

# GOD'S REVIVALIST

June/July/August 2014

*and Bible Advocate*





# about this issue

## THE LOVE OF READING

Reading was always a big deal at the Farmer house. Our parents modeled the right set of attitudes for us as we grew up: we saw them reading; they encouraged us to read; they regularly took us to the library. All of this was positive reinforcement.

Reading was an activity that I really enjoyed. Jack London hooked me on books about dogs. Another one of my very favorites was the 1961 novel *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls. I admit to having cried at the poignant fate of Billy's two redbone coonhound dogs. I also enjoyed the cowboy sagas of Zane Grey.

But what I remember the most was how obsessed my older brother and I were with the Hardy Boys mystery novels written under the pen name of Franklin W. Dixon. When the latest book in the series was released, we would read it together, with one looking over the shoulder of the other. And, yes, I was the slower reader, which prompted the repeated exclamation, "Aren't-you-finished-yet?"

To this day, I enjoy reading. It is exciting to discover a new thought and appreciate a turn of phrase; to be uplifted, and, yes, entertained. Reading can do that.

So...for your reading enjoyment, we are pleased to announce the commencement of a series of articles by Ben Durr, Jr. (ThB '86) focusing on lessons learned "In the School of Grace." In this first offering, Ben affirms grace as a doctrinal concept, but suggests that it should be very personal and transformative as we experience it in real life. You will enjoy "Bristlecone Pines, Ptarmigan, and Grace" (p.5). Following that are four other articles, the last extolling the benefits of reading broadly.

Finally, I admit that my new responsibilities as managing editor have put me on the prowl for good material. I am reading more articles and blogs than ever, and enjoying them. Let me leave you with a request. Some of you can write. That is good. However, we need to know who you are. We ask that you send samples to us at the Revivalist Press ([kfarmer@gbs.edu](mailto:kfarmer@gbs.edu)). Or maybe you are aware of other good writers. Give us their information and we will be happy to contact them.

Thanks for your help! —KF 📖

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*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.

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COVER PHOTO: GBS graduate Amit Dutta shares a pleasant moment with Dr. Allan Brown just prior to the commencement ceremony, May 17. Photo by Rachel Pohl.

# the president's page



**The basic meaning of the word holy is “set apart.” “Separateness” is at the very core of who God is, how He works, and how any human being must relate to Him.**

## ERASING THE LINES

*by Michael R. Avery, President*

**T**he first five books of the Bible lay the foundation for the kind of relationship that God wants to have with His people. He wants to walk with them, talk with them, have them know Him, and receive their worship. The overarching concern in establishing this relationship is that God is a “holy” God. “For I am the Lord your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy...” (Leviticus 11:44). The basic meaning of the word holy (*Qadosh*) is “set apart,” “apartness,” “distinct,” and “unique.” This idea of “separateness” is at the very core of who God is, how He works, and how any human being must relate to Him. It comes through in all His creative design (Genesis); in His interaction with mankind (Genesis-Numbers); and in the ethical, moral, and civil obligations given for interaction between man and man, man and earth, and man and God (Leviticus-Deuteronomy). Stated simply, you can’t understand the Pentateuch or the God of the Pentateuch without some understanding of His “separateness”!

This “separateness” is front and center in Genesis chapter one where God’s creative work makes a clear separation between: (1) God and man, (2) man and animal, and (3) male and female. All of these “distinctions” or “separations” in creation are reflections of His divine image. After the fall, we see two more important areas of separation: (4) good and evil, and (5) the holy and the profane. These five areas of separation became the foundation to the spiritual, civil, and social health of the nation of Israel, as well as all cultures and civilizations to follow. When any of these distinctions are blurred or deliberately crossed, chaos, confusion, and destruction follow.


It is no wonder then that one of Satan’s primary strategies in His war against God will be an attempt to blur these lines of separation with the ultimate intent of erasing them altogether. Satan hates God and seeks to attack Him in any way possible. Since frontal assaults do not work well for him, he seeks to attack God by marring

or destroying the distinctiveness of His creation or His image in us. Satan's ultimate goal is to mar or, if possible, erase the "distinctiveness" of God's image as so uniquely seen in the human race and thereby create havoc and ultimate destruction to a society or culture.

Satan has been quite successful and thereby relentless in following this strategy. Fallen civilizations and cultures of the past are silent witnesses to this truth. Our own American culture is becoming a present day example. America's founding was highly impacted by the Judeo-Christian faith and ethic. We openly acknowledged the transcendence and sovereignty of God ("In God We Trust" is still our national motto); taught the difference between good and evil as found in holy scripture; placed the dominion and well-being of humans in the proper biblical place—far above that of animals; understood the physical and social distinctions of male and female; held life as a sacred gift from God; and despised a profane man or woman. But alas, that was the America of yesterday! Each one of the five major "separations" mentioned above has all but vanished from the American norm. We are godless and profane—and if you don't believe that just look at a billboard, read a book, or watch evening television. The battle that now rages is the one to destroy the distinction between male and female with the resultant evil of same-sex marriage. When this last distinction is destroyed, chaos and confusion will follow. God will not be mocked!

Satan's strategy of erasing the Divine lines of separation begins with the mind. Through vain and worldly philosophies the so-called "intellectual elites" planted and preached the ideas that dethroned God, elevated man, undermined absolute truth, destroyed moral values, devalued human life, and is presently removing the family structure upon which civilizations are built. Ideas are powerful! Unfortunately, ideas have consequences. What I *think* carries over into what I *do*. Character is connected to the intellect. Ideas impact values. According to historian Paul Johnson, the killing fields of Cambodia came out of philosophical discussions (ideas) in Paris!

Is there an answer? Yes! The answer is the radical transformation of the heart and the renewing of the mind in truth—God's truth! Can it happen? Oh, yes! Will it happen? Well ...that depends on you and me! ■



# 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.*

While I have watched many of the prudent changes implemented at GBS over the last 15 years, it was wonderful to see the list concisely compiled in the April 2014 Revivalist. My heart is strengthened for the future of my alma mater as I see this strategic, proactive plan revealed. I am especially delighted to see point #2 on student development including leadership training and increased emphasis on the internship program. Our future leaders need to interact with modern day "heroes of the faith," who would never consider themselves as such, but who demonstrate the same gifts and graces of their biblical counterparts. May the Lord Himself raise up Spirit-filled mentors to help you fulfill your purpose.

MARLON KING  
Virginia Beach, VA

The *Revivalist* that came yesterday was very interesting, to say the least. It reminded me of the camp meeting when we made the presentation for campus renovation and renewal. I love what is going on at the school. We're praying that God will give the support needed to follow through!

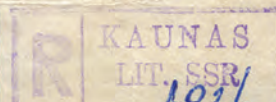
[Former GBS President] SAM DEETS  
Cochranon, PA

As I peruse the *Revivalist* this morning, I see President Avery in Joshua chapter 14: "Give me THIS mountain." My wife and I are praying about how much the Lord will help us to give to the plan God has given GBS. Since reading this copy of the *Revivalist* (pardon a little musing), it seems as I drive down the road now I see so many license plates beginning with "gbs." I use that as a reminder to pray for HIS school.

BILL FRY  
email

I received the April *Revivalist* and read President Avery's long-term financial plans. As a business man, I was very impressed. My hat is off to him. You have to handle money according to good business principles, and this is being accomplished under his leadership.

ROBERT MILLER  
Beach City, OH





## Bristlecone Pines, Ptarmigan, and Grace

by Ben Durr, Jr.

Last summer I experienced the ultimate “man vacation.” With the saddle bags on my Suzuki Boulevard packed with protein bars, bottled water, and a pup tent, I pointed my cycle westward and rotated the throttle. Ahead of me lay two weeks of open roads to be traveled, unpredictable events to be experienced, and cherished memories to be made.

And there were many.

Most have faded into my subconscious, but one incident in particular has lingered persistently. It often appears on the stage of my mind unexpectedly, for no apparent reason. It bugs me. It baffles me. Motivates me.

It happened on a particularly sunny day in north central Colorado. I had said goodbye to a distant cousin with whom I had spent the night and, with my pulse rate running 10 mph above the speed limit, I wound my way up, down, and around, eventually merging onto the Mt.

Evans Scenic Byway, the highest paved road in America. At that moment I was riding my black Suzuki Boulevard up a stern but magnificent Colorado mountain that was only a mere 164 feet shorter than Pike’s Peak.

Sometimes life is really, really good!

Partway up I stopped at a gift shop to browse around and get refreshed. It was there I heard a conversation between two tourists that went something like this:

“You going on up to the top with us?”

“No. I’ll just stay here and wait for you all to get back. I’ve already been up there and seen everything there is to see.”

It was that brief moment of accidental eavesdropping that has gotten stuck in my craw ever since.

