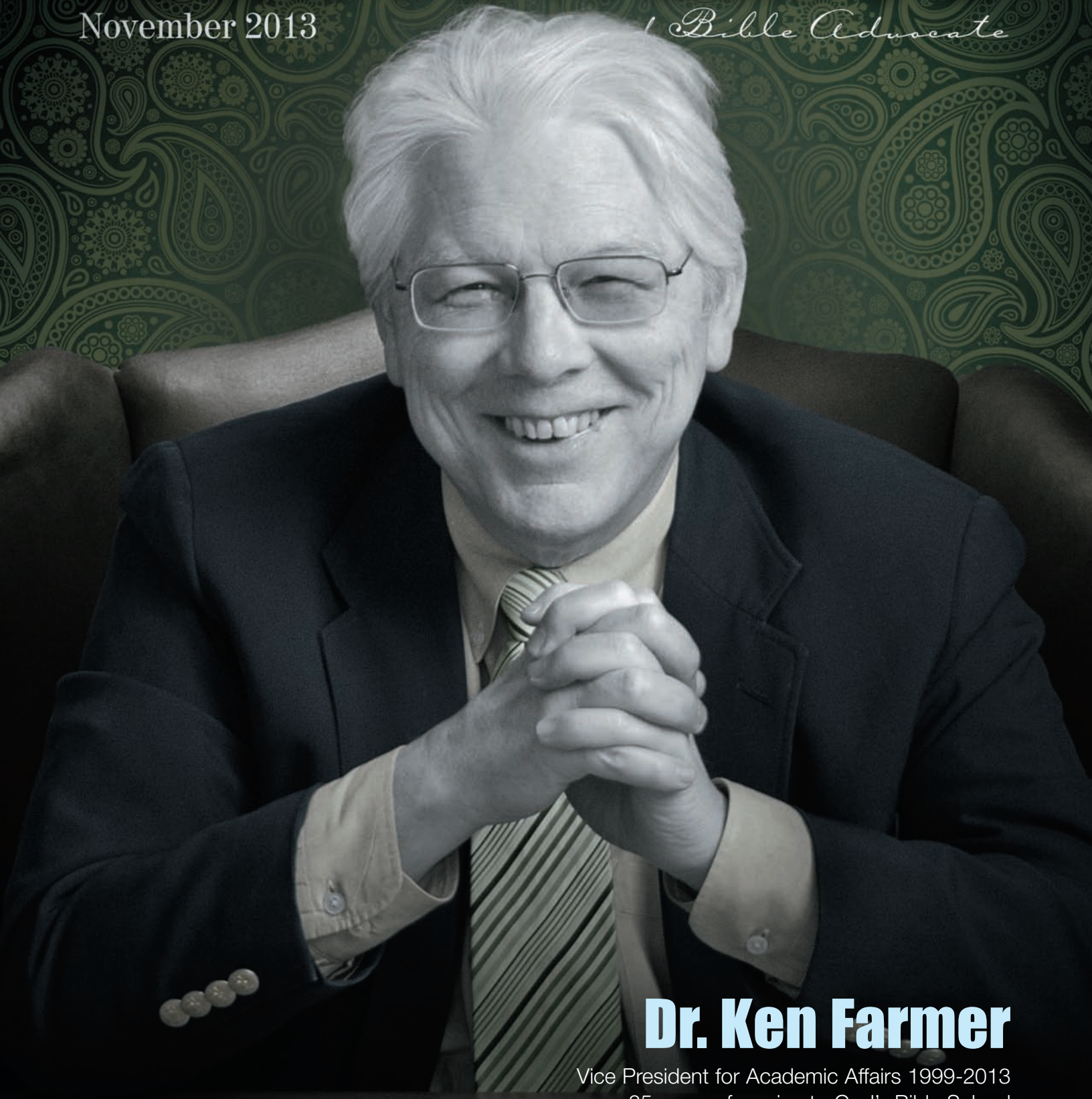


GOD'S

REVIVALIST

November 2013

Bible Advocate



Dr. Ken Farmer

Vice President for Academic Affairs 1999-2013
25 years of service to God's Bible School



about this issue

AARON PROFITT

HONORING KEN

I first saw Ken Farmer on a late-summer day as he walked down a street in Overland Park, Kansas, where he had just assumed academic leadership at Kansas City College and Bible School. Over the next several years, I came to know him well, from visiting his home (his eldest son was a classmate and close friend), attending church together, even shooting basketball together. Fifteen years later, my wife and I would move to GBS through Dr. Farmer's recommendation.

Now he retires from GBS, having served God here for more than 25 years. I'm honored to introduce this special issue of *God's Revivalist*, an expression of thanks for Dr. Farmer's contributions to the Hilltop. And those contributions range far, from his student days traveling with Steve Vernon and John Parker in what he loves to note was once promoted in the *Revivalist* as the "Ken Farmer Trio," to time as a young professor somehow taking a full load of graduate classes and teaching full-time, to years as a wise academic leader.

It is this last phase that I know best. While his accreditation work will be familiar to many *Revivalist* readers, what many have not seen is what Dr. Farmer considered his key contribution over the last decade: investment in younger employees. He has graciously poured knowledge, perspective, and counsel into the lives of those who have worked closely with him. Frequently he has stopped mid-task to hear patiently my latest notion or concern, calmly reorienting me to the big picture of God's kingdom work as needed.

Much could be said about Dr. Ken Farmer and God's work through him. Perhaps most importantly, my friend Dr. Farmer can echo St. Paul, having left a legacy of a race well run, a fight for God's glory fought with honor, humility, and dedication. ■

—Aaron Profitt, vice president for academic affairs,
God's Bible School and College

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COVER PHOTO by Shane Muir.

the president's page



Honoring

DR. KENNETH RAY FARMER, SR.

Vice President for Academic Affairs, 1999-2013

by Michael R. Avery, President

Elmer Farmer hurried home from work on the afternoon of April 3, 1950. He was anxious to check on his young wife Betty as they were expecting their second child at any time. Upon arriving home, he found Betty in bed along with another small bundle hidden by the covers. He immediately began to weep for joy knowing that his baby had already been born. Indeed, their second son, Kenneth Ray Farmer had arrived on that windy spring afternoon in Blaketown, West Virginia.

Ken's days in Blaketown were brief. Elmer had felt the call of God to preach so he moved his family to Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1952, where he enrolled at God's Bible School as a ministerial student. This was two-and-a-half-year-old Ken's first time to move to GBS! He and his family lived in a second floor apartment at 1817

Young Street (the former Hope Cottage that was razed to make room for the present day student parking lot). Actually they shared that second floor with another young couple who had three small boys – Ken and Jewel Stetler.

At first, Ken and his brother Harry attended Taft Elementary School at the north end of Young Street. Then the Pillar of Fire Church started an academy in the old "ten weeks" building on the GBS campus (where the Miller-Deets Student Center now stands). Ken attended first grade there, but, more importantly, he had his first confrontation with a faculty member there. One day his first grade teacher scolded him for not paying attention, to which he responded, "Well, it doesn't matter. My mother doesn't think we're learning much anyway."

When Elmer graduated from GBS in 1956, the family moved to Newport, Kentucky, to pastor the Pilgrim Holiness Church. A brother, Sam, was born in 1957. Then, in 1959, the family returned to West Virginia. A sister, Kitty Lou, was born in 1961.

Ken's primary and secondary education was completed in the public schools of West Virginia. In the eleventh grade he was selected to represent his school at Boys State. In 1968 Ken graduated third in his class from the high school in Bramwell, West Virginia. After graduation, Ken enrolled at West Virginia Tech to pursue a degree in civil engineering. A year-and-a-half later he joined the Air Force on the "Buddy Program" with one of his best friends, assuming they would be together through basic training and their four-year enlistment. As circumstances dictated,



Harry Farmer, David Stetler, Ken Farmer, Danny Stetler



however, the two only saw each other once during the next four years! Ken was stationed in Japan and worked for the USAF Security Service (military intelligence) that reported to the NSA. His primary work was to copy the coded messages sent by the Russians and the Chinese that were picked up by United States military listening devices.

In 1974 Ken received an honorable discharge from the United States Air Force and returned home to Huntington, West Virginia, where his father was pastor of the Wesleyan Church. On a Wednesday evening, about three weeks after his return home, Ken reluctantly joined his father's faithful flock for their weekly prayer meeting. At the close of the service Rev. Elmer Farmer said, "Let's stand and sing one of my favorites, 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus.'" What would have been an ordinary meeting turned into one never to be forgotten as Ken Farmer, with no special invitation, made his way to the altar. O happy day! His name for years had been listed on the church prayer list, and now, in answer to those prayers, he had confessed his sins and was wonderfully converted!

