

GOD'S REVIVALIST

April 2004

and Bible Advocate



the editor's view



LARRY D. SMITH

JULIAN AND THE EASTER TRIUMPH

“**O**h, he is terrible, that mysterious, merciless God-man!!” In Henrik Ibsen’s drama about Rome’s last pagan emperor, these are the desperate words of young Prince Julian as he rages against Jesus Christ. “At every turn wherever I wished to go, he met me, stark and stern, with his unconditional, inexorable demands!”

Julian was an “extraordinarily appealing figure,” according to historian Kenneth Latourette, “sensitive, able, studious, deeply religious”; and for a time he professed to be a Christian. His youth, however, had been so brutalized by false members of the church that he later turned against all of Jesus’ followers—the “poor, blind, deluded Galileans,” as he called them. He made it his mission thereafter, as Dr. Schaff informs us, to “restore the worship of the gods and to reduce the religion of Jesus, first to a contemptible sect, and at last, if possible, to utter extinction from the earth.”

After becoming emperor in 361, he took away the rights, lands, and privileges which the church had won. He drove out Christians from teaching positions in the schools; removed them from responsible military and civilian office; and taxed them when they would not sacrifice to heathen gods. Even worse, he winked at cruelties which their enemies had brought upon them and harshly persecuted the saintly Bishop Athanasius, that gallant champion of the Faith. If he had lived longer, Julian probably would have drenched the Empire again with Christian blood.

He loved the ancient Roman gods, restored their empty, shattered temples, and several times each day sacrificed a hundred bulls to Jupiter, Minerva, or Apollo, who he said visited him at night. In contempt for the Faith he had renounced, he profaned Constantinople’s great (p22)➡

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the president's page

THE REAL WAR

by Michael R. Avery, president

A new front has opened up in the ongoing cultural war in America. For the last 100 years, there has been a deliberate and dedicated battle to totally secularize our nation. It began with an assault on the Bible and our traditional Judeo-Christian values. These had to be removed as the determining basis for truth, morality, justice, and society's standards of behavior and decency. Soon afterwards, God and prayer were evicted from the classroom. Then under the guise of freedom of speech, pornography, vulgarity, and violence were given complete freedom to corrupt our youth and undermine our values through every possible means. One of the deadliest blows struck in this war was when the highest court in the land permitted 44 million innocent souls to be sent to graves in the sewers and incinerators of America by the bloody hands of legalized abortion.

Homosexuals won the next skirmish and have been awarded special rights by the courts and given the freedom not only to practice, but also to promote, their perversion. These very ones whom God has called abominable and reprobate, an apostate church has blessed, ordained, and elevated to the office of bishop. And right now, as I write, the most fundamental building block of civilization, the home, is gasping for breath as the unelected liberal judges of our nation try to bury it alive under the rubbish of "same-sex marriage."

Americans are confronted daily by the perversity of deviant human behavior in every form imaginable. Too many of us simply react angrily, lament for a moment, and then return to the discussion of how the economy is doing. It is not yet clear what the end of these issues will be. But what is clear is that America is in a downward spiral toward hell (Psalm 9:17).

What should we be doing about this? The first thing we need to do is start focusing on where the real battle lies and what the real struggle is. The issues mentioned above are only skirmishes. The real war is a cosmic struggle between good and evil. Ephesians 6:12 makes it very plain that "we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." It is critical that we understand the real dimensions of this war so that we may fight it effectively.

(continued on page 14) ➡

APRIL 2004

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Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Letters should be addressed to the Editorial Office, 1810 Young Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, or e-mailed to 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.

"WALK THE TALK"

"Walk the Talk" (Editorial, Winter *Revivalist*) is a brilliant commentary on Wesleyan lifestyle. Too many holiness people strive for the "affluent" life. You have hit the nail on the head once again. Material things, even in the hands of "sanctified" people, can still lead to mammon. We can strive to look modest in our dress, but what about the cars we drive, the homes that we live in, the things that we acquire, etc.?

J. MONTY STEWART, Lead Pastor
Lake Overholser Church of the Nazarene

Wow, what a challenge and reality check! I just finished reading Larry Smith's article "Walk the Talk!" I can't imagine any Christian reading an article like this and not doing an immediate re-evaluation of their own lifestyle priorities. Someone has been needing to say some of these things again to our movement...and the *Revivalist* and Larry Smith just did! Thanks for raising our awareness once again that our behavior needs to reflect what we say we believe.

PAUL FRY
Frankfort, Indiana

NOT WITHOUT THE REVIVALIST

We would not want to be without the *Revivalist*. It is the best holiness publication we have found.

WAYNE R. OSBORNE
Bellaire, Michigan

SINCE I CAN REMEMBER

I love *God's Revivalist* and don't want to miss getting it. It has been in my home ever since I can remember. God bless you and all the others for putting it out. It's the best magazine there is.

MRS. IRENE LOND
Peree, Indiana

(continued on page 21) ➡



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.

BRAZIL. "After over a year of constant construction, the beautiful new sanctuary in Nova Floresta was dedicated to God...for the salvation of souls and the furtherance of the gospel. The Brazilian brothers, assisted by a couple of American work teams, worked faithfully so that this sanctuary could be a reality.... Three city buses were rented so that people from all of the other four congregations could assist.... There were 150 people inside and 50 outside." — *Newsletter*, Rev. and Mrs. Rod Wells

HONDURAS. "Since February, 1979, Evangelistic Faith Missions has operated a small maternity clinic in the village of San Luis, in a remote area of Honduras. The clinic is named *Clinica Luz Y Vida*, which in English means Light and Life Clinic. The clinic has truly been a blessing to this community over the past twenty-five years and close to 6,000 babies have been born in this small clinic. The population of San Luis is only about 6,000, but there are close to forty villages with a total population of over thirty thousand within a seven-mile radius of San Luis.... It is open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and its staff ministers to the needs of the people...." — Don Moore, *Missionary Herald*

MONTANA. "Robert and Marsena Pelton returned to the Northwest Indian Bible School campus as residents after an absence of 31 years. Pelton served as NIBS' first president from 1969–1972.... Rev. Pelton has been asked to serve this year as interim president while the board was locating a new president." — *Northwest Moccasin Trails*

PAPUA NEW GUINEA. "I would like to tell you that the Lord is doing wonderful things here in (p6) ➡

VIP DAY '04

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

AT GOD'S BIBLE SCHOOL & COLLEGE

At God's Bible School and College, we think the best way to choose the college that's right for you is to visit the campus. A visit will give you the opportunity to experience the campus personally, meet students and professors, and talk with the people who have answers to your questions. You can sit in on a class, attend a chapel service, stay overnight in the dorms, and join in several scheduled sporting activities.

While you're visiting, we want you to catch the vision of a transformed life. We will equip you to serve, deepen your theological understanding, enrich your spiritual formation, and sharpen your sense of the call God has placed on your life. We want to train you to be the difference in our world!

Special speaker, Friday evening: Melvin Adams

For further information contact Jenny Fikes, Admissions Representative at 800.486.4637 x. 269 or gbs4u@gbs.edu.

*WE CANNOT
BECOME
WHAT WE
NEED TO
BE BY
REMAINING
WHAT WE
ARE*

— MAX DEPREE

TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE!



SPIRIT AND STRUCTURE

"...Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria..." (Acts 1:8).

After I had studied the book of Acts for several years, the most familiar verse in the book yielded a fresh insight. I saw in Acts 1:8 a perfect blend of the free, dynamic movement of the Holy Spirit and a system, a structure, through which the Spirit's work is accomplished.

"Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost shall come upon you." This is the supernatural dimension. It is beyond human control or dictation. But along with the promise was given a plan, an organizational model within which these Spirit-filled witnesses would operate. The plan was logical and sequential: Jerusalem, Judea/Samaria and then the "utmost parts of the world." One of the first items of information students in my Acts class learn is that the book of Acts is clearly organized around the outline given by Jesus in Acts 1:8.

The blend of the "Spirit and structure" piqued my curiosity, so I began looking for the combination in other places. I didn't have to look far. Genesis 1 speaks of the mysterious moving of the Spirit of God upon the face of the waters. But as creation unfolds, there is a specific pattern that unfolds. A good study Bible will reveal that days one, two, and three set up a "form" or a template, while days four, five, and six parallel the first three days when God "filled" or completed each template sequentially.

I discovered that the Holy Spirit empowered ancient Israelite crafts-

men, but also that these Spirit-led workers were given specific blueprints to follow (Ex. 35:30 ff.). I read psalms of David that were Spirit-inspired outbursts of overflowing joy, yet these dynamic writings are cast in an acrostic, a form of writing where each verse begins with a successive letter of the alphabet (Ps. 34). There are also many examples of the prophets pouring their emotions through a controlled literary structure (C.f., Lamentations).

Then there's Ezra the micro-manager! His fixation on organization is clear in his tedious statistical records! Yet, crushed by the spiritual needs of his people, he led a great revival in Israel.

Perhaps this balance in more recent times can be most clearly seen in the lives of the early Methodists who, I am told, obtained this very name because of the systems and structures that governed their lives. Yet, how the Holy Spirit did pulsate through their organizational structure!

As with so many areas of the Christian life, the difficulty is achieving and maintaining balance. But the trend is clear and the goal is achievable. Our heritage is one of both Spirit and structure. ■

Ben Durr Jr. is a pastor and member of the faculty in the Division of Ministerial Education, God's Bible School and College.

➡ (p4) Katiloma District. The revival broke out and many souls repented and gave their lives to Jesus.... Now the outstation churches are full, and Katiloma church is full also.... Please remember these souls in your prayers as they continue their Christian life." —Kevin Real, Station Manager, *The Earnest Christian*

THAILAND. "The Church of the Nazarene in Thailand has created the New Life for HIV/AIDS-Thailand (New Life for Thai) Project to minister to those affected by the disease. Included in the program was a recent 'Little and Big Friends Outing' at the Bangkok Zoo for children affected by AIDS either personally or through a family member." —*Holiness Today*

UKRAINE. "The large hall in our house has been made usable for ministry. In our first major outreach, a children's Christmas program, sixty-one people outside of our families showed up. Our hall was not too crowded. In mid-January we [started] English classes in this hall as another way to reach people where their needs are and then to teach them about Jesus." —*Dave and Twila Drummond*

VIETNAM. "After winning a Vietnamese businessman to Christ in the wake of 9/11, Melvin Adams has made three trips to Vietnam and worked extensively to provide encouragement and discipleship materials. This new convert, Mohalam, now has Bible studies for his 300 employees, has established contact with underground church pastors and helped organize meetings to encourage and provide training for underground church leaders. He is partnering with Barnabas in a variety of evangelism and discipleship training projects, including translation and printing of materials in Vietnamese." —*Rick Hutchinson, Barnabas Ministries* ■

THE MESSAGE OF



by the late Dr. Leslie D. Wilcox

In the half-light of that early dawn, the women approached the tomb, but things were not as they had seen them in the late hours of the day before yesterday. For one thing, the stone no longer stood before the entrance. In wonderment the women ventured to look within, only to be greeted with the astounding words, "He is not here!" Then those dazzling messengers from the glory world added something else. It was a message sent especially to the mourning disciples, making an appointment with them to meet their Master in Galilee. They closed with the words, "There shall ye see Him." (Matt. 28:7)

What significant words those are! What a message they carry for the disciples who had thought they would never see their Friend and Master again. But He is alive! He is no longer in the grave! No need to come back to a tomb bringing spices, nor to remember the place of His final rest with any kind of memorial. He is not there! He is alive! They are going to see Him! The same Jesus—alive—in the same body! They shall see Him!

But in reality these words carry in them the very heart of the Easter message. It means that death is conquered and defeated. No wonder Paul would cry out a few years later, "O grave, where is thy victory?" Christ died, but now He is alive again—alive in a physical body that can be seen by the eyes of living men. This is the message of Easter; it opens to us the door of eternity, for the grave does not end it all. For one day centuries ago, there was One who came out of the dark domain of the dead, in a glorified physical body, which would never more be within reach of the icy clutches of the hand of death. He had defeated death and all its power, and had brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. This is the very heart of the Easter message. It was all there in those simple, but thrilling words sent to the early disciples, "There shall ye see Him!"

We see in the words from Matthew that Easter brought to those early disciples the promise of seeing the Master. It was not a vain promise, for they did see Him. They not only saw Him once, but repeatedly, until there could be no doubt that this was genuine seeing of a real body. It was not some kind of hallucination, nor was it trickery. In very deed, they saw the Master.

But the story and the message of Easter does not end there. There is another chapter in this glad story. To find it let us turn to the first epistle of John, chapter three, where we read in verse two, "We shall see him as he is." Note how closely similar this is to the message sent to the early disciples. Now, it is not merely saying that they (men who lived years ago, and had been constant companions of Jesus) shall see Him, but the privilege is passed along to us who live in this latter day—"We shall see Him."

In these words Easter comes home to our own hearts and minds with its thrilling message of the reality of another world. One who has been within the domain of death but who has come out triumphant has an appointment with us. It is not set for a certain place like a hilltop in Galilee. Nor can we forecast with any certainty the hour of that meeting, but it is coming. It may suddenly break upon us where we are and with sudden swiftness interrupt the routine of living, but wherever it finds us and whenever it may occur, we have an appointment to meet the Christ. *He is alive and we are going to see Him.*

In all the routine of everyday living and with the pressure of duties and events that crowd all around us, it is easy to lose the sense of the reality of an unseen, eternal world and become all engrossed with the present and the material. But may I warn you, child of God, don't let it rob you of your hope for the future. Christ lives and He has an appointment with you! These words are addressed especially to those who are "now the sons of God" and who (p9)➡



DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR? IT'S REDEMPTION!

By Peter Bronson, Columnist for the Cincinnati Enquirer

Floyd Hyatt has been locked up in the Hamilton County Justice Center's maximum-security cellblock every week for more than 20 years by choice. Every Saturday morning, he leads a Bible study for 25 to 40 inmates. This year, he has them singing Christmas carols.

Hyatt, access and safety director at God's Bible School & College in Mount Auburn, teamed up with senior student Kimberly Easley to train an inmate choir this year. At rehearsals, 18 to 35 prisoners learn Christmas carols—and a few other things.

It's purely voluntary—no rewards. "None whatsoever," said Hyatt. "If they can't do it for the glory of God and to turn around their own lives, I don't want 'em."

When [Bible study] certificates were passed out this year, one prisoner began to shake and tremble, Hyatt said. "You could tell by his nose and face that he had had a lot of liquor under his belt, but it wasn't the DT's. He said, 'This is the first time in my life that anybody's recognized me for anything.'"

Sheriff Simon Leis has called Easley's choir an example of "faith in action." Corrections Director Joe Schmitz said, "They do a fantastic job."

It's all part of the prison ministry program that Hyatt has managed for decades at the Bible college. And that's part of the mission at the school that sits on Young Street, where it was founded in 1900.

It's not a big red or blue square on the map like the University of Cincinnati or Xavier. But the Bible school is full and has a waiting list for its K-12 charter school. Although more than half of the 200 students come from economically depressed homes, they score 17 percent above the national average on tests.

There are 252 students enrolled in the college, from 25 denominations and 15 nations. Most major in ministerial education, elementary education or music education.

