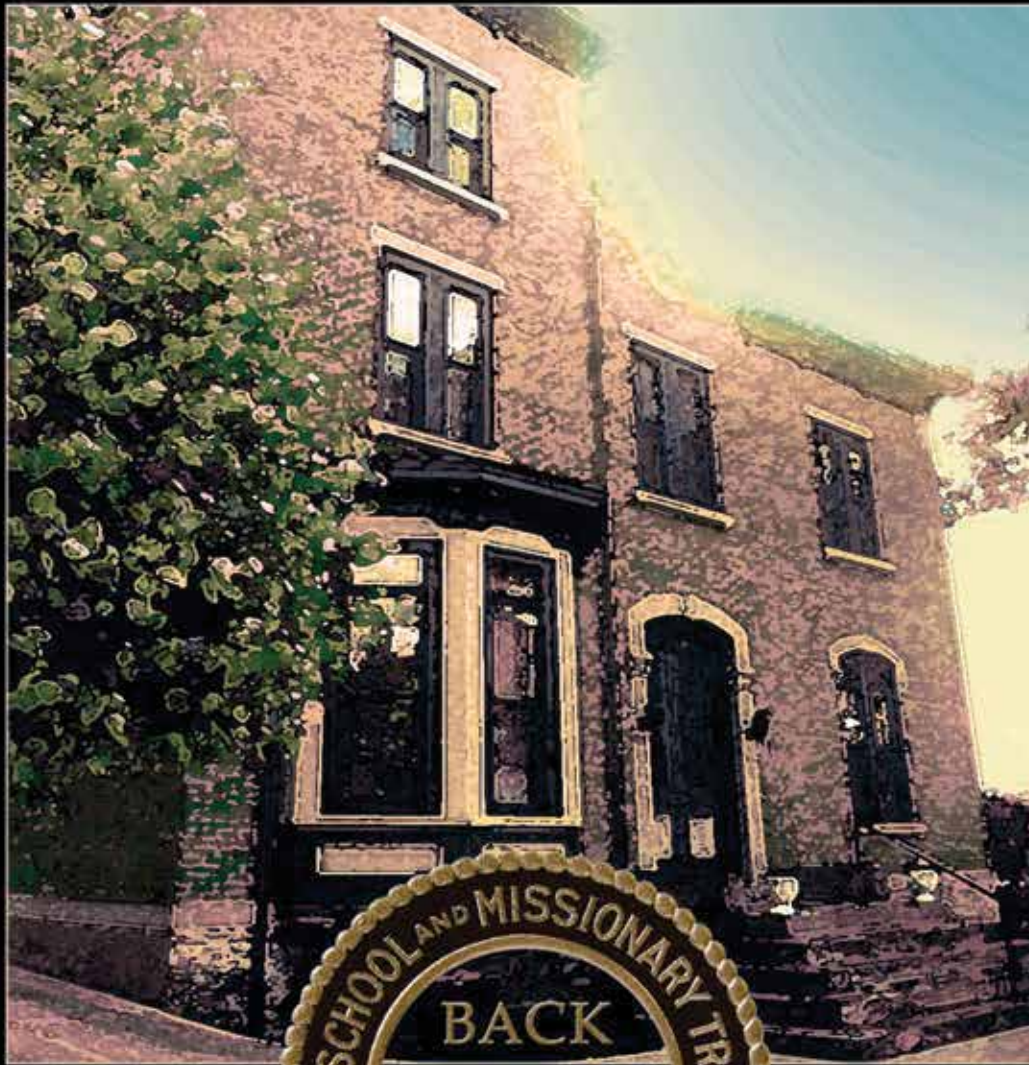


# GOD'S REVIVALIST

*and Bible Advocate*



Centenary Commemorative Edition



## A Monument to Christ's Willingness to Answer Prayer

President Michael R. Avery

In the late 1800's, Martin Wells Knapp, Methodist evangelist and founding editor of *God's Revivalist*, felt that God was going to use him for more than just the publishing work in which he was then engaged. His diary entry for July 17, 1890, reads as follows:

A training school for gospel workers is on my heart and in my head. It seems as if God put it there. I agreed tonight that if He will give me the building for the Home, to use it for His glory and to put this or a similar statement on it: "This building is a monument of the power and willingness of the loving Christ to answer prayer."