Following his conversion, Ken made GBS his home for a second time, enrolling as a student in the fall of 1974. Ken was an excellent student. His first year was devoted to studies of the Word and spiritual formation. It was during this time that Ken found his number-two hero, Dr. Leslie D. Wilcox (his father always held the number one spot). In his second year, he began singing in a school trio and later a quartet. This allowed him to travel all across America representing GBS with another one of his heroes, Dr. R.G.

Flexon. In 1977 he graduated with a 4.0 grade-point average as valedictorian of his class.

In August of 1977, Ken married GBS alumna and faculty member Paula Kerr. He immediately enrolled in graduate school at Xavier University, receiving a MEd in psychology in the spring of 1978. That fall, he started teaching at GBS, at first on a part-time basis as he was already working on a MEd in counselor education from the University of Cincinnati, a degree which he received in 1979. The next ten years would be exceptionally busy for Ken as he pursued advanced education while teaching full time. He started working on his EdD at the University of Cincinnati but stretched things out as he and Paula starting working on a family. Kenneth Ray, Jr., was born in 1979, Carlton Clayton in 1981, and Katrina Jean in 1983.

Ken left GBS in 1990 to serve as Vice President of Kansas City College and Bible School in Overland Park, Kansas. During that time he completed his EdD at the University of Cincinnati in 1996 and an MBA from the University of Missouri at Kansas City in 1999.

In the spring of 1999, I asked Ken to return to GBS to help lead the school to regional accreditation. This was Ken's third time to come home to GBS, this time as vice president for academic affairs. He quickly set in motion the necessary processes to obtain regional accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission, North Central Region. Ken made the first phone call to the HLC in the spring of 2000. During the next four years he continued to work through the requirements for accreditation and directed our first self-study in 2005. The subsequent team visit went extremely well and we were given candidate status. Ken led another self-study in 2007 requesting full accreditation status. The subsequent team visit recommended full accreditation which we received in February 2008 – two years

ahead of the normal four year schedule. There were many people involved in making this happen, but Ken was the driving force behind the process.

Ken's leadership in academic affairs has left a significant mark on GBS for years to come. The processes he put in place, the programs he helped develop, and the people he trained to follow him are visible evidences of a great academic leader!

While engaged in the monumental task of leading the academic affairs of God's Bible School for the last fourteen years, Ken has quietly battled multiple sclerosis. In 1996 he went completely blind in his right eye. He was told then that this was probably a precursor to MS. In 2000 he was officially diagnosed. The complications of the disease and the side effects of the treatment have been, at times, debilitating. But Ken has marched on, never complaining and always accomplishing more than any one healthy person could ever get done in a day. Through it all he never lost his quick wit with his colleagues and passionate love for his alma mater. No one I have ever worked with has been more loyal to the people with whom he works, more ethical in all school-related matters, and more committed to GBS than Ken.

As Ken leaves the office of academic affairs, I wholeheartedly honor my friend, colleague, and fellow alumnus. I am a better leader because of his work at my side. But more importantly, GBS is a better institution because of the work and legacy of Ken Farmer! God Bless you, Ken! ■



On behalf of the Mt. Auburn Community Council (MACC), I would like to convey our most sincere congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Ken Farmer on his retirement from his academic position at God's Bible School. We thank Ken for the many years of dedicated work and numerous contributions he has made over the years to the community of Mt. Auburn and the City of Cincinnati. I have personally had the opportunity to work alongside of Ken for more than 30 years and have experienced his dedication in advancing the growth and development of the community and its people. Ken is a tremendous person who is caring, encouraging, and steadfast. May God continue to bless him and his family.

—Stanley E. Broadnax, MD, President
Mt. Auburn Community Council

It was a pleasure to work with Dr. Farmer at Kansas City College and Bible School. During the years we labored together I learned to admire him. He was skilled as an administrator. He was a proficient organizer. He was a professional educator. He was a man that was dependable, loyal, creative, and effective. Through his years of ministry he has served God and the conservative holiness movement well. His influence has been far-reaching. I valued him as an excellent employee, but I value him most as a friend.

—Dr. Gayle Woods, President
KCCBS, 1995-2009

I was privileged to meet Ken at GBS in the fall of 1974. A year later I felt honored to stand next to him as he sang baritone in our newly formed trio. The following year another baritone was added and Ken moved to the bass position. We shared memorable times while traveling in those groups. In Ken's own words, "We may not have been the best singers, but we had the best charisma!" When our traveling schedule became slack during the summer months, we all worked on the GBS maintenance crew – hauling rocks, repairing walls, and renovating the restrooms in the girls' dorm! Ken was always fun-loving and kidded me a great deal because I was from the "Deep South." Being the great "thinker" that he was, I always had to watch what I said lest he also kid me about my "questioning attitude." There was never any doubt that Ken loved the Lord with all his heart and he displayed that everywhere he went. I feel very grateful to be Ken's friend and so thankful that this year's homecoming will be in his honor!

—Steve Vernon, Pastor
Greensboro, Alabama

NOVEMBER 2013

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President Avery interviews Dr. Ken Farmer about his transition out of academic administration.

Why did you decide to step down from the office of academic affairs?

First and foremost was my firm conviction on planning for smooth succession. Christians ought to be models for how we train our next generation of leaders. Too often, I have noticed that transitions are not that smooth. The fact of the matter is that in the human it is difficult to let go. Struggling to hold on to position and status leads to the dysfunction of self absorption. I took great delight in looking for promising “youngsters” who could be mentored and trained to step into new positions – from Rodney Sones and Chris Lambeth all the way to Aaron Proffitt.

Then there is my multiple sclerosis. Thankfully to this point it has not debilitated me to where I cannot work. While it is at times a struggle, and the trajectory seems to be a slow downhill slide, it has been slow. However, I understood the disease well enough to realize that issues with mobility and vision were uncertain. Therefore, a succession plan for the position was very important to me. It was great that Aaron was willing to be the Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and learn the ins and outs of academic administration. That made it easy for him to step into his new role.

What do you feel is your most significant accomplishment as Vice President for Academic Affairs?

Assembling a good – strike that – a GREAT academic team. Yes, I know we achieved regional accreditation during my tenure, but that could not have been accomplished, at least like we did it, without a lot of excellent work from a lot of excellent workers. I know some colleges assign such work to a small group, even a single person, or even pay an outsider to do the work for them. I am most proud of the fact that our greatest accomplishments came as a result of a true team effort. Whether it was achieving regional accreditation, gaining membership in the Greater Cincinnati Consortium of Colleges and Universities, or creating new structures and processes, like the Assessment Committee and the year-end Assessment Week, involving everybody made the accomplishment even sweeter.

What are the greatest strengths of a GBS education?

Having the recognition that comes with being regionally accredited doesn't hurt. However, I would cite two things – the curriculum and the faculty. The

Academic Committee has been very serious about making sure every student not only gets the right training in his or her chosen major, but also that every student, regardless of major, has an excellent foundation in both Bible/theology and general education. Then there is the faculty. Simply the best. No contest.

What did you want to see accomplished that you were not able to get done?

Actually, academically we were able to accomplish all that I had hoped to do as VPAA. However, although I took very seriously my annual budget preparation, I was hoping to be part of a movement toward empowerment of budget managers so that they would have operational control over their part of the budget. We made steps in that direction but need to do even more.

Tell us about your successor.

Aaron Profitt is an excellent worker. A number of times I jokingly warned him not to make me look too bad after he takes over. That really isn't much of a joke – he IS that talented. He understands numbers/statistics, which I think is very critical for a good administrator. He is a quick worker. When I gave him an assignment, he often would surprise me by having it done early and done well. He has a wonderful wife and three fine boys. I can think of only one negative thing about Aaron – he wears bow ties!

What are some of the high points of your GBS days?

There are many. Playing Ping-Pong with Paula Kerr in the old rec room. Talking her into marrying me. Starting a family and watching the little Farmers have fun around campus. Being around great people like Leslie Wilcox and R.G. Flexon. Mentoring international students and helping them succeed in higher education. Great times! I will cherish the many years here at GBS – from my earliest memories as a kid here in the early '50s up to the day I stepped out of the academic affairs office and into new responsibilities with the Revivalist Press.

Give me your closing thoughts about GBS.

I feel like God helped us get GBS in a great place – properly positioned to take the next steps that will help GBS be more effective in accomplishing its mission in a world that desperately needs God. ■

I first met Dr. Farmer in General Psychology. He challenged us to think, and enjoyed the teaching and learning process in a way that helped shape my view of what college could and should be. From 2000 to 2003 I got to work closely with him when I was appointed registrar of GBS. I enjoyed his sense of humor and was grateful for wisdom that helped me keep on track while I learned a new role. What I most remember is his patient, persistent commitment to excellence. The results of his leadership are clearly seen in the way GBS grew academically during his tenure.