*Really? You’ve been there, done that, and there’s nothing else to see? Do you really prefer the boredom of a crowded room of tourists picking over two-dollar trinkets to the mysteries and magnificence that towers above you?*

*Really? You’ve seen it all?*

*Have you seen a mountain lion stalking an unsuspecting bighorn sheep? Have you watched an eight-ounce whistling pika storing up a hay-bale’s worth of grass to survive the harsh winter? Have you wondered about the massive glacier that carved out Echo Lake that for centuries now has gathered up the crystal-clear water of the melting snow? So, you’ve seen it all, have you?*

*I assume, then, that you’ve noticed that the tiny Ptarmigan has feathers on both its nose and its toes? And what about those most*



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ancient trees on earth, the bristlecone pines, especially the ones (still living) that date back to the 400s AD?

*Seen all there is to see? I don't think so!*

Note to readers: This article is really not about a motorcycle trip. It's the first of a series of essays that I have been invited to write about Grace and which I (perhaps foolishly) have agreed to do.

Grace is a subject that, over the past several years, I have pondered repeatedly and experienced profoundly in ways that have marked me for life. Yes, I've known since freshman theology class that Grace is "unmerited favor." But in the 30-plus years that have passed since I wrote that correct two-word answer on my test paper and laid it on the teacher's desk, I have spent far too much time hanging around the gift shop when out there, far above and beyond my understanding, an indescribably magnificent "Grace Mountain" was patiently waiting to be explored and, with each new discovery, release its transforming influence upon me.

I shared the preceding story because of its many correlations to my quest to understand, experience, and live in Grace. Here's my quick list of those connections: I ascended Mt. Evans holding my breath in anticipation of what I was about to discover. I was saddened by a voice in the crowd that assumed he already had seen and known all there was to see and know. I realized that most of Mt. Evans' secrets were hidden to the eyes of the casual, hurried tourist, but I also understood that even the most diligent investigator would need a lifetime (and longer) to know all there was to know.

All these experiences speak to me of my adventure climbing Grace Mountain.

Oh, and one thing more. The impressive facts I shared in the preceding paragraphs.... Thank you *Wikipedia* and [www.mountevans.com](http://www.mountevans.com)! My point being that if, when you are reading these articles, you ever get the impression that I am an expert on the subject of Grace, I'm not. No more than I'm an expert on the secrets of Mt. Evans. I still have lots of questions, and, in fact, I will be sharing some of those questions with you in the next issue.

But I've tasted something I can't get enough of. And, like one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread, I invite you to come along for the journey. Let's go climb a mountain! ■

**Rev. Ben Durr, Jr.** (ThB '86) served on the GBS faculty 1996-2005. He has pastored for 30 years and currently lives in LaGrange, GA, with his wife Robin (Bass) (BSM '82).

## THEOLOGY MATTERS!



by Joel Thomas Chopp (GBS BA MinEd '11)

Theology does not typically enjoy scoring very high on our "important things to do today" list. This can even be true of pastors and church leaders. Often the "more practical" aspects of ministry, the activities where we "get our hands dirty," crowd out the time in our day for deep, serious reflection. For some, theology doesn't even register as an activity to be crowded out—it's boring and divisive, and the last thing our churches need is more of it.

Though these tendencies likely stem from good motives, they are also working with a poor definition of theology. Theology, rightly understood, is nothing less than the exercise of holy reason in thinking and speaking well about the Triune God, and I submit that there are few activities more important than this for the life of a church, or for an individual believer. A.W. Tozer said, "What comes into our mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us," in part because what we think and how we speak determines how we order our lives. A church that does not slow down to think and speak rightly about God—that is, to think and speak in accordance with His Word spoken to us—is a church that may be outwardly growing, but inwardly wasting away. A healthy church is one where the exercise of holy reason is nurtured and encouraged, where the depths of God's word is mined for its riches, and where the God of whom we think and speak stoops down to meet us and to speak to us.

Theology is not for the academy, it is for the church. Theology is not first the professor's job, it is the task of every disciple of Jesus. As Bruce Marshall noted, "The God about whom theology seeks knowledge is the God known to the Church, the God who has entrusted the most sublime about Himself to fishermen and tentmakers, and to their successors down to this day." Every Christian is a student of theology because every Christian thinks and speaks about God. Theology is not only *for* the church; it is done *in* and *with* the church, with the whole communion of saints past and present down through the ages. Today, we students have an embarrassing amount of riches in our possession—the works of the fathers and the scholastics, of Augustine and Anselm, of Aquinas and Arminius, and Wesley and Whitefield—all at our fingertips. Take them. Read them. Drink deep and search the Scriptures. Think and speak well of the Triune God. ■

This article originally appeared at [www.powerlinekingdom.com](http://www.powerlinekingdom.com).

# NO EXCUSES

by Dave Keep

*"Their only duty at the Tabernacle will be to carry loads." Numbers 4:31*

**T**he Merarite Clan, to whom Numbers 4:31 refers, is a division of the tribe of Levi, and doesn't get much face time in scripture. I've read the Bible a bunch, taken college courses that covered the book of Numbers, and, seriously, I don't recall having ever really noticed the Merarites before. But this morning I did, and it's because of that line—"their only duty...will be to carry the loads."

The Tabernacle was the symbol of God's presence and the place where God dwelt among His people in their wilderness wanderings. It was an awesome place. It was massive, detailed, ornate, intricately designed, and holy! And it was filled with sacred objects, every one of which was strategic and meaningful. Like a traveling band with their instruments and sound system, Israel had to carry the Tabernacle and its furnishings wherever they went; and in Numbers 4, God has been instructing Moses and Aaron on setup and teardown. This stuff is so serious that at one point God tells them that the sons of Kohath "must not touch...or look upon the holy things even for a moment, lest they die." To take down the holy things of the Tabernacle and to wrap and prepare them for travel was the responsibility of Aaron and his sons. Once everything was wrapped and ready, along came the sons of Merari, along with the Kohathites and Gershonites, to carry the loads. As God had established it, the somewhat menial task of carrying the loads was a critical component of Israel's movement and worship. And, as such, it was vital to the Presence of God dwelling in the midst of His people. So then, a role that could be passed off as ridiculously unimportant, or passed over without a second glance, now has significance because it points to something beyond the responsibility itself. Did you miss that? A role that could be passed off as ridiculously unimportant, or passed over without a second

glance, now has significance because it points to something beyond the responsibility itself.

Here's my point: We are in the unfortunate business of ranking positions on the basis of their perceived importance. And wherever possible, we pass on the lesser and sign up for the greater. It seems to me that this relatively obscure line in Numbers 4 challenges that notion by pinpointing two very important truths that relate to each of us and address the idea of importance from a completely different perspective. Here they are:

- ***There is a role for me to fill.***
- ***That role is important, not because of how it connects people to me, but because of how through it I connect people to God.***

You're probably thinking, "anyone could have carried the loads." Perhaps. But that isn't the point. God had planned for the sons of Merari to do the carrying, and if they had refused, they would have missed out on everything that responsibility pointed to—community, worship, and the Presence of God. They would have missed their place in the larger picture.

So what's your excuse? Don't have time? Not skilled? The openings available (vacuuming and cleaning toilets) seem too menial? Can't see the importance of it? Before you turn the offer down, can I challenge you to ask just one question: does this task give me the chance to help people connect with God? If it does, then it's important. Do it! You won't regret it. ■

*Rev. Dave Keep is senior pastor of Parkway House of Prayer, Roanoke, Virginia. This article is from his eDevotional blog, [www.davekeep.me](http://www.davekeep.me).*

# Like Seagulls to trash piles

## Flocking to “Other Christianities”

by Eric Metaxas

**H**arvard is once again touting a dubious scrap of papyrus that claims to quote Jesus as having a wife. Why would they do that?

In October 2012, I told BreakPoint listeners about a Smithsonian Channel documentary that examined a fourth-century papyrus fragment in which Jesus purportedly refers to His “wife.”

At the time, I noted that even if it weren’t a blatant forgery, there was ample reason to be skeptical about what the fragment purported to tell us.

Well, now the fragment is back in the news, and not only is skepticism about the fragment itself still warranted, but we should also ask ourselves what lies behind the continuing interest in the fragment and similar documents.

When the discovery of the document was announced, scholars pointed to “grammatical errors,” its “resemblance to other gospels,” and even “inconsistencies with traditional Egyptian Coptic script” which called the fragment’s authenticity into question.

Earlier this month, the *Harvard Theological Review* published a series of articles claiming that the fragment wasn’t a forgery, and instead, “probably dated from between the sixth and ninth centuries and might be even older,” the mostly likely date being around 859 A.D.

Mind you, that’s at least four centuries after what the historian Karen King first claimed. Which also puts it four to five centuries after the various ecumenical councils that defined Christian orthodoxy.

