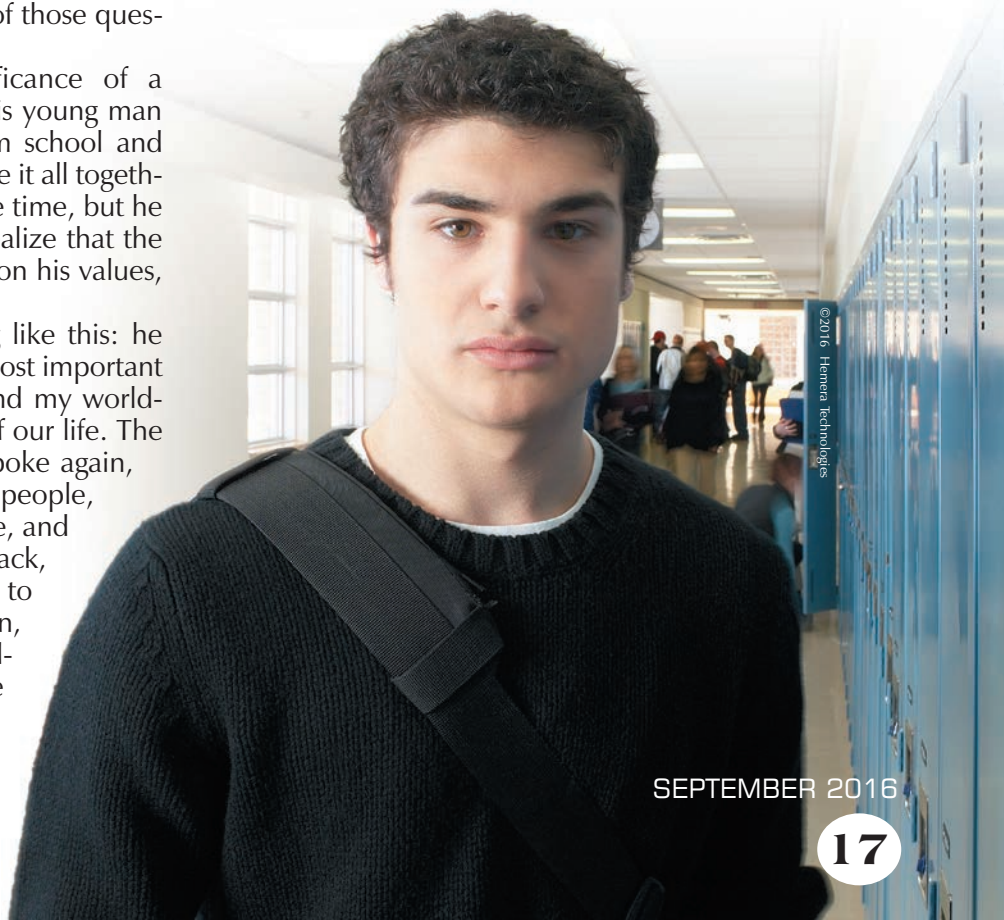
view on this, and it's mine." Mine spoke up and answered, "There is a lot I don't know, so there's a chance I am mistaken. I would love to hear your perspective." As we went back and forth, I began to pray, begging God to open his eyes to his ignorance.

Then it hit me. He wasn't only blind; he was also deceived. He had spent 19 years developing a worldview that was contradictory to God's Word, and one thirty-minute conversation wasn't going to get him to adopt a completely new worldview.

That night I realized how blessed I truly am. The fact that I was raised in a Christian school gave me something special—a Christian worldview. My worldview wasn't developed in a week, a semester, or even a year. It was developed throughout my entire K-12 experience. Every day I attended my Christian school, I learned something else about God's love for me, about what it means to possess integrity, and the true reason why I should apply myself to everything I am involved in, including my schoolwork. God might not have opened my friend's eyes that night, but he sure did open mine, and I will never forget it.

My Christian worldview gives me a deeper understanding of my circumstances, and, most importantly, the ability to see the world from a biblical perspective. It gives me hope, love for others, and the passion needed to pursue big dreams. I still face trials like everyone else, but my worldview gives me reason to keep going. ■

*This testimony was written by an anonymous 2014 graduate of a Renewation affiliate school.*



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# Help Effect Change Through Legislation

by Melvin Adams

One of the amazing things about this country is that every citizen has the potential to influence legislation. Unfortunately, few Americans actually use their opportunities to influence legislation positively. I challenge you to think differently about legislation and realize that your actions can bring much positive change.

First, let me be clear. Good legislation is NOT the ultimate answer for America, God is. Only a spiritual renewal will bring substantive and lasting change for the betterment of our families, communities, and nation. But legislation can also be part of the framework of that change as it happens.

## What I Mean by Legislation

From its very beginning, the United States was designed to be a nation governed by the rule of law. These laws were not to be established by decree, but by the will and consent of the people. They were to be formed and enforced by the people's representatives.

Our constitutional fathers established three branches of government: the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches. They also formed three levels of that government: the Federal, State, and Local branches. This design was intentional, ensuring a healthy balance of power by adequate exposure to and input from the people. They rightly understood that government and law reflect the moral character of the culture, and culture is always a direct reflection of the moral condition of the people.

## Legislative Trends Today

A quick look at our culture today, and the laws being passed to support it, is rather shocking. Since our legislative system is designed to ensure the will of the people, how is it that same-sex marriage has become the law of the land; that our schools have become laboratories of experimentation in sexuality; and "the right to choose" an abortion is somehow guaranteed in the constitution? The fact is that some aggressively pushed for these changes to be adopted. We were too silent.