On a personal note, I'm grateful he believed in me and gave me a chance to grow. That changed my life. And, oh yes... I still have one of those "peon" ties that appeared every Christmas. It's probably out of style by now, but I still like it!

—Dr. Rodney Sones, Registrar
Ohio Christian University

Congratulations to you! You are a great professor, friend, and a true brother in the Lord. You touched many lives, especially international students like me who came to this country without any earthly family members with whom to share their personal problems. You were there for them. You and your family made them feel welcomed and at home. Your humor, jokes, and availability to talk made what could have been a difficult journey for many students an easy and bearable undertaking. Your contributions to our intellectual, personal, and professional development cannot be forgotten. Thank you so much for being there when we needed you.

—Dr. Patrick O. Anyalewechi
Professor, Wilberforce University

It has been a great privilege to have known Ken Farmer for almost forty years. (How can we be that old?) We went to college together in the '70s, we taught together through the '80s, and I have worked for Ken over the past eleven years. He has been a good friend, a terrific colleague, and a great boss. Congratulations, Ken, on your retirement!

—Dr. Marcia Davis, Teacher Ed Division Chair
God's Bible School and College

The ten-and-a-half years my wife and I spent at GBS were the best years of our lives, and Ken Farmer was one of the reasons. It was a joy for us to know Ken and his family. We thank them for being part of all the good memories while we were living and working there. May God bless you and your family in whatever the future may hold.

—Wayne Via, former Head of Maintenance
God's Bible School and College

Homecoming 2013

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DR. KEN FARMER

Homecoming 2013, October 11 and 12, was a very special time honoring Dr. Ken Farmer upon his retirement as vice president for academic affairs and also for his 25 years of service to GBS.

Following a banquet in the dining hall, it was my pleasure to be the master of ceremonies for the Friday night service that featured selected interviewees covering three general periods of Dr. Farmer's life: Early Days (with Betty Farmer); School Days (fellow trio members John Parker and Steve Vernon); A Dedicated Career (members of the Academic Committee). There were some really funny memories shared, but don't just take my word for it. Listen to the entire service at the following online link: www.godsrevivalist.com/bonus. Special music was provided by the college orchestra (prelude), Sharon Waggoner (accordion) and Dr. John Enyart (violin). Dr. Enyart also directed the alumni choir, and the GBS trio (Farmer, Parker, Vernon) sang "My Jesus I Love Thee" – the first song they sang together 38 years ago. President Avery made some closing remarks and gave Dr. Farmer a plaque and a monetary gift. The College Choir, directed by Tim Crater (this year's recipient of the Faculty/Staff Appreciation Award, closed the night with two wonderful songs. The alumni then gathered in the Miller/Deets Student Center for a Graeter's ice cream social.

Saturday breakfast gave an opportunity for reunion and fellowship. The Saturday morning service featured a devotional by Dr. Henry Smith, Chancellor of Indiana Wesleyan University. Dr. Smith was named GBS Alumnus of the Year in recognition of his significant contributions to Christian higher education. This was followed by the recognition of the 25- and 50-year graduates. Saturday concluded with a great homefest picnic on campus. Plenty of food and games attracted many alumni to spend the afternoon on the Hilltop. Special thanks to our business sponsors and our corporate sponsor, Christian Healthcare Ministries. We invite all of our GBS alumni to come back home to the Hilltop for Homecoming 2014, October 10-11. ■

—Jack Hooker, president,
National Alumni Association

Top to bottom, this page: John Parker, Steve Vernon, and Ken Farmer were the alumni reunion trio; Dr. Henry Smith was named Alumnus of the Year and gave the Saturday morning devotional; the alumni association hosted an ice cream social following the Friday evening service; Dr. John Enyart, with wife Elizabeth (Libby) on left and granddaughter (GBS student) Elizabeth Enyart center, directed the alumni choir and played a violin solo; Tim Crater received the staff/faculty award; Dr. Marcia Davis and the entire academic committee roasted Dr. Farmer.

GOD'S REVIVALIST and BIBLE ADVOCATE

08





50-Year Graduates (below, L to R):
 (front row) Colleen (Rose)
 Hambrock, Ruth Ann (Nemoga)
 Vernon, Lorana (Moshier)
 Sherman, W. Carole
 (Scarborough) Roush; (2nd row)
 Rosella (Poe) Kabellar, Dottie
 (Poe) Haskew, Carol (Edwards)
 Brown; (3rd row) John Enyart,
 Mark Vernon, Bob Van Cise;
 (top row) Jack Bimber, Richard
 L. Price, Monte Stetler.

25-Year Graduates (above, L to R): Ken Miles, David
 Brandon, Deanna (Campbell) Smith, Angie (Carlisle) Friday,
 Sherilyn (Bullock) Lombos, Robbie England.



Below, top to bottom: Betty (Wallace) Farmer “spilled the
 beans” on son Ken Farmer’s formative years; Sharon
 (Kirkman) Waggoner played an accordion solo from her
 recent recording project.



It was my privilege to work with Ken Farmer at GBS for seven years. During that time I watched a man with a deep loyalty and love for GBS. A man committed to academic excellence. A man who worked well with people and loved students. A man who could laugh even in the tough times. A man who was easy to talk to and had good advice and counsel. But most of all, I watched a man who is a genuine Christian. His life has been an encouragement and inspiration to me and a great contribution to GBS.

—Jack Hooker, President
 GBS Alumni Association

NEWS

from the Hilltop

KATIE NEWMAN JOINS ADEP STAFF

Katie Newman (GBS '13) graduated with a BA in church and family ministry with cognates in Christian counseling and social work (through the Greater Cincinnati Consortium of Colleges and Universities). She works as an assistant coordinator in GBS's Aldersgate



Distance Education Program and is being trained by Betty Jo Cochran to manage the ADEP office as Betty Jo will be transitioning out of that position in December.

RESERVE TICKETS NOW FOR 2013 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Hope for Every Man, written by Rev. Ben Durr Jr., will be staged in the Adcock Chapel on December 6 (7:30 PM), 7 (3:30 PM), and 8 (6:00 PM). A 100-voice choir, a 40-piece orchestra, and a cast of actors come together in this musical production. The story is about two men, from the same town but different circumstances, who are called to serve their country in Vietnam. William, a son of privilege, and Marty, a son of poverty, connect in a life-saving venture that begins overseas and continues stateside as both men confront challenging circumstances and search for a hope they do not possess. This

"hope" would reunite the veterans and spark within them a desire to know God personally and to be at peace in His presence.

TICKET INFORMATION: Each family may request up to five free tickets for one night only, available beginning October 21. After the fifth ticket, the cost is \$5 per ticket (please send payment with your order). **Phone/email orders will not be accepted.** All orders must be sent to the school with a self-addressed, stamped envelope.



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 **Kristin (England) (GBS HS '01, BA '06) and Mark Foster (GBS 2001-03)**, a son, **Graham Clayton Foster**, born October 7, 2013. Kristin teaches music at GBS where she directs the high school choir.



WEDDINGS

Beverly M. Hayes (GBS HS '63, BA '66) to Edsel Trouten (HS '58, ThB '61), June 15, 2013, at the Evert Bible Methodist Church in Evert, Michigan, Blake Jones officiating. Edsel

is currently the pastor of the Evert Bible Methodist Church. Beverly is now the "queen of the parsonage." Both were on staff for a time at GBS: Beverly in the Revivalist Press list room and Edsel as a teacher, cook, and later as campus pastor. Edsel will be soon celebrating 53 years of ministry.

DEATHS



Arnold Motz, 98, peacefully passed away at his home in Portland, Oregon, on August 15, 2013. He is remembered for his kindness and his commitment to his faith in God. He is predeceased by his wife, LaVern. He was a donor, friend, and annuitant with GBS. His commitment to missions blessed the entire world through the scores of missionaries who were supported through Woodland Park Chapel, where his memorial service was held.

Include the date you prefer and the number of tickets needed. Please contact the ticket coordinator at (513) 721-7944 if you do not plan to use your tickets.

Orders should be addressed as follows: *Christmas Program Ticket Request, God's Bible School and College, 1810 Young St., Cincinnati, OH 45202.*

No seats may be saved at anytime. Late individuals and re-entries will only be allowed with the assistance of an usher. Prelude music will begin thirty minutes prior to each performance. Child care will be provided. A freewill offering will be received at the close of each performance. Persons wishing to place an advertisement in the program bulletin should contact the Music Division at (513) 763-6546. ■



A Scene from the 2012 GBS Christmas Program



John Patrick Neville, 19, died in a car accident on September 8, 2013, near his home in New Richmond, Ohio. He is survived by his parents John (GBS BA '90) and Patricia (Sechrest) (GBS 1985-87) Neville; sister, Emily Brooke; his girlfriend Andrea Gee; numerous cousins; other relatives and friends. Many members of both the Neville and the Sechrest families attended GBS. Lank Sechrest, John Patrick's grandfather, was a long-term member of the GBS Board of Trustees. Services were held at the New Richmond Baptist Church with interment at Greenmound Cemetery.