Music is the sound track. At chapels, students gather to sing hymns and solos, lifting blended voices like a woven prayer, as sunshine spills through stained glass windows in the cavernous assembly hall. The lyrics are Scripture.

"We prepare young people to minister to this world, but live a holy, dedicated life with Christ and have a personal relationship with Him," said Jack Hooker, vice president for advancement.

"We teach them to live out Christian testimony in the marketplace," Hooker said.

That's where the prison ministry comes in.

Students participate in outreach in three Over-the-Rhine chapels. Some join the Hyatt team that offers Bible study, choir and Sunday services to inmates.

Hooker explains the success of the school this way: "There is a general spiritual hunger for real faith and real commitment. These kids come to us committed to make a difference. The strain is that materialism bids high. They're not coming into ministry to make money."

Hyatt said he sees the same hunger in prisoners. He can count 200 who have turned their lives around with God's help. "Most seem to know God can forgive them, but most cannot forgive themselves for some of the hideous things they have done," he said.

So his message is simple: "God didn't want you here. God wants you to change your life."

It sounds almost like a miracle—but so does a choir of hard-core felons singing Christmas carols in the county jail. ■

From the December 18, 2003, edition of the Cincinnati Enquirer, this article by popular columnist Peter Bronson features the long-term GBS jail ministry under the direction of staff member Floyd Hyatt. The article is reprinted with the permission of the author.

➡(p7) have known the indescribable manner of love that God has bestowed upon men in giving them the privilege of becoming the children of God. So this is an appointment for the Christian. We shall see Him!

Such a wonderful certainty for the future entails some preparation since we realize who it is that we are to meet. If we were going to meet a friend from whom we had been long separated, we would doubtless make some preparation for that meeting. But greater than any earthly meeting is this for which we have an appointment. Certainly it is crucial for us to be prepared. We are to meet Him. We must purify ourselves as He is pure. That's how John interpreted the significance of this meeting, when we shall see Him!

Yes, Easter meant that they should see Him. It also means that we shall see Him! Is that all? No, it goes even farther than that. We read in Rev. 1:7 that "Every eye shall see him."

As we look back at the two scriptures we have already studied, we observe that there was a promise of the reality of an eternal world given to personal disciples of long ago and then extended to true followers of every age. To all such, whether they lived then, or whether they live in our own present age, there is a promise of seeing him.

But our final scripture goes past friends and followers and states that every eye shall see Him. This means friends, but it also means foes. This takes in disciples, but it also takes in those who have defied every approach of grace. It includes those who have believed God's Word and have experienced the transformation of the new birth, but it also includes those who have never had time for religion and who have been so taken up with the here and now that they had not time for the consideration of spiritual need. Yes, the unbeliever, the scoffer, the one who has rebelled and defied the law of God, the one



An initiative of the Cincinnati Planned Giving Council

Did You Know:

About 60% of Americans have no will.

For people 18–34 only 11% have a will.

The percentages are virtually the same for Christians as non-Christians.

Isn't it ironic that the very people who are prepared for heaven have not planned for what they leave on earth! For institutions like God's Bible School and College, 80% of planned giving donations come from wills. Yet, only 6-8% of Americans include a charity or ministry in their wills. If you would like to have a will but don't know where to start, let us help. We would like to send you our informative brochure, "How To Make A Will That Works," at no cost or obligation. We also have other planned giving opportunities that will significantly reduce your tax liability and give you a lifetime income. You may request information about these as well.

Please send me more information on the following:

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who had not time for eternal things—yes, these too shall see Him. Although they will not admit it here nor yield to Christ any dominion in their lives, they will come face to face with that reality of another world. The world for which they had lived slips from their grasp. The last dream fades. Earth's joys turn out to be its nightmares. The things they have pursued with all the power of their being now drop away from their reach and they come face to face with eternity and with the Christ whom they have neglected or perhaps deliberately spurned. They shall see him.

Glorious reality of Easter! Christ lives! We shall see Him! His kingdom will come! Yes, the men and women

who rush on all around us are going to see Him too, for in due time they too must come face to face with the One who conquered death and by virtue of that conquest now stands crowned King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Yes, He lives! We shall see Him! What does that mean to you? Let it sink into your mind afresh. You have an appointment with Him. It is a face to face appointment. We shall see Him. How are you prepared for such a meeting? ■

The late Dr. Leslie Wilcox was a well-known theologian, church administrator, and educator. He is also remembered as the highly-respected academic dean at God's Bible School and College.



DR. ROBERT BICKERT RETURNS TO GBS FACULTY

By Dr. Ken Farmer, Vice President for Academic Affairs

“Would anyone in my class like to be a missionary?” Robert immediately thought of his missionary aunt and raised his hand. That decision made by a 13-year-old Sunday School student set a goal that guided him through high school, college, and seminary. Robert Bickert was marked for life!

But it wasn’t until he was a student at Asbury Theological Seminary that he felt God calling him to the Philippine Islands. That was in 1969,

and he was just finishing his third degree from Asbury—Master of Theology. He had earlier earned a BA and a MDiv. So in 1970, Robert went to the Philippines, along with his wife Kay and sons Jon and Mark.

His assignments with Wesleyan World Missions covered a wide range of ministries: Director of Literature and Radio Department, Bible College teacher and president, district missionary, evangelist, and finally church planter.

It was the experience he gained in planting an urban church in Metro Manila that launched him into a worldwide ministry. This was as a team member of an urban

church-planting seminar with Wesleyan World Missions which would take him into 12 countries during the years 1978-1984. Two of the largest Wesleyan Churches outside of the USA—Freetown, Sierra Leone, and Bogota, Colombia—began through the eight-day seminar.

Dr. Bickert at graduation in 2000 at the Cordillera Wesleyan Bible College in Sinipsip with Igorot students. One of these young men is now teaching at the college, and the other two are pastors. The late R.C. Flexon was the missionary statesman who urged the evangelization of the Igorots.



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.

BIRTHS



To Duane and Valorie (Bender) Quesenberry (both 1994 GBS graduates) of Summerfield, Florida, a daughter, **Kaley Brooke Quesenberry**, born November 7, 2003.

To Phillip (‘96 BA Min Ed) and Heather (Bryan) (‘97 BA Ch Mus) Dickinson, a son, **Noah Evan Dickinson**, born January 13, 2004, Phoenix, Arizona.

To Greg and Celeste (Brown) (attended GBS 1984) Williams, a son, **Gabriel Wayne Williams**, born December 7, 2003, Houston, Missouri.

DEATHS

The Rev. Mildred E. (Elliot) Bateman, 86, of Nampa and Council, Montana, died January 27, 2004. Converted at the age of 18, she attended GBS, graduating in 1939. She then returned to her native Montana, where she established a mission for Native Americans. On March 17, 1941, she was married to the Rev. William G. Bateman, who preceded her in death in 1984. An

In fact, the Bogota church today has a membership of over 3,000, an average attendance of 5,500, and has birthed nine daughter churches.

In 1987 Robert and Kay came to GBS, where he taught missions, evangelism, and Bible, and where Kay served as the dean of women for two years. In 1990, Robert returned to Asbury to enroll in the doctor of missiology program at the E. Stanley Jones School of World Mission and Evangelism. His doctoral studies focused on cross-cultural communication, evangelism, and church growth. His dissertation research centered on evaluating and comparing the effectiveness of the Metro Move Seminar. Research required travel to Sierra Leone and the Philippines to do extensive interviews with participants in the seminars in those countries.

After finishing his doctorate, Robert and Kay returned to the Philippines in 1996 at the request of the General Conference. Their assignment involved teaching evangelism, discipleship and church planting in various Wesleyan and Nazarene Bible

colleges and seminaries, and conducting weekly discipleship groups involving both pastors and laity.

