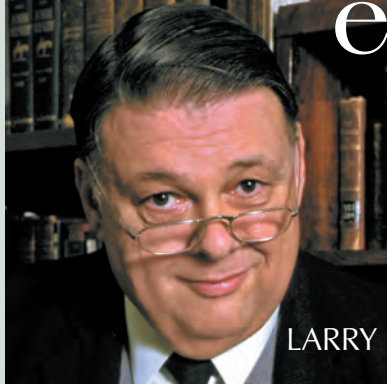


# GOD'S REVIVALIST

April 2010

*and Bible Advocate*





# the editor's view

LARRY D. SMITH

## PIGEONS AND BONESCRAPERS

Once the most common bird in North America, the passenger pigeon has been totally extinct for nearly a century. That's a great tragedy, of course—the result of human brutality and waste. But what happens to pigeons may also happen to preachers; and if the preachers really are God's messengers, the tragedy is even worse. Consider, for example, our disappearing "bonescrapers."

If you're under 30, you may never even have heard the term. But it once defined those plucky pulpiteers who described present sin so fiercely and coming doom so fully that lightning flashed from heaven above us and brimstone rolled from hell beneath us. They represented another world, as they reminded us; and their first allegiance was always to that world.

Bonescrapers usually were professional evangelists, but some of them were local pastors. Early Methodism had plenty of them, and Mr. Wesley himself—cultivated Oxford scholar that he was—blazed ferociously away at wickedness wherever it was found. All the holiness denominations were shaped by such preachers; and in a sense, our whole movement developed from their ministry.

But we can claim no monopoly upon them. The Presbyterians had John Knox, who was a bonescraper, if ever there was one; the Congregationalists had Jonathan Edwards and Charles Finney; and even the Catholics had Savonarola, though they burned him at the stake. St. Chrysostom, the most eloquent preacher in all the Eastern church, enraged the empress by denouncing her extravagance in dress.

Whatever their denomination, bonescrapers keep sinners uncomfortable in their sins. This is why controversy always swirls around them, as it did in our own movement a half-century ago. We were moving into a new era of prominence and prosperity, and "new school" (p22)➡

## CONTENTS

APRIL 2010  
Volume 122 No. 3

### FEATURES

- Saved From Drugs, Crime, and Despair!** **5**  
by Bill Schueler
- Sunday School: Kill, Keep, Or Recreate?** **11**  
by Steve Oliver
- Fasting: A Rare Jewel** **21**  
by Phillip Dickinson

### DEPARTMENTS

- The Editor's View** **2**
- The President's Page** **3**
- Letters To The Editor** **4**
- News From The Hilltop** **8**
- Revivalist Family** **8**
- Called Unto Holiness** **13**
- Dear Phil** **14**
- World Pulse** **15**
- From The Classics** **16**
- Revivalist Pulpit** **17**
- The World To Win** **19**
- Alumni News** **20**
- Thoughts For The Quiet Hour** **23**

### STAFF

- Brandon Hilligoss, *assistant graphic designer*
- Sharonna Mitchell, *production manager*
- Kevin Moser, *art director, managing editor*
- Jon Plank, *assistant graphic designer, webmaster*
- Larry D. Smith, *editor*

God's Revivalist and Bible Advocate (ISSN 0745-0788) is published monthly except for combined issues in January-February and June-July-August for **\$12.00 per year** (\$28.00, Canada; \$45.00, other countries) by the Revivalist Press of God's Bible School, College and Missionary Training Home, 1810 Young Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202. Periodical postage paid at Cincinnati, Ohio, and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER: send address changes to God's Revivalist and Bible Advocate, 1810 Young Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.**

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.

Please obtain permission before reprinting any articles from God's Revivalist and Bible Advocate. **Unsolicited manuscripts are welcomed, but not returned.**

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.

God's Bible School and College does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, national or ethnic origin, or against otherwise qualified handicapped persons in its admission of students or employment of its faculty and staff.

Contact us by telephone at (513) 721-7944 (Revivalist Press, ext. 1351); by fax at (513) 763-6649; by email at [revivalist@gbs.edu](mailto:revivalist@gbs.edu) or [gbs4u@gbs.edu](mailto:gbs4u@gbs.edu). Visit us online at [www.gbs.edu](http://www.gbs.edu) or [www.godsrevivalist.com](http://www.godsrevivalist.com).

# the president's page



**The real issue to God is not what mistakes you have made. God is an expert in taking a vessel that has been marred and remaking it according to His plans and purposes.**

## **GOD IS FORWARD LOOKING!**

*by Michael R. Avery, President*

**T**he Old Testament is a remarkable collection of history, biography, prophecy, poetry, and precept—all written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to teach us who God is and how God works. Many of its stories are so captivating that we might have to take a second look to appreciate the remarkable insights they offer about our Heavenly Father. For example, we are given the fascinating narrative of Jonah and the whale, not so that we can be awed by a great fish or a miraculous deliverance, but to tell us in an unforgettable way that God is a God of the “second chance.” The book of Hosea is not just a scandalous story of a prophet’s wife turned prostitute but a story that gives us an in-depth look into the heart of God—the wounded lover—who longs to forgive his wayward people and restore them to Himself.

The Historical Books are filled with accounts of real-life interaction between God and the people of Israel. Every account offers unique insight into who God is and how He works. In the opening chapters of I Samuel we learn that God had planned for Israel to be a theocracy led through judges and prophets. The Israelites, however, wanted a king so they could be like the nations around them. God let them have their way and their king, but Saul turned out to be such a disobedient disaster that God ultimately had to reject him and his reign. On the heels of this rejection we find Samuel reflecting on the past (I Samuel 16). He is paralyzed by grief over a failed kingship and perplexed over the future of Israel. God suddenly breaks into this moment of morbidity and thunders these words to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided myself a king among his sons.”

This jarring call to move on tells us something important about God. It tells us that He is forward looking. In

other words, God doesn't sit around feeling bad about the past. He said to Samuel, "Stop regretting yesterday and get ready for tomorrow. My plans are still in place. I already have a new man in the wings—a man after my own heart. We will follow the same plan but have a new man at the top. He is an unlikely candidate, but he is my man—now get moving!"

God is forward looking, and this means that He is primarily interested in our present and future, not our past. This is good news for those who live tied to the failures of yesterday. Far too many good people are paralyzed by regret, thinking that they married the wrong spouse, chose the wrong career, bought the wrong house, made the wrong decision, missed a certain opportunity—and the list goes on. They can't break away from the choking noose of yesterday's mistakes or perceived mistakes. But that is not how God works.

For the real issue to Him is not whether you married the wrong person, but if you will let Him teach you how to love the one you did marry for all the future that you have together. The real issue to Him is not what you have done or what mistakes you have made, but if you will let God take you from where you are now and lead you into the future He has planned for you. God is an expert in taking a vessel that has been marred and remaking it according to His plans and purposes (Jeremiah 18).

Others live in the past by choice. They consume the years of their life in trying to reconstruct the failed era of what was to them Saul's reign. In so doing they miss the excitement of where God is going and what God is doing today. Sadly, they forfeit their future by draping themselves in the death shroud of what is gone and will never return.

God is forward looking, and that means He has a strategically planned future. Men and movements that reflect this characteristic of God are very attractive. People are naturally drawn to leaders or organizations that know where they are going. Many years ago a young lady from a wealthy English family met a young scholar in London and fell in love. He was a poor man with no prominent ancestry. When she asked her father's permission to marry him, he protested that she didn't even know the young man's background or where he was from! To this she responded, "You are right father. I don't think he has much of a background, and I don't know for sure where he comes from. But He knows where he is going, and I want to go with him." The young man was Matthew Henry, who was to become the great Bible commentator!

The Apostle Paul lived out this characteristic and challenged all of us to "forget those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Why don't you lay down the past and embrace your future in Christ. Try the forward look! ■

# Letters

## TO THE EDITOR

*Letters should be addressed to the Editorial Office, 1810 Young Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 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.*

### REVIVALIST PULPIT

[This is] just a small note to express how much I love to read all the articles, but my favorite are the articles written by Dr. Allan Brown.