Melvin Sapp, 78, passed away September 15, 2013, in Savannah, Georgia. The native and lifelong resident of Evans County was a member and deacon of Bible Holiness Church in Hagan. He rendered 40 years of service to Independent Life Insurance Company before his retirement. He also was a pecan grower and the

recipient of the 2012 Soil and Water Conservationist award for Evans County. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Betty; three sons, Kevin, Keith and Deryl; four sisters, Elizabeth, Ann Lynn, Vydene, Yvonne; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. The funeral was held at J. Mellie NeSmith Funeral Home Chapel with interment at Canoochee Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery.



Rev. Levi W. Whisner, 90, passed away September 8, 2013. "Brother Levi" was a preacher of the Gospel till his last breath. Most of his ministry was in the church he founded in Bradford, Ohio. It was there that he took a stand for Christian schools in the court case Ohio vs. Whisner. The unanimous decision by the Ohio Supreme Court purchased freedoms for churches and Christian schools all across the nation. He graduated from GBS (ThB '50) and ■

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72	5.4%	78	6.4%	84	7.6%	90+	9.0%

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➡ was a US Army WWII veteran, serving under General Patton. In 1949 he married Phyllis Leanna Hughes and they joyfully labored in the ministry together for 48 years. Phyllis passed away in 1997. Surviving Brother Levi are three daughters, Deborah, Leanna, Janice; a son, Dan; 15 grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held at the Community Chapel in Bradford, Ohio, Rev. Dan Whisner officiating. Interment was at Gettysburg Cemetery.

HITHER AND THITHER

Dr. Gareth Cockerill, Professor of Biblical Interpretation and Theology at Wesley Biblical Seminary, has been appointed vice president for academic affairs, a position he earlier held from 1985-89. Dr. Cockerill has 34 years of faculty or administrative involvement with WBS.

Dr. Duane T. Gish, 91, famed creationist debater, passed away March 5, 2013. He had served as a vice president at the Institute for Creation Research, and although retired from full-time ministry at age 84, he remained available to speak and write.

Daniel R. Hardy has assumed the presidency of Allegheny Wesleyan College in Salem, Ohio.

Jo Anne Lyon (GBS HS '58), General Superintendent for The Wesleyan Church, was 2013 recipient of the Nina Griggs Gunter Servant Leadership Award. Lyon is the third recipient of the award which recognizes women servant leaders. Senator Elizabeth Dole was the first recipient.

Gordon L. Snider is the new editor of publications for the Herald and Banner Press, Overland Park, Kansas. Gordon, active for many years in missionary work, replaces Mark Avery, who was editor for 16 years before taking a pastoral assignment.

Dr. Rodney Sones (GBS BA '89), director of the Ohio Christian University Chorale and Chamber Singers was invited to conduct the Circleville Community Choir in a performance of the Joseph Martin musical *Of Faith and Freedom* as part of the city and county bicentennial celebration. Dr. Sones was a GBS faculty member from 1991-2003.

Monte Stetler was recently honored for his 11 years as General Missions Treasurer of the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches. Monte served administratively at GBS in the finance area from 1995 to 2001 and is serving on the board since 2008.

Amy Weddle (BA '12), who had been teaching in Hope Evangelical Bible Academy in Guatemala, is now homeschooling missionary children in Honduras. 📌

Dedicated to God. Encourager. Mentor. Friend. Wise advisor. Cheerful. Helpful. Fun-loving. Inspirer. Seeker of excellence. These are some of the words that come to mind when I think about Dr. Farmer. His work while he served so admirably as academic dean at Kansas City College and Bible School has had lasting impact. We are grateful for his influence, his example, his walk with God, and his continuing friendship.

—Dorothy Purtle, Academic Dean
Kansas City College and Bible School

Ken has made a very valuable contribution to the academics of GBS and all while maintaining his great sense of humor. He has a genuine love for the school and has shown it by his tireless work in the accreditation process as well as all the other work he has been involved in as VP for academic affairs. Thank you, Ken!

—Viola (Miller) Durr, former GBS faculty member
current member, GBS Board of Trustees

Ken Farmer has made a magnificent contribution to GBS. His leadership through all the twists and turns of the path leading to accreditation has been marked by intelligence, humor, and persistence. His sense of humor has relieved many a conversation, and though his purpose is usually clear and well-thought-out, he nudges us toward accomplishment with kindness, affirmation, and good sense. I have been inspired by his positive outlook in spite of physical problems that would crush most of us. His Christian witness to the community is also positive and commendable. God give Dr. Farmer many years yet in His service.

—Larry D. Smith, Editor
God's Revivalist

Ken Farmer was not your normal GBS student when he arrived on the hilltop in 1974! Fresh from a stint in the U.S. Air Force during the "Cold War," a child of the '60s, and a new Christian, Ken was outstanding! Actually, it might be better stated, he stood out! From his wild hair style, to his worldly wisdom, to his "Cool Dude" demeanor, he stood out! Truth is, I was a bit suspicious. But then I saw Ken in that old prayer room beneath the chapel more than about anyone else! I heard him give his testimony of how God had transformed his life! I discovered that the "Cool Dude" was FOR REAL!

Some of my best memories were made traveling in a GBS singing group with Ken. I discovered a long list of things that I admire about the guy I'll always call "Farmer." We have so many good memories, including the day Dr. R.G. Flexon dedicated our first-born sons. No trip to the old Hilltop is complete without a stop in Farmer's office to pick up where we left off. I have to say, I'm sorta', kinda' proud of that West Virginia boy! CONGRATULATIONS FARMER! I'm so thankful that you chose to invest your life in our dear alma mater!

—John D. Parker, Pastor
Westfield, Indiana

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

SEPTEMBER ISSUE ON PORNOGRAPHY

I am so proud to see GBS taking such a straightforward approach to such a huge issue in both our world culture and church culture today. I obviously cannot share the details of the many Christian leaders with whom I have interacted regarding this problem, but I can tell you that it is rampant in all areas of the church. One of the major aspects of mentoring a leader is the accountability factor. This frank discussion may give some of our young leaders a way of escape and hope for restoration in Jesus Christ. Thank you for your willingness to take on the giant elephant in the living room and for confronting those who deal with it in integrity and love.



MARLON KING
Virginia Beach, VA

We were very disappointed in the last issue of the *Revivalist*, especially the cover. Seems like a holiness school would be able to publish a cover for their publication that would be more encouraging. We know that porn is a bad problem, but is it up to a Christian school to devote most of the magazine to it? Just my point of view!

MR. AND MRS. FRED MOORE
Abbeville, SC

The issue of *God's Revivalist* dealing with porno is absolutely the best treatise on this subject that I have ever seen. I truly appreciated your contribution. Thank you!

REV. ARTHUR M. YATES
evangelist, Moss, TN

I was very impressed with the issue. You did a great job! Thanks for allowing Dave and me to be a part ["This Is God's Story: My Deliverance from a Life of Porn," by Melvin Adams, Jr., p.6; "The Power of Higher Pursuits," by Dave Bowerman, p.8]. I personally have been blessed by the response I have already received and am sure God is using this issue in many people's lives.

MELVIN ADAMS, JR.
Director of Development, Higher Pursuits
Hobe Sound, FL

In the recent months I have been very impressed with the sound Biblical content and new appearance of the *Revivalist*. You have stayed true to the message but greatly improved the content of the message and made it more attractive to read. I wish someone would give the money for the September 2013 issue to be sent to every pastor. God bless you for being bold and courageous enough to deal with this evil.

DR. CLYDE DUPIN
Wesleyan pastor and crusade evangelist
Kernersville, NC

Praise God, you have tackled a taboo subject. You all hit the ball out of the park. I have been talking to pastors and church leaders for a year-and-a-half about how we are missing it and that this area is a real ministry that needs to be addressed. I am connected to a ministry in Indiana that works with the over-the-road truck drivers and wish to purchase 25 copies of this issue. P.S. Also absolutely loved GBS choir at our church, Southport Nazarene, earlier this year.

BUD KATZMAREK, SR.
New Palestine, IN

I am writing to express my appreciation for your recent issue on pornography. The articles were relevant and enlightening. My special thanks to those who were willing to share from their own experiences, and for your willingness to present this topic. Could you send me information on how to obtain additional copies?

GARRY WARINER
Email

Back issues of *God's Revivalist* are \$2.00 per copy + P & H while supplies last. Call (513) 763-6650.