The good news is that Dr. Robert Bickert will be returning to the GBS faculty this fall. His excellent credentials and his 22 years of experience on the mission field will be a great addition. He will join Dr. Mark Bird, teaching the courses in the new Urban Ministry Track in the Division of Ministerial Education; and he will also teach some Bible and missions classes.

Robert is excited about coming back to GBS. He comments, "It is amazing the way our Heavenly Father directs our steps. He has proven Proverbs 3:5-6 at key points in our journey: direction to the Philippines in 1968, the Metro Move ministry in 1977, and coming to GBS in 1987. And now, as Kay and I were waiting on the Lord

for direction for ministry after the Philippines, God has opened the door surprisingly at GBS where I can continue to be involved in preparing harvesters for ministry."

Welcome back, Bob and Kay!

COLLEGE CHOIR TOUR TOUCHES SEVEN STATES

"The Mid-Winter Tour of the college choir was the best in years," reports Vice President for Advancement Jack Hooker. The choir held 13 services in seven states. The first service in Tennessee was can-



GAREN WOLF DIRECTS THE COLLEGE CHOIR

ordained elder, she served with him in Nazarene pastorates in Poplar, Montana, and St. Maries, Idaho. They later moved to Nampa, where she received an LPN nursing degree. She is survived by her five children, as well as grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and other relatives. Funeral services were held at the Nampa First Church of the Nazarene.

Ruth A. (Yelton) Maywood, 86, Safety Harbor, Florida, died January 15, 2004. A native of Michigan, she graduated from God's Bible School with the BA degree in 1941. She was the widow of the Rev. Gordon B. Maywood ('40 HS), a retired Nazarene pastor, and is survived by her son David and other relatives.

Billie Jo (Burke) Moutoux, 56, Huron Township, Michigan, died February 4, 2004. She attended GBS, graduating with the BA degree in 1971. It was at the Hilltop that she also met her future husband, David

Moutoux. A homemaker, she is survived by her husband and her mother, as well as six sons, two daughters, a sister, and six grandchildren. Funeral services and burial were in Huron Township, the Rev. Kenneth Phelps, officiating.

Wanda F. Storey, 88, Supervisor of GBS's General Office from 1972-1977, died November 11, 2003, at

Owasso, Oklahoma. "I have walked alone with Jesus since October, 1942," she testified. "He saved my soul from sin; and shortly after, He sanctified me wholly, cleansing my heart from inbred sin.... He's upheld me and strengthened me in tragedy and loss." Preceded in death by two sons, Douglas Wayne and Carl Lee, she is survived by two grandchildren, Elizabeth Ann Stoner and Carl Lee Storey, Jr., and seven great-grandchildren. Graveside services and burial were held in Bixby,



celled due to snow. The new bus logged nearly 3200 miles without a problem. Six services were held over four days in the state of Florida.

"Holding services in Florida allows us to meet friends of the school from places as diverse as Washington; Ontario, Canada; and Delaware," Hooker adds. "We also are able to meet a number of alumni. In four days the choir sang to approximately 3400 people. Offerings exceeded what has been received in previous years." Personnel included Don Davison, tour director; Garen Wolf, choir director; Deanna Wolf, assistant director; Martha Miller, accompanist; and John Lum and Steve Mills, bus drivers. "Throughout the tour God graciously anointed our young people to touch lives for Christ."

SECONDARY EDUCATION TRACK ADDED TO CTE OFFERINGS

The Division of Christian Teacher Education (CTE) announces that beginning in the fall of 2004, GBS stu-



dents training to become professional teachers will be able to select a Secondary Education Track. "Every year we have students who say they are interested in teaching, but not at the elementary level," explains Dr. Ken Farmer, Vice President for Academic Affairs. "Secondary English is what gets mentioned most."

Currently the GBS faculty has three instructors with graduate degrees in English and/or English education: Marcia Davis (EdD, MEd, BA), Bruce Campbell (PhD, MA, BA), and Larry Smith (MS, BA). The three have a combined

eighty years of teaching experience!

The new Secondary Education Track will include classes such as Introduction to literature, adolescent literature, advanced composition, creative writing, modern English grammar, and teaching English in secondary schools.

If you are interested, contact the CTE Divisional

Chair, Dr. Marcia Davis at mdavis@gbs.edu.

GBS OFFERS FREE COLLEGE CLASS!

GBS's Aldersgate Distance Education Program is offering a free college course to new students! Applicants who have graduated from high school, hold a GED certificate, or are currently enrolled in the eleventh or twelfth grade of a recognized school may take either *Life of Christ* or *Christian Beliefs*, both offering three-hours college credit. Students will only be required to

REVIVALIST FAMILY

continued



GBS Alumni Reception at IHC

Wednesday, April 21

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Dayton Convention Center, Dayton, Ohio
Rooms 302-303-304

Oklahoma, the Rev. Richard Gremillion, officiating.

The Rev. Dr. Ray C. Sturch, 90, died January 15 at Beaver creek, Ohio. He attended God's Bible School in the early 1930's and met

his future wife Esther R. Crosby while there. His career in ministry included a number of pastorates in the United Church of Christ; and he held degrees from Blufton College (BA), United Theological Seminary

(BDiv), and Eastern Nebraska Christian College (honorary D.D.). Preceded in death by his wife of 55 years, he is survived by a son, a granddaughter, a brother, and two sisters. Funeral services and interment were held in Beaver creek.

CORRESPONDENCE

Darrell L. Stetler II, 2003 GBS graduate and now a Bible Methodist pastor in Oklahoma, sent the following email message to Dr. Allan P. Brown at GBS, dated December 11: "I just recently preached a Sunday night series on entire sanctifica-

purchase textbooks and return CD's (or cassettes) which are on loan. They will be provisionally enrolled until completing the course and the regular registration and admission process. For further information, call 1-800-486-4637, Ext. 122 or 124.

THE JOURNEY AVAILABLE WITH STUDY GUIDES

The Journey: Biblical Principles for Teens Taking the High Road, a book dealing with practical lifestyle issues and written by GBS staff and faculty, is now available with a study guide with questions and answers for each chapter. Now in its third printing, the volume may be purchased at \$5.00 per copy through the GBS website www.gbs.edu or by calling 513-721-7944, ext. 222.

GBS AT ACCREDITING ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

In early March five GBS administrators attended the joint

AABC/ABACC meeting (Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges and the Association of Business Administrators of Christian Colleges) in Orlando, Florida. In major action, AABC voted to change its name to the "Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE)." AABC enrollment statistics for several member schools within our cohort are as follows (note that the first figure is headcount [HC], while the second is full-time equivalency [FTE]): (1)

Allegheny Wesleyan, 45, 35; (2) *Circleville Bible College*, 337, 318; (3) *God's Bible School*, 252, 230; (4) *Hobe Sound Bible College*, 135, 116; (5) *Kentucky Mountain Bible College*, 74, 64; (6) *Vennard College*, 99, 94. GBS congratulates Allegheny Wesleyan College, Salem, Ohio, for achieving full AABC accreditation this year.

BRIEFLY NOTED:

GBS choir and orchestra provided music for the annual banquet of the Greater Cincinnati YMCA, February 5. President Avery offered the invocation, and the GBS men's quartet, "Assurance," sang. "Singing at this event was a great opportunity to acquaint many people with our ministry and to witness for Jesus Christ," reports Jack Hooker, Vice President for Advancement. ■



GBS CHOIR PERFORMS AT YMCA BANQUET

tion.... I had several people after the service come up and tell me that was the clearest message on 'holiness' they had ever heard. I just wanted to write and say thanks for your work with me and other preacher boys! Tell them to preach entire sanctification—it is crucial!"