That prayer became a reality in 1900 when Knapp bought property at 1810 Young Street, Cincinnati. The red-brick mansion, which is still the administrative center for GBS, was filled to capacity when classes began on September 27. Few if any could have envisioned what God would do on this campus in the century ahead. God's Bible School and Missionary Training Home was to give life to a number of notable religious organizations, provide a home for the Revivalist Press, host one of the largest camp meetings in the Midwest, and send a steady line of courageous and dedicated graduates to so many places at home and abroad that the alumni motto would become "The Sun Never Sets on the Graduates of God's Bible School."

Throughout this century on the Hilltop, GBS and *God's Revivalist* have been united in a happy marriage which has blessed the world. Knapp founded the periodical twelve years before the school and used the former to create the latter. Probably there would have been no GBS without the *Revivalist*; and probably there would be no *Revivalist* now without GBS. Both are the result of Knapp's genius and sacrifice, and both still bear his imprint. Together they have made the Mount of Blessings the vital holiness center which it has been and which it still remains. In God's kindly providence, they will continue to do the same in the years before us.

It is therefore appropriate that this special commemorative issue for the GBS Centenary appear in the very pages which helped give birth to the school one hundred years ago. Obviously we have encapsulated the century past with only the briefest summary. We hope our readers will seek more exhaustive treatment in the two official histories now in preparation—one a rich pictorial presentation with accompanying verbal vignettes; and the other, a scholarly, interpretive narrative.

The history of this venerated institution has demonstrated that Knapp's prayer has been answered again and again. After a century on its Mt. Auburn campus, God's Bible School still remains a "monument of the power and willingness of the loving Christ to answer prayer." ■

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

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

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# Martin Wells Knapp

1900–1901



## SMALL IN STATURE; LARGE IN LOVE

**M**artin Wells Knapp was a man small in stature but large in love,” wrote famous evangelist Joseph H. Smith. “He was zeal incarnate. His whole being, physical and mental, was spent to feed the flame of love’s fires that burned in his heart for souls, for holiness, for God’s people, and for God Himself.” For a decade Knapp had served as a Methodist pastor before becoming a highly effective evangelist. He was also known for several books which he had written; and in 1888 he began *The Revivalist*, a monthly periodical which soon became an influential voice in the flourishing holiness movement.

In 1892, he moved to Cincinnati, where he reestablished his publishing ministry and began an inner-city holiness mission. In association with the Quaker evangelist Seth C. Rees, he founded the International Holiness Union and Prayer League, which later became the foundation for the Pilgrim Holiness Church. For several years he had felt the need of a “Bible Training School for gospel workers”; and in the summer of 1900 he purchased two houses on a two-acre plot for this purpose at the corner of Young and Channing Streets on Mt. Auburn. God’s Bible School opened September 27 with 72 students and a faculty of four. Subjects taught that first year included Bible, grammar, orthography, penmanship, and music.

His administration was brief, for on December 7, 1901, he died at the age of 48. But his Methodist heart had set the school’s priorities—holiness commitment, evangelical experience, disciplined piety, and global evangelism. William and Mabel Hirst, the first of thousands to leave GBS for the mission field, embarked for Africa on May 10, 1900; and weeks later, Charles and Lettie Cowman left the campus to begin the great work of the Oriental Missionary Society in Japan. Campus improvements included a dining hall addition to the Administration Building, and the erection of “God’s Tabernacle,” a wooden structure housing the campus chapel and men’s dormitory. ■

## TIMELINE 1900-1901

### WORLD EVENTS

**1900** William McKinley defeats William Jennings Bryan for the U.S. presidency.

Paris World’s Fair showcases electricity.