NOVEMBER 2013

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Dear Phil

HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT GOD REALLY SAID?

I've heard we don't have any of the original manuscripts of the Bible. If that's true, how can we be sure about what God really said?
 —S.M. Perplexed

Dear S.M. Perplexed,
 Imagine a 3rd grade teacher composing a lengthy poem on her classroom whiteboard and asking her 24 students to copy it. Later that day, while the students are at recess, the school room catches fire and destroys the whiteboard along with the poem. Four of the students' papers are burned beyond recovery, but twenty copies suffer relatively little damage.

Could we reconstruct the original poem from the remaining 3rd graders' copies? I think there is a good probability that we could. Would there be mistakes in the 3rd graders' copies? Very likely, but most mistakes could easily be resolved by comparing all the surviving copies.

What if there were a place where the students' papers were split 50/50 regarding the text? Then we would evaluate the meter and rhyme of the poem to see which of the options best fits the context. If that did not solve our dilemma, we would ask "Do either of the options alter the poem's meaning?" If the answer is no, then we would be satisfied that one of the two options is correct, and it doesn't really matter which one is chosen. If the

answer is yes, we would go with the option that seems to best fit the immediate context, meter, rhyme, and poem's topic.

Imagine one last scenario with me. What if, by some strange providence, every surviving copy was missing one word in the middle of the poem? Would that mean that we don't have the poem? No, of course not. Rather, it would mean that we would be less sure about what exactly that one word was. But, again, since we have all the rest of the poem, we could narrow down the options to no more than a handful of words that would fit that place in the poem.

Now, do we have the original poem? No, we don't. Do we have the original text of the poem? Yes, we do! We have close to 99.9% of the original text. Even if we are unsure about the correct words in a few places, we know quite a bit about those places: (1) where they are, (2) what the options are, (3) whether the options significantly change the meaning of the surrounding text, and (4) what words are not options, given the meter, rhyme, context, and topic of the poem.

This is the case with Scripture. It is true: we do not possess any

original manuscripts of any book of the Bible. However, in contrast to my fictional story with only twenty copies of the poem, we have thousands of Greek copies of the NT books, and hundreds of Hebrew copies of the OT books.

Perhaps the following statistics will help. Out of the hundreds of thousands of differences among all the witnesses to the NT text, 90% of them are spelling differences, like the difference between "Savior" and "Saviour." Of the thousands of differences left, 90% of them are word order differences; for example, "Jesus Christ" versus "Christ Jesus." Of the hundreds of differences left, 90% of them make no appreciable difference in the meaning of the text, like "God and Father" versus "God and the Father." That leaves only 0.1% of all the hundreds of thousands of differences among the witnesses that actually affect the meaning of the text! And, of those, not one affects any major doctrine of the NT. Not one!

We don't have original manuscripts, but we do know what the original text is with a 99.9% accuracy. Further, we know precisely where there are questions about the original text's wording. And, as with my hypothetical poem, we know (1) what the options are, (2) what the implications of those options are for the text's meaning, and (3) what words are not options, given the nature of the manuscripts, the surrounding context, and the topic under discussion.

The original, inspired text of God's word has been marvelously preserved, and we have it! Thanks be to God.

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.

As bass singer for the GBS quartet back in the '70s, Ken was a stabilizing factor. When John Parker and Steve Vernon had their squabbles, Ken was there to referee and add his unique humor to the situation. As pianist for the quartet, I enjoyed getting acquainted with Ken's family and could see why Ken was such a great guy with parents like Elmer and Betty Farmer, two of the finest folk God ever made. Ken has had a great impact on many people, and it is fitting to honor him for his commitment to God and His work.

—Dorothy (Bowen) Klass, Minister of Education and Music
Morehead United Methodist Church

Dr. Ken Farmer is a congenial person. Although challenged by multiple sclerosis, he never complained or shirked his professional responsibilities. He is loyal to his friends, although he sometimes has a "quirky" way of showing it. By this I mean that he would feel free to "pick on" his friends through good-natured "put-downs." Dr. Farmer has a thirst for God's Word and endeavors to read through the entire Bible each year. He was always reasonable and sincerely desired the best for each of his faculty.

—Dr. Allan Brown, Ministerial Division Chair
God's Bible School and College

One of Dr. Ken Farmer's greatest accomplishments was leading and championing our pursuit for regional accreditation. He spent many hours working in PageMaker on projects, such as the college academic catalogs, ensuring that the layout and pictures were absolutely perfect. He could hardly ever look at a project without offering a suggestion to improve its quality. If you ventured into the Ad Building during evenings and Saturdays, you often would find Dr. Farmer in his office. He not only was putting out massive quantities of work, but the work was of superb quality. Even while facing a battle with multiple sclerosis, he never complained about his lot in life and rarely talked about his problems. Through all the difficulties, he remained cheerful, upbeat, witty, and sarcastic (in a fun way). It truly was a privilege to call him "boss."

—Chris Lambeth, Registrar
God's Bible School and College

When I think of Ken, the words of Proverbs 27:17 come to mind: "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." Ken, thank you for your dedication to GBS, the untold hours you put into the accreditation process, and the benefits the entire college has received as a result of that achievement. I have always respected your loyalty to the faculty and advocacy on their behalf. Thank you for the memories, the laughs, for being a sounding board, and, most of all, a friend. Now go get the coffee yourself!

—Dave Frederick, Director of Finance
God's Bible School and College

Working closely with Dr. Farmer elicits several descriptors. Humor – Ken regularly placed a smile on my face and laughter in our offices. Professionalism – Ken's accomplishments encouraged me to strive for higher professional achievement in my own responsibilities. Intelligence – He is a highly gifted intellect, making "picking his brain" a rewarding exercise. Integrity – The foundation for Ken's life is faith in God evidenced through faithfulness to the Bible in study and practice. His life is marked by being a man faithful to his word because he is loyal to God's Word. I trust Ken completely and my life is better because of his influence and friendship.

—Richard Miles, Vice President for Student Affairs
God's Bible School and College



student focus

As the daughter of missionaries, **BROOKE RAUSCHENBERGER** moved to Haiti at only four years of age. A few years later, still a young child, she was hit by a truck on the mission field. God miraculously spared her life then, and she seeks to fulfill His purpose for her now. Being at GBS is part of that purpose.

Though raised in a Christian home, she didn't fully understand a personal relationship with Christ until 16 years of age when God spoke to her during a youth camp. Since then, she has learned to rely on Him; to trust Him with all aspects of her life.

Of her decision to attend GBS, Brooke says it "has probably been one of the biggest and best decisions for me." Here, she is learning about God, His love, and His purpose for her life. Her favorite part about being a student on campus is the Christian environment – living with other students who are likewise seeking God's will for their lives. ■

Seventy-five percent of our students receive some form of financial aid which enables them to attend GBS. If you would like to support Brooke or a student like her, 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

I had worked with the college during its pursuit of initial accreditation with AABC (now ABHE). While it ultimately achieved the standards of accreditation, at that time it would not have been a model institution to hold up as an example for others pursuing the accreditation process. As the institution has grown and developed under Dr. Farmer's leadership, it has become an institution that does in fact serve as a model these days. With the leadership's permission, ABHE has shared accreditation materials generated by the college with other institutions as good examples of how they should be developed. Dr. Farmer has been a valuable source of advice to ABHE over the years and has also served effectively on accreditation teams. On a personal note, I have counted Dr. Farmer among my valued friends. He has certainly enriched my life, and I hope that our paths will continue to cross from time to time in the future.

—Dr. Randall Bell, Director Emeritus
ABHE Commission on Accreditation

If I am not mistaken, I first saw Dr. Farmer at a distance in the summer of 1977 when my landscape crew was engaged in a massive project following the construction of the Miller-Deets Student Center. His appearance on campus at that time caught my attention, which must have prompted me to inquire about him. It was not until 1980 when I joined the GBS faculty that I got to know him. I was impressed with his fertile mind and commitment to Christian education. I especially remember him for his cheerful countenance, disarming smile, and his soft-speaking voice.