"Your choir sang at my church last night, the First Church of the Nazarene, Ocala, Florida. As an added blessing my husband and I had the honor of having Mr. and Mrs. Mark Foster over last night. They were a delight and we would be very happy to have them again. These fine people are wonderful ambassadors for your college." —Chris and Mike Lynch, Email.

NOTICES

The Rev. Dr. Van Cum Tung, president of Evangelical Christian Bible School in the country of Myanmar, as

well as editor of the *Herald of His Coming* "into Burmese and Hakha Chin," writes, describing the need of "tracts, booklets, and other Christian materials to win lost souls" in his country. Describing himself as loyal to Wesleyan/Arminian teaching, he says, "I will be very glad if you can provide me the materials of the full Gospel. I will be highly appreciative." Readers responding to his appeal may contact him at GPO Box 845, Yangon, Myanmar.

Conservative Holiness Church in southeast Ohio is seeking a full-time pastor. Salary plus benefit package and parsonage furnished. If interested, please call (740) 992-3194.

Kelley's Chapel Church of God (Wesleyan in doctrine), Burlison, Tennessee, a rural holiness church in western Tennessee, is in need of a pastor. For more information call Hugh Hanson (901) 476-8358 or Ray Baker (901) 476-7264. (p19)➡



Dear Phil

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

“Why are there so many modern English translations, and which one is the best for studying the Bible?” —Robbin

Dear Robbin,

In the midst of a bewildering number of English translations, the first thing we ought to do is give God thanks that we have His Word in our own language. For hundreds of years, people had to learn Hebrew, Greek, or Latin if they wanted to read God’s Word. John Wycliffe risked his reputation and life to translate God’s Word into English for the first time in the 1380s. William Tyndale, who gave us our first printed English Bible in 1525/6, was martyred for his work of publishing the Bible in English. At that time his opponents believed that “The New Testament translated into [English] is...the fuel of sin...the protection of disobedience, the corruption of discipline, the depravity of morals...[and] the well-spring of vices...” Imagine that! We owe much to these and other men who were willing to lay down their lives so that you and I could read God’s Word in our own language.

Second, we need to understand the different purposes of different translations so we can know how to use them properly. Let me start with the New International Version. The purpose of the NIV’s translators was to produce an accurate, readable translation that was “faithful to the thought of the biblical writers” (NIV preface). The twofold result was a version: (1) that is highly readable, and (2) that is more interpretative than the KJV and some other modern versions (NASB, NKJV). Because of its readability, I recommend the NIV as a reading Bible, particularly in the Old Testament prophets. If you want to read through large portions of the Bible, getting a good overview and general understanding of the text, the NIV is a valuable translation.

Because of its interpretiveness, I don’t recommend it as a study Bible, despite the fact that the NIV study Bible is very popular. The NIV often makes interpretive decisions without letting the reader know. A good study Bible will preserve both the clarity and the ambiguity of the

original language. Admittedly this is a difficult task, but a student of God’s Word should have the opportunity to consider the interpretive options that the original languages leave open. Let me give you one example. In the NIV, James 1:14 reads, “...But each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.” The translators have interpreted the Greek word *epithumia* as “evil desire,” even though the word means only “desire.” In this case, the NIV is not only interpretive, but it is wrong. We are not enticed only by evil desires. We are most often enticed to fulfill legitimate desires in wrong ways.

Next time I’ll try to explain the purposes and values of the NASB and the NKJV.

Sincerely,
Philip Brown ■

Dr. A. Philip Brown II is a member of the ministerial faculty of God’s Bible School and College. He may be contacted by e-mail at pbrown@gbs.edu.

THE PRESIDENT’S PAGE continued

➡(continued from page 3)

This is no societal tug-of-war that we can settle in an afternoon contest. This will not be solved by calling together a focus group to try to understand one another. This is not a liberal versus conservative issue. It cannot simply be voted in or out. As Americans we ought to be doing everything in our power to stop and reverse this deadly assault on our country’s moral values. As Christians, we must see the deeper issue. We must go to our knees in true humility, praying, “Lord, deliver us from evil.”

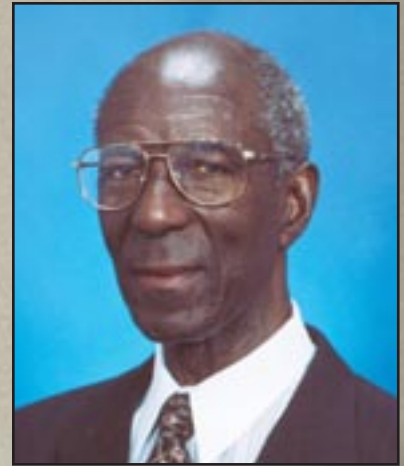
We are in a life-and-death struggle between the forces of good and the forces of evil. The soul of America and the souls of her citizens are at stake. Whether America can turn back the onslaught and survive remains to be seen. However, as Christians who are a part of God’s advancing kingdom, we have the promise that “the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” So buckle on your armor and get into the fight. For in the real war, victory is inevitable! ■



Rev. Paul Pierpoint
Evangelist



Rev. Mark Cravens
Evangelist



Dr. Wingrove Taylor
Evangelist

Camp Meeting

God's Bible School & College - Cincinnati, Ohio



Dr. Michael Avery
President, God's Bible School & College

May 23-30, 2004

Music by God's Bible School & College Division of Music
under the direction of Garen Wolf

Children's Services: GBS Students
Hebrews Class: Allan Brown
Principles of Christian Life Class:
Philip Brown
GBS Commencement:
Saturday, May 29, 10 AM

Space is limited...register early!
Contact God's Bible School Camp
Meeting—(513) 721-7944.

Schedule of Services:
Prayer and Healing—7:30 am
Breakfast—8:00 am
Heart Talks—9:00 am
Morning Worship—10:30 am*
Children's Meeting—10:30 am
Lunch—12:00 pm
Supper—5:00 pm
Evening Service—7:00 pm*

* Nursery service provided during the main services

ALUMNI

spotlight

A TALE OF THREE SISTERS

by Jack Hooker, Vice President for Advancement

I remember well the long journey from Florida to Cincinnati in 1970. I would enroll in a Bible College I had never visited. Through the influence of *God's Revivalist*, the Lord would call me to God's Bible School and College. One year later my sister would enroll, and in another year my brother would join us. All three of us would graduate from the college. This story can be told over and over—entire families coming to GBS and preparing for Christian service.

Such was the case of the Vaughan sisters. They first heard about GBS from their grandfather. Crockett Vaughan loved to go to the GBS camp meetings in the 1920's. Grandpa would tell the sisters about the blessing of the Holy Spirit on the services. Their great-grandfather was a Methodist circuit rider. The sisters' mother and father were saved when two of the girls were teenagers. After their parents' conversion, the family ministered in song in the local churches, on the radio, and in camp meetings. The girls had a busy life with school, working on the farm, and singing. Another influence in the sisters' lives was their pastor. Rev. Roger McCormick attended GBS in the late thirties. It was Pastor McCormick who talked with Ellen about going to Cincinnati.

Ellen attended GBS from 1952-1954 and graduated from the Christian Worker's Course. Then she went to Bedford, Indiana, to work with Evangelistic Faith Missions. She is now a widow with two children and four grandchildren.

Annie Mae was the next of the three sisters to journey to Cincinnati. While a student, she worked in the office. Annie Mae graduated valedictorian from the Christian Worker's Course in 1956. It was time for the third sister to travel to GBS.