Yet, King insists that “we can turn away from the question of forgery and talk much, much more about the historical significance of the fragment and precisely how it fit into the history of Christianity and questions about family and marriage and sexuality and Jesus.”

Leo Depuydt of Brown University disagrees. In a companion piece to King’s in the Review, he wrote that there is “not the slightest doubt (those are his words) that the document is a forgery, and not a very good one at that.” He reiterates early objections to the fragment and insists that none of them has been satisfactorily addressed.

To him, the text is “surreal,” and he wonders how “something so patently fake could be so blown out of proportion.”

Well, with respect to professor Depuydt, the answer is easy: The fragment is what people like

King and Hal Taussig, who worked on the fragment with her, want to find—they need it to be real. Even if analysis of the ink, which is still pending, were to show that the text was written with a Sharpie, the fragment would still have its defenders.

That’s because the fragment allows them to talk about “Christianities,” plural, and “questions about family and marriage and sexuality and Jesus.” Father James Martin, who is known to many Americans from his appearances on the *Colbert Report*, told the *Washington Post* that “funnily enough, people who are quick to accept the veracity of this” are the same people who question the veracity of biblical accounts, including the resurrection.

The debate over this fragment or other extra-biblical texts isn’t really about what people in the third or fourth centuries believed—it’s about what people in the 21st century want to believe. Insisting that there were many “Christianities” prior to the Council of Nicea is a way of saying that there can be many “Christianities” today—with many beliefs about the core doctrines of the faith, from marriage to the sanctity of life, to the very resurrection of the Lord Himself.

That’s why scholars took to the “Jesus’s Wife” fragment and various so-called “gospels” like, well, seagulls to trash piles. That’s why Taussig can insist, as the *Washington Post* put it, that the fragment is “ostensibly as important as documents that make up the accepted New Testament.”

No matter when it was written or with what. ■

*Eric Metaxas is the author of the New York Times #1 best seller, Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy. This article is from BreakPoint, April 24, 2014, reprinted with permission of Prison Fellowship, [www.breakpoint.org](http://www.breakpoint.org).*





# Four Lessons I've Learned From Reading Broadly

by Lisa Robinson

It's comfortable to read after people who think like us, who draw the same conclusions we do—people who are part of “our tribe.” But there is a danger in becoming too tribal, putting our stake in the ground too quickly, and using it to battle others in the body, often unfairly.

I'm increasingly realizing the value of reading broadly, and by extension, learning broadly. Doing so has helped me recognize some characteristics about myself that reinforce my need to read “out of my comfort zone.” Let me share a few with you.

**1. My discernment,** or rather lack thereof. There's something about having to read through work that doesn't necessarily align with my doctrinal/denominational perspective that forces an examination of what the author is really getting at. Some books may sound good, but in fact have a troubled theology. I've observed that going through the exercise of deciphering what is valuable and what is opposed to historic Christian orthodoxy sharpens discernment. However, the intention of the reading must be to understand. Reading just to tear something down defeats the purpose of learning.

**2. My arrogance.** I can place a great deal of confidence in my own investigation. However, there were many instances in which I claimed to evaluate “fairly” all sides when, in all honesty, I really didn't. Reading broadly confronts that sense of superiority I feel when I think I have everything figured out. It helps me realize that I can learn from others, even those with whom I disagree. When combined with point #1, I'm increasingly finding some valuable nuggets that a more tribal perspective might suppress...and has suppressed. Dismissing something without giving it a fair shake? Yep, arrogance.

**3. My ignorance.** Unfortunately arrogance has a way of maximizing ignorance. When I get smug in my conclusions (point #2), it leaves little room for other considerations...or further investigation. The more I read and learn, the more I realize that premature assessments I've made have resulted in some faulty representation of positions I was only treating on the surface. Reading broadly also helps me realize how something developed historically, which provides the framework for how it should be understood. That's not to say I will change my mind, but at least my convictions are supported by a more thorough study.

**4. My family.** There is only one body of Christ, with many members. The fact that we might experience some sibling rivalry over doctrinal issues doesn't mean we are not brothers and sisters. I am frequently humbled by those with whom I disagree as they clearly display true affection for God and others. This is encouraging, because really what is at stake is our ability to love God and each other. Reading broadly helps me to remember that there are other members in the family who study too, who want to know truth too, and who are equally convicted by their conclusions.

Granted, there is a line we don't want to cross as we would lose an appropriate definition of Christianity. We must pray that God will give us His wisdom. I also wouldn't confine this to reading books, but would extend it to blogs as well as simply learning from others.

If you don't have friends outside your denominational tribe, you should. Take time to really listen to what they have to say and don't just jump on them with correction. It does our theology good to listen and maybe learn something along the way. I personally am grateful for those who have modeled this for me and taught me a little of what it means to read critically, fairly, and “Christianly.” ■

*Lisa Robinson is a graduating seminary student. This article is adapted from her March 16, 2014, blog at [www.theothoughts.com](http://www.theothoughts.com).*



# NEWS

from the Hilltop

## MISSIONS DINNER

In April the Intercultural Studies and World Missions division hosted a banquet. The theme of the



Tim Keep speaks at missions banquet.

evening was “Equipped to Impact Your World.” International students from GBS performed Spanish, Papua New Guinean, and Japanese music throughout the evening while guests were served either Kenyan, Indian, or Ukrainian cuisine—cooked by international students—as they listened to selected “missionary kid” students share personal experiences on the mission field.

Speakers included Tim and Becky Keep, missionaries to the Philippines; Amy Weddle, a missionary to Honduras and Guatemala; Maria Smith, a missionary to Guatemala; and Eric Himelick, an inner city missionary. They answered questions and offered their experienced insight.

## VIP DAY 2014

One hundred sixty prospective students from the United States,

Canada, and Indonesia were on campus for our VIP Day festivities, Friday, April 25. They attended classes, participated in choir rehearsal, took part in a ministry training workshop, toured Cincinnati, and worshiped with us in



Prospective students perform with the College Choir.

chapel. Activities in the afternoon and evening included basketball and volleyball, a comedy program, and an ice cream social. The banquet theme centered around medieval times, and the evening closed with a challenge delivered by Rev. Travis Johnson (a student in the Aldersgate Distance Education Program). God truly blessed VIP Day 2014!

—Kent Stetler, Student Recruiter

# 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.

## BIRTHS



To **Jackie (Pearce) (AA '02) and Bradley Bishop (HS '02)**, a daughter, **Alissa Grace**, born March 14, 2014, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Bradley works in the Information Technology department at GBS. Alissa joins her sister Kelsie and brother Austin.



To **Ashley (Marshall) and Scott Blackmon**, a son, **Reid Monroe**, born March 31, 2014, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Scott teaches at Aldersgate Christian Academy. Reid joins brothers Cole and Drake.

## DEATHS



**Leon Robert Brown, 88**, passed away January 23, 2014. Bob was born in Chicago, Illinois, the first child of Leon Rex Brown and Belle Avondale Brown. In the 1940s, Bob attended high school at GBS with his brother, George, and sister, Myrtle (Jones). Bob served his country as an infantryman in World War II, receiving the Purple Heart. He then worked as a spot welder and auto technician for General Motors until his retirement. Bob married Jean Forsythe, who preceded him in death. They attended Fort Street Presbyterian Church, in Detroit, Michigan, and were actively involved in the Open Door program. After his retirement, Bob moved into Henry Ford Village Senior Living in Dearborn, Michigan; he eventually required nursing care following a stroke.

## SWSE 2014 TOUR

The reports concerning the Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble tour were very encouraging. "Don't change—keep doing what you're doing." "Most of all, the sensitivity to the Holy Spirit was powerful and convicting. Just to let you know...Kingdom work was being done and additional building blocks of faith were laid." These comments by the tour host pastors describe the impact of the SWSE as this organization traveled in the Northeast U.S. April 11-16.

Under the general direction of Rev. Don Davison, Director of Public Relations, the itinerary included the states of Pennsylvania, New York, and Maryland. Venues ranged from churches to university and high school auditoriums. Audiences were deeply appreciative in their response, providing food and lodging for the student musicians while also affirming

GBS's ministry and mission with offerings. Recruitment contacts enriched the tour with future enrollment prospects.

The SWSE conductor was Mr. David Hartkopf, who brought an ardent heart for God and musical craftsmanship to the services. Faculty accompanist, Ms. Jessica Smith, blessed audiences with her giftedness at the piano. The bus driver, Pastor Andrew Cooley, served, not only with professional driving expertise, but also with a kind, supportive spirit as well.

## MUSIC DIVISION ENDS YEAR WITH CONCERTS

The Music Division ended the spring semester with several presentations. At noon on May 1, the college and high school choirs along with the Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble performed for the National Day of Prayer service at the Hamilton County Courthouse. GBS



has been involved in this citywide event for many years.