—Dr. Robert England
Bible College Administrator (GBS, UBC, AWC)

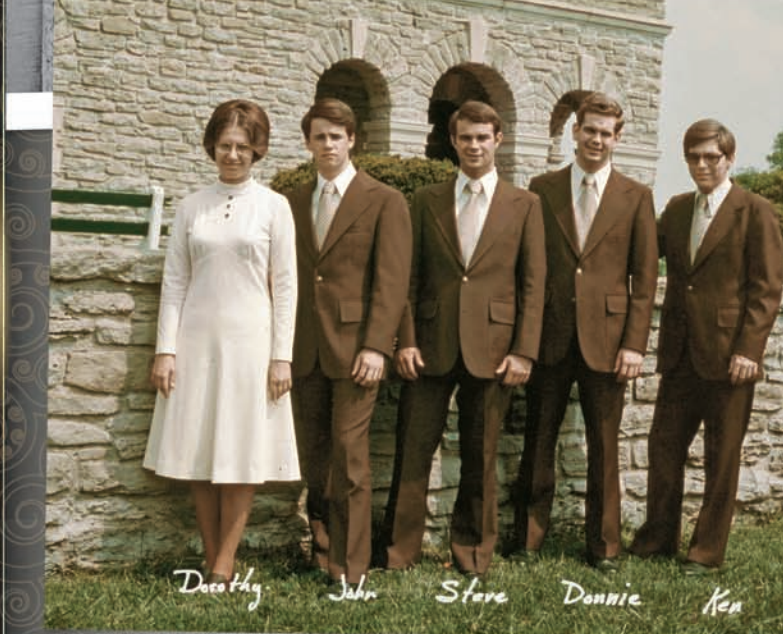
Dr. Ken Farmer is a person of DEDICATION. He has maintained commitment to the way of holiness. His careful and thorough annual reports on the GBS academic department reveal his mastery of DETAILS. He clearly also manifests DISCIPLINE. Added to these characteristics, there is remarkable DELIGHT. He has a strong sense of humor. There is also his DISTINCTION. To his BRE degree earned at God's Bible School, he added three masters' and a doctorate; and during his period as VP for academic affairs, God used him to bring GBS to the heights of accreditation.

—Dr. A. Wingrove Taylor, long-time member
GBS Board of Trustees

Dr. Farmer supported me and empowered me to do my job, and still gave the perfect amount of guidance and accountability to keep me on track. That's excellent leadership!

—Dr. Mark Bird, Director
GBS Aldersgate Distance Education Program

GOD'S REVIVALIST and BIBLE ADVOCATE



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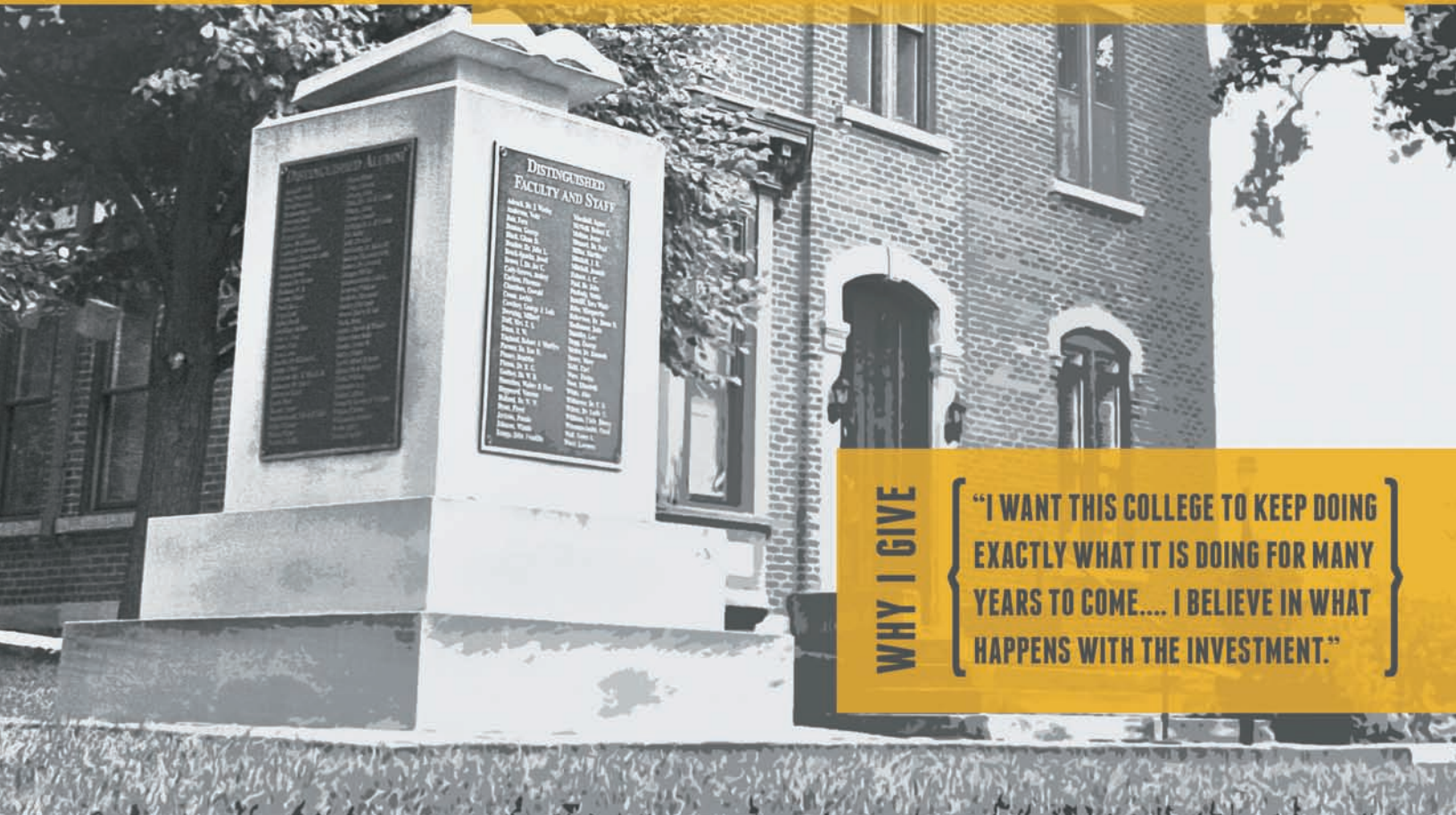
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Office of Advancement

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As former principal of Aldersgate Christian Academy, I had the privilege of working closely with Dr. Ken Farmer for eight years. During those years he became my friend, confidant, and mentor. He always took time to listen and to give helpful insight and constructive criticism when needed. I am forever indebted to him for helping me grow professionally. He taught me the importance of both short- and long-range planning and then how to document the success in well-developed board reports. I took it as a personal challenge to document any changes that he made to my reports and endeavored to learn how to do it better. It was a monumental day for me professionally when there were no changes in my board report! Dr. Farmer, thanks for stretching me professionally. When I receive compliments, I am reminded of your patient, yet gentle, insistence on professionalism. I am grateful for God's sovereignty in allowing our paths to cross; you have made a difference in my life!

—David Crosley, Administrative Pastor and Principal, Bedford, Indiana

During my nine student years at GBS (high school and college), I spent several Christmases and Thanksgiving Days as a guest in the home of Ken and Paula Farmer. Those were happy occasions! I will never forget the summer he traveled with the GBS quartet as its public relations representative. Although he had three children and was years older than any of the rest of us, at least two of the student musicians were convinced they consistently behaved more maturely than their leader! Such delightful memories! Congratulations, Dr. Ken. Since retiring from academic affairs administration and taking on brand new responsibilities in the Revivalist Press, you now have the added privilege of being my boss!

—Kevin Moser, Art Director, Assistant Editor Revivalist Press

Dr. Ken Farmer exemplifies the mission of God's Bible School and College by demonstrating service to others for more than four decades – as a soldier, as an educator, as an administrator, and as a faithful husband, father, and son. His service to faculty and staff fosters a tension-free, humor-filled environment while encouraging hard work by “good people” who love each other and are working for a greater purpose. With a passion for institutional excellence and accomplished efforts to gain regional accreditation, he has made a most positive difference in the quality of student life and the success of generations of students.

—Dr. Jana Pop, Music Division Chair God's Bible School and College

GOD'S REVIVALIST and BIBLE ADVOCATE



Carlton, Katrina, and Kenneth Ray



Ken with GBS campus kids - late '80s





REFLECTIONS ON HOW GOD LEADS

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

Scriptures:

“At the commandment of the LORD they rested in the tents, and at the commandment of the LORD they journeyed: they kept the charge of the LORD, at the commandment of the LORD by the hand of Moses” (Numbers 9:23).

“And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:17).

Most Christians would agree that finding and doing the will of God is vitally important. However, *finding* God’s will seems harder, or at least more open to debate, than *doing* God’s will. Finding God’s will involves, among other things, knowing how to interpret our inner impressions.

I was recently sitting around a campfire with a group of Christian men when I was asked, “How reliable are impressions?” That is a difficult question to answer. What would you have said to the questioner? Most of us understand that if an impression is not in harmony with God’s Word, then it is not from God and should be rejected. But there are many impressions or “leadings” that are not contrary to God’s Word. How does a Christian discern whether or not these impressions are from God?