SUSAN M. HARRISON  
West Blocton, Alabama

### THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

I appreciate President Avery's "The President's Page," plus the rest of *God's Revivalist*. God bless the Bible school.

ROBERT J. SMITH, JR.  
Intercession City, Florida

### APPRECIATION FOR GOD'S REVIVALIST

Please renew my *Revivalist* for another year. I'd hate to miss even one issue. It has much truth and help enclosed in surprisingly small spaces. God bless you all as you carry on His work.

RUTH HAUGHT  
Fairmont, West Virginia

Oh! The multitudes that will come forth who have been reached by *God's Revivalist*. Such holy history of changed lives! We will stand amazed! His Word will not return unto Him void.

RUTH HOOKER  
Fort Pierce, Florida

Thank you for the wonderful magazine each month. It is good to see all the young Christians who are called to God's work.

CAROLYN AND GENE SOWDER

saved from  
drugs, crime,  
and despair!

by Bill Schueler

I am now a believer in Jesus Christ, but formerly I was a disobedient youth, high-school drop-out, drug dealer, drug addict, and convict. As a young teen I chose to experiment with drugs, skip school, and run with friends who were on the same path of self-destruction. My problems started with drinking at the Friday night high school football games, smoking pot, and running from the cops when they tried to bust us. Next came auto theft, hard drugs, armed robbery, juvenile detention, and a boys' ranch. By the age of 17, I was robbing and extorting drug dealers. I was sent to the California Youth Authority at 18 and spent my first solid year of incarceration.

When I got out at the age of 19, I was back to drugs, robberies, and extortion, and my aspirations

were to be a gangster. When drug dealers started paying me to leave them alone, I was well on my way. I felt invincible and had no God in my life. I never held a job or stayed free for very long. Drugs, gambling, and felonies were all that were on the agenda.

By the time I was 21, I had served approximately four years in detention. Then I shot one of my associates. I did some heavy praying from the jail holding-cell, as I wanted my victim to live so I could avoid a murder sentence. He did survive, and I received a sentence of five years in state prison.

While in prison I still engaged in criminal activity. Before the end of my sentence a major riot erupted, God spared this undeserving sinner any injury, but I was

## **I am learning that recovery is a lifelong process and that you cannot do it without God.**

transferred to a maximum security prison in Folsom, California. I was scared of two things—dying at any moment or having to kill and never returning to freedom. So I prayed and prayed! I did make it out of Folsom six months later without so much as a scratch.

My father picked me up and helped me get on my feet. I had a good job, a car, an apartment—everything one needs for a fresh start. But still I chose to leave God out of my life. Everything was fine until I was laid-off from work, and then I resorted to my old ways and started dealing and using drugs.

Two days after my release from the hospital where I had been treated for injuries from a serious car accident, I was returned to prison on a parole violation. After about a year I was released and immediately went back to drug use and armed robbery. I was out of prison for only 21 days before I was arrested for armed robbery. While in jail awaiting trial I was also charged with escape. Convicted of both, I was sentenced to 15 years.

At this point I figured it was hopeless that I would ever get out. I felt that I had turned my back on God too many times ever to expect His help again. So I figured I might as well carve out a good spot in hell. By now I was deeply entrenched in prison gang politics but was becoming more and more disenchanted with their idea of brotherhood. The straw that broke the camel's back was when I was approached to help in the murder of my crime partner. I played along as though I was willing to help, but, before the murder plan could be put into action, my crime partner and I attacked the main instigator. By the grace of God the victim survived, and we were spared a murder charge.

At this point I was back in court charged with two stabbing assaults and weapon possession. I ended up with a sentence of 15 more years. About three years before, our gang had split into two factions. Our leader became an informant and went into witness protection. The opposing faction offered to reunite under one banner. They gave everyone in our faction the opportunity to walk away or rejoin. I respectfully declined and walked away—or so I thought.

Our victim, the instigator of the attempted attack on my crime partner, rejoined, and that put me on the hit list. So now I was marked for death. About a year later I was transferred to another prison. Somehow, by the grace of God, I managed to survive the remaining years of my sentence, but I was out in the open with a target painted on my back. Although the Lord walked me through a virtual minefield, I still had not given my life over to Him. Now I was getting worried about what I was going to do when they released me.

My brother, who had become a Christian about three years before, offered for me to join him and his family in Idaho. But why would the state of Idaho accept the likes of me? My brother insisted that I give it a try anyway, and he had his church praying about it. Although my counselor laughed and told me that in her 14 years as a correctional counselor she had never seen anything like this happen, on July 19, 2004, my request was granted; and on July 23 I was released from prison after serving seventeen years, nine months, and twenty-one days.

So I moved in with my brother and sister-in-law for the first few months and attended their church where I learned about salvation. There was hope after all! In October 2004 I accepted Jesus as my Savior and was baptized. Shortly after this I learned that the individual I had assaulted had turned informant and gone into the witness protection program. This took me off the gang's hit list!

I attended church regularly and praised God often, then came to Emmett in the spring of 2005. I met a couple who took an interest in me and worked with me and even helped me acquire my very first horse and dog. Later these same folks helped me find the wonderful church where I now attend. I thank all who have welcomed me and have made me feel part of their family. Through Celebrate Recovery, I am learning that recovery is a lifelong process and that you cannot do it without God. You must hang on to Him and not let Him go, for truly He is the light and the way! ■



**William Schueler**, Emmett, Idaho, attends Community Bible Church, where Jonathon Phillips (GBS '05 BA) is senior pastor, and Andy Parriman (GBS '03 BA) is associate pastor. "Bill continues to grow in Christ and is actively involved in the Outreach Bus Ministry and Celebrate Recovery Ministry of CBC," writes Pastor Phillips.



**JOIN GOD'S BIBLE SCHOOL  
FOR A TEN-DAY**

# PILGRIMAGE TO ISRAEL

**November 2-11, 2010**

**Hosted by**

Rev. Don Davison  
(513) 721-7944 x1232  
Rev. Robert Thompson  
(812) 350-7250

**\$2,299**  
(price per person  
from New York)



Dear Friends:

Would you like to have a life-changing, never-to-be-forgotten experience? It is our joy to invite you to join us on a trip to the Bible lands where you will find a new dimension in understanding Christian history and the life of our Lord. We will visit places where Jesus walked, lived, taught, performed miracles; where He was crucified and raised from the dead. We will take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, worship in the Garden of Gethsemane, and much more! Please give us the privilege of sharing this experience with you!

**Rev. Robert Thompson and Rev. Don Davison**

APRIL 2010

# NEWS

from the Hilltop

## ALBERT MOHLER ADDRESSES GBS CAMPUS FAMILY

Scholar, writer, and courageous defender of Christian values in the public square, Dr. Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, spoke in GBS's Adcock Memorial Chapel on Student Development Day, Friday, February 19. Considered one of the most significant leaders among evangelical Christians today, Dr. Mohler addressed the campus family in

two morning sessions on the will of God with special focus on Romans 12:1–2. Emphasizing entire consecration to God's purposes and warning against conformity to the decadent values of "this world," he stressed the importance of being "transformed by the renewing of your mind," which can come



only as believers study and embrace the Word of God. Both students and faculty registered positive response to Mohler's address.

## GBS STUDENT CREATES UNIQUE YOUTH MINISTRY

"I grew up in a sparsely-populated community in northern Ontario, where I spent many hours alone removed from any real source of spiritual nourishment." Ezra Byer, 20-year-old GBS ministerial student, carefully explains why he founded *Powerline*, an expanding ministry designed to nourish teenagers in their Christian life. "In the summer of 2009, I felt God's tug at my heart to do something about it. After some brainstorming, I came up with the idea to start a weekly conference call where teens, as well as



# REVIVALIST FAMILY

*On these pages, we feature items about GBS alumni, vital statistics, significant events scheduled throughout the "Revivalist family," and brief news notes from across the holiness movement. An item for inclusion in the "Revivalist Family" must be submitted within four months of the event which it reports and should be addressed to the Editorial Office, 1810 Young Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202; or [revivalist@gbs.edu](mailto:revivalist@gbs.edu).*

## DEATHS

**Myrtle Wiseman Coursin, 83**, died September 2009 at the home of her daughter in North Carolina. She graduated from the Christian Workers Course at GBS in 1948.