The Oratorio Choir, under the direction of Mr. Tim Crater, performed a program of "Psalms, Hymns, and Spirituals" in the Adcock Chapel on May 6. The music featured performances of Brandon Klotz, French horn, and Renee Langworthy, clarinet, with Martha Miller accompanying on the piano.

On May 13, Mr. David Hartkopf led the SWSE in its annual "An Evening with the SWSE" concert in the GBS Adcock Chapel. They presented "Americana: A Concert of American Music" ➡



**Armen Oscar Rhoads**, 86, passed away February 1, 2014, after a short illness. He was born in 1927 to Norman and Hazel Rhoads, and grew up on a farm outside Wabash, Indiana. Armen was converted as a young teenager. He soon was enlisted to be the conductor on one of the two church buses that picked up children for Sunday school throughout the town. He continued this ministry until he went to Frankfort Pilgrim College, where he studied for the ministry. He began pastoring in 1960. He joined the Wesleyan Holiness Association in 1967 and pastored in Washington, Idaho, and Arizona. He served the WHA as Western District Superintendent (16 years) and as Assistant General Superintendent (8 years). Armen is survived by his wife, Rachel, of almost 62 years; two sons, Chris and Steven; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; a sister, Neppisee; and brother, George.



**Rev. John Henry DeMint**, 80, departed to his heavenly home on March 12. He was "called to preach" at a tender age of 12, and served 25 years as an evangelist and pastor with the Churches of Christ in Christian Union. In 1971, he moved his family to Circleville, Ohio, where he planted People's Faith Chapel in 1973 and started the Circleville Christian Academy. Surviving are his wife of 63 years, Louise (Nokes) DeMint; six children, John, Steve, Sharon, Tim, Carol, and Phil; 17 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; sister, Ruth; and many nieces and nephews. Services were held at People's Faith Chapel officiated by Rev. Phil DeMint (BRE '86). According to his last wishes, Pastor DeMint was buried at the church that he started 35 years ago and in front of the cross.

**Dr. Virgil Paul Applegate**, 87, of Middletown, Ohio, passed away March 20, 2014. He was born ➡

➡ Favorites" featuring music from *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Phantom of the Opera*.

Dr. Jana Pop, Chair of the Division of Music, expresses deep appreciation for the generosity of individuals who have contributed to the Annual Fund, thus enabling the presentation of guest master classes and recitals, as well as scholarships for upperclassmen to attend professional workshops and events. Persons who are interested in making contributions for the coming year should contact Dr. Pop at [jpop@gbs.edu](mailto:jpop@gbs.edu) or (513) 763-6547.

### CAMP MEETING

Held May 14-18, camp meeting at GBS included a variety of activities that brought conviction, blessing, and challenge to those who attended. Speakers Rev. Randy Brown and Rev. Blake Jones delivered the messages that God laid on their hearts, and people responded. As is normally the case, the music was outstanding, and various choirs,



Rev. Randy Brown



Rev. Blake Jones

the band, vocal groups, and instrumental specials were a delight.

There were two special services: Holy Communion was celebrated Sunday morning and led by Rev. Larry D. Smith, and the student ministries service took place on Sunday afternoon and featured testimonies and reports from areas of student ministry.

### BLAKE JONES ADDRESSES 2014 COMMENCEMENT

Blake Jones, President of the Great Lakes Conference of the Bible Methodist Church, gave the address for the commencement exercises at God's Bible School and College, May 17. Speaking to the graduates, he



Ethan Kiser and Beza Bulcha

likened them to military personnel about to embark on a campaign and suggested it be called "Operation Mission Compassion." He encouraged graduates to be on the lookout for the needy, the discouraged, and the forgotten, and to step into their brokenness with compassion and help.

President Michael Avery conducted the service; Rev. Philip Gumbs of Anguilla, British West Indies, delivered the invocation; Roger Ridenour of North Pole, Alaska,

# REVIVALIST FAMILY continued



➡ August 23, 1926, in Manchester, Ohio, the son of Reverend William and Mary (Scott) Applegate. Virgil served in the U.S. Army in the South Pacific during WWII. He began his career in education in public schools as a teacher, coach, and administrator. Virgil was called to the ministry and served 35 years as a Nazarene pastor in Ohio. He was well educated, having earned the degrees of BS, MA, and PhD. In his retirement, he served as interim pastor, evangelist, and college professor, including at GBS from 1989-93. He was preceded in death by his wife, Virginia (Stears) Applegate in 2009. Surviving Virgil are his daughter Paula; son, Ron; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held at the Middletown First

Church of the Nazarene with interment at the Butler County Memorial Park with military honors.

### HITHER AND THITHER

**Alumna Meets With President Obama.** JoAnne Lyon, General Superintendent of the Wesleyan Church and GBS alumna (HS '58) was invited, along with five other faith leaders, to the Oval Office by President Obama to discuss issues related to immigration reform, specifically the effect the current immigration system has on families in congregations and communities across the United States. Dr. Lyon later commented, "I am grateful that I can represent a church that not only believes in but also makes a practice of welcoming the stranger."



Tiffany Neal, Mark Richmond, and Renee Langworthy

read the scripture lesson; and Rev. Duane Newton, also of North Pole, offered the benediction. Organist was Mrs. Martha Miller, and special music was "I Want My Life to Count for Jesus," sung by a trio consisting of college graduates Shelley Carey, Renee Langworthy, and Kara Moore, accompanied by Miss Jessica Smith.

Aldersgate Christian Academy Principal William Marshall presented 12 high school (p20) ➡



Today I had the honor to represent The Wesleyan Church in the most powerful place in the world: an Oval Office meeting with the President of the United States." 📌



2014 College Graduates of God's Bible School and College

## 2014 GRADUATES OF GOD'S BIBLE SCHOOL, COLLEGE, AND MISSIONARY TRAINING HOME

### HIGH SCHOOL

TaCarra Erica Biggers  
**Beza Molla Bulcha,**  
 Salutatorian  
 Jenna Elayne Elam  
 Clarence Matthew Gordon  
 Anthony Hill, Jr.  
 Min Ji Kang  
 Jae Kwan Kim  
**Ethan Daniel Kiser,**  
 Valedictorian  
 Bryan Michael McDowell  
 Dontriel Ibrahim Nuckols  
 Jessica LeAnne Wina

### COLLEGE

**ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN MINISTERIAL EDUCATION**  
 Amitava Dutta \*\*  
 Blaine Edward Hartman  
 Luke Brandon Tedrow \*

**ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN MUSIC**  
 Loren W. Albright  
 Kirsten Nichole Kaufman \*

**ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN BIBLE AND THEOLOGY**  
 Linda Rose Beitzel  
**Mark Daniel Richmond,**  
 Salutatorian \*\*\*

**ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN GENERAL STUDIES**  
 Bethany Rachelle Cravens \*  
 David W. Sanford \*  
 Phoebe Jewel Slavens \*  
 Brian A. Spangler II  
 Samara Sadie Wilson  
 Lorna Truesdale

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CHURCH AND FAMILY MINISTRY**  
 Christianna Joy Baker  
 Sharonda Lora Baker \*  
 Kerri L. Harbrecht  
 Kayla Joy Hunter \*\*  
 Sharonna Joy Nuest

**ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN BUSINESS**  
 Heather Ruth Rebman

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES**  
 Christopher Adam Buckler  
 Brandon David Klotz \*

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CHURCH MUSIC (NON-PERFORMANCE)**  
 Jonathan David McConkey \*\*

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CHURCH MUSIC (PERFORMANCE TRACK)**  
 Michael William Olson  
 Thomas Olson

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN INTERCULTURAL STUDIES AND WORLD MISSIONS**  
 Isaac Abner Vazquez Angeles  
 Erin Mikah Alane Litchfield \*\*\*

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MINISTERIAL EDUCATION**  
 Denroy V. Gumbs  
 Peter Isaac Highley  
 Rufino U. Javier  
 Jeemps Pierre  
 Thomas G. Ridenour \*\*

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MUSIC EDUCATION (K-8 MUSIC EDUCATION AND CLASSROOM EDUCATION)**  
 Kara Rene Moore \*

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MUSIC EDUCATION (K-12 PERFORMANCE)**  
 Shelley Marie Carey \*\*\*  
**Renee Louise Langworthy,**  
 Salutatorian \*\*\*  
 Amy Clarissa Mills \*\*\*  
**Mark Daniel Richmond,**  
 Salutatorian \*\*\*  
 Leah Hartunian Rodriguez \*

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN TEACHER EDUCATION**  
 Andréa L. Balty \*\*  
 Katrina Joy Behm \*\*  
 Eunis Brathwaite \*  
 Brenda Janeth Palacios Calamaco \*  
 Allison Marie Johnson-Turner \*\*\*  
 Rebekah Faythe Highlen \*\*\*  
 Hilbert Charles McPhee  
 Maria Lynn Meadows \*  
**Tiffany Marie Neal,**  
 Valedictorian \*\*\*  
 Heidi Jemelle Newton \*

\* Cum Laude (3.50-3.79) \*\* Magna Cum Laude (3.80-3.89) \*\*\* Summa Cum Laude (3.90-4.00)



# a Day in the Life of a Student

Matthew Clark, Selma, Alabama (junior, general studies)

10:09 a.m.