Some books¹ on this subject suggest that in order for an impression to be from God, it must be

1. scriptural (in harmony with the teaching of Scripture),
2. right (in harmony with God’s will as revealed in man’s moral nature),
3. providential (in harmony with God’s will as revealed in His providential dealings), and
4. reasonable (in harmony with God’s will as revealed to a spiritually enlightened judgment).

These principles are, in general, useful for discerning whether or not a given impression is from God. But they are not without exception. Indeed, as we search the Scriptures, we learn that God’s leadership often makes no sense (contra reasonable), appears to contradict itself (contra providential), and in rare cases seems completely wrong (contra right). Considering the following passages:

God asked Abraham to relinquish everything that had constituted his identity and security – his homeland, his people, and his family – and go to a place that he had never been (Heb. 11:8). Does that sound “reasonable”?

God made a promise to Abraham that he and Sarah would have a son. Time passed and nothing happened. Indeed, nearly 25 years went by and Abraham was “as good as dead” with regard to procreation (Heb. 11:12). Does that seem “providential”?

God asked Abraham to take his “only” son Isaac and offer him as a burnt offering (Gen 22). And even though God stopped Abraham before he actually killed Isaac, figuratively speaking, Isaac was already dead (Heb. 11:17-19). Does that sound “right”?

Leaving these above examples of exceptions to the four suggestions Martin Wells Knapp gave for testing inward impressions, Let’s move on to the role of “callings” or “visions” from God. What would you expect to discover if you, like Paul, had a “Macedonian vision?” The apostle Paul had a vision one night in which he saw “a man of Macedonia” who spoke to him and urged Paul to come to Macedonia “to help us” (Acts 16:9).

Paul evidently believed the vision was from God because he changed his plans and went to Macedonia. However, when he arrived he found no man awaiting him! Nor was his work primarily with men at all! What he did find was a woman, by a river side, whose name was Lydia. She was open to his ministry and Paul interpreted her openness as guidance from God. And when Lydia offered accommodations to Paul and his traveling friends, they accepted.

Paul accepted her invitation, he reports, because “she persuaded us” (Acts 16:15).

It seems that even in a God-given “vision” one should not press the details and expect that everything seen in the vision will be duplicated in real life experience. What Paul found was that the Macedonian vision was God’s way of giving him geographical directions. It told him nothing of what would happen once there, or what would be expected of him. Nor did Paul stay there forever. The implication from this suggests that even if you do have God’s clear leadings, ministry and vocational situations may have their time limits as well. In other words, a person is not necessarily locked into one specific ministry opportunity forever.

What are we to make of this? Are we without any real guidance when it comes to discerning God’s will? Fortunately not! God’s Word gives us several principles which shed light on how God leads. This in turn can help us when we are evaluating a given impression.

God leads us in the light. It is essential for us to be daily walking in the light of the Word. How can we expect to discern God’s will for what we don’t know if we are not obeying Him in what we do know? Paul tells us in Ephesian 5:8b-10 that a life of obedience is a prerequisite to being able to prove “what is acceptable unto the Lord.”

God leads us step by step. The Christian life is not like following a road map—rather, it is like following a shepherd. A shepherd does not tell his sheep, “Now I’m going to be taking you along the side of Farmer Brown’s cornfield and then over to the south pasture. If we get separated, or if you want to go a different way, meet us there.” No, the shepherd leads the sheep one step at a time and they follow wherever he leads. This is how God led the people of Israel through the wilderness (Num. 9).

God leads us to train us. Consider how a dog trainer teaches a dog to stay. He tells the dog to stay, walks away, and then scolds the dog if it follows. If it stays, he praises and rewards the dog. Sometimes the trainer will deliberately bait the dog (mess with its dish, go around a corner) just to see if it will stay. Why? He wants to train the dog so that it stays or moves only on command—we call this obedience training. There is a great discipline to the Lord’s leading. What in our opinion may seem to be whimsical on God’s part (as though God was yanking us around for no reason) often has as its primary objective the teaching of obedience. God wants to us to learn to move on His command.

God leads us to humble us. There are few things more humbling than the experience of being without food and water. Indeed, fasting is often connected with people humbling themselves in repentance before God and seeking His will (cf. 2 Sam. 12:13-17; Ezra 8:21-23). This is how God led the people of Israel in the wilderness (Deut. 8:1-3). He purposely brought them to places where there was no water. He deliberately led them to where they would be attacked by the Amalekites (Exod. 17:8-16). Why would He do this? God wanted them to learn complete dependence on Him. In the same way, He will lead us into situations and circumstances that force us to rely solely on Him.

God leads us through our authorities. The apostle Paul regularly emphasized the importance of submitting to and obeying those in authority over us. Wives are to obey their husbands (Eph. 5:22), children are to obey their parents (Eph. 6:1), slaves are to obey their masters (Eph. 6:5), people are to obey their governments (Rom. 13:1-8), and believers are to obey their pastors/elders (1 Thess. 5:12-13). Be sure to ask your spiritual authority about any impressions you have. God will very often lead us through their advice and counsel. That’s why it’s important for us to humble ourselves and submit to their leadership.

As we bring our reflections on how God leads to a conclusion, let’s remember that God does promise to lead and guide us, if our hearts are 100% dedicated to doing His will. If we have no clear leadership to help us decide whether or not an impression, or even a good opportunity, is truly from the Lord, we can pray and ask God to stop us if doing it is not His will. But we also need to remember that sensing a “need” is not necessarily a “call.” People can make us aware of many genuine needs in this fallen world. However, a need, even one that touches you deeply, should not be taken as an automatic invitation from God to meet it. You must weigh the opportunity along with other priorities and obligations you already have and feel free before the Lord to respond or not in light of your full range of commitments. Richard Foster wisely warns us, “saying yes to an opportunity can in effect be saying no to a commitment you’ve already made, for you deplete the energy you have for responding to that prior commitment.” ■

1. See for example, Martin Wells Knapp, *Impressions*. Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, 1984 rpt, p. 49.

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.

BRAZIL. Gospel Publishing Mission



(GPM) is gearing up to distribute literature at the 2014 World Cup in Rio, Brazil. GPM will produce and publish 1.1 million books. They will be designed much like the "London12" book, but with all-new content especially for those who attend the 2014 World Cup. This book will be bilingual with Portuguese and International English. They will also send a team to help with distribution in Rio de Janeiro. GPM was also blessed with a local Brazilian partner – the United Bible Society of Brazil. The Bible Society will distribute the books in all 12 "game cities." If you would like to contribute to assist with the printing of the books or you are interested in

being a part of the distribution team, contact GPM at P.O. Box 1065, Hobe Sound, FL 33475.

CHINA. Evangelistic Faith Missions (EFM)



has started a China Outreach Program and is looking for people who are willing to go to China as a business person or to teach business classes, teach English, or study Chinese. Opportunities are available for teaching English from kindergarten to postgraduate levels. EFM will assist by mentoring you into a position there. Those interested in spending at least one year in China should contact EFM at (765) 602-1305.

INDIA. Andrew (GBS BA '05) and Morgan



(Litchfield) (GBS BA 2008-09) Street are just getting settled at Allahabad, India. Andrew met with a church leader who is overseeing several new churches and church plants. His main responsibility is to train more trainers, who plant churches and train lay pastors to lead the flock and more lay pastors to plant 2nd or 3rd generation churches. In just the recent few years, around 20 churches have been planted in this man's regional "district." This meshes nicely with God's call to the Streets "to train and equip pastors and church planters in the 10/40 window to reach their own people. There are many more churches and church planters that need to be raised up. Your prayers and gifts make it possible for us to put the knowledge of God's Word in the hands of those who are called to share it." Hindi language studies are now officially underway and going well. The

two children seem to be adjusting well and love playing outside with their new campus friends.

ISRAEL. John E. Knight

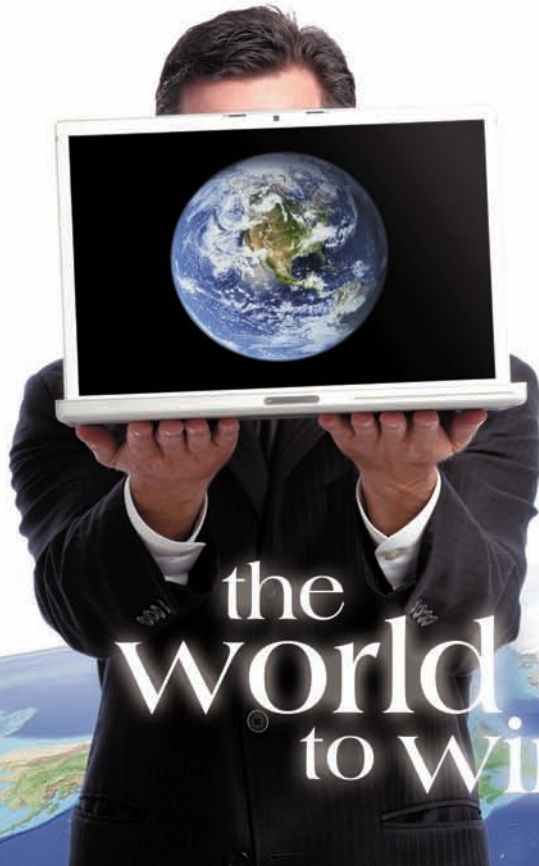


plans to go to Tiberias of Galilee soon. The certificate for the Amuta, registered with the Israeli Ministry of Justice, states the purpose there is to "provide housing for children who left their homes for any reason, children in need, children from dysfunctional families, children without a guardian, children without parental care, and children at risk." They will call this the "House of Manasseh Ephraim" (H.O.M.E.) project. They have established an office in Tiberias. Pray for them as they will be working on securing tax exempt status for the work as well as trying to find a house to be the "H.O.M.E."