Mary Lee attended the college from 1956-1959. Her memories include singing in the choir and traveling on weekends in a trio with her sister. Mary Lee and her husband have been involved with music ministry since 1960. Mary Lee said this statement has characterized her life of ministry: "It's not about me, God. It's about You." Truly God directed the paths of the Vaughan sisters to God's Bible School and College. Today He continues to direct young people here who have a heart for God and for souls. ■



Ellen



Annie Mae



Mary Lee

repentance of sins and belief in His saving death and resurrection. We are to experience the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in His cleansing and filling ministry, and then share the good news with everyone we meet wherever we go.

IV. OUR RESURRECTED LORD IS TO BE CELEBRATED BY HIS FOLLOWERS. (Luke 24:50-53)

Lastly, go with me to Bethany where Jesus is about to ascend to heaven. Tragedy has turned to triumph. See our resurrected Lord, with hands raised blessing His disciples as he is carried up to heaven to assume His High Priestly ministry. There are at least two important truths to learn.

A. Jesus delights in blessing His people. (Luke 24:50-51)
The Book of Hebrews tells us that Jesus is continuing His ministry of blessing. (Read Hebrews 4:14-16 to the congregation).

What is it that you need today? Jesus is merciful and has grace to help, whatever your need. Reach out by faith and receive His help just now.

B. Jesus' followers delight in celebrating a risen Saviour. (Luke 24:52-53).

In light of who Jesus is, and what He has done for fallen mankind, no wonder the redeemed sing and shout and dance about with joy unspeakable and full of glory. Jesus is alive! He has triumphed over sin, death, and hell. And because He lives, we can face the tomorrows of life with great confidence that His Kingdom will come and His will is being done on earth even as it is in heaven.

CONCLUSION

The Jesus we preach and the Lord we serve is alive! He is ready to forgive you, comfort you, strengthen your faith, and empower you to be a faithful, obedient disciple. He is the Lord of Life and is still bestowing His blessings. Let us ever praise and worship Jesus—Lamb of God, Son of God—risen and reigning over all triumphant!



— Sermon outline by DR. ALLAN P. BROWN



"COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE
IN PREACHING"

OUR RESURRECTED LORD

Scripture: John 20:1-17; Luke 24:1-53

INTRODUCTION

Jesus was crucified and buried on Friday. Saturday was the Passover. On Sunday, the third day, very early in morning, several women approached His tomb to anoint His dead body with spices in accordance with the prevailing Jewish burial customs.

There is the tomb but the scene is all wrong. The stone is rolled away. There are no soldiers on guard. Entering the burial chamber their worst fears are realized. Jesus' body is gone! As they stand there in shock, two angels appear and say to them, "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen" (24:5-6).

The "good news" of the Gospel is that Jesus is risen from the dead. Belief in the bodily resurrection of Jesus is not only the foundational truth of the Christian faith, it is a well-documented fact of history (Acts 1:3). We serve a risen Savior! Everything Jesus claimed to be—the Son of the living God, the promised Messiah, the Savior of all mankind, God's substitute Lamb—is proven true by His resurrection from the dead.

In Luke's account of the resurrection (chapter 24), supplemented by John's account (chapter 20), we read about several post-resurrection appearances of Jesus. I am entitling this message, "Our Resurrected Lord".

I. OUR RESURRECTED LORD CARES ABOUT THE SORROWS OF HIS FOLLOWERS. (Luke 24:1-2; John 20:1-18)

Luke provides us with a general summary of what happened early Sunday morning when the women discovered the empty tomb.

A. He knows and cares when you are traumatized.

John's account zeros in on the trauma of one specific woman, Mary Magdalene. He tells us that Mary remained behind at the tomb weeping while the others ran off to tell the disciples what they had discovered. Jesus made His first post-resurrection appearance to her. From this account we

learn that our resurrected Lord is compassionate. Mary is overcome by the grief of the last few days. She thinks, "It's bad enough that they have killed Him, but now even His body is to be desecrated! What have they done with my Lord?"

B. He comforts us by shifting our focus to His Promises.

Jesus approaches and asks her twice, "Woman, why weepst thou?" (Jn. 20:13, 15). He was gently trying to get her to change her focus of attention. She was weeping because she had lost sight of His promises. He promised that He would rise the third day. She needed to change her focus from that of personal loss and heartbreak, to praiseful trust in the One who always keeps His promises! We need to remember that Jesus knows all about us and He wants us to look away from the discouraging circumstances that may surround us to His unfailing promises.

II. OUR RESURRECTED LORD IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE FAITH OF HIS FOLLOWERS. (Luke 24:13-35)

Luke gives us the account of two weary downcast travelers, trudging along a dusty road in the late afternoon, returning from Jerusalem to their village of Emmaus. They are joined by a third man who does not share their downcast bearing. Luke 24:15 says, "Jesus himself drew near, and went with them." Jesus had yet another lesson to teach his disciples—the importance of a transcendent faith in God's Word.

A. He gently rebuked them for their failure to believe all that the prophets had spoken. (Luke 24:25)

Jesus was grieved to witness the lack of scriptural insight shown by these two disciples and the resultant spiritual discouragement. He knew that the journey ahead of them was only possible if they understood the true significance of the events they had just witnessed. "Beginning at Moses and all the prophets," Jesus brought into proper focus the truth about a suffering Messiah—the Lamb of God slain before the foundation of the world. Claiming the verses that spoke only of Messiah's victory, triumph, and glory, they had closed their eyes to the verses that spoke of Messiah's sufferings and death (24:26). As a result, they had set themselves up for disappointment and disillusionment. We must be careful that we do not make the same mistake about the suffering and rejection predicted for those who follow Christ. Each teaching of Scripture must be balanced by and harmonized with the teaching of all the other verses that relate to that subject.

B. He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. (Luke 24:27)

Our faith is to be based on what God has spoken, not on what we or some other person has experienced. It is interesting that Jesus did not rebuke them for not believing the report of the women. His primary concern for them was to build their faith on the revealed Word of God. Therefore He first "expounded to them in all the scriptures the things con-

cerning himself." Only after He had laid a proper scriptural foundation for their faith did He open their eyes so that they could recognize Him. Experience is always to be tested by the written Word of God.

III. OUR RESURRECTED LORD COMMISSIONS HIS FOLLOWERS. (Luke 24:36-45)

Come with me now to the "Upper Room." His disciples are behind locked doors hiding in fear and depression. Max Lucado, in his book, *No Wonder They Call Him The Savior*, writes, "Have you even wondered what the eleven disciples did that weekend? Where did they go? What did they do? How did they feel? Wherever they ran, wherever they stayed, we do know one thing. They came back. One by one they appeared at the same upper room.

"Too convicted to go home, yet too confused to go on. They were caught on that uneven ground between failure and forgiveness. Suspended somewhere between 'I can't believe I did it' and 'I'll never do it again.' Too ashamed to ask forgiveness, yet too loyal to give up. Just when the gloom gets good and thick, just when they feel all is lost, a familiar face walks through the wall.

"For those who, like the apostles, have turned and run when you should have stood and been faithful, this passage has a message of hope. A repentant heart is all He demands. Come out of the shadows and be done with running and hiding. A repentant heart will summon the Son of God himself to walk through our walls of guilt and shame. He who forgave His followers stands ready to forgive the rest of us" (adapted and condensed, pp. 83-86).

When Jesus appeared to the disciples gathered in the upper room, He first offered them peace to calm their fears (Lk. 24:36-37). He then gave them facts for their faith by proving He was not a spirit (Lk. 24:38-43). Then He emphasized the importance of building our faith on God's Word (Lk. 24:44-45). Lastly, He gave them a commission (Luke 24:46-49). This commission applies to every one of Jesus' followers. There are three aspects to the commission.

A. He specified the message we are to communicate: that Jesus is the Messiah who suffered, died, and rose again the third day, according to the Scriptures. (v. 46)

B. He specified the method for making converts: that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (vs. 47-48).

C. He specified the means of empowerment to enable us to fulfill this commission: "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high" (v. 49).