Listening intently in chapel

which meets three times each week. The forty-five-minute services include music and a sermon, sometimes by President Avery, a faculty member, or a visiting pastor, missionary, or evangelist. Occasionally the chapels are dedicated entirely to singing and student testimonies, or feature a panel discussion on a subject of import to practical Christian living.



11:50 a.m.

Viewing a yearbook

in the Commons. This is a great place to grab some caffeine and catch up with friends.



11:12 a.m.

Intro to Church and Family Leadership class

Students in this course, taught by Mr. Lyle Witt, learn leadership principles that are tailored to the church and family.

22

years old

when he came to GBS—worked in medical records in Selma, Alabama, for 4½ years after high school

\$44

spent pre-tip

at the Cheesecake Factory on his first date with Christianna and again exactly one year later

41:10

favorite verse in Isaiah

he was struggling in high school and his mother posted this verse on the door to his room—a real help to him and family.

4

times per year

his favorite food is served in the GBS cafeteria—cranberry meatballs on white rice—it was one of his first meals when he came to GBS and he really likes it

210

miles

from his home in Selma, Alabama, to his favorite vacation spot at Gulf Shores—likes to sit and look at the ocean waves and ponder how awesome God is

35

students

in his favorite class, Wisdom Literature—everything in that class is practical and applies to life right now



1:54 p.m.

Collateral reading in the dorm

In addition to providing a place to pillow one's head, a dorm room is one of many spaces on campus available for reading and homework.

4:30 p.m.

On the job at Chick-fil-A

It only takes eight minutes for Matt to drive to his off-campus job in Newport, KY. The Cincinnati area provides many job opportunities that are only a short drive or bus ride away from GBS.



12:32 p.m.

Lunch in the cafeteria

where a large soup-and-salad bar is available to complement dinner and supper, and one may always choose pizza in place of or in addition to the supper entrée. The dining hall also provides another great opportunity to chat with friends, especially Christianna Baker!



# Phonathon **2014**

September 15-18

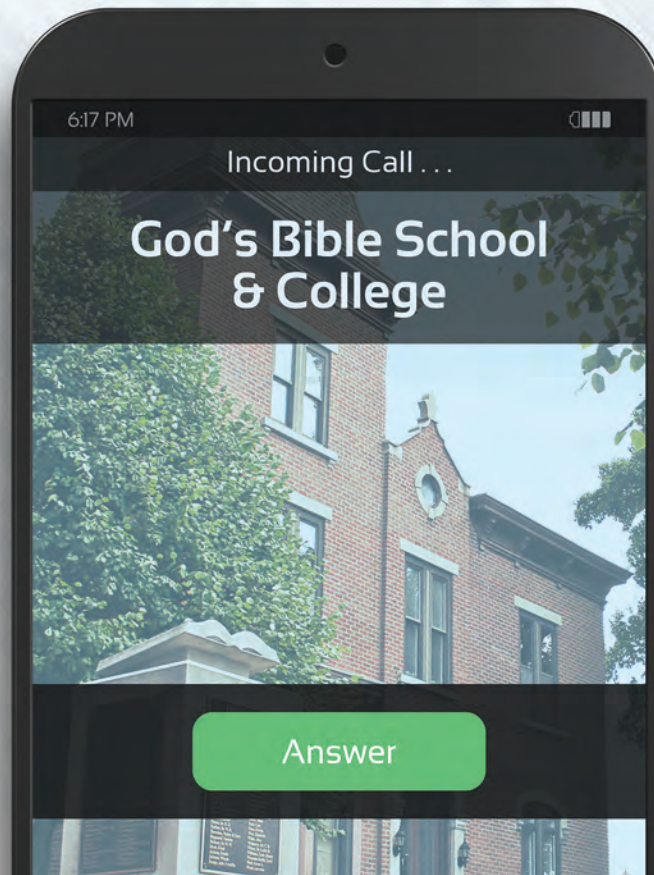
September 22-25

September 29-October 2

We've met our goal of **\$120,000** for the past four years!  
Help us reach our goal again this year!

Your donation will increase academic excellence by providing  
scholarships and facilitating our student work program.

When a student calls, **consider a donation to this worthy cause.**



Don't want to wait for a call?  
Send your gift for Phonathon to:

**God's Bible School & College**  
Office of Advancement  
1810 Young St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Office of Advancement  
513.721.7944

Track our progress at  
[gbs.edu/phonathon](http://gbs.edu/phonathon)

## Dear Phil

No orthodox theologian, Wesleyan or otherwise, has ever claimed that we can reach a level where we are unable to sin willfully. The writer of Hebrews explicitly urges us to exhort one another daily to beware of the deceitfulness of sin (Heb. 3:13). We are still able to sin willfully (Heb. 10:26).

Second, it does mean Christians do not have to sin willfully. At every decision point in life, a Christian can, by God's grace, choose to do right. It means that Christians can live lives characterized by obedience to all the truth of God's word that they know. We can walk in the light as He is in the light (1 John 1:7). We can live lives that are holy, just, and blameless (1 Thess. 2:10). The Bible directly affirms that Zacharias and Elizabeth lived above willful sin (Luke 1:6). Paul testifies that this is the way he lived his life (2 Cor. 1:12).

**(4) How does one live above willful sin?** Living above willful sin is the result of grace-enabled and grace-dependent (1) loving God totally, for love keeps His commands; (2) walking in the Spirit (Gal. 5:16); (3) not making provision for the lusts of the flesh (Rom. 13:14); (4) resisting the devil's temptations (James 4:7; Jude 1:9); (5) fleeing youthful lusts (2 Tim. 2:22a); and (6) pursuing "righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart" (2 Tim. 2:22b).

Life free from willful sin is the blood-bought privilege of every child of God. Praise the Lord! Let's be diligent to live up to our privileges in grace!

Blessings,  
Philip

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

### CAN WE LIVE FREE FROM SIN?

*I have forgotten how to defend our stand on living above sin. Could you help me out and give me scriptures to explain how we as Christians can live a life above willful sin? —Lisa*

Dear Lisa,

Let me divide my answer into four parts.

**(1) What do we mean by "sin"?** When we say "Christians can live above sin," we are talking about living above *willful* sin. Willful sin is any consciously-chosen desire, attitude, word, or action that violates either the word of God (James 4:17; 1 John 3:4; 5:17) or our conscience (Rom. 14:23). We are not talking about violations of God's word that are done either ignorantly or inadvertently. Since John Wesley's day, men have vigorously debated whether to call ignorant or inadvertent violations of God's word "sin." Personally, I am convinced that these transgressions should be regarded as sin, though there are men I respect who would strongly disagree with me. Having said that, however, I want to emphasize what I said before: when Wesleyan-Arminians talk about "living above sin," we are always talking about living above *willful* sin. When you discuss this topic, make sure they understand that you mean *willful* sin.

**(2) Do people have to sin?** The Bible answers this question plainly. All unsaved men are slaves to sin (Rom. 6:20-22; Eph. 2:1) and cannot stop sinning (Rom. 7:15-23). Sinners have to sin. In stark contrast to the bondage of the sinner, all men who trust in Christ are free from sin's control over them (Rom. 6:6-10). As Paul says, "being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life" (Rom. 6:22). In addition to freedom from sin's control, 1 Cor. 10:13 promises that God never allows a Christian to be tempted beyond his capacity to resist the temptation through God's grace. Therefore, no Christian ever has to sin willfully. If a Christian does sin willfully when tempted, it is because he did not make use of God's grace.

**(3) What does it mean to live above willful sin?** First, it does not mean that a Christian cannot be tempted. There is no level of Christlikeness or spiritual maturity that frees us from temptation, for Christ himself was tempted (Mat. 4). Therefore, it also does not mean that a Christian cannot sin willfully.





## student focus

### 5-YEAR-OLD REBUKED FOR PRAYING IN SCHOOL

A young girl in Florida was rebuked by a lunchroom worker for praying in her elementary school cafeteria before her meal. The family has hired lawyers to demand that the school stop “engaging in such religious discrimination.” Since the exchange in the cafeteria, the Perez family has started homeschooling, saying “...we have exercised our option as parents to teach our daughter at home. We live in a very good school district, but we cannot, in good conscience, send our daughter to a school where her religious liberty has been compromised.”