ROMANIA. Ryan and Andrea Colson report



that things are going "surprisingly well" for them in Romania. Of course there are the normal difficulties living in a different culture and for Ryan as he is learning the language. They are currently in the village of Zagon, Romania, where they hope to minister. There is a building available for them to use for ministry. This earlier was a place where many children came and were loved in Jesus' name. Ryan remembers being there in 2004 when it was filled with teenagers and children. They look forward to the day when it is once again a place filled with the village folk and young people and with God's presence. Pray that God will give Ryan and Andrea a clear vision of what their ministry is to be there. ■



the world to win

Randy Alcorn's

the Purity Principle: God's Safeguards for Life's Dangerous Trails



Purity is always smart and impurity is always stupid – not just sinful. This is the basic premise of *The Purity Principle*, Randy Alcorn's passionate plea for readers to live a life of sexual purity.

In this 94-page book, Alcorn argues that anyone acting with enlightened self-interest will not choose immorality because of the cost incurred. "A holy God made the universe in such a way that actions true to His character, and the laws derived from His character, are always rewarded. Actions that violate His character, however, are always punished" (16).

All people are programmed to seek their own good, but unless they are obeying God's commands about sexual purity, they will never attain their greatest good. "Satan's greatest victories and our biggest defeats come when he gets us to ask, 'Should I choose what God commands...or should I do what's best for me?' The very framing of the question shows how deceived we are" (18).

With this in mind, Alcorn has filled this little book with common sense, and, yes, even desperate measures for overcoming temptation. He has little patience with the excuses of failure and clearly believes that we are not at the mercy of our temptations. This is a battle we can win given proper motivation and wise strategy. Defeat is not inevitable. He rhetorically asks, "If someone put a gun to your head and said that he would pull the trigger if you looked at pornography, would you do it?" (59).

Radical steps mean cutting off what is *convenient* and *entertaining* if it is the gateway to sin. Alcorn's advice mirrors the words of Jesus about gouging out the right eye and cutting off the right hand if they cause one to stumble morally. Alcorn reprimands those who complain about the sacrifices necessary in the battle against sexual immorality. "Followers of Jesus have endured torture and given their lives in obedience to

him. And we're whining about giving up cable... Purity only comes to those who truly want it" (68-69).

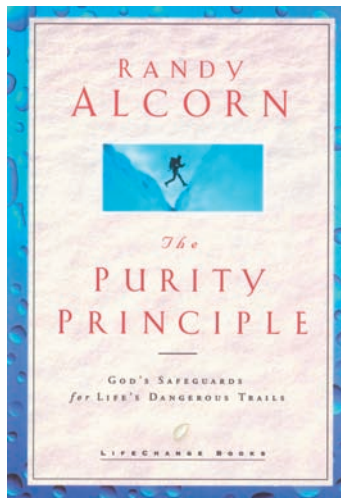
"The battle is too intense, and the stakes are too high to approach purity casually or gradually" (p 64). A less-than-drastic approach will not succeed in a highly sensual culture. Romans 13:14 instructs believers to "make no provision for the flesh." It's a sin to deliberately put ourselves in a position where we'll likely commit sin (66). The movies we watch, the way we use internet and cell phones, the friends with whom we associate, our music, the places we attend, if they don't promote purity, cut them off.

For all of its strengths, this book has several limitations. It is not necessarily a book for those who

have already fallen into sexual immorality and are now dealing with the devastating consequences. For those individuals, there are plenty of other resources available. It also may not sufficiently deal with the matter of the heart (perhaps because of its brevity). Jesus said, "Out of the heart come evil thoughts – murder, adultery, sexual immorality..." (Matthew 15:19). Only when the heart is changed and filled with the satisfying Spirit of God, will one be empowered to resist the lure of the immoral. Any successful strategy for conquering lust must involve the heart, the mind, and the hand.

Alcorn does a good job with the mind (providing the rationale for purity) and the hand (strategies), but what he says about the heart is mostly confined to two pages (38-39).

That being said, I know of no better resource advocating a pure lifestyle than this little volume. Many readers testify that they couldn't put the book down. The short time invested in reading the book stands in sharp contrast to the lifetime of reward that can follow by implementing the wise counsel contained in this book. Get it. Read it once a year. Pass it on to others. ■



My friendship with Ken goes back to 1976 when I first arrived on the campus of GBS. Having just graduated from there, Ken was enrolled in Xavier University and soon joined GBS's faculty as a psychology professor. During those years when I served as academic dean, our friendship grew as we worked with the challenges of record enrollments and preparing documents for accreditation. I quickly recognized Ken's skill in being able to analyze complex issues and communicate them in understandable terms. Later I was delighted to learn that he had been appointed as vice president to lead the academic affairs of the college. In the ensuing years our friendship continued to grow as our paths crossed many times at professional conferences and other venues. GBS has truly been blessed to have the service of Dr. Farmer and his skilled academic leadership. It is Carol's and my prayer that he and Paula will enjoy many wonderful days ahead as they move into this new phase of life.

—Joe Brown, Academic Dean (retired)
Ohio Christian University

Dr. Farmer has been an "agent of change" in the best sense of that statement. He brought academic preparation, classroom experience, administrative acumen, and long patience to God's Bible School when we were on the cusp of either advancement or decline. His work in guiding the school through the accrediting process has been superlative. His motivation to push us to excellence, even while battling his own physical challenges, is inspiring to us all.

—Dr. Leonard Sankey, Chair
GBS Board of Trustees

I very much enjoyed working with Dr. Farmer over the years and have always been so impressed with the folks I have worked with from GBS. You all have been a marvelous addition to the Greater Cincinnati Consortium of Colleges and Universities and have contributed from the very beginning. I wish him all the best. Remember, the good years are behind and the great ones are ahead!

—Janet Piccirillo
Executive Director, GCCCU

I'm glad to join Kenny's many friends in giving him the honor he deserves. I have known him for almost 40 years, first as a fellow student and then as a coworker at GBS. I remember him for his "can-do" spirit as a student, quartet member, and faculty member. I have also enjoyed his sense of humor and appreciate his strong work ethic. His service on the Hilltop will be long remembered. I wish him a long and happy retirement.

—Carol (Wiseman) Smith, GBS Class of 1978
former GBS Admissions Director



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THOUGHTS

for the quiet hour

by Sonja Vernon

TRUE SECURITY

"...hide yourself by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. It shall be that you will drink of the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to provide for you there." "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and stay there; behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." —I Kings 17:3b-4,9 NASB

IRAs, 401Ks, stocks, bonds, commodities – our plans for the future ebb and flow with the economic tide. We research, diversify, and tweak our portfolios in an attempt to feel a sense of security in our increasingly unstable world. Of course God expects us to be good stewards and wisely use what He has entrusted, but in an age of increasing self-reliance I'm afraid we have forgotten a simple fact. Any security we provide for ourselves is not true security. Circumstances change. Currency devalues. Markets crash. Now consider the prophet, Elijah, hiding from King Ahab. He had delivered God's message and was a wanted man. To all appearances he had no security and no back-up plan, but every time a need arose God had already taken care of it. Whether it was by speaking to ravens or preparing a widow, God was always two steps ahead. What if we actually believed that the God of Elijah was still alive and well and would provide for His own? What if He tended the sparrows and clothed the lilies? What if we were of more value to Him than any other created thing? What if we began to live as children of a Great Provider? True security would be ours indeed! ■

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

NOVEMBER 2013



GOD'S BIBLE SCHOOL & COLLEGE



Dear SBS Family,

Thank you for your generous support of our annual Phonathon! Your gifts enabled us to meet our goal and raise \$120,000. These funds help provide student scholarships and facilitate our Work Study Program - making it possible for many of us to attend God's Bible School and College. Thank you for investing in a worthy cause!

Sincerely,
SBS Students