The U.S. population is 76,300,000.

**1901** President William McKinley is assassinated and Vice President Theodore Roosevelt is sworn into office.

Radio is born in the form of wireless telegraphy.

The average life expectancy for an American is 49.

### GBS EVENTS

**1900** Martin Wells Knapp purchases two acres at the corner of Young and Channing, costing \$20,000, for God’s Bible School.

GBS opens for first day of classes, September 27, with an enrollment of 72.

**1901** Construction is completed on “God’s Tabernacle,” This is later demolished in 1931.

Afflicted with “malignant typhoid fever,” and physically exhausted, M.W. Knapp dies December 7 on the Mount of Blessings.



[below] This photo, taken circa 1905, shows students Henry Olsen, A. Elwood Blann, William Webster Holland, and Frank S. Robinson. W.W. Holland later became the GBS Dean of Theology.



[above] Robert Elmer McNeill founded the "Conservatory of Gospel Music" at GBS in 1901.

[above right] Charles and Lettie Cowman, famous missionaries and founders of the Oriental Missionary Society, were members of God's Bible School's first student body in 1900.

[right] This photograph was taken in the spring of 1905 as the students and faculty prepared for city-wide street meetings.





## Administrative Trustees

Minnie Ferle Knapp  
Bessie Queen Standley  
Mary Storey

1901—1911



Mary Storey



Bessie Queen



Minnie Ferle Knapp

### THREE WOMEN RULE THE MOUNT OF BLESSINGS

Just before his death, Martin Wells Knapp appointed a triumvirate of women to succeed him in directing God's Bible School. These administrative trustees were Minnie Ferle Knapp, his wife; Bessie Queen, his secretary and assistant; and Mary Storey, a Methodist evangelist and businesswoman. The Rev. M.G. Standley, another of his colleagues, assumed a pastoral and supporting role. In 1902, Standley married Bessie Queen; and upon Mrs. Storey's death in 1906, he was added to the Board of Trustees.

During the period of the administrative trustees, there was both conflict and growth. Since Knapp had left the school "to God" in his will, there was uncertainty as to who its earthly owners were; and litigation ensued. In 1907, the Court of Common Pleas, Hamilton County, Ohio, ruled that hereafter GBS would be "a public charitable trust" under jurisdiction of the court. This arrangement would last until 1982.

In 1902, a five-story brick structure was erected on the southeast corner of the campus. Known later as "the Ten Weeks Building," this housed the engine room for the production of electricity, a laundry, offices, book room, dining hall and kitchen, and housing for women students. In the same year, Hope Cottage, a home for unwed mothers, was established in an old mansion on Young Street. Two years later, equipment was purchased and placed in the wooden tabernacle for the publication of *God's Revivalist* and other campus publications formerly printed off-campus. In 1906 "God's Orphanage" was opened in a 13-room house near Mulberry, Ohio.

In 1907, Oswald Chambers, known later for his classic devotional writing *My Utmost for His Highest*, visited GBS and remained for six months as a member of the faculty. Even after his work took him out of the country, he returned to speak at camp meetings on the Hilltop. He also contributed many articles to *God's Revivalist*.

GBS continued its vigorous holiness evangelism and missionary outreach, while emphasizing social ministries in Cincinnati. Both students and faculty were involved in street meetings, house-to-house visitation, inner-city missions, and "rescue work" in the miserable slums of Shanty Town. ■

## TIMELINE 1901-1903

### WORLD EVENTS

1901 Edward VII assumes the English throne after Queen Victoria's death.

1903 The U.S. and the Republic of Panama sign the treaty to build the Panama Canal.

Orville and Wilbur Wright make first powered flight at Kitty Hawk, introducing the era of aviation.

Henry Ford founded his famous motor company.

England sets speed limits at 20 m.p.h.

### GBS EVENTS

1902 Nettie Peabody joins the faculty. Except for a brief period due to illness, she remains at the school until her retirement in 1965.