### AMAZON INTRODUCES CHRISTIAN IMPRINT

Online superstore Amazon will sell Christian books under a new imprint, Waterfall Press. Although Amazon got its start selling books, it has been getting into the publishing business as well, with imprints for genres like science fiction, romance, mystery, and now Christian books.

### CHINA IS BECOMING A CHRISTIAN NATION

The number of Christians in Communist China is growing so steadily that by 2030 it could have more churchgoers than America. With 5,000-seat capacity, the LiuShi Church is said to be China’s

biggest. Its 206-foot crucifix can be seen for miles around. The building is one of the most visible symbols of Communist China’s break-neck conversion.

### POPE WARNS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pope Francis warned the Catholic Church to balance its divisive rules about abortion, homosexuality, and contraception with the greater need to make the church a merciful, more welcoming place for all. He said the Catholic Church must be like a “field hospital after battle,” healing the wounds of its faithful and going out to find those who have been hurt, excluded, or have fallen away.

### RELIGIOUS LIBERTY SEEN AS DECLINING IN U.S.

LifeWay Research conducted two studies—one with pastors and the other with people in general—to ascertain their perception on the status of religious liberty in the United States. The results were that 7 out of 10 pastors agreed that religious liberty is declining (81% evangelical pastors and 47% of mainline pastors). Similarly, 54% of lay persons agreed that religious liberty is declining. These results suggest that “majority views” once influenced by the church about morality and culture are now becoming “minority views” among the population. ■

**RACHEL LANGSTAFF** is described by friends as someone who “loves Jesus and wants to do right without hesitation.” She, along with her six brothers and sisters, grew up on a farm in southern Ontario, Canada, where she was home educated by loving Christian parents who guided her into a relationship with Christ at a young age.

Her desire to grow as a Christian led her to God’s Bible School. Rachel enjoys studying at GBS because it offers her the chance to be around other Christian young people and to learn responsibility “within a supportive Christian environment.”

Rachel is majoring in Inter-cultural Studies and World Missions and hopes to travel internationally in support of Christ’s Kingdom around the world, specifically in Russia. She is grateful to be “surrounded by godly mentors and teachers” whose goal is to “equip students for ministry” and is excited about God’s plan for her future. ■

*Seventy-five percent of our students receive some form of financial assistance which enables them to attend GBS. If you would like to support our students, you may send a gift to:*

**Student Fund**  
**God’s Bible School and College**  
**1810 Young Street**  
**Cincinnati, OH 45202**

*or give online anytime at*  
**[www.gbs.edu/givenow](http://www.gbs.edu/givenow)**

# Gas for the Next Trip

by JEFFREY ALBERTSON

On a recent ministry trip of the Ministry Group, the van's water pump went out. God had provided funds from gifts from friends and previous churches, so we paid the bill in cash. I also purchased two gallons of antifreeze on my own bank card, because I didn't know for sure if I had permission to use group funds. After inputting the charges and balancing the books, I found we had \$88 and some change. This would have to cover the gas for the return trip and the antifreeze reimbursement of about \$24 that the team said they would indeed cover. As Amit and I pumped the fuel at Kroger early Monday morning, we didn't know exactly how God was going to handle our finances, but we had peace that He definitely would. I had told Amit on the way to the station that I didn't know if we were going to have enough money for both gas and the antifreeze reimbursement. He assured me that God would provide.

I started pumping with some feeling of trepidation as we only had a quarter tank of gas left and the gas here was 25 cents per gallon higher than what we had been paying. When the pump shut off, I stared in disbelief at the dollar figure on the pump—\$64 and change. I got out my mental calculator and added \$24 to the number. Chills started running up and down my

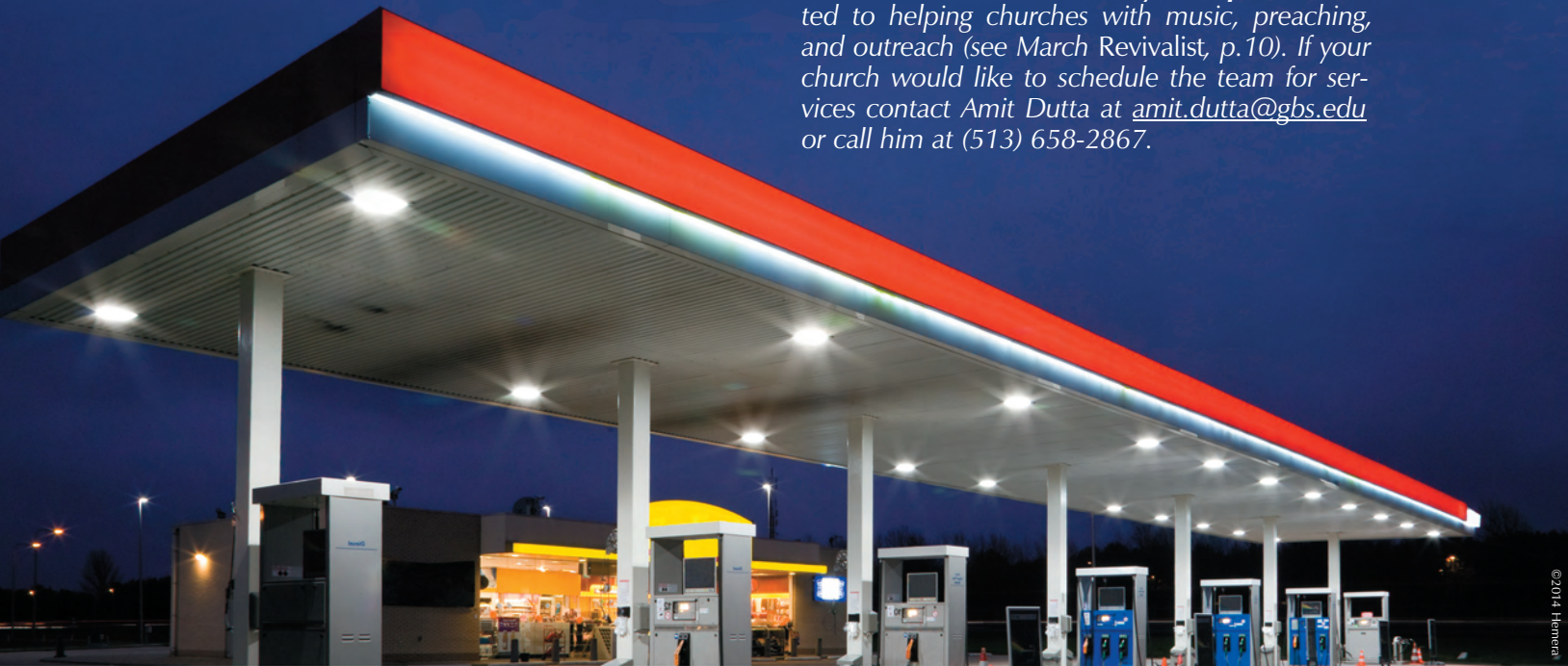
spine. God designed that we had precisely the amount of money that we needed—\$88. Amit, wondering why I was just standing there in the cool night breeze, came over and started to remove the nozzle. I stopped him by pointing to the dollar amount of the purchase. I reran the numbers with him and the chills hit his backbone too. If people passing by noticed us, I am sure they wondered why we looked as if we had been struck by lightning. It was then I heard Jesus gently say, "Oh, ye of little faith. Do you not know, NOTHING is impossible with God?"

We got into the van and with teary eyes prayed, thanking God for His faithfulness. After some initial expenses getting ready for the trip, we had hit the road with \$88 and now, after the gas for the trip home and the needed antifreeze, we indeed were at \$0. We had just enough.

It was then that Amit pulled out an envelope from the church where we had just ministered and gave it to me. I opened it and found that it contained a check—a check for the same amount that we had before starting the trip! So we were going to pull back into GBS with all trip expenses paid and still have the amount of money we had before we left.

If you are doing God's will and walking in His way, you can trust Him. He will provide. He is an absolutely trustworthy, all-powerful, all-knowing God. ■

*God's Bible School's Ministry Group is committed to helping churches with music, preaching, and outreach (see March Revivalist, p.10). If your church would like to schedule the team for services contact Amit Dutta at [amit.dutta@gbs.edu](mailto:amit.dutta@gbs.edu) or call him at (513) 658-2867.*





## SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND THE CHRISTIAN

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

**Scripture:** Ephesians 6:10-20

The book of Ephesians begins with the Christian in Christ, and describes his exhaustless wealth as an heir of God and joint-heir with Christ (chaps. 1-3). It continues with the Christian walking worthy of the Lord in spiritual unity, purity, and joyous harmony with fellow Christians (ch. 4:1-6:9).