When ideas are pursued and people (no matter how few at the beginning) rally to them, culture begins to change, and legislation tends to follow. So we can

conclude that our American system is not faulty, only the will and moral character of citizens who are content to let evil triumph.

## Positive Legislative Trends in Education

The good news is that there are positive trends in legislation related to education. Almost all are directly tied to the state of public education in this country. I will mention only two, but both are significant.

### 1. Legislation Supporting Homeschools

Homeschooling is the fastest growing educational movement in America today. A few years ago, people who chose to teach their children themselves rather than put them in public schools were literally at risk of losing them to the state. This is far from true in most states today because of legislation that makes accommodation for homeschooling. More support is needed, but things are moving in the right direction.

### 2. Legislation Supporting Parental Choice in Education

Great progress is taking place across the country as states pass laws that enable parents to choose where their child attends school. This is especially significant in that at least 14 states have now passed creative legislation enabling funding for educational alternatives outside of public and public charter education. This includes options that can provide funding to help students attend Christian schools!

It is truly exciting to see this progress. Parents should have control over educational choices for their children, and taxpayers should be given greater opportunity to support education they feel best serves their communities. This is legislation we should be working to see passed in every state.\*

## Encouraging Examples

Many people don't understand the significant impact that they can have if they will get personally involved. Let me give you two examples of people I know who did.

In Virginia, the battle over school choice has been going on for years. As in most states, nothing happens

fast in Virginia politics. A friend decided to get involved, so he began to speak out whenever possible and connect with legislators who were interested in promoting school choice legislation. He visited with them, learned their interests and the challenges they faced with bills being proposed, and he shared his ideas with them. In 2012, pro school choice legislation passed in Virginia in the form of a Tax Credit Program. The problem was the bill had practical challenges for implementation. My friend continued to talk to legislators and in the 2013 session, significant improvements were passed on the original bill. A leading aide to the senator who introduced the changes told my friend, "The senator took your concerns about the original bill and your proposed changes to help it and introduced them in a bill that modified and improved the law." As a result of this bill, several thousand students are now receiving Christian worldview education.

In Alabama in 2013, legislation supporting school choice by the Alabama House and Senate was stopped by a court injunction. The approved bills were not able to move on to the governor for his signature. Knowing that similar court

action had stopped a bill in Colorado a year earlier but had been overruled by the Colorado Supreme Court, a friend of mine sent emails of encouragement to every conservative member of the Alabama House and Senate and shared the Colorado precedent with them. Within a week, the Alabama High Courts had addressed the matter, and the governor signed the bills into law!

The point of these stories is that we live in a country where citizens can have a significant influence on legislation—if they will. I encourage you to step forward and effect change through legislation.

### Steps You Can Take to Help Shape Good Legislation

Stop cursing the darkness, and let your light shine. Educate yourself on critical matters reflected in your culture in light of truth, particularly biblical truth. Share what you discover, and rally your friends, your neighbors, and as many people as you can around that truth. Get to know your

local elected representatives and the legislators in your state who may share your values and can help support them with laws. Understand that "we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against...spiritual wickedness" (Eph. 6:12). Seek God's wisdom, and work to honor Him for the good of all. He will help you do it! ■

\* Renewation participates in a couple of such state programs to support parents who choose Christian education for their children. Contact them at [renewation.org](http://renewation.org) to learn more.

*Melvin Adams is a minister and educator whose 33-year career includes organizational leadership and ministry in the U.S. and several countries around the world. He was President and COO of Renewation (2008-16) and is currently working in its tax credit foundation. Melvin is a GBS graduate (BA '82). He and his wife, Sandy, have six children and nine grandchildren. The Adamses reside in Hardy, Virginia.*



# Giving Grandchildren *the Gift of a*

## Christian Education

By Josh Mulvihill



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Many grandparents have never considered that Christian education can be an impactful way to make a spiritual investment in a grandchild's life. American society is telling grandparents that this is none of their business, reducing their role to emotional support, an extra-special babysitting service, and the dispenser of large amounts of sugar. There are two problems with this thinking. First, grandparents who accept this role have greatly limited the likelihood that they will leave any significant, lasting spiritual impact in the life of their grandchild. Second, this isn't the role God has given grandparents in the Bible.

Grandparents are given a God-ordained role in Scripture that is not interchangeable with any other member of the family. Grandparents are essential, not extras, in the life of grandchildren. According to the Bible, a grandparent's role is to build a heritage of faith in the coming generations.

Christian education is an excellent partner for this purpose. Christian education, even at its best, never replaces the spiritual role that God has given parents and grandparents. It reinforces, strengthens, and supports. In this way, Christian education and grandparents have much in common regarding their role in a child's life.

### **How can a grandparent utilize Christian education to pass faith on to grandchildren?**

First, grandparents and their adult children need to understand why it's important for a child to receive a Christ-centered and biblically-based education. In short, education is discipleship. It transforms children into the likeness of the educator (Luke

6:40). Children who are educated by secular humanists begin to think like secular humanists, which is the religion of public education in America. The reason: it's impossible to divorce knowledge acquisition from character formation. There is no such thing as religious neutrality in education. ***The bottom line is that a Christ-less education never leads to a Christ-like maturity.*** If we want our children and grandchildren to treasure Christ, then it makes sense to place them with instructors, curriculum, and schools that help toward this end.

Furthermore, some families need financial support to make Christian education possible. Grandparents can encourage adult children to pursue Christian education by offering to pay for some or all of their grandchild's tuition.