**Theresa Rose Tucker, 51**, died March 2, 2010, at her home in Independence, Kentucky. She was a self-employed housekeeper and a member of the Crittenden Church of the Nazarene. Her husband, the Rev. David Tucker, died in 1997. Theresa was a former GBS staff member, having served the school as Assistant Cook (1995–97), Assistant Director of Student Personnel/Housekeeping (1997–98), Director of Student

Personnel/Housekeeping (1998–2000) and Head Cook (2001–2003).

She is survived by her daughter Rachel Wingham and her son David; her mother, Aileen Monroe; five brothers, three sisters; and three grandchildren. Funeral services were held at the Central Church of the Nazarene, Covington, Kentucky, with burial at Mt. Vernon Cemetery, Falmouth.

*GBS mourns Theresa Tucker's untimely passing and remembers her as a hard-working employee. We are grateful for her contribution and extend our sympathy to her grieving family.* —Michael Avery, GBS President

## AVAILABLE

*Frankfort Pilgrim College, a History*, written by alumnus Melvin Smith and



adults of all ages, could call in and hear different speakers address topics related specifically to teens and young adults." Thus *Powerline* was launched in July last year.

Each Sunday at 9:30 P.M., interested young people call (218) 895-0167 (pass code is P-O-W-E-R, 76937#), and for 10–15 minutes they hear a stirring message, such as Rev. Blake Jones' recent one on "passing the baton." This message is followed by a period of questions and answers. Available also each week are 20-minute personal sessions with group leaders for encouragement, challenge, and accountability. Seven group leaders—scattered in such states as Colorado, Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky—work under the direction of Ezra, who is the overall "Guy Leader," and Ally Johnson, the "Girl Leader." Group leaders participate in a 20-minute leadership call on Thursday evening.

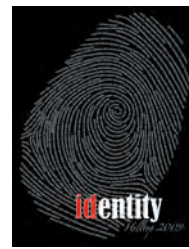
"In a few months this idea has grown so that now a healthy num-

ber call in each week," Ezra explains. "God has blessed this ministry, and all of us in *Powerline* see no end to its growth. *Powerline* is committed to the Great Commission and is dedicated to developing Christian leaders who can reach out and help others."

The website for this new ministry is [powerlinesunday.blogspot.com](http://powerlinesunday.blogspot.com), and its email address is [powerlinesunday@yahoo.ca](mailto:powerlinesunday@yahoo.ca).

### GBS YEARBOOK HILLTOP 2009 NOW AVAILABLE

With "Identity" as its theme, and featuring on its cover a large thumbprint composed of the names of students, staff, and faculty, the GBS yearbook *Hilltop 2009* is now available for pick-up by those who were students or staff during the 2008-09 school year. Other interested parties may purchase the book for \$80 while supplies last.



Designed by Kevin Moser and featuring the photography of Brenda Herring, Brandon Hilligoss, Ryan Watters, and others, the book

consists of 224 pages printed almost totally in full-color with text chronicling the entire school year. Contact the Student Affairs Office to receive your copy.

**Briefly Noted:** GBS's Division of Music announces the following presentations to be offered by the Division: (1) **Aldersgate Christian Academy Recital**, 7:00 PM, April 29, Adcock Chapel; (2) **Oratorio: G.F. Handel's Messiah**, 7:00 PM, May 4, Adcock Chapel; (3) **National Day of Prayer** (Choir and Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble), 11:00 AM, May 6, courthouse steps, Cincinnati, Ohio; (4) **Concert on the Lawn**, 7:00 PM, May 11, main campus. ■



released by Wesleyan Publishing House. FPC opened in 1927 and merged into United Wesleyan College in 1972, shortly after the 1968 merger of the Pilgrim Holiness Church and the Wesleyan Methodist Church. The school produced many ministers, missionaries, and workers for the Pilgrim Holiness Church. Among its faculty members was J.W. Adcock, who later taught at God's Bible School. The history book is available at Wesleyan Publishing House, P.O. Box 50434, Indianapolis, IN 46250-0434 for \$14.00, which includes postage.

### CAMP MEETING NOTICES

Those wishing to post notices about camp meetings should do so online at a website entitled *The Holiness Camp Meeting Directory*. The website address is <http://www.campmeeting.us>.

For a number of years, *God's Revivalist* published a yearly directory of summer camp meetings. Because of

the amount of time and effort required for such a compilation, we no longer publish camp meeting notices except our own. Thank you for your understanding. ■

**Don't Miss Dayton 2010**

April 20–22

Speakers will include:  
John Manley, John Case,  
Tony Ross, Marc Sankey,  
Travis Johnson

*Dedicate His Glory*  
among all people

# Camp Meeting

at God's Bible School & College

CINCINNATI, OHIO

May 12-16, 2010

*With guest speakers:*

Rev. Paul Pierpoint

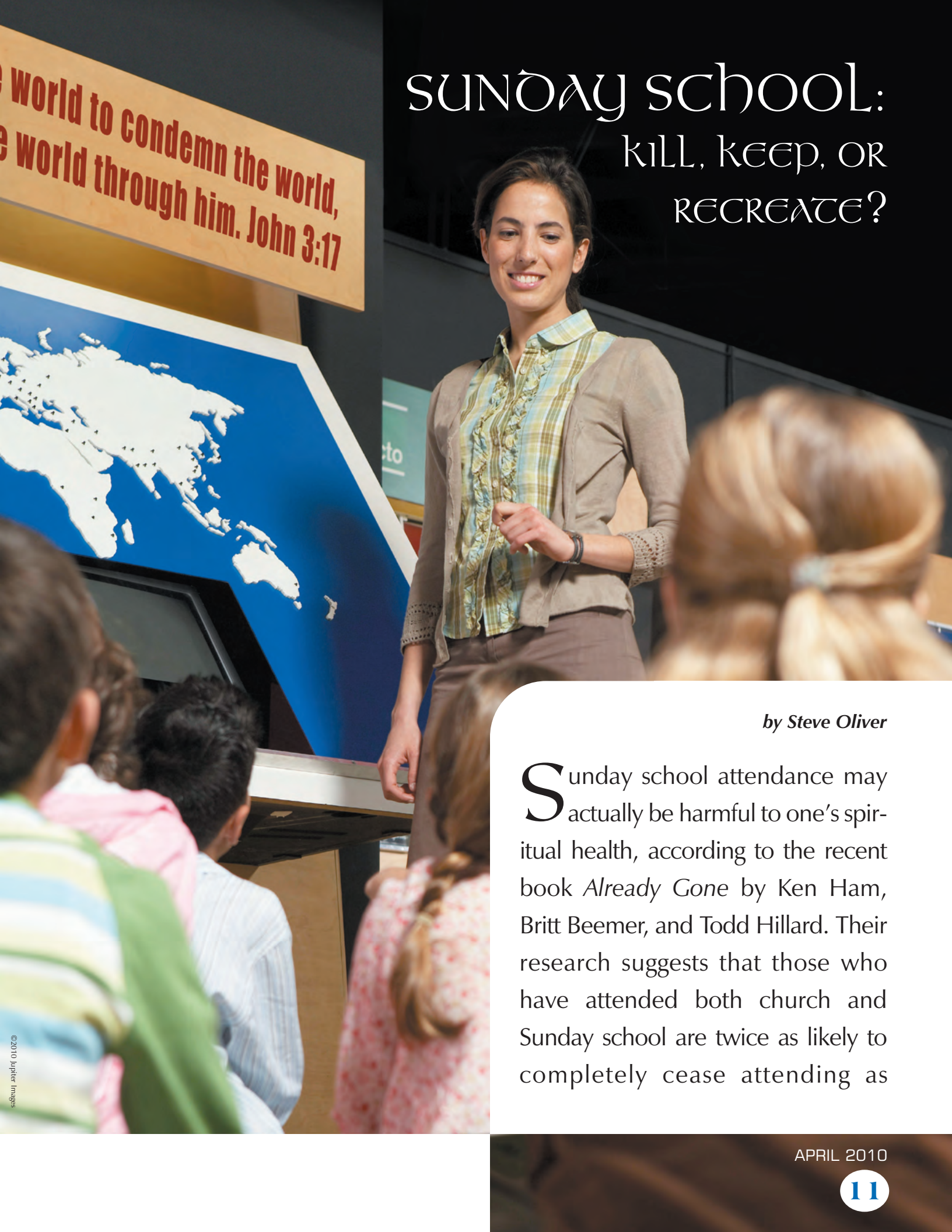
Rev. Marc Sankey



Dr. Michael Avery President

Rev. Mark Cravens Campus Pastor

Special teaching sessions will be offered by various faculty and staff members on helpful and relevant topics.