### I. The Warfare of the Christian.

But what a change of scene and atmosphere when we come to Ephesians 6:10-20. We are suddenly presented with the terrible reality of spiritual warfare, where we see a demonic foe set in array against us. Ephesians 6:10-20 pictures the Christian facing Satan and his minions, locked in mortal spiritual combat.

#### The Call to Arms.

“Finally, my brethren, be strong...for we wrestle” (Eph. 6:10, 12). “Finally” indicates the close of the letter and suggests a climax to Paul’s letter of exhortation. No one is exempt from the conflict. God calls every saint to arms and commands each to fight the good fight of faith.

#### The Conflict with Ungodly Antagonists.

*“For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Eph. 6:12)*

The warfare involves powerful antagonists in desperate hand-to-hand battle. The word “against” is emphasized five times in this one verse. We have invisible spiritual foes who are actively and aggressively fighting against us.

“Not against flesh and blood.” This negative statement clarifies the nature of the enemy. The conflict is not against people, the human and the visible, but with the spiritual and invisible. We must not make war with people or focus our attack on people. Rather, God desires that we realize who is behind the critical and hurtful attitudes and actions of people, and direct our warfare against the true enemy: Satan and his demonic forces.

#### 1. The PERSON who is our Adversary.

Scripture reveals Satan as a bitter enemy of God and His people, the implacable foe of Christ and all Christians. He is a cruel adversary continually seeking to devour the saints. “Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pet. 5:8).

Everything Satan does is deceitful and destructive. Jesus tells us Satan’s avowed purpose is “to steal, kill, and destroy” (John 10:10).

#### 2. The POSITION of our Adversary.

Satan and his demonic host occupy various strategic positions relative to earth and world governments. Jesus never acknowledged Satan as a king, but three times he calls him “the prince of this world.” Ephesians teaches that he is the ruling spirit that motivates unbelievers and seeks to control “the children of disobedience” (Eph. 2:3).

Satan also has control over the nations of earth. When Satan offered Christ all the kingdoms of this world if He would but bow down and worship him, Jesus did not dispute his claim of control over them.

#### 3. The POWER of our Adversary.

Satan is not only powerful in himself, but also mightily equipped and strongly entrenched for this warfare. He is the strong man that Jesus spoke of (Luke 11:21) that Christ has defeated. He has his strongholds (2 Cor. 10:4) and his armies (Eph. 6:12). In the light of such a revelation from God, it would be absolute foolishness to underestimate or ignore the power of the devil.

#### The Battlefield.

It is crucial to know where this warfare takes place, as its location determines our position in relation to the enemy, the nature of the warfare, and the kind of weapons to be used.

Ephesians 6:12 tells us that one of the realms Satan operates in is the “heavenly places.” However, our captain Jesus Christ, is located “far above all heavens” (Eph. 4:10) and has authority over “all principality, and power and might, and dominion” (Eph. 1:20-21). And since we, as Christians, are seated with Christ, we too are above Satan and receive from Christ all the power we need to be victorious in this spiritual battle.

Another realm Satan operates in is in our minds. For that reason we are told the kind of weapons that must be used. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 tells us: “For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.” The mental battle is at times very difficult. We must capture our negative thoughts and bring them into obedience to Christ, meaning in harmony with His Word.

In order to win over our enemy, we must know our weapons and how to use them.

## II. The Weapons for Spiritual Warfare.

### Our Loins Girt With Truth. (Eph. 6:10-14)

“Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth.” The first piece of spiritual equipment we must put on is “the belt of truth.” Our Lord said it this way, “Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning” (Luke 12:35). Be alert. Be ready for action. The “belt of truth” means a correct understanding of God’s Word plus a commitment to be a person of truth. Jesus told His disciples that if they continued in His word, in His instruction concerning the truth, then they would be His disciples indeed, and the truth, which will thus be imparted to you and which you will be continuing in, will make you free (John 8:31-32).

“Truth” then, in this context, means a belief in, and a knowledge of, the truth as it is in Jesus Christ. It means not only a mastery of God’s Word, but also being mastered by the Word. A Christian orders his life by the truth. He must not do anything or allow anything to stay in his mind that is not in harmony with the truth of God’s Word. I am to embrace the truth, live by the truth, and seek the truth at all times. Proverbs 23:23 exhorts: “Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.”

(to be continued...)



Graduating Class of Aldersgate Christian Academy

➡(p13) graduates with diplomas. Special recognition was offered to Ethan Daniel Kiser, valedictorian, and Beza Molla Bulcha, salutatorian.

Presenting college graduates was Aaron Profitt, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and conferring degrees was Dr. Leonard Sankey, Chair of the Board of Trustees. Tiffany Marie Neal was recognized as college valedictorian, and Renee Louise Langworthy and Mark Daniel Richmond as co-salutatorians. Brandon David Klotz was presented with the college’s *Educated Christian Award*.

The chairs from GBS’s five academic divisions presented the following student awards: **Division of Ministerial Education** (Dr. Allan Brown, Chair): *Zondervan Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Study of Biblical Greek*, Karen Olson; **Division of Teacher Education** (Dr. Marcia Davis, Chair): *Excellence in Student Teaching Award*, Rebekah Faythe Highlen; **Division of Intercultural Studies and World Missions** (Dr. Dan Glick, Chair): *Charles Cowman Missions Leadership Award*, Erin Mikah Alane Litchfield and Isaac Abner Vazquez Angeles; **Division of Music** (Dr. Jana Pop, Chair): *Academic Excellence and Outstanding Musical Achievement Award*, Shelley Marie Carey; **Division of General Studies** (Joshua Avery, Chair): *Oscar Johnson Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Service*, Christianna Joy Baker.

The biennial *Excellence in Teaching Award* was given to Dr. Allan Brown. GBS students nominate professors for this award and a committee representing the faculty, staff, and student body select the winner from that list. Dr. Brown has chaired the Ministerial Education Division since 1996 and is held in high esteem by both students and colleagues. More will be said about this in a later issue of *God’s Revivalist*.



Dr. Allan Brown receives award.

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

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.**



David Middleton of Evangelistic Faith Missions reports that holiness conventions held by Rev. Roger Hatfield in three different locations were very successful with good crowds—even to the point that chairs had to be borrowed from the neighbors to accommodate those in attendance. Most importantly, people responded to God's message and received real spiritual help.

**GHANA.**



Steve Elsey, Director of World Missions for the Church of God (Holiness), led a team which held five medical clinics in five separate locations, met with government health officials, and held a number of church services at various

churches. Dr. Michael Shoemaker and nurse Oleta Witt treated over 380 patients. Also on the team were Steve's son Allen and Missions board member Travis Bland who assisted with the services and the clinics.

**HONDURAS.**



Evangelistic Faith Missions missionary Daniel Melton noted that one of the major goals for the Honduran field is making the national church self-supporting so that it doesn't have to rely on money from outside sources. Daniel is working with them on several projects that could help the national church move toward realizing that goal. For example, some are raising chickens and selling eggs while others have been helping plant coffee trees. Selling coffee can be a good source of income for the church.

**NEPAL.**



Twenty years ago, a dedicated and visionary Nepali leader, Rev. Babu Hingmang, planted Emmanuel Wesleyan Church in Kathmandu. At first it was difficult to share the gospel legally in Nepal, and there was very little response. But Pastor Babu was deeply committed to evangelism and regularly trained 10-20 pastoral candidates at a time in a five-month program. As a result, Pastor Babu and the church members have helped plant 53 Wesleyan churches so far, and 13 of these were planted in 2013. There are now plans at work to plant 300 more churches.

**NICARAGUA.**



Every Sunday, Dona Gloria brings children—as many as 25—into church and they take their places under her watchful eye. This all came about by what hap-

pened in 2011. Gloria's son was in a motorcycle accident with critical injuries. Luis Aguilera, pastor of the Managua Holiness Church (Evangelical Wesleyan Mission), visited him in the hospital and led him to Christ. Unfortunately, he did not recover, but Gloria came to church to thank God for her son's salvation. She saw the children in Sunday School singing songs and quoting scripture. She decided that she would not let the children of her community continue without Jesus and began to invite them to church. She offered them juice and cheese bread as a draw, as many came from dire circumstances. They walk the ten blocks to church. Gloria has also started a Bible reading circle in her home with her neighbors.