It is no secret that one of the primary deterrents to Christian education is the cost. Christian education is financially expensive. Because of this, some families place their children in public schools and try to combat the errant messages their children hear. Can I encourage you to look at education from a different perspective? Non-Christian education is spiritually expensive. For many children, it leads them away from Christ, and the cost is eternal separation from Jesus. In light of eternity, I don't think families can afford not to place their children in some form of Christian education.

If you are a grandparent, I want to encourage you to eliminate the financial barrier for your grandchildren to the degree that God has made that possible with your finances. I believe you can do this in two ways. First, you can spend less in some area of life in order to reprioritize money for Christian education. One grandparent told me that rather than take their children and grandchildren to Disney World, they used that money to send their grandchildren to a Christian school

for a year. The same idea could be applied to the purchase of a new car or piece of furniture.

Second, most grandparents plan to leave some form of financial inheritance to their children and grandchildren. That is a good thing—"A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children" (Prov. 13:22 ESV).

What if your financial inheritance could be used to build a spiritual heritage by making it possible for grandchildren to attend a Christian school or college? Jim, a grandfather from New York, answers that question. "I think it is more important to help provide a Christian education for my grandchildren while I am alive than it would be to give them an inheritance after they have gone through the public school system and secular college. I think it is more important to spend the money on them during their formative years when they are deciding what they believe about God."

True, there are children who go to public schools and secular colleges and grow up to love Jesus Christ, but this is becoming the exception rather than the rule. Public schools have slowly shifted away from teaching children ***how to think***. Instead, they are teaching children ***what to think***. That is a big shift. Unfortunately, in many places, public education has become hostile toward Jesus Christ and the truths of Scripture, making it all the more imperative for grandparents to do what they can to see that their grandchildren are not in these environments.

God has given grandparents a teaching role in the lives of their grandchildren. Psalm 78:5-6 states that God commanded grandparents to teach their children "that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children" (ESV). In case you weren't counting, that's a four-generation vision, and

it revolves around grandparents teaching children and grandchildren "the works of God and his commandments...so that they may set their hope in God...[and not be] a stubborn and rebellious generation" (Ps. 78:5-8 ESV).

### **Grandparents, do you want your grandchildren to treasure Jesus?**

Then teach them the mighty works of God, tell them the commands of God, and share with them the hope you have in Jesus. This is Christian education. Regardless of whether grandchildren attend public or private schools or are home-schooled, they need this more than ever. Your role is to teach them the core truths of the Bible and help them embrace a biblical worldview rather than a secular one.

Grandparents can have a hands-on role passing on a life skill, reading and discussing a book from a reputable Christian author, or leading a grandchild through a Bible study. If a grandchild is home-schooled, grandparents could help teach an academic subject they enjoy. If you live a long distance from grandchildren, technology such as Skype makes all this possible. Most adult children would be delighted if grandparents wanted to read, study, discuss, and teach grandchildren the truths of Scripture. Most grandchildren would be excited to spend additional time with grandma or grandpa doing any of these activities.

**I'll end with a question:** How can you use your financial resources, godly wisdom, and incredible influence to give your grandchildren the gift of a Christian education? ■

*Josh Mulvihill is pastor to children and families at Grace Church in Eden Prairie, MN, and an adjunct professor at Crown College. He is married to Jen, and they have five children and a beagle.*

# Christian Education Matters — A Business Perspective *by Alicia Smith*

## **Why does Christian education matter?**

**A**s I walk into my office each morning, I can't help but notice my wall filled with pictures and notes from my daughters. As a mother, it's easy to feel like you may very well have the most well-behaved, above-average children in the room (putting all bias aside, of course).

However, as I read through these notes, they are filled with tributes to my Lord: Scripture, graphics depicting the cross, notes referencing true character qualities such as surrender, forgiveness, and love.

My husband and I choose to send our children to a private Christian school. That decision does not come lightly as it sometimes requires sacrifices in other areas. To us, it is worth any sacrifice, and in the long run, it will not be a sacrifice at all.

I see the world around me rapidly morphing into a place that is not familiar to me. I see the youth of today's culture being faced with decisions and situations at a very young age that most adults were not aware of until later teenage years. It is beyond important that my children are able to function in that world from a basis of love and the ability to face the challenges of life with a worldview that is seen through the prism of Christ.

My girls are learning more than science, math, and English each day. They are challenged to think for them-

selves, but to always cross-reference what they think with what the Bible says. They are taught to put others first before themselves, encourage one another, and above all else, put Christ first. A positive attitude is encouraged at every turn.

As an employer, hiring new personnel and managing them has its difficulties. The most challenging is the rapid depletion of kindness, character, and good old-fashioned work ethic. The latter is quickly becoming virtually non-existent. Just a few years ago, you could interview five applicants and have three qualified for the position with two of them having a sense of drive and a persevering attitude to get the job done. Today, there may be ten people interviewed for the same position with only one of those being a possibility. Our culture has failed the last generation by giving them a sense of entitlement and too many free passes. The contagion of a negative, selfish perspective will spread and affect not only the person exhibiting it, but also an entire office—and more quickly than wildfire. Many factors contribute to the end result of an adult's character, but I truly believe that a core cause is the education process.

I have confidence that with a Christ-based education, my children are being trained to work hard, persevere when struggles arise, and pursue any project with diligence and a positive attitude. As a mother, I pray they grow into productive adults who place Christ as Lord of their lives in every aspect. As an employer, I covet a generation that seeks to work with passion and positivity. I have been charged with two members of that future generation and providing Christian education is the least I can do to ensure they grow in wisdom and stature.