# SUNDAY SCHOOL: KILL, KEEP, OR RECREATE?

*by Steve Oliver*

Sunday school attendance may actually be harmful to one's spiritual health, according to the recent book *Already Gone* by Ken Ham, Britt Beemer, and Todd Hillard. Their research suggests that those who have attended both church and Sunday school are twice as likely to completely cease attending as

compared to those who have attended only church. These findings highlight the fact that the institution of Sunday school is the subject of intense contemporary debate. Suggestions in the debate include doing away with Sunday school entirely, replacing it with something entirely different, overhauling the current system, merely renaming it, or leaving it as is.

In our circles, neglecting Sunday school is usually seen as compromise, and so it continues, though often without much sense of specific purpose. There is no education offered or expected for Sunday school teachers. Classes are taught by whomever is least reluctant to do so. No one expects anyone to actually retain anything that is covered. Too often, Sunday school is carried on merely because “that’s what we do.” I believe that the time has come to take a honest look at why and how we do Sunday school and to make the necessary changes.

Sunday school is not a biblical institution. I don’t mean that it violates any biblical command or principle, but rather that it is not directly commanded in Scripture. Its origin is usually traced to Robert Raikes, a newspaper editor in England in 1790. Poor people and even children often worked six days a week in factories with no chance to obtain even a rudimentary education. So Raikes began holding school on the single day that working people had free—Sunday. The goal was to provide both religious and “secular” education such as literacy and math. In its beginning, Sunday school looked little or nothing like its modern-day counterpart. It was started to fill a specific need for a specific time.

Is there a contemporary need that Sunday school could fill? Actually, there are many—most of which are rarely if ever addressed from the pulpit. Sunday school is a ready-made mechanism for this type of teaching. So I would suggest that again it be adapted to meet specific needs that we now confront. In my own teen class in the past couple of years we have dealt with topics such as emotions, sexuality, friendship, money, and politics, as well as church history, Christian growth, holiness doctrine, and systematic theology.

I know of another teacher who follows a freshman Bible school curriculum. Other possibilities include basic life skills for children, marriage or parenting classes for young couples, or financial teaching for families. Formats and topics might vary widely as circumstances dictate, but as we attempt to impact the current culture for Christ, Sunday school can again become one of our primary tools.

This will certainly mean more work, but if that is what it takes to make Sunday school meet the needs of our churches, bring it on. If that means rewriting the curriculum, or getting away from any curriculum at all, so be it. If that means a complete restructuring of the Sunday school classes, very well. Sunday school is too valuable to let it become a meaningless relic.

If, after having prayerfully looked our church over, we decide that the current structure is best, then by all means let us hold to it. At the same time, we must not simply hold to the current structure without thought or examination. It is past time to examine our Sunday schools.

*We need to assess our congregations.* What are their struggles? What are their needs? What are their weaknesses? On what topics do they need instruction? Are they receiving this instruction, or are there gaps that Sunday school should fill?

*We need to assess our resources.* Should there be training for Sunday school teachers? Are there members who can address our specific needs? For example, is there a business-minded person who can teach about money? Is there a counselor who can address personal issues? A teacher who can instruct parents about handling small children? If there is nobody qualified to teach what we wish to address, can we find a book or an audio or video series on the topic?

*We need to assess our organization.* Is the traditional age-bracketed class structure working? Or is there another arrangement that would be more effective? Would using a variety of teachers, depending on the topics addressed, be better than having the same teacher all the time? What if we followed a seminar format, giving a choice of two or three topics for each month? Or have small accountability groups?

*We need to assess our methods.* Is a classroom-type approach best? Or would a more informal, discussion-style format be better? Should we include audio/visuals, such as PowerPoint presentations? Hand-outs? Homework?

*We need to assess our curriculum.* Is it meeting the needs of our people? Should it be changed? Should we get away from a traditional curriculum entirely? If so, what will provide an overarching structure for the topics we cover?

*We need to assess our goals.* Will we use Sunday school primarily for educating the church? Or for outreach? If for outreach, are there topics in which outside contacts are interested? Could we use these topics in Sunday school as a draw to get outsiders into church?

The answers to these and other questions will differ radically from community to community, from church to church, and even from class to class. Rethinking Sunday school will take ongoing effort, but the future of our churches is at stake. A relevant Sunday school that addresses modern needs and current issues can still be a powerful force in building strong, growing churches. Are we willing to do what it takes to make it so? ■

*Steve Oliver* is youth pastor and teen Sunday school teacher at the Bible Methodist Church, Easley, South Carolina. He is also a PhD candidate in New Testament at Bob Jones University.



## — Called Unto Holiness —

*In this space we use writers both past and present to discuss various aspects of Christian holiness.*

### WHAT IS CHRISTIAN HOLINESS?

*by Harmon A. Baldwin*

Christian Perfection or entire sanctification, as John Wesley defines it, is “loving God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. This implies that no wrong temper, none contrary to love, remains in the soul; and that all the thoughts, words, and actions are governed by pure love.”

When a person is converted, his past transgressions are blotted out, and he is “born again” or regenerated. He is born into the family of God, thus becoming “a son of God and a joint heir with Jesus Christ.” “Old things are passed away, and, behold, all things are become new.” He “rejoices in God his Savior” and has “this testimony that he pleases God.” He loves God supremely and loves his “neighbor as himself.”

Yet he also sees in his heart an element or principle that is contrary to this. He loves God but realizes that his love is not perfect; he loves his neighbor, yet he must struggle against inherent principles that are opposite to this love. He has all the fruit of the Spirit, but he sees that every one of them is opposed by a contrary element.

But when the heart is made holy in entire sanctification, all this is changed. Negatively, holiness is the absence of all moral defilement or inherent tendencies to sin. The blessings which so delight the soul are received as a result of purity and may be present in personal experience to a greater or less degree. For a sense of purity wrought by the Holy Spirit is the abiding evidence from the negative side.

Positively, however, holiness is:

**1. Abandonment to all the will of God.** In such a state, one can praise God in afflictions, in necessities, in temptations, in slanders, as well as in prosperity, and can turn every providence, no matter how bitter and mysterious, to spiritual benefit.

**2. Holiness is purity of motive or, as the Bible says, “a single eye.”** The holy heart is saved from all mixture in its motives of the vile with the precious things of the

Spirit, and it has constantly a pure desire for God’s glory. If its possessor makes a mistake, as he sometimes will, he can examine the most secret workings of his soul, and after the most critical search, can conscientiously say, “I made a mistake, but my motives were pure.”

**3. “Purity is power.”** This is manifested in four directions:

(1) In the ability to control one’s own life with a single eye and a victorious heart.

(2) In the strength to secure a comparatively easy victory over evil, for Satan has nothing in the clean, devoted soul.

(3) Power with men. For its possessor is wielding an influence that is deeper than mere human supremacy and which lays hold of the heart of the onlooker. One can have so much of the Holy Spirit that he will actually compel people to respect the power and presence of God in him.

(4) Power with God. Here is the real reason for all the power of purity, for its possessors tarry so much in the secret place that they prevail with God. And coming from this sacred presence, how can they help but be a power with others? Such persons shed a sacred influence wherever they go.