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA.**

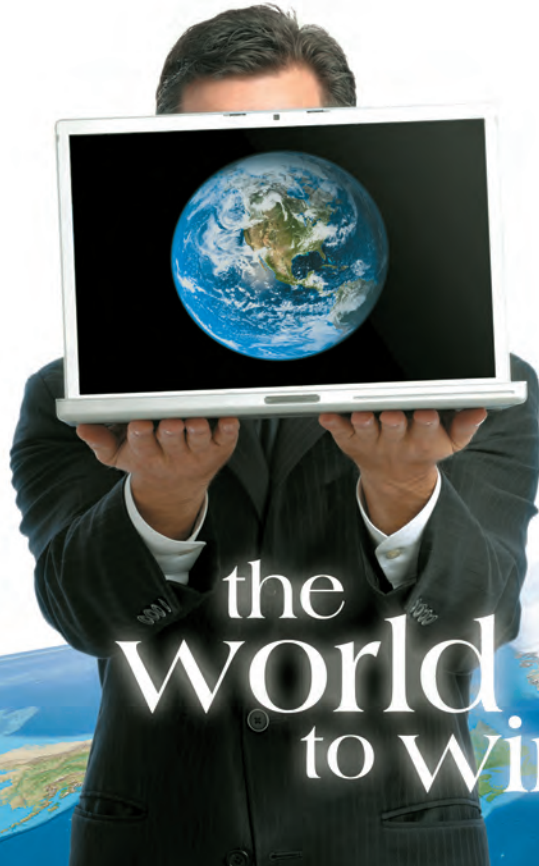


The Bible Faith Outreach (BFO) is building an orphanage near Mt. Hagen. "Aunty" Rosa Kepo has a vision for a great work of God. For some time she has housed 40 or so orphans in her home. Now the BFO is stepping out by faith to purchase and build a home for orphans. Arms Around the World missionaries Randy and Sharrona Dimmett will be going to PNG this summer to work at the orphanage and are praying for a work permit that is necessary for an extended stay.

**RUSSIA.**



Richard and Judy Grout, Hope International Mission missionaries to Russia, are beginning a project to publish the book *Waiting for Wonder* in the Russian language. Dr. Connie Palm (BA '60) wrote the book especially with Russian children in mind. If you would like to contribute, please contact Hope International Mission. ■



the world to win



## GBS ALUMNI RECEPTION AT IHC

Once again the Dayton Convention Center was the site for the annual GBS Alumni Reception. The event is held each year during the Interchurch Holiness Convention. Over the years the attendance to this event has steadily grown. This year we rented the largest room available which seats 420—and we needed it! We were encouraged to see over 400 alumni and their families fill the larger venue!

As the GBS family fellowshiped over pizza and soft drinks, they were introduced to the schedule for Homecoming 2014, which will take place at GBS on Friday and Saturday, October 10-11, and will be themed around the PR groups who have traveled for the school during the last 40 years.

Then the group was given a presentation of the new GBS Strategic Plan, "Strengthen for Growth," which includes five initiatives that, by God's help, will advance GBS to greater effectiveness in the Kingdom of God. A well-produced video described in detail the vision and the plans for the future of our alma mater. After the presentation, President Avery answered specific questions concerning the Strategic Plan and other news from the Hilltop. Rodney Loper especially enjoyed this presentation and commented,

"Looking back I feel like God has used President Avery to accomplish so much in his tenure as president. I am looking forward to seeing how God will use this plan to accomplish His purpose for God's Bible School."

President Avery then presented the Alumni Philanthropy Award to Tom (GBS 1987-88) and Mary Beth (Creech) (HS '87, 1987-88) Sproles for their ongoing commitment to GBS. Special gifts were awarded to alumni who are members of the 1810 Sustaining Donors. This special group makes a monthly financial contribution to GBS.

The Alumni Association owes special thanks to Legacy Insurance Agency for their contribution to this event and to Christian

Healthcare Ministries for again agreeing to be the corporate sponsor of a GBS alumni event. Their generosity is greatly appreciated.

As alumni president, it is so exciting and rewarding to see such a crowd of the GBS family engaged and supportive of the future of our school!

Jack Hooker, President  
National Alumni Association



A new crop of prospective alumni





## STRENGTHEN FOR GROWTH

THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR GBS'S FUTURE

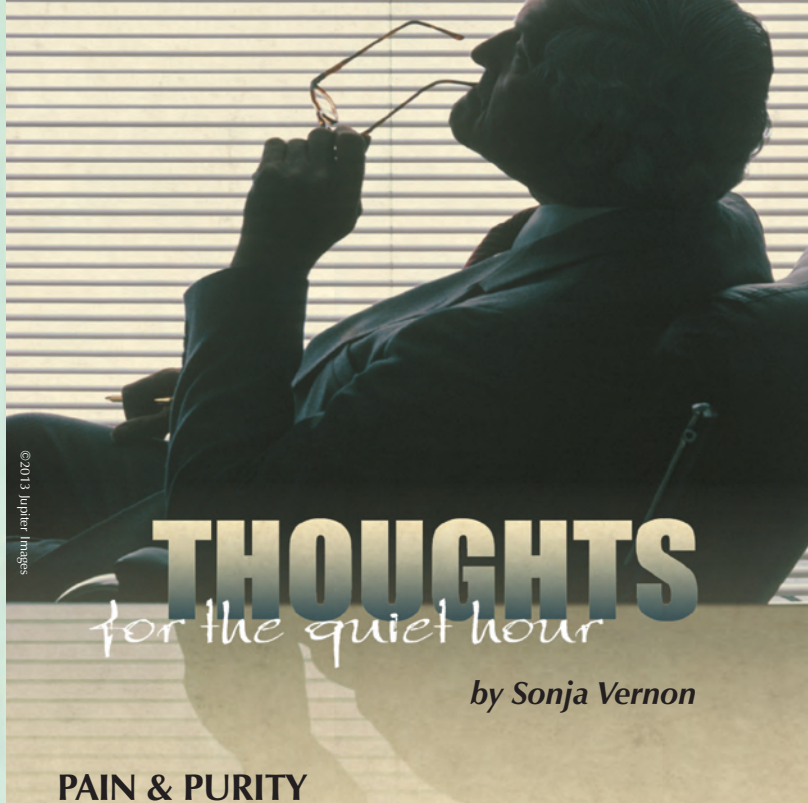
- EXTEND OUR REACH
- ENHANCE OUR EFFECTIVENESS
- ENSURE OUR LONGEVITY
- EXPAND OUR CAPACITY
- ENLARGE OUR RESOURCE BASE



Rev. Jack Hooker, President  
National Alumni Association



The Sproles receive alumni award



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# THOUGHTS

for the quiet hour

by Sonja Vernon

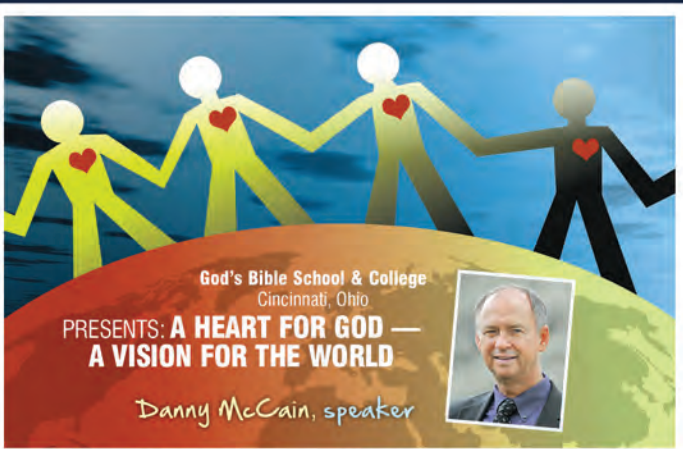
## PAIN & PURITY

*“Everything that can stand the fire, you shall pass through the fire, and it shall be clean, but it shall be purified with water for impurity. But whatever cannot stand the fire you shall pass through the water.” —Num. 31:23 NASB*

In the days before disinfectants, fire and water were chief means of purifying that which was defiled. But fire and water can also have devastating effects. They can annihilate as well as cleanse. Recently, I noticed something in Num. 31:23. Not everything was to be put through the fire—only that which could stand it. The purpose was not to destroy but to purify. There will be times in our lives when the flames will be hot and close, when the currents will be swift and deadly, when it feels as though destruction is at hand. In those hours we have the promise that we are not alone in a world of meaningless pain. Even our darkest moments will not be wasted. The all-wise and loving God who has allowed us to be touched by the results of a fallen world will redeem even our suffering. It will purify and not destroy. We will not be overcome. “When [we] pass through the waters, [He] will be with [us]...When [we] walk through the fire, [we] will not be scorched...” (Is. 43:2 NASB). He knows of what stuff we are made. With impeccable skill He will permit our exposure only to what will ultimately result in perfecting the image of Christ in us as we yield to its cleansing. We can trust the Great Refiner! ■

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

SUMMER 2014



God's Bible School & College  
Cincinnati, Ohio

PRESENTS: **A HEART FOR GOD —  
A VISION FOR THE WORLD**

Danny McCain, speaker



# MISSIONS CONVENTION

**NOVEMBER 9-11, 2014**

soul-stirring messages \* prayer times for "the harvest"  
panel discussions \* workshops \* international meal



# GOD'S BIBLE SCHOOL & COLLEGE Homecoming

October 10-11, 2014