As a business owner, I have chosen to get involved with Renewation because of the excellent young men and women they are producing through their work in Christian education. These potential new employees have a Christian view of work and the character to lead my company into the future. Imagine the influence on society and business when millions of these Christian educated young people become available to the workforce.

So you see, from a business perspective, Christian education really does matter. ■

*Alicia Smith is the Chief Financial Officer for Premium Steel Building Systems headquartered in Roanoke, Virginia.*



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# Worldviews Have Consequences —

## The Story of T.J. *by Jeff Keaton*

***If we want to win the next generation, we must fight for their hearts and minds!***

There are a slice of the 15-35 year-olds who are carrying on the Christian faith in a powerful way. This group is made up of those young men and women who were given a thoroughly Christian worldview through their home, school, and church. Let me tell you about one of them—T.J.

As a young man, T.J. spent nine years in a Christian school and developed a biblical view of life. In the fall of 2014, he enrolled in a secular university and began to experience teachers and students who did not possess a biblical worldview. Because T.J. had been taught to think critically, he won many of the debates in which one of his professors asked him to engage. The professor told him he ought to become a lawyer. Soon enough a hot button cultural issue was on the debate schedule. Abortion.

There were 25 students in this particular class, and T.J. was the only student who had any Christian school training. When the professor asked students to declare their position on abortion, 23 stated they were in favor of abortion. T.J. was the only student against abortion. One young man said he didn't know what he believed but was siding with T.J. because T.J. always won. The professor asked the "majority" to make their case first. They gave the "group think" answers they had been fed throughout their K-12 school years. After they had concluded their arguments, T.J. made his case. At the conclusion of his argument, he stated in no uncertain terms that if all he said was true, abortion was, in reality, murder.

The professor asked if any students had changed their minds. All 23 students who had previously stated they were for abortion abandoned their argu-

ment and joined T.J. One young man, deeply trained with a biblical worldview, was able to persuade 24 other students.

Our mission at Renewanation is to transform our culture by giving millions of new children a Christian



worldview education. Can you imagine the impact on our society when millions of students like T.J. are flooding into every area of our culture? T.J. came out of the school that I helped start in 2002. This school was the genesis of Renewanation, and T.J. is the reward for our investment and labor.

This is the answer to America's problems. We must regain access to the hearts and minds of our children, and as we do, they will change our world.

Is this work easy? No! Is it a quick fix? No! Nothing easy or quick is going to fundamentally change the course of our nation. However, we can give millions of new children a Christian worldview if we will unite and stay the course. ■

# We're Having a **BLAST**\*!!

by Rachel England

\* Bible Learning And Sharing Together

*"Who are you?" I asked.*

*He sat up a little straighter and looked ahead with a steady gaze. "I am a child of God; one in whom Christ dwells."*

*My heart was pounding. "Where are you?"*

*"I am living in the unshakeable kingdom of God," he answered firmly.*

*"And what do you believe?" I smiled and breathed a sigh of relief. Finally, question number 105.*

*A little louder now, "I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of Heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord..."*

*His emerging masculine face seemed to blur and in my mind his voice got higher...then suddenly it was ten years ago—where had the time gone? His pudgy little three-year-old face was expressively quoting the rest of the Apostle's Creed... "the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." And a loud emphatic, "Amen!"*

It was during those early years when my children were toddlers that I began to feel the weight of the responsibility for their spiritual training. How does a parent instill a love for God in their offspring? How can I help my children understand and know what they believe and not only pray the sinner's prayer as a child, but also fervently embrace Jesus as they enter adulthood? Will I look back and say I had done everything I could to help them choose wisely?

As my husband Robbie and I began asking these probing questions, we commenced on a journey of researching and listening to various Christian parenting experts. It became abundantly clear that many well-intentioned parents seem to pass off this responsibility to their church or Christian school. Even those who start off with good intentions get busy with managing life—and if there is no accountability or specific goals, one's best efforts of spiritual training can easily fall by the wayside.

We also realized that in our culture, even in our holiness circles, there are very few special ceremonies in our children's lives between the ages of 0-18 other than a baby dedication, birthday parties, and high school graduation. I began asking our church leaders for help in this area: Do we have a catechism that can serve as the foundation for our child's spiritual formation? At what age should a Christian be baptized? Is there a way we

can reach our children at a deeper level as parents—and as a church—to specifically train them in the knowledge of Christ? Could I start a class that would help parents address these questions? Although the problem was obvious, there didn't seem to be a clear solution. But God was working and giving me a burden for my children and for the families of our church. I kept thinking about how the Catholics have confirmation and catechism classes, the Jews have Bar-Mitzvahs, and both of these religious circles are known for their life-long loyalty to their faith traditions. What are we missing? And what can we do about it? I began dreaming of starting a spiritual training class at our church that would include teaching a holiness catechism and planning special ceremonies that our children would never forget.

It was on Mother's Day 2010 that Charlotte Frederick spoke at our church. She described the exodus of our young adults from the holiness movement and gave a passionate appeal for parents to embrace the responsibility of intentionally training their children at home and the need for churches to catechize the young. She was speaking exactly what I had been feeling in my heart! I looked around while she spoke and saw the tears flowing down the faces of leaders in our church who were being impacted by her words. I felt the Lord whisper, "Now is the time."



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After a presentation to the church board and months of prayer and preparation, I began B.L.A.S.T. Class—Bible Learning And Sharing Together.

It was a bit challenging to find a holiness catechism, but the Lord was leading to meet that need as well. After researching various catechisms and with the help of Robbie and GBS faculty member Dr. Mark Bird, I developed a catechism of 105 questions for students to memorize. It was reviewed and approved by holiness pastors and theology professors, and is the backbone of what I teach in the class. Students memorize four questions a month and we continually cycle through the material so hopefully they will go through the entire catechism four times before leaving B.L.A.S.T. class.