**4. The holy heart is filled with the fruits of the Spirit.** It is now free from the residue of sin that still remains in the heart of the Christian who is not yet entirely sanctified. The development of these graces does not consist in a change or bettering of their nature, but in such a deepening and enrichment of them that they come more and more to control the outward actions and even the most secret thoughts, changing and refashioning the whole life for the perfecting of outward holiness and the enrichment of inward holiness. ■

*Harmon A. Baldwin was an early Free Methodist writer and advocate of the doctrine of entire sanctification. This selection, condensed by the editor, comes from Lessons for Seekers of Holiness, first published in 1907.*



## Dear Phil

### HAVE FAITH IN GOD

***“Jesus said that if we have faith and ask anything in His name, believing that we have received what we ask for, we will receive it (Mark 11:23–34). I asked in Jesus’ name, believed, and did not receive. Why doesn’t God keep His word?” —Gary***

Dear Gary,

I’ve had three different people ask me this recently. The problem isn’t with God. The problem is with the common understanding of faith. To understand what Jesus means in Mark 11:23–24 or John 14:13–14 we have to grasp three things. First, what it means to “have faith in God.” Second, what it means to ask “in Jesus’ name.” Third, what it means to “believe that you have received what you ask for.”

Let’s start with “Have faith in God.” According to Scripture, Jesus commended two people for “great faith”: the Roman centurion (Matt. 8:5–13) and the Syrophenician woman (Matt. 15:21–28). Careful reading of these accounts reveals six elements of their faith: (1) they believed Jesus was able to do what they were asking; (2) they believed His authority had no boundaries; (3) despite appearances to the contrary, they believed Jesus cared about their problem; (4) they acknowledged their unworthiness; (5) they persisted until they

received a final answer; and (6) they believed Jesus’ word when He said their request was granted.

Lest you think that great faith always receives “yes” answers from God, recall Paul’s thorn in the flesh. There’s no doubt Paul was a man of great faith (Acts 19:11–12). When a “messenger of Satan” tormented him, he too exhibited the elements of faith (2 Cor. 12:7–9). He believed God was able to heal him. He believed that God’s power has no boundaries. Despite God allowing him to suffer, He believed that God cared about him. He persisted until he received a final answer, which in his case was “No.” And he believed God’s word: “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Paul demonstrated his belief in God’s word by boasting in his weakness so that the power of Christ would dwell in him.

Now consider Jesus and the fig tree (Mark 11:12–14, 19–24). It was Jesus’ last week on earth. On the way from Bethany to Jerusalem, Jesus sees a fig tree in leaf. He looks for figs, even though it isn’t the season for figs, finds

none, and curses the tree. A little known fact explains why Jesus looked for figs when it wasn’t fig season: fig trees produce figs on their branches before they produce leaves. If a fig tree has leaves, it should have figs!

But why did Jesus’ curse the tree? John 5:19, 30; 8:28, 38 provide the answer: Jesus only did what He saw the Father do; Jesus only said what He heard the Father say. Jesus never did anything on His own initiative. That means Jesus cursed the fig tree because He knew it was God’s will for Him to curse it. Twenty-four hours later the disciples find the tree withered from the roots up. Amazed, they point out the miracle; and Jesus responds, “Have faith in God.

Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him.”

“Have faith in God” is actually shorthand for “Have faith that God can and will do His will.” When you know it is God’s will for you to say to a mountain, “Be taken up and thrown into the sea,” then you can speak to the mountain with absolute confidence that it will, in God’s time and in God’s way, be moved into the sea. Here’s the point: faith is not asking God for what you want and then believing that He will do what you have asked. Faith is confidently believing that God can do anything He wants and that He will do everything He has promised.

In my next column, I’ll address praying “in Jesus’ name” and Mark 11:24.

Blessings,  
Philip ■

*Dr. A. Philip Brown II is a member of the faculty in the Division of Ministerial Education at God’s Bible School and College.*

[pbrown@gbs.edu](mailto:pbrown@gbs.edu)



### **NAME ANNOUNCED FOR NEW LUTHERAN DENOMINATION**

Lutheran CORE, a conservative reform group has announced that the new denomination being formed under its sponsorship will be called the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). According to Julia Duin in the online edition of *The Washington Times*, the NALC is “an alternative to members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America” (ELCA), which last summer voted “to allow gay clergy and opened the doors to same-sex unions further down the road.” In strong protest against this action, “congregations around the country are already taking votes on whether to leave ELCA.”

### **TIGER WOODS’ BUDDHIST COMMITMENT**

“From an Evangelical perspective, the statement by Tiger Woods points to the radical distinction between Christianity and Buddhism—between the Gospel of Jesus Christ and dharma of the Buddha,” writes Albert Mohler of Woods’ recent apology for “repeated irresponsible behavior. I was unfaithful. I had affairs. I cheated.” The famous golf champion also pledged to renew his commitment to the Buddhist training of his childhood. “Buddhism teaches that a craving for things outside ourselves causes an unhappy

and pointless search for security. It teaches me to stop following every impulse and to learn restraint.”

Pointing out that “Christianity does not teach that we should (or could) empty ourselves of all desire,” Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, adds that in Woods’ statement, the “distinction between the Christian and Buddhist worldviews is laid bare for all to see.... We should respect the integrity and honesty of his statement, but hope and pray that he will one day come to know the salvation and forgiveness of sin that comes only through faith in Christ.”

### **OBAMA LOSES SUPPORT AMONG BORN-AGAIN CHRISTIANS**

Jennifer Riley, writing online in *The Christian Post*, declares that “President Obama’s support among born-again Christians has decreased after a year in office,” according to a Barna Survey. “Of all born-again Christians, 35 percent are satisfied” with the president’s job performance in contrast to the fact that 42 percent voted for him in the 2008 election. Among Christians specifically identified as evangelicals in the survey, only 18 percent indicated approval.

“While most people recognize the complexities of the job, they have high expectations of their leader and have been generally disappointed

during the first year of the Obama administration,” the study noted.”

### **SAME SEX MARRIAGES NOW LEGAL IN WASHINGTON, D.C.**

By Wednesday, March 3, approximately 150 gay couples had applied for marriage licenses in Washington, D.C., according to a report issued by the Associated Press. This was the first day that same-sex unions were legal in the U.S. capital, although a mandatory waiting period of three business days made Tuesday, March 9, the first day the licenses could be picked up and actual marriage ceremonies take place. “The District of Columbia became the sixth place in the country permitting same-sex unions. Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont also issue same-sex couples licenses.”

### **ABUSE CASES TROUBLE CATHOLIC AUTHORITIES**

“A widening child sexual abuse inquiry in Europe has landed at the doorstep of Pope Benedict XVI, as a senior church official acknowledged Friday that a German archdiocese made ‘serious mistakes’ in handling an abuse case while the pope served as its archbishop.” These words from a report by Nicholas Kulish and Rachel Donadio in the online edition of *The New York Times* underscore the increasing pressures brought on Roman Catholic authorities by charges of pedophilia in the church’s priesthood in Europe.

New charges of child sex-abuse continue to emerge in Germany, centering on a priest who is said to have molested boys and who after treatment was allowed to resume his priestly services. The Catholic Church in Germany has already been shaken by abuse claims by two former students of a choir once directed by the pope’s brother Monsignor Georg Ratzinger. ■



# Classics

## MAKING OTHERS STUMBLE

***Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).***

If an individual says he will be offended because I wear a necktie, or drink tea, or eat meat, then let him be offended. It is moral courage to ignore such bondage. But if I find that my wearing a necktie, or drinking tea, or eating meat makes any brother or sister to stumble, then I will never do those things again.

Offense arises from wounded personal opinion. Stumbling arises from following another person you love, rather than following Christ.

Most of our “isms” have arisen from following the prescribed limitations of someone’s personal convictions, instead of the Lord. Most of these “isms” have a logical and sensible basis. Take “vegetarianism” for an example. A lot can be said in favor of it; but it becomes a law to me if I make it a standard for judgment of others. Consequently, I put myself in a place where I cannot fulfill the principles for spiritual convictions as cited by the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 10 and thereby live for the Glory of God!