Jesus has a work for His followers to do. Each of us, as a successor to the original disciples, is to embrace Jesus as Lord and Saviour through



Interchurch Holiness Convention

April 20-22, 2004

Dayton Convention Center, Dayton, Ohio

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble"

REVIVALIST FAMILY

continued

SPECIAL INTEREST



Dr. Bence C. Miller, president of God's Bible School and College, 1975-1995, continues to recover from open heart surgery, a quadruple bypass, and the placement of a new valve. Please remember him and Mrs. Miller during this difficult time. Cards and letters may

be addressed to them at 2104 Pinewood Dr., Columbus, IN 47203-2080.

Rev. Ted Kalsbeek has retired as parish assistant at Cincinnati's historic Covenant-First Presbyterian Church, an evangelical congregation in the heart of the city and an active friend and supporter of God's Bible School. Mr. Kalsbeek came to the church as interim pastor in 1996, after retiring from an active pastorate of 43 years at a local congregation. He was succeeded at Covenant-First by present pastor, The Rev. Russell Smith, but stayed on in a supportive role.

HITHER AND THITHER

Revival services at Clearwater, Florida, resulted in teenagers' holding "an impromptu CD burning

they considered an act of defiance against youthful, unprincipled modern-day life ruled by a risqué entertainment business," according to the *Petersburg Times*. Held in January at First Church of the Nazarene, the services "drew hundreds of Christians...who listened to the Rev. Elaine Pettit, an evangelist from Kalamazoo, Mich., deliver the good news—and at times some frightening verses from Revelation." The teenagers even burned a T-shirt "that had a Playboy bunny smoking a 'joint,' a term for a marijuana cigarette, said Andrew, 16, as he watched the garment change from cotton to smoke, which drifted up into the cold night air."

Restoration continues at Lovely Lane United Methodist Church, Baltimore, the "mother church of American Methodism." The terra-cotta tile roof has been replaced, the domed ceiling mural has been restored, organ pipes have been regilded, and new carpeting installed. The massive Gothic building, designed by famous architect Stanford White and dedicated in 1887, is the fifth building of the congregation since its beginnings in 1772. It was in the Lovely Lane Chapel that the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in the famous Christmas Conference 1784. ■

Grace

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➡(continued from page 4)

SUGGESTIONS

I've enjoyed receiving the *Revivalist*, especially reading about classmates I knew as I attended 1976-1980. I noticed in the homecoming issue of 2001 that you put names to the honored 25-year students, but in 2002 and 2003, the names were left off. I hope you'll include names from now on. The *Revivalist* would be easier to read if articles were continued on the next page instead of referring us to the back.... [It] would be less distracting. Thank you for your time, and all you do to make the *Revivalist* our link to GBS.

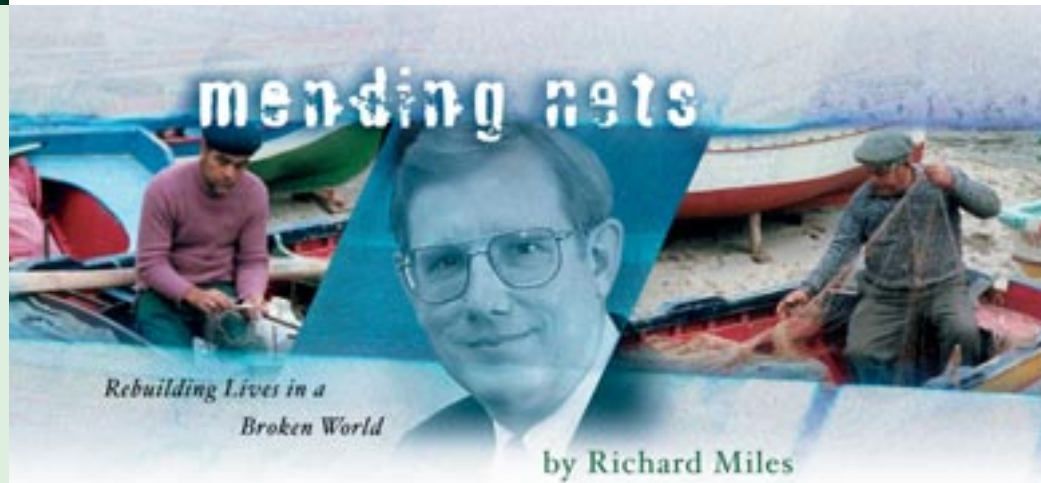
DONNA (ROBBINS) MILLER
Email

Editor's Note. We welcome ways to improve the *Revivalist*, and your point about printing names of honored alumni is well-taken. However our art director assures me that lay-out considerations often make it impossible to place article continuations on the next page. —LDS

KUDOS FOR WINTER ISSUE

Last Sunday I read through several articles in the Winter 2004 issue of *God's Revivalist*. I want to congratulate Dr. Allan Brown on "Treasures of the Trinity." Along with our need to properly understand the nature of the sacraments, I think sermons on why it makes any difference that God is Triune are completely in order. Dr. Phil, your column makes a great addition. I'm sure that many pastors [also] will be grateful if their people follow [Benny Durr's] advice on getting to church on time! Brother Smith, I thank you for another insightful editorial. Please pass my gratefulness on to your associates for making it possible to download the entire issue of the *Revivalist* from the website.

STEPHEN SMITH
Wesley Biblical Seminary
Email



PARENT-TEEN CONFLICT

I am experiencing conflict with my children, who are in their late teens and early 20's. I want them to know that I love them, but I cannot approve of some of their decisions. How do I do this?

As children move into adolescence, we may wonder who the strangers are who just moved into our house. Our family "norm" disappears. Yet personal decision-making, self-support, and the desire to be treated like an adult are healthy adolescent characteristics. But on the other hand, parents are afraid of turning these adult responsibilities over to a child for whom they have been making the decisions. "What if my child makes a bad decision?" becomes a question which bangs around in parents' heads with a mind-shattering scream!

Of course, you cannot approve of unwise or sinful decisions your children make, but you can respond in ways that do not cut them off or stymie their growth. When your children were young, you could force obedience; but when they become adults, you can only influence them. Your hope is to make them want to comply to what you believe is right. You can enforce "house rules," to be sure; but they can leave. So developing an "adult-to-adult" relationship is necessary and good.

Remember that everyone is a uniquely gifted creation of God, so don't dishonor your children by trying to make them "cookie cutter" copies of yourself. You honor your children by letting them know clearly that you love them and that you are pleased with them—yes, they need to hear that! So often criticism is an automatic reaction, but compliments require thought and intent.

Becoming a separate and responsible individual is healthy in order to "leave" and to "cleave" (Eph. 5:31). A child too dependent on a parent to assume adult responsibility is socially handicapped. The child who never develops a separate identity unique from mom and dad will be handicapped in future relationships.

Granted, there is no guarantee that children with a God-given free will will make the right choices, but when they are reared in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4), their roots will be in soil that grows faithful Christians. Proper child training includes not provoking your children to wrath, an ingredient often left out of our child-rearing formula. If you want to make fine men and women out of your children, never treat them disrespectfully and never belittle them!

So don't lose your children by "powering" them into shape. (p23)➡

➡(p2) cathedral with an idol which he worshiped there; he removed the cross from the Empire's coins and standards; and he even tried to rebuild the Jewish temple in Jerusalem, though this was stopped by mysterious flames leaping out from subterranean vaults. For good reason, the Christians called him *Apostata*—“Julian the Apostate.”