A five-story brick Girls Dormitory is erected on the southeast corner of the campus which will later be known as the "Ten Weeks Building." It is demolished in 1974 to make room for the Bence C. Miller Student Center.

Hope Cottage, GBS's "rescue home for unwed mothers and their children," is established in an old mansion north of the present music studio.

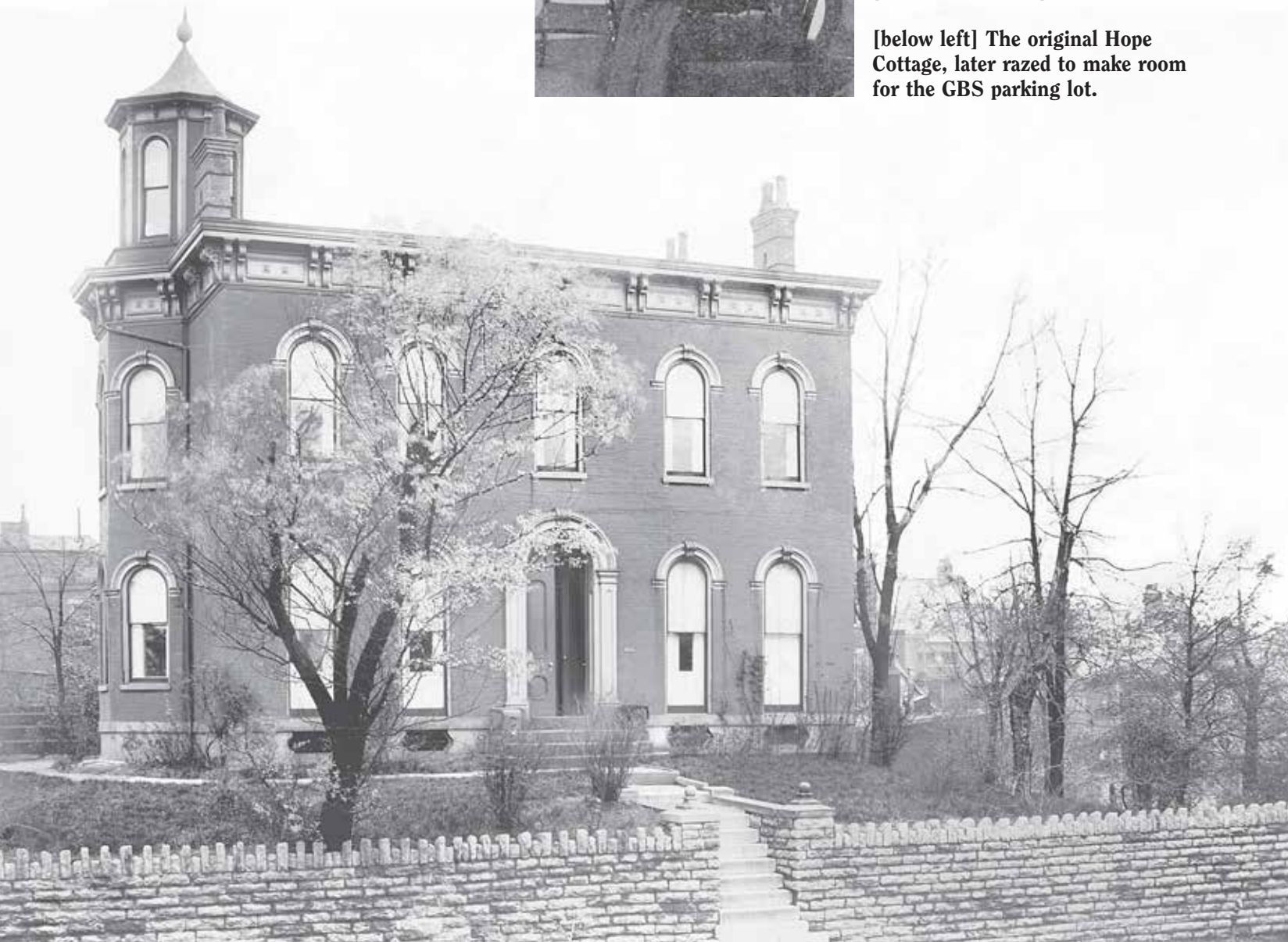


[far left] Sister Payne, Sister West, and Mother Duff (Hope Cottage Matron).

[above] Trustees, workers, and Hope Cottage girls in 1905.

[immediate left] Julia, the first girl at Hope Cottage.

[below left] The original Hope Cottage, later razed to make room for the GBS parking lot.







[left] W.B. Godbey, colorful holiness scholar, author and preacher. GBS became the place he “loved most on earth, except for the Holy Land.” The Revivalist Press was the publisher of his many books and tracts.

[below] GBS faculty of 1907: Miss Lovett, Miss Nettie Peabody, Miss Elizabeth West, and Oswald Chambers.



# TIMELINE 1904-1911

**WORLD EVENTS**

1904 Theodore Roosevelt is elected President of the U.S.

1905 Albert Einstein formulates his Theory of Relativity.

1906 San Francisco earthquake kills 700 and causes \$400 million in damage.

U.S. Pure Food and Drug Act is passed.

1907 Oklahoma becomes the 46th state.

1908 The Ford Model T is introduced

William Howard Taft, a Cincinnati native, becomes President of the U.S.

**GBS EVENTS**

1904 New equipment is purchased to publish the *Revivalist* and other school publications.

1906 After Mary Storey's death, Meredith Standley is appointed to replace her as an administrative trustee.

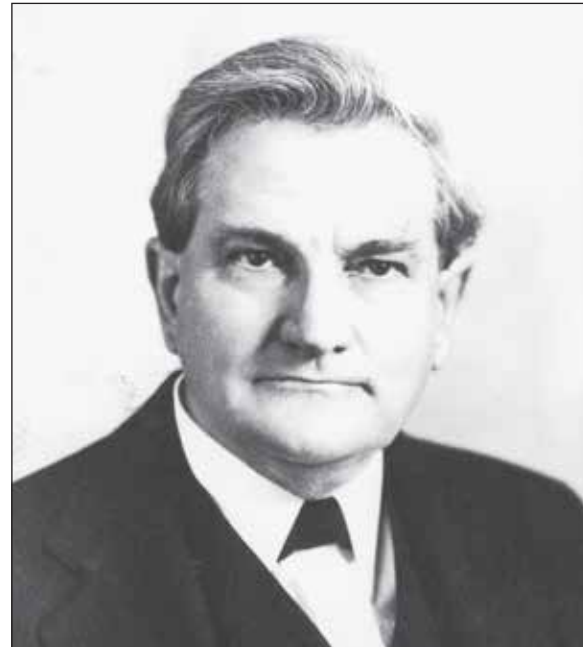
"God's Orphanage" is opened in a house of 13 rooms on a 200-acre tract near Mulberry, Ohio.

1907 Oswald Chambers joins the faculty. His work calls him elsewhere, but he continues his association with GBS by returning to speak on campus and by publishing many articles in *God's Revivalist*.

1909 GBS issues its first diplomas.

# M.G. Standley

1911 – 1950



## STRONG, AGGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP

The appointment of Brother Standley commenced 39 years of strong, aggressive presidential leadership,” *Revivalist* editor Glenn Black once wrote. “M.G. Standley was not only a man of vision; he also knew how to implement his ideas. He believed in outreach to the spiritually lost and physically needy.” During his vigorous and creative administration, GBS realized much of its founder’s vision and became a flourishing focal point for the entire holiness movement.

He supervised the erection of two major buildings which are still centers of campus life—the Revivalist Memorial Building, containing the women’s dormitory and the Revivalist Press, and now the elementary academy; and the Knapp Memorial Building, housing the chapel, high school, and men’s dormitory. The campus was expanded to a full six acres; and in March 1930, GBS became a pioneer in Christian radio broadcasting with its “Sunrise Worship Hour” over WKRC in Cincinnati.

Other ministries included the massive Thanksgiving Day dinners, begun in 1901, which now became a widely-recognized social ministry attended by over 20,000 inner-city poor during the Great Depression. Evangelists such as Joseph H. Smith, “Uncle Buddie” Robinson, and the Fleming brothers brought attention to the camp meetings, which attracted thousands to the Hilltop. Circulation of *God’s Revivalist* grew to an all-time high of 54,000.

During this period the high school was established and later accredited. The “Bible school” really became a college, and in 1936 the Ohio State Board of Education authorized it to grant both the ThB and the BA degrees. Students wishing a short, concentrated preparation for personal evangelism could enroll in the Ten Weeks Course. Culminating the Standley administration was the GI’s of the Cross crusade, opening at a massive inner-city revival at Cincinnati’s Music Hall in November 1946. This began three years of jeep-and-trailer evangelism across much of the U.S. and into foreign countries.

As President Samuel E. Deets declared in a 1969 *Revivalist* article, M.G. Standley was “the man whom God used to build this Bible school into a world-renowned organization with spiritual influence far out of proportion to its size.” During the (p10) ➡

## TIMELINE 1911-1919

### WORLD EVENTS

1912 New Mexico and Arizona become states.

Woodrow Wilson is elected President.

1500 perish when the *Titanic* sinks during its maiden voyage.

1914 World War I begins.

1915 A German sub sinks the U.K.’s passenger ship *The Lusitania*, killing 1,198 persons.

1918 The World War ends in the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

### GBS EVENTS

1912 Upon graduating from the Christian Worker’s Course, Elmer G. Marsh begins teaching at GBS.

1917 Ten young men, students or former students of GBS, go to Japan under the direction of Charles and Lettie Cowman to visit every home with Christian literature.

1918 An old mansion at 1811 Young Street is purchased for \$7,000 for use as an annex for women students’ housing. This is now the Robert E. McNeill Music Studio.





[above] The famous “Ten Boys of Japan” who spent more than a year with the Kilbourns and Cowmans delivering Bible portions and tracts to every home in Japan.

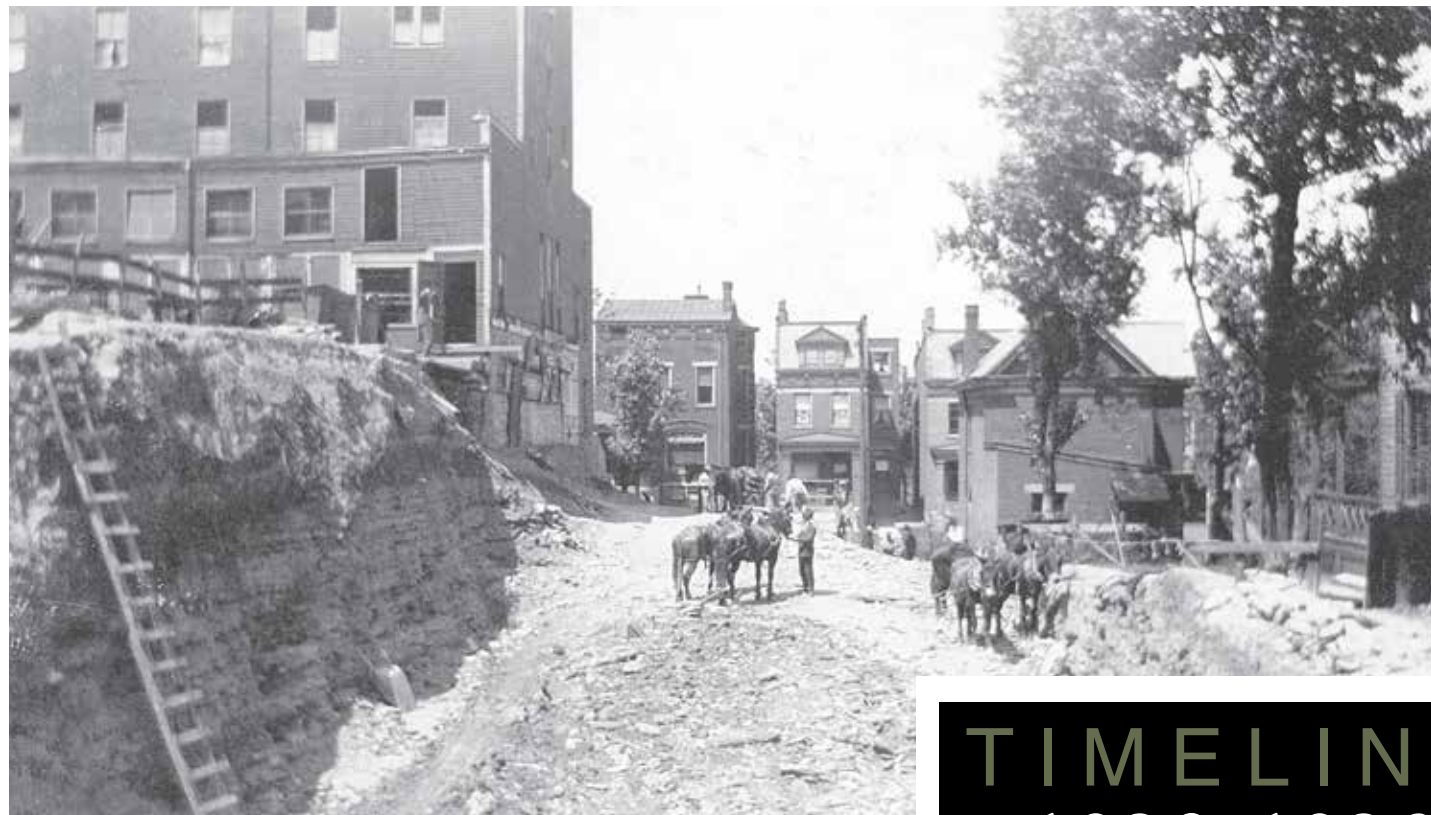
[far right] Lew Standley, brother of M.G. Standley and pastor of GBS-sponsored George Street Mission, with daughters Ruth and Lillie.



[right] Elva Ruckle, GBS milkmaid in 1912.



➡(p9) final years of his administration, however, there was a troubling lack of financial responsibility; and his advancing years only added to his vulnerability. “By that time, M.G. Standley was seventy years old and older,” Dr. Deets added; “and...his leadership was a spiritual one so that there were those close to him who took advantage of this fact and spent his school into a nearly fatal indebtedness.” The ensuing tragedy brought dark days to GBS, but it did not obscure the massive contribution which M.G. Standley made in his half century upon the Hilltop. His death came on May 13, 1962. 📌



[above] Preparing for the foundation of the Revivalist Memorial Building in 1921.

[right and below] Scenes from the Great Thanksgiving Dinner of 1922. Cincinnati's poor participated in a simple evangelistic service before partaking of the sumptuous feast. Unfinished floors of the Revivalist Memorial Building were used as auxiliary dining rooms for the guests.



## TIMELINE 1920-1928

### WORLD EVENTS

1920 World population is 1.8 billion.

Women are given the right to vote in the U.S.

1921 The radio broadcasting industry is born in Pittsburgh, PA.

1922 Alexander Graham Bell dies at age 75.

1924 Due to cost-saving assembly-line production, the price of a basic Model T Ford drops to \$290.

1927 Charles Lindbergh makes the first trans-Atlantic crossing.

1928 2,150 people die when a violent hurricane is stalled over Florida.

Herbert Hoover is elected President.

### GBS EVENTS

1920 Dr. W. B. Godbey, famous holiness speaker and writer, dies September 12 in Room 9 in the men's dormitory above the wooden tabernacle. Two days later, his funeral is held in the auditorium below