—Oswald Chambers, *Devotions for a Deeper Life*

## A HEART DEEPLY AFFECTED

A person who has knowledge of doctrine and theology only—without religious affection—has never engaged in true religion. Nothing is more apparent than this: our religion takes root within us only as deep as our affections attract it. There are thousands who hear the Word of God, who hear great and exceedingly important truths about themselves and their lives, and yet all they hear has no effect upon them [and] makes no change in the way they live.

The reason is this: they are not affected with what they hear. There are many who hear about the power, the holiness, and the wisdom of God; about Christ and the great things that he has done for them and his gracious invitation to them; and yet they remain exactly as they are in life and in practice.

I am bold in saying this, but I believe that no one is ever changed, either by doctrine, by hearing the Word, or by the preaching or teaching of another, unless the affections are moved by these things. No one ever seeks salvation, no one ever cries for wisdom, no one ever wrestles with God, and no one ever kneels in prayer or flees from sin, with a heart that remains unaffected. In a word, there is never any great achievement by the things of religion without a heart deeply affected by those things.

—Jonathan Edwards, *A Treatise Concerning Religious Affections*



### Teach them the importance of hard work

*Proverbs 6:6-11:* "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man."

### Teach them how to recognize a "naughty" person and avoid him

*Proverbs 6:12-14:* "A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth. He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers; Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord."

### Teach them never to mock their parents

*Proverbs 30:17:* "The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it."

### Teach them that their actions reflect on their parents

*Proverbs 27:11:* "My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him that reproacheth me."

## V. ADVICE ON TEACHING CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES

### Teach them to fear the Lord

*Proverbs 3:7:* "Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil."  
*Proverbs 8:13:* "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate."  
*Proverbs 15:16:* "Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith."

### Teach them to memorize God's Word and meditate on it

*Proverbs 3:1:* "My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments."  
*Proverbs 7:1:* "My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee. Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye. Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart."

### Teach them the importance of trusting God

*Proverbs 3:5-6:* "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

### Teach them the importance of guarding their mind from evil

*Proverbs 4:23:* "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

### Conclusion:

I hope these principles from Proverbs will give you a "jump start" in continuing the process of developing Biblical truths to teach your children and grandchildren. Why not make your own list of timeless truths from each book of Scripture as you read through the Bible?

—sermon by DR. ALLAN P. BROWN



"COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE  
IN PREACHING"

## PARENTING PRINCIPLES FROM PROVERBS

by Dr. Allan P. Brown, Chair  
GBS Division of Ministerial Education

**"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).**

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 indicates there are four strategic times each day parents are to teach their children: (1) when they get up; (2) when they travel together; (3) when they sit together; and (4) when they go to bed.

What should parents be teaching their child during these four God-appointed times each day? I have selected a few principles from Proverbs to serve as a guideline for the types of things you should be teaching your children. I hope this list will help you get started and that you will make your own list of timeless biblical truths for teaching your children.

### I. ADVICE ON COUNSEL

#### Teach them that Dad and Mom are their best source of wisdom

*Proverbs 1:8:* "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother."

*Proverbs 13:1:* "A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke."

#### Teach them the danger of rejecting Dad and Mom's counsel

*Proverbs 15:5:* "A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent."

*Proverbs 15:32:* "He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding."

#### Teach them to consult the Lord when making plans

*Proverbs 3:5-6:* "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge [know] him, and he shall direct thy paths."

#### Teach them the importance of seeking godly counsel

*Proverbs 24:6:* "In [the] multitude of counselors there is safety."

*Proverbs 11:14:* "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety."

#### Teach them to receive correction with a proper attitude

*Proverbs 10:8:* "The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall."

*Proverbs 19:20: "Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end."*

*Proverbs 10:1-7: "He that refuseth reproof erreth, is brutish, despiseth his own soul, and shall die" (12:1; 15:32; 15:10 - combined)*

**Teach them that punishment should make them wiser**

*Proverbs 21:11: "When the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise: and when the wise is instructed, he receiveth knowledge."*

**II. ADVICE ON BUILDING CHARACTER**

**Teach them to recognize wrong and to have the courage of their convictions to stand alone**

*Proverbs 1:10: "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not."*

**Teach them the way to honor is humility**

*Proverbs 15:3-3: "The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honor is humility;"*

**Teach them always to be honest**

*Proverbs 12:2-2: "Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight."*

**Teach them that laziness is wrong**

*Proverbs 10:26: "As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him."*

*Proverbs 18:9: "He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster:"*

**Teach them to watch their words**

*Proverbs 10:19: "In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise."*

*Proverbs 17:28: "Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding."*

*Proverbs 21:23: "Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles."*

**Teach them the power of their words**

*Proverbs 18:21: "Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."*

**Teach them to give a gentle answer in the face of wrath**

*Proverbs 15:1: "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger."*

**Teach them to have integrity**

*Proverbs 11:3: "The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them."*

**Teach them that a godly reputation is a priceless possession**

*Proverbs 22:1: "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold."*

**Teach your daughter to be gracious**

*Proverbs 11:16: "A gracious woman attains honor."*

**Teach your daughter discretion**

*Proverbs 11:22: "As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion."*

**Teach them that cruelty is wrong**

*Proverbs 11:17: "The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh."*

**Teach them to be patient and control their anger**

*Proverbs 14:29: "He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly."*

*Proverbs 15:18: "A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, But the slow to anger calms a dispute."*

*Proverbs 16:32: "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city."*

**Teach them that their actions show who they are**

*Proverbs 20:11: "Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right."*

**III. ADVICE ON HOW TO VIEW SIN AND SINNERS**

**Teach them that only wicked people think wrong doing is fun**

*Proverbs 14:9: "Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favor."*

**Teach them not to envy sinners, because God's curse is on the sinner**

*Proverbs 3:33: "The curse of the LORD is in the house of the wicked: but he blesteth the habitation of the just."*

**Teach them not to envy sinners or desire their company**

*Proverbs 24:1: "Do not envy wicked men, do not desire their company" (NIV)*

**Teach them that God will destroy the possessions of sinners**

*Proverbs 14:11: "The house of the wicked shall be overthrown: but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish."*

**Teach them not to rejoice at the misfortune of evil**

*Proverbs 24:17-18: "Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth. Lest the LORD see it, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him."*

**IV. ADVICE ON A CHRISTIAN WORLD VIEW**

**Teach them the value of education**

*Proverbs 1:22: "...fools hate knowledge."*

*Proverbs 18:15: "The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge."*

**Teach them to be certain of the facts before accusing someone**

*Proverbs 3:30: "Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm."*

*Proverbs 18:13: "He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him."*



# the world to win

Each month we publish brief "field reports" from missionaries around the world. Missionaries are invited to send us their newsletters and other information about their activities. GBS graduates are especially urged to respond, but we also wish to include others who uphold our vision and our commitment.

**AFRICA.** "Glen and Stephanie Gault (HIM) in Lesotho request continued prayer for the pastors. Satan is still fighting hard, and God's help is much needed. Please pray also for the volunteers working on the tabernacle. Pray that God will give the Christians there a spirit of giving so more material may be purchased. Remember to pray for Glen as he has assumed the duties of Field Director over South Africa and Lesotho." —*Ropeholders*

**COSTA RICA.** Missy McDowell has graduated from Spanish language school, *El Instituto de Lengua Española* located in San Jose. She and her husband Rex II serve under Evangelistic Faith Missions. "I had been told that my year of language school would be one of the hardest years of my life," Missy writes. "I think it came pretty close to it; but because of God's daily help, my husband's encouragement, and a lot of determination and hard studying, my life in Costa Rica now has a new start." —*Missionary Herald*

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.** Daniel Hellmann, pastor of the Bible Holiness Chapel, Ohioville, Pennsylvania, reports on his ministry at youth convention services at the Kilometer 32 church. "From the very first night," he writes, "the Lord had already placed a love in my heart for the precious young people who were there. We had about 70 in a building that probably would not hold much more than 30 here in the States. [At the closing service Sunday evening] I made an unofficial count of 103 people. Even while I was preaching I occasionally had to step around somebody. My heart ached for the hungry and hurting hearts to whom I was able to minister." —*Missionary Herald*

**ECUADOR.** "Pablo Cortez, ...in his late twenties, with a wife and three children, ...was fast drinking himself

into an early grave and a devil's hell.... Through reading the Bible Pablo was saved. Later he was called to preach, then attended seminary. To date, he has pastored three churches, directed a pastor's training institute, and, in November 2009, started a new holiness church in Quito, Ecuador, with over one hundred in attendance, all of whom are brand-new Christians." —Raymond L. Shreve, *EWM International Newsletter*

**EGYPT.** "Leroy and Myrtle Adams (EFM) request that you pray for the salvation of Muslims in Egypt. Pray also that God will supply the needed funds to finish the partly-built structure in Ezbet el Nakl. This would give more room for children as well as adults and could help to bring many to Christ. Please pray for Pastor Magdy and the people there.