To the end, his crusade against them was really a crusade against Jesus whom they worshiped. He had been dead for over three centuries now, as the pagans said, for they dismissed the Saviour's resurrection as merely a foolish tale. Yet to the emperor's supreme dismay, the “mysterious God-man” constantly stalked his way, “stark and stern, with his unconditional, inexorable demands”—though it was in mercy and not in wrath, as Julian so foolishly believed.

Jesus and Julian! How bitterly the conflict raged between them, and it was all because Julian so bitterly hated Jesus! Yet, “tyrants only hate Him because He is alive,” as Dr. Ernest Rattenbury has reminded us. “If He were dead, why should they trouble?” Thus it was that even Julian gave grudging witness to His resurrection. “Is peace conceivable between the Emperor and the Galilean?” Julian once had asked a friend, as Ibsen tells the story. “Is there room for them both on earth? *For he lives on earth, Maximus—the Galilean lives!* I say, however thoroughly both Jews and Romans imagine they have killed Him, He LIVES!”

As we prepare again for Easter, we remember that Jesus' enemies, as well as Jesus' friends, confirm His resurrection—though to the first, it is eternal tragedy, while to the second, it is eternal triumph. “*For he lives on earth, Maximus, the Galilean lives!*” This is what we Christians have declared since Mary Magdalene first beheld our risen Lord, and it is what we still declare: “*The Galilean lives!*”

He lives on earth *with us* through the power of His Spirit, hallowing our assemblies and walking every pathway with us. He lives in heaven *for us* in His glorified humanity, acting as our great high-priest and preparing a place for us in His Father's house. For we are Jesus' friends, today, tomorrow, and forever; and that is why we keep the Holy Pascha, as the early Christians called the Easter celebration. “Alleluia!” we repeat with them. “The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”

For always, Easter is the “Queen of Festivals”—the most resplendent of all our annual holy days—celebrated joyfully throughout the holy church as Jesus' conquest over sin and death and hell. That conquest was all on our behalf, for as the Nicene Creed declares, it was for us and for our salvation that He “came down from heaven...and was made man”; that He was “crucified...suffered and was buried”; that He “rose again according to the Scriptures....”

Recorded first in gripping prose by inspired evangelists spellbound by its marvel, this is the bedrock of our faith. For here is “salvation history” played out dramatically before us. Here is the focus of ages now behind us and ages yet before us. Here is Jesus, slaughtered Lamb of God, shelved away in rocky depths, yet three days later, exultant, radiant, and alive!

Then, as St. Paul informs us, He showed Himself “to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born” (I Cor. 15:5—8, NIV).

What powerful words are these! For Jesus' resurrection was not hallucination nor deception, but objective historical event, verified by numerous and trustworthy witnesses! They were personally acquainted with that event, and indeed many of them were martyred for their unwavering witness to its truth. Thus, they died “in sure and certain hope of the Resurrection unto eternal life”—as the *Book of Common Prayer* expresses it—because they knew that Jesus' resurrection had really happened and that it was the pledge and earnest of their own.

In that same “sure and certain hope,” we will make our way through this earthly life, even as we will leave it, assured that with them and with all of Jesus' friends, we will share forever in the Easter triumph. “*I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.*”

But what of Jesus' enemies? Like Julian, they strut and sneer and swagger for a little while, mocking his bloody cross and empty tomb. Often they slaughter His prophets and scatter His saints. In dismal corners of this world, they still are spilling martyr blood—though as Tertullian once observed, that blood will soon become the church's seed; and that seed will produce abundant harvest.

In Europe and America—our secular, post-Christian West—Jesus' enemies are rallying fiercely now against Him and His church. They deride His claims which declare that He alone provides salvation; they mock the Scriptures which bear testimony to His worth; and they assault the moral law which His love confirms. Our culture staggers beneath their blows: divorce decimates our homes, abortion slaughters our little ones, and now the politics of “sexual liberation” makes mockery of Christian marriage. Jesus' enemies hate Him still, and like Julian, they rage bitterly against Him.

But they fight against the risen Lord, and what can be more fearful than to be an enemy of Jesus? His friends are destined to share forever in the Easter tri-

umph, but His enemies shall be crushed forever by it. Witness the tragedy of Julian—and of Nero, of Napoleon, of Hitler, and of Stalin! Witness the tragedy of Marxist thugs who so recently lifted up their arms against Him but who now are only footnotes in the history of Europe! “At every turn,” the God-man still confronts His foes, “stark and stern, with his unconditional, inexorable demands!”

These He never will revoke nor lessen. For there is only one response He will accept, and that is absolute submission to them all. True, we have all rebelled against Him once, as we sorrowfully confess. But as we joyfully confirm, He offers full and gracious pardon to everyone who will receive it, for always He delights to make His enemies His friends. But, as we also know, there is no remission in this world or the next for those who defy Him to the last.

“What is your Galilean carpenter doing now?” sneered a pagan during Julian’s terrible onslaught against Jesus and His church. “He is building a coffin,” quickly replied a humble Christian. In only a little while, the emperor lay dead within that coffin, and with him, the Empire’s last attempt to bring back the ancient gods. For years he had fought the risen Lord; but at the end, even Julian knew that he had lost. On June 26, 363, in battle with the Persians, he was fatally wounded by an arrow. But he is reported to have said one final thing of Jesus. Just before he died that night at the age of 32, he filled his hand with his own blood, threw it into the air, and cried, “O Galilean, Thou hast conquered!”

As we prepare for Easter, we remember that Jesus’ enemies, as well as Jesus’ friends, confirm its truth—though to his enemies, it is eternal tragedy, while to his friends, it is eternal triumph. ■



By Anita K. Brechbill

THE QUICKENING OF THE SPIRIT

“Quicken me according to Thy Word” (Psalm 119:25).

Spiritual dullness is to be avoided at all costs. The quickening Spirit by which we have been brought out of dead trespasses and sins continues His revitalizing work at every stage of our spiritual journey. Ours is the obligation to stay tuned, alert, and ready to receive. This quickening is a refreshing, a strengthening, an enlargement of heart, a broadening of vision, and a deepening of understanding. The preacher is quickened as he opens the Word, and we call it the “Anointing.” It begets a holy distinctiveness in the saints, as well as the delightful freshness of spiritual originality.

This quickening of the Spirit is vital. With the Psalmist, pray his prayer sincerely and often. It will save you from joining the multitudes who sit lifeless on church benches, having only a form of godliness. “Quicken me according to Thy Word.” ■

Anita Brechbill, Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania, is editor of *RopeHolders* and a regular contributor to the *Revivalist*.

➡(p21) Rather, win them by “empowering” them with the principles and skills to make good choices. Always keep in mind the parallel truth that we shall never win them by rewarding rebellion or by trying to win their approval for all of our own decisions.

One interesting research project studied the types of parents who most successfully passed their religious values on to their children. The most common characteristic of parents

who succeeded was “warmth”—a warm, emotionally connected relationship. *So try to win your children by love. This means your unselfish commitment to their good and not just to what makes you as a parent look or feel good.* ■

“Mending Nets” explores God’s readiness to “mend” the breakdowns which so often mar our lives. It is written by the Rev. Richard Miles, GBS Vice President for Student Affairs. Send questions to be addressed in this column to Mendingnets.@gbs.edu



Faith in the Future

Faith in the Future is the first capital campaign in the history of God's Bible School and College. And now, through the blessings of God and the partnership of a number of donors, **the Phase I goal has been reached!**

\$1,400,000.00

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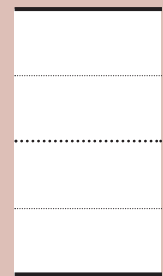
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For more information, contact Jack Hooker, Vice-President for Advancement, 1810 Young Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202; or call 513-721-7944 ext. 223; or email jhooker@gbs.edu. Information is also available at www.gbs.edu. Campaign videos in DVD or VHS format are available upon request.

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