B.L.A.S.T. meets once a month on a Wednesday evening and is a class for ages 4-12 that focuses on developing the conscience, memorizing Scripture and our holiness catechism, and worshiping God together. We also learn how to have devotions, lead a prayer group, pay attention to a sermon, and testify. One of the students' favorite class activities is role-playing choices that lead to godly character. Students have a B.L.A.S.T. journal that reflects the class theme for the year and includes a daily Bible reading plan, a prayer list, the catechism questions, and Scriptures to memorize for the month. There is a section for church sermon notes where students write the date, special song, Scripture, and then take notes or draw pictures related to the sermon (depending on their age). One of the most important parts of this journal is the extra projects, challenges, and discussions for parent use. Since B.L.A.S.T. is designed to augment spiritual training in the home, my goal is to give parents ideas and ready-to-use projects to enhance the quality of family instruction. I also send home a paper each month detailing what the students learned during class and questions parents can ask for family discussion. Students are tested each month on their catechism questions and Scriptures, and parents report if extra challenges are completed (for a prize!). At the end of the year, students can hand in their journal and completed goals for something extra special! One year we took a busload of

kids to Sight & Sound. Another year was a trip to Washington, DC, and this year we are planning to visit Baltimore's National Aquarium.

B.L.A.S.T. students are also encouraged to take part in an optional Rite-of-Passage Ceremony on their 13th birthday where they recite the catechism, give their personal testimony of faith, are baptized, and then receive an engraved youth Bible. This signals their transition to our church youth group and the beginning of the exciting adventure of emerging adulthood!

I love teaching this class and thank God for the way it is helping my own children. It gives our family accountability and the structure that we need as parents to keep spiritual training as not only a noble goal, but also an attainable reality. Not everyone in our church chooses to send their children to B.L.A.S.T. or to complete the extra projects. After all, it requires a lot of time and energy to keep kids on track and to continue the spiritual training at home. However, it is my prayer that B.L.A.S.T. is impacting the vast majority of our children to remain in the faith and to truly understand what we believe.

Hearing my son confidently share his answers made it all worth it. Water dripped on the floor as friends and family encircled Josiah, placing their hands on him and praying for the next important stage of his life. The special gifts had been given, he had shared his testimony, and been lowered in the waters of baptism, then raised to embark on the journey ahead.

"Amen." I slipped my arm around him and as we walked inside to where he would change into dry clothes for our celebration with food, he leaned over and whispered, "Thanks for everything, Mom. This is the best birthday ever!" ■

**Rachel England** (GBS 1990-92) is married to Robbie England, chair of the GBS Board of Trustees, and enjoys being the family manager of their four children in Jonestown, PA. In addition to teaching a spiritual training class at church, she teaches piano and cello and serves on the Northern Lebanon School Board. Her favorite parenting resources are *Shepherding A Child's Heart* by Ted Tripp and *Discipleship in the Home* by Matt Friedemann



# Why I Believe in Christian Education

In Western culture, parents typically take for granted that elementary and high school matter. But I imagine we rarely ask ourselves, “What is school for?” Is it just about academics, about cognitive development? Is it about socialization, learning to interact well with others?

I think these questions should lead to a prior question: What is my parenting for?

After all, consider the amount of time our children spend in school. Let’s say my three sons remain under my significant influence until they’re 20 years old. Of those 20 years, they will be in K-12 school for 13. In each of those 13 years of schooling, my boys will spend roughly half their waking hours in school, for roughly 9 months of the year. That means that for about 65% of the years I have to raise my boys, they’ll spend half the days for three quarters of the year in school.

That’s a lot of time I give to my sons’ school! That’s a lot of time that I’m not directly, immediately teaching and training my boys to live for God.

My aim as a father is to cooperate with God to train and teach my boys to love and obey Him and to live life His way—to become as much like Jesus as God can make them. And that affects how I understand the purpose of school.

Of course, I want good education for my sons. I’m a teacher, my wife has been a classroom teacher. Her parents have been teachers and administrators, as have my parents. My brother and sister-in-law have been teachers, and my wife’s brother and sisters-in-law are teachers. My wife’s grandfather was a teacher and school administrator. Teaching is something of a family business, so academic development matters to me! Beyond that, I think my sons’ usefulness in God’s hands will be maximized when they develop their minds to the best of their ability.

I also want my sons to grow socially. If they have excellent mental ability but cannot interact well with others, their ability to contribute to God’s kingdom will be decreased. Even their knowledge is going to be most useful when they can effectively communicate it to others. But more important than communicating knowledge, they need to be able to show God’s love to the people with whom they share churches, workplaces, and communities. My boys’ social growth, the development of interpersonal skills, is an important element of schooling.

Most of all, though, I want my sons to be influenced to be like Jesus. That’s my most impor-

tant work as a parent, to show God’s love to my sons and to influence them to love and serve Christ.

Being like Jesus does not happen automatically. We live in a context, our surrounding culture. While our world’s cultures have never been friends to Jesus, U.S. culture seems increasingly hostile to biblical Christianity. So if my sons are going to become like Jesus, there needs to be active work—I can’t rely on their just “catching on” because their parents are Christians.

The church provides an important element to help my sons grow in Christ. It’s critical, I believe, for our families to attend and involve ourselves in strong, Bible-centered churches. This provides a context beyond the home that presents an alternative to the secular culture around us.

But consider again the time our children spend in different places. Counting three weekly services, our kids spend 5-6 hours weekly in church. That compares with something like 35 hours each week in school. As we choose our churches carefully, then, so we should choose our schools carefully.



*by Aaron Profit*

A quality Christian school is different from other schools. In some ways, it may look like other good schools: colorful and energetic classrooms staffed by talented, educated, and skilled people who love education and love to help young people. But in a Christian school, staff have a sense of mission and purpose beyond academics. They understand that education is holistic, addressing not only students' minds but also their hearts and bodies.

Because all these matter! What do we think is true in our minds? To which kingdom—God's or earth's—do our hearts give allegiance? Are our bodies living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God, or are they slaves to lusts and passions?

To be "Christian," a school must address all of these aspects of what it means to follow Christ. This happens when the school's staff understand their work as obedience to Jesus' commission to make disciples. A truly Christian school is a disciple factory. If a school isn't focused on that task, then it may have Christian employees, and it may have Christian curriculum, it may be operated by a church, but it's not a Christian school. It's simply a school with some Christians.

As a parent of children in a Christian school, I do not drop my kids off, dust off my hands and say, "Well, that's done. Now they are the school's to train." Instead, I understand that I'm partnering with that school.

I'm entrusting my precious sons to that staff, and I have a responsibility to surround the school and its staff with prayer. I have a responsibility not to undermine and tear down the school or its staff, but to work with them as brothers and sisters—even when that means difficult conversations, including the potential for difficult conversations about my kids' behavior. Putting my kids in Christian school is not delegating parenting; it's expanding the Christian role models and influences in my children's lives, and that requires partnership.

The late Dallas Willard wrote, "Everyone receives spiritual formation, just as everyone gets an education. The only question is whether it is a good one or a bad one." Those who work in Christian education generally do so sacrificially: They could have more money, prestige and earthly "success" elsewhere. Parents who place their children in Christian schools also do so sacrificially, turning down the kingdom of earth's offer of free education because of their allegiance to a different kingdom.

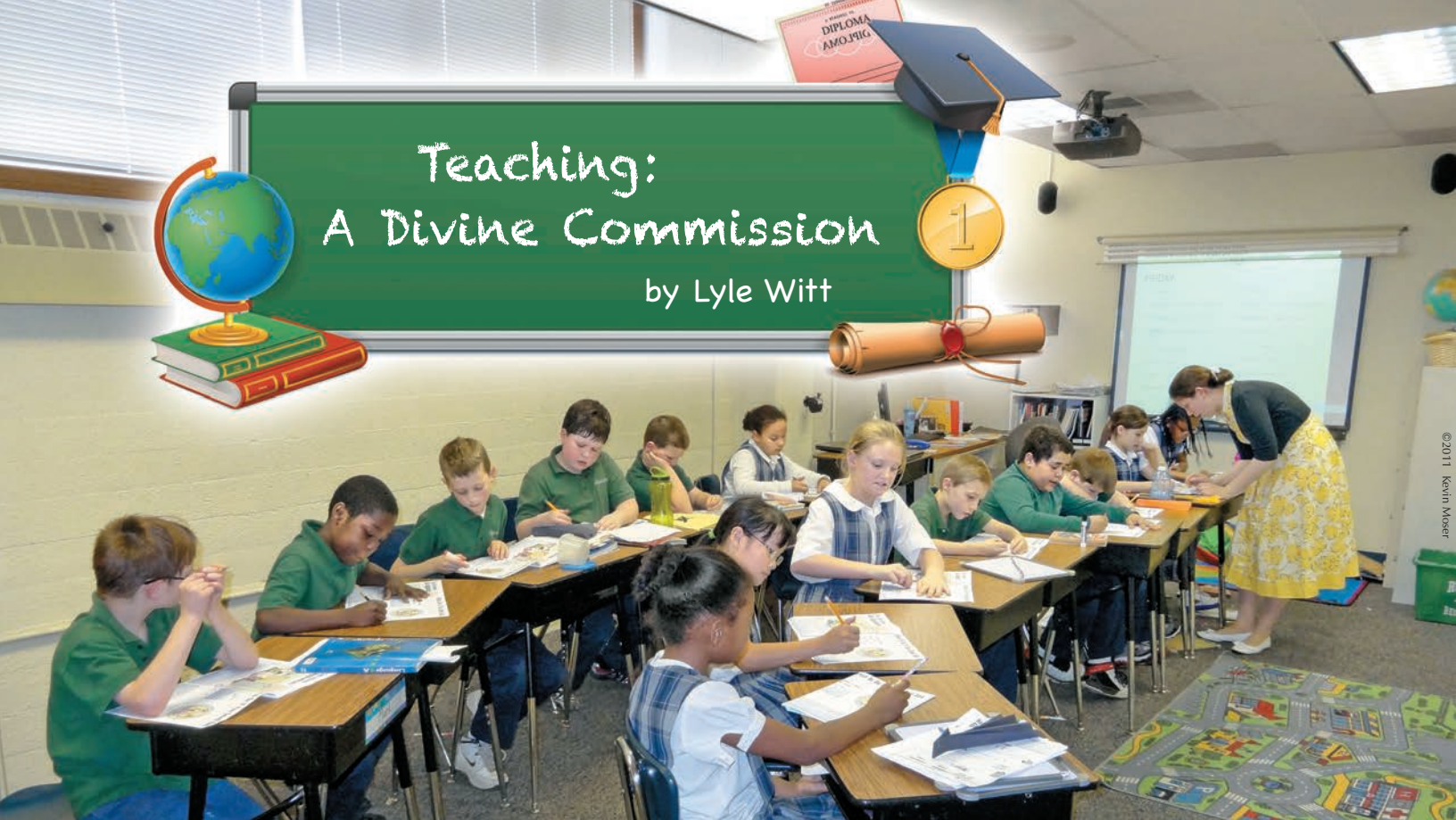
This beautiful partnership of sacrifice can provide the good spiritual formation Willard writes about. And that's why I believe in Christian education: When Christian parents work together with Christian teachers in a Christian school, it makes an eternal difference! ■

**Aaron Proffitt** joined the GBS faculty in 2005 and has been Vice President for Academic Affairs since 2013. He and his wife, Lisa, have three sons.

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**A**re you called to teach? Many tend to think of calling in relation to pastoral or missionary work, but why should a divine call be limited to those vocations? Within the context of the church, God appoints believers to various positions, including apostles, prophets, teachers, healers, helpers, administrators, and translators (1 Cor. 12:28), gifting each with aptitudes needed for his or her calling. Each of these vocations is divinely ordained to equip the saints for service and edify the body of Christ (Eph. 4:12). For those called into teaching, this twofold purpose may best be met in the local church or church school where the work of equipping and edifying young believers is expected. However, Christians are also called to build the church by fulfilling our commission to “make disciples of all the nations” (Matt. 28:19, NASB), a mission which also opens the door to teaching in a secular environment. Therefore, those called to be teachers are faced with a question: How can they follow their calling in either sacred and secular settings?

Before beginning to teach at God’s Bible School and College six years ago, I worked for eight years in secular settings: in my local school district (three years), a community college (over four years), and a state university (one year). My own experiences teaching in both environments make it clear that there are vast differences between the two worlds: Christian education offers a

more wholesome environment in which to make disciples while equipping the saints for service and edifying the body of Christ. Secular education, on the other hand, presents numerous challenges to the goal of making disciples, let alone equipping and edifying the church. However, I believe that those called into teaching can accomplish their mission in either environment by pursuing pedagogical excellence, cooperating with colleagues, and loving their students.

First, Christian educators can accomplish their mission in both sacred and secular settings by becoming excellent teachers. What does this entail? It requires teachers to prepare well not only by knowing what they’re teaching, but also by knowing how to teach what they’re teaching. For most educators, this requires at least a bachelor’s degree in education that focuses on the grade levels and subjects they wish to teach. For instance, those wishing to teach at the elementary level should pursue a degree in elementary education that offers such methods courses as teaching math, science, language arts, and social studies. Those wishing to teach at the secondary level should pursue a degree that specializes in a particular subject area while providing instructional strategies for that subject. The pursuit of pedagogical excellence doesn’t end with pre-service preparation, though. Once college graduates become teachers, they should keep pursuing pedagogical excel-

lence by continuing their education, thoroughly preparing for classes, and using flexible teaching approaches. Although a bachelor's degree in education prepares teachers well to enter the classroom, it shouldn't be viewed as the pinnacle of learning. To the extent possible given time and financial constraints, teachers should continue their education through relevant reading, conference attendance, and additional coursework. To achieve excellence, teachers should also prepare thoroughly for their classes, considering not only what they want to accomplish but how they can best meet their goals. In most cases, this will require careful consideration of course objectives, teaching strategies, and assessment methods. Thorough class preparation alone, though, will not necessarily lead to excellence. Teachers must also be flexible in their approach to adapt to students' understanding and students' abilities. For instance, teaching with excellence may require slowing the pace of instruction to help students learn a confusing subject, using alternative assessments for students with special needs, presenting material in a variety of formats to appeal to different learning styles, or challenging students to exceed the requirements of the curriculum. With thorough preparation prior to teaching, careful planning before instruction, and adaptation of teaching to students' needs, Christian educators will be on the path toward excellence in teaching—an excellence that will bring glory to God.

Second, Christian educators can accomplish their mission in both sacred and secular settings by cooperating with their colleagues. While the extent to which cooperation is possible may depend on their coworker's goals, Christian teachers should strive to communicate well, welcome criticism, encourage others, and work toward shared goals. Communication is key to cooperation. To communicate well, educators should strive to include all stakeholders in discussions, respond promptly to others' messages, communicate clearly yet tactfully, and maintain integrity in correspondence. Such communication may open doors to increased opportunities for service. Christian teachers should also be ready to learn from criticism on the one hand and to encourage others on the other. An unwillingness to accept and learn from criticism will stymie personal growth, while a readiness to invest in others through encouragement will build trust and rapport. Christian teachers should also strive, as much as possible in sacred and secular environments, to lay aside their personal ambitions to work together with others to achieve common goals. "What's in it for the students?" should replace the common question "What's in it for me?" Great communication, a cooperative spirit, and selfless service should characterize followers of Christ—whether they teach in church schools, private institutions, or public academies.

Third, Christian educators can accomplish their mission in both sacred and secular settings by loving their students. Because love for their students—even the more challenging ones—comes through the work of the Spirit, genuine concern for students may set called teachers apart from many of their colleagues. How is such love demonstrated? Christian educators take time to listen to their students' academic concerns, seeking to understand their students' perspectives and striving to treat students fairly while maintaining appropriate student-teacher relationships. Christian teachers also show compassion for their students' personal needs, caring about their problems, giving wise counsel, and providing ongoing mentoring when needed. Ultimately, called teachers seek to do what is best for their students, even if that best differs from what seems convenient or from what students desire. By seeking their students' highest good, Christian educators will be sharing the love of Christ.

While their opportunities to overtly testify of their faith will vary greatly in sacred and secular settings, called teachers can offer a living testimony by striving for excellence, cooperating with others, and loving their students. These practices coupled with a set-apart lifestyle will open doors for meaningful interactions and may communicate the gospel even more strongly than words. By living out their faith in sacred or secular classrooms, Christian educators can successfully fulfill their calling—whether it's equipping the saints, edifying young believers, or making new disciples. ■



**Lyle Witt** chairs the Division of Education and Professional Studies at GBS. Before joining the faculty, he taught at the University of Kansas, as well as Johnson County Community College. His wife, Michelle, serves as a GBS adjunct professor. They have four children ranging from three to ten years of age.



**LEVI WHISNER (1923-2013)**

Levi was born in Great Cacapon, WV. He was a U.S. Army WWII veteran, serving under General Patton. After the war, he attended GBS and earned a ThB in 1950. In 1949 he married Phyllis Leanna Hughes, and they joyfully labored in the ministry together for 48 years. In fact, most of their ministry was in the church he founded in Bradford, Ohio. It was there that he took a stand for Christian schools in a clash between the rights of the people versus the power of the state.



Tabernacle Christian School was housed in one large room, 40 by 48, where students sat in individual cubbyholes, or "offices," and worked at their own pace in an individually guided education system. Sixty-two pupils were attending Tabernacle Christian when Whisner and eleven other parents were indicted by a grand jury of Darke County, Ohio, for failure to send their children to "a school which conforms to the minimum standards prescribed by the state board of education." They were fined \$25 each and ordered to stop sending their children to the church school. But Levi and his congregation wanted neither the state's money nor its control.

When Levi asked for clarification concerning the minimum standards (there were 600 of these listed in a

124-page document), and for an arrangement allowing conflicting parties to coexist peacefully, there was no response. The matter proceeded to trial and the defendants were found guilty as charged. The findings of the trial court were upheld by both the Court of Common Pleas and the Court of Appeals of Darke County.

But Levi Whisner did not back down, and ultimately, in 1976, the Ohio Supreme Court backed him up, ruling in *Ohio v. Whisner* that the state's education regulations were stifling freedom of religion and parents' rights to educate their own children. The court, borrowing a phrase from a 19th-century case, ordered the state to keep its "hands off" of church schools.

This was indeed one of the greatest courtroom victories of our generation, affirming freedom for churches and Christian schools all across the nation. ■

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Top: Eight to ten thousand people attended a rally in support of Christian education at the Ohio Statehouse. Gov. Rhodes was one of the speakers. Middle: Levi Whisner and Accelerated Christian Education founder Dr. Donald Howard pose with their legal team. Seated are Constitutional Attorney William Ball (left) and Attorney Schlemmer. Bottom: Levi stands in his one-room school.

➡(p10) Melissa (GBS 1998-99), met while students at GBS. They have four children.



**Saul Medellin** (BA '16), having worked for two years as the Music Office assistant manager while he finished his degree, has now become the Music Office manager, replacing Shelley Carey and Crystal Powers who shared that responsibility last year.



**Dustin Muir** (BA '12) has taken the position of Chapel Media Coordinator. He and his wife Kendra have been working in music and youth ministry for the past four years in Galax, VA.



**Kendra (Smith) Muir** (BA '11) is the 3rd & 4th grade teacher in Aldersgate Christian Academy, as well as an adjunct professor for a couple of education methods classes for the college. Kendra received her MA in Elementary Education

from Liberty University, and has spent the last two years in a public school as a 1st grade teacher in Hillsville, VA. She and her husband, Dustin, have a daughter, Kallie, who is almost two years old.



**Karen Olson** (BA '16) is teaching junior high English and Bible. She graduated from GBS with a degree in integrative studies focusing on modern languages and foundations of language. She loves languages and has made at least preliminary studies of Koine Greek, Japanese, Spanish, and German. She also loves reading and writing.



**Andrew Smith** (HS '12) has taken the position of administrative assistant for Student Affairs and Academic Affairs replacing Elias Abraham. He attended GBS from 2012-2014 as a college ministerial student studying Bible and theology.

He transferred to the University of Cincinnati to study for a Bachelor of Science for Secondary Education in Mathematics to become a high school math teacher and hopes to graduate in 2019. ■

## Franklin, Ohio, Alumni Rally

Friday, September 9, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Franklin Bible Methodist Church

6000 S. Dixie Hwy, Franklin, OH 45005

*Reserve this date and plan to attend for a great time!*



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# THOUGHTS

for the quiet hour

by Sonja Vernon

## CHILDREN WILL LISTEN

*“These words...shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.” —Deuteronomy 6:6-7 NASB*

The first time my mom saw my kindergarten classroom and met the teacher, she cried. Her tears were the expression of a heart that was nervously sending her firstborn out into the world and in return finding a safe place, a haven where the messages given matched the ones at home. She found a classroom where scripture was prominent and character traits were taught and practiced. It was a place where expectations were high but love ran deep. It was a center of learning where every child was important and celebrated, where Jesus was part of normal conversation, where good manners and kindness ruled the day. There's a lot about my childhood that I don't remember, but I do remember the day I knelt by my little chair in the kindergarten classroom and asked God what plans He had for me. And I remember what I believe He said. And, oddly enough, it seems that my five year old heart basically heard Him correctly. There is something beautiful about exposing our children to a consistent message, surrounding them with truth throughout their day. Every family must decide what meets their particular educational needs, and this may look different depending on circumstances or seasons of life. But whatever we decide, may we heed the admonition in Deuteronomy to teach our children God's laws—all day every day, in real life and not just in theory. ■

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