"Ronald Smith (EFM) requests prayer for a new work being started by Reda, a Bible college student in a village near Abo El Matameer, Egypt. Please continue to pray for the outreach efforts in the two Eritrean refugee camps in northern Ethiopia." —*Ropeholders*

**GHANA.** "When we arrive at a village to minister, children run swiftly from house to house telling the adults that the missionaries have come. How wonderful that the children are messengers proclaiming the arrival of the gospel message.... Sadly, however, the children often bear messages which promote Satan's deception.... Our hearts grieve to see children standing off to the side of a funeral crowd, watching with big eyes as the adults try to pacify the spirits with their deeds of darkness.... Our desire is that these children will bear messages pertaining to eternal life and the Savior." —Jason and Rebekah Corban, *Allegheny Wesleyan Methodist*

**HAITI.** "Thank you so much for your support. Our school in Despinos had sustained a lot of damage during the earthquake, and we are happy to inform you that God has already taken care of that need. We had a team come in last week and rebuild the broken walls and build some new desks for us! Isn't God good! Donations are coming in well for disaster relief, so we will be able to complete quite a few projects in the upcoming weeks. God is so faithful! Thank you for being used of Him! Keep us in your prayers, as we are trying to juggle our families, and the mission work! —Joel and April Hess, *Email*

**UNITED STATES.** "Our Indian camp meeting began with a welcome service Tuesday evening, December the 29, with Sister Dorothy Singleton, preaching.... It was an outstanding camp. Those counting said there were ten experiences of salvation." —LeRoy Newport, *The Flaming Sword* ■



compiled by Rev. Jack Hooker, President,  
National Alumni Association of GBS

## ALUMNI SERVE IN GBS'S COUNSELING CENTER

In February 2009, a new ministry was started on the campus of God's Bible School and College. The GBS Counseling Center was formed to be responsive to the needs of our students, staff, and their dependents. An area on the lower level of the Knapp Memorial Building was remodeled to accommodate the needs of the counselors. An entrance was constructed on Channing Street so clients may easily access the center.

But the center is only as effective as the personnel that staff it. This is where our GBS alumni come in. We are so fortunate to have the services of three alumni who are Licensed Professional Counselors by the State of Ohio. This enables the center to address a number of mental and emotional issues. All three of the alumni have received their MA in Counseling degrees from Cincinnati Christian University, an institution known for its strong professional Christian counseling program.

Dr. Tim Barber, a professor at CCU, has given a number of hours of supervision to the center. Rev. Richard Miles, Vice President for Student Affairs, has this to say about the center: "God's redemptive healing involves a variety of methods. One of those is the ministry of counseling. God's Bible School and College is

blessed to have graduates in many fields of ministry including professional Christian counseling. Many of our students have benefited from the ministry of our Christian Counseling Center staffed by GBS alumni."

Let's take a closer look at the alumni investing in our students:

**Rebecca (Hooks) Miller** ('75-'77) serves as the lead counselor for the center. Rebecca also serves on the GBS faculty and



teaches courses in the counseling field. She comes back to GBS having served in other centers in Cincinnati. Besides serving at GBS, Rebecca finds time to serve her local church in Franklin, Ohio, as Director of Children's Church and as Liaison for the Community Pregnancy Center.

Rebecca states, "I have a sincere desire to make a difference in the lives of individuals and their families within the community. My personal values include a strong philosophical perspective which provides the foundation for emotional and mental healing, as well as the belief that all human beings have inestimable worth and significance as created in the image of God. The physical, social, psychological, and spiritual aspects of the individual must be embraced interdependently in order to realize wholeness."

**Jennee (Hooker) Hartkopf** (BA '04) was added to the staff to respond to the growth of the ministry and the demand for counsel-

ing. Jennee is a counselor at Youthworks Adolescent and Family Counseling Center, the first Christian Center in Cincinnati dedicated to teens and families. It is a distinctively Christian center equipped to treat a



wide range of mental, emotional, and family issues. Jennee counsels students in the on-campus Aldersgate Christian Academy, as well as college students and adults when needed. She also assists beginning students at Cincinnati Christian University. Jennee was featured in a recent issue of *CCU Magazine*. She also finds time to be very active in her local church in Kenwood. Jennee states, "I am committed to sharing God's grace with those who are hurting, wounded, and without hope. I have learned how to integrate theology with counseling theory, and this has proved invaluable."

**Denis Odhiambo** (BA '06) will be joining the staff of the Counseling Center soon. Denis,



who is from Kenya, East Africa, has experience in church ministry and community development. He was also featured recently in the *CCU*

*Magazine*. He states that through his training his understanding of peoples' needs have been deepened. He also learned how to apply effective counseling interventions. In



## GBS Alumni Reception at IHC

Wednesday, April 21

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Dayton Convention Center, Dayton, Ohio

Room 106

God's timing, Denis intends to return to Kenya where he will use his skills to train, mentor, and counsel his fellow Kenyans. In the meantime he will use his expertise to make a difference in the lives of GBS students.

Across the country, a number of colleges and universities have established on-campus counseling centers. Many are experiencing dramatic increases in the number of clients, as well as the severity of problems addressed. We are very fortunate at GBS to have a center that is Biblically-based and staffed by professional and spiritual alumni who are giving back to their Alma Mater. President Avery summed it up by saying, "The new counseling center has enhanced our ability to address issues that require the insight of a trained professional. The work of this counseling team has already brought healing and hope to so many lives."

#### A MESSAGE TO ALUMNI

All of us can look back on our days on the Hilltop and recall great memories and life-changing events. Much of the impact GBS has made on our lives involves the influence of godly men and women who served on the faculty and staff. I am inviting you to write a paragraph or two describing the impact a faculty or staff member had on your life. Please email submissions to [jhooker@gbs.edu](mailto:jhooker@gbs.edu) or mail them to me at 1810 Young Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202. Please include the years you attended GBS, your address, a little about what you are doing now, and a photo of yourself if possible. Over the years, I have sat with alumni and heard how God used one person at GBS to mark their lives or influence their walk with God. I would like to read your story and share it with our readers! ■

—Jack Hooker, President  
National Alumni Association

## FASTING: A RARE JEWEL

by Phillip Dickinson

***"Is not this the fast that I have chosen?" —Isaiah 58:6***

Have you discovered the rare jewel called fasting? Happy is the saint who has found this joy. He floats in heretofore undreamed-of oceans of faith. He has meat to eat of which others do not know. The other world ministers to him as they did his Savior. True are the laws of His Kingdom: *In weakness we are made strong. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness. Seek ye first the kingdom of God.*

The early church along with the Apostle Paul, as well as Luther, Wesley, Howell, and many other great Christians, have found and have often used this secret to extend their faith. Heroic believers such as Jonathan Edwards were so weakened by fasting that they struggled to stand and preach. But still these received the promise and raised up the foundations of faith for many generations following.

Those who are ignorant of the benefit of fasting may draw back, but you who are filled with the Spirit and know His purposes will find it of great benefit. You may be hungry and faint, but you will become great battle axes in the mighty hand of God to crush the strongholds of Satan, for some things come only by prayer and fasting. You will become "lights rising in obscurity" to become God's chosen partners to do mighty exploits. Fast, and then God will say, "Here I am." Fast, and you will be called the repairer of the breach. Fast, and the glory of the LORD shall be yours.

Glory! What an honor! Fast on. ■



➡(p2) holiness folks wanted religion to be less demanding and more socially acceptable. Naturally they were hostile to the bonescrapers who offended their comfortable, upscale congregations.

In contrast, the “old school” cheered on the bonescrapers, arguing that they were God’s spokesmen who declared His unyielding wrath against our sin. As inner principle, that sin corrupts all that we are; as outward act, it distorts all that we do; and only the most powerful dynamite can ever dislodge it. This God Himself has provided in His Holy Law, which reveals our sin (Rom. 3:20 and 7:7), “breaks the rock in pieces” (Jer. 23:9), and uncovers our base passions which “bring forth fruit unto death” (Rom. 7:5).

Not only does God give the Law, but He expects His ministers to use it. They must preach it tenderly and sensitively, of course, but also unsparingly and specifically “in demonstration of the Spirit and of power” (I Cor. 2:4). For it is the Spirit who convicts “of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment,” as He anoints His messengers to preach the Law in all its holy splendor, exposing our shams and deceits for the damning treason which they are.

This is why St. Paul asserts that the Law is the “schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith” (Gal. 3:24). For as the Law penetrates the crooks, crannies, and crevices of our nature, the Spirit batters the heart with “conviction,” rouses the conscience from moral sloth, and motivates the will to seek God’s mercy.

So the road to Calvary goes by Sinai, and those who never are convicted by the Law will never be converted by the Gospel. George Whitefield knew all this, and that is why he said, “I love the voice that thunders forth the Word. The whole Christian world is asleep, and only a loud voice can awaken it.”

That voice is the voice of the bonescraper. Even the holiness liberals knew this, but a half-century ago they were pushing social respectability and church growth at almost any cost. So they talked a lot about God’s love and acceptance, said hardly anything about His law, and avoided speaking against sin except in the most general terms. An exception was “legalism,” a sin which they especially attributed to the conservatives.

They also tried to discredit all the bonescrapers by the excesses of the hotheads. Then, as now, there were certain revivalists who launched crusades against “sins” which were not sins at all, made crude personal attacks against their opponents, and told deathbed stories which terrified seven-year-olds into believing they had “crossed the deadline.” They used cheap gimmicks and cruel “tests” to “line the altar”; hammered unmercifully on “holiness or hell”; and spent so much time on the Law that they never got around to the Gospel. They blistered sisters with feathers on their hats or Christmas trees in their homes and broth-

ers who played golf or received doctorates of divinity. They railed against cowboy hats, Easter bunnies, and dignity in public worship. High-pitched emotionalism, they believed, was a special mark of the Spirit’s presence.

These embarrassed the sane and balanced conservatives as much as they outraged the liberals; and not for a moment did they represent the bonescrapers whose faithful ministries we recall and whose godly memories we cherish. For these were careful, courteous, and compassionate men, steeped in earnest prayer, tender love, and genuine “soul travail.”

To be sure, their pulpit delivery was strong and rugged, for they hated sin as much as they loved God;

## What happens to pigeons may also happen to preachers. We can’t let the bonescrapers become extinct.

but it was also marked by reverent application of the text, loyalty to scriptural Christianity, and tender pleas to broken sinners. If they preached the Law with vigor, they preached the Gospel with grace; and except for them, many of us would not be Christians at all. Some of them were scholars, and most of them were saints.

In the broader movement now they have almost entirely disappeared; and among us they are dwindling, too. Thank God, we have superb preachers still—many of them; and they uplift, affirm, and challenge us, often with hermeneutical refinement and homiletical skill. But what we are losing is the fiery outpouring of those preachers of our youth who so fearlessly arraigned the conscience before a holy God that sinners blanched before Him and Christians put away their compromises which offended Him.

We suggest that there are various factors responsible for this. *First, we have been affected by psychology and counseling, which certainly offer valuable insights into human agony and relief.* But still our basic problem is not misadjusted personality but inherited depravity and habituated sin; and our only remedy is the cleansing of Christ’s blood. *Second, we have adopted the relationship model of Christian life, but sometimes we have not anchored it sufficiently in the lordship of Jesus.* Friendship with Him is precious; and true, that does mean developing relationship. But Jesus is our Lord and God, not our buddy who pats us on the back while we



©2010 iuniter Images

# THOUGHTS

for the quiet hour

by Sonja Vernon

## PRUNING

***"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit." —John 15:1-2 NASB***

I love the bonsai exhibit at our local conservatory. The tiny intricate details of each plant are exquisite, and I am constantly amazed at the time and energy spent to create these living works of art. Some time ago I was captivated by one plant in particular. It is 40 years old, and 31 of those years it has spent "in training." It is constantly being pruned, shaped, and bent into the image that its owner desires. Without this constant "training," the branches would grow unruly, and this delicate plant would lose the thing that makes it unique. It would become just one more bit of greenery.

How often do we chafe under the constant "training" of our Heavenly Father? Sometimes the bending and trimming brings pain, and we question the wisdom of the Gardener. In those moments we must remember that the One who owns us both by creation and by purchase is lovingly conforming us to a very specific image—that of His Son. He knows that without constant "pruning" and "training," we would grow unruly, and the image would grow more and more indistinct. We would blend into the world around us—just one more bit of "greenery." This day let us trust the heart of the great Gardener, who patiently and kindly "works in [us] both to will and to do for His good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13). His hand is steady, and His purpose is good. ■

Sonja Vernon is Dean of Women at God's Bible School and College.

shuffle along, indulging our dear, besetting sins, seeking a little "help" at every revival, and never possessing clear and present victory. Remember we are Methodists; and from our beginnings we have emphasized the message of St. John: "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not ...He that committeth sin is of the devil" (I John 3:6; 8).

*Third, we continue to react against abuse.* We recall the harsh and ugly nonsense which sometimes has marred our pulpits, and so we remain silent when we should speak. Besides, we want our churches to grow, and we fear that "negative" preaching will hinder that. *Fourth, we are losing our professional evangelists.* Traditionally these are the voices which have rallied the movement and kept it honest; but for whatever reasons, there are few now on the road or circulating in our churches. *Fifth, we are struggling with "historic drift."* Too many of us also want a religion which is less demanding and more socially acceptable; and as always, this means an atmosphere hostile to outspoken, confrontational preaching against the sins which we indulge, the carnal attitudes which we display, and the worldly trifles which we excuse.

Our loss is painful, but it is not irreparable. There is time yet for recovery; and there are many still who love "the voice that thunders forth the Word." Of course, we must hear the Gospel—that is not the question; but we also must hear the Law, for we will never submit to Jesus until we are painfully aware of what separates us from Him. It is not harsh, severe, or ugly preaching that we need, but honest, direct, and pointed preaching which confronts us with the "whole counsel of God" without deviation or apology.

More than we know, revival depends on this; and so does the conversion of our youth and the future of our movement. This means that our preachers—pastors, administrators, and evangelists—must speak again on such matters as Sabbath-breaking; covetousness and exploitation; idleness, extravagance, and self-indulgence; grudges, bitterness, and hostility; worldly and immodest dress; disobedience to authority; questionable amusements; social snobbery and racist bigotry; indecency and sexual impropriety; dishonesty in business and personal affairs; gossip, retaliation, and evil speaking; and whatever else is an offense to Heaven.

Gentle, lovely Martha, the last passenger pigeon in the world, died at 1:00 P. M., September 1, 1914, in her cage at the Cincinnati zoo. Her stiff and mounted corpse, now in the Smithsonian collections, is a sad reminder of the tragedy which snuffed out the most common bird in North America. But what happens to pigeons may also happen to preachers; and if the preachers really are God's messengers, the tragedy is even worse. That's why we can't let the bonescrappers become extinct. ■



# FIND DIRECTION

**VIP DAY 2010**  
**APRIL 23**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.GBS.EDU](http://WWW.GBS.EDU) OR CALL 1-800-486-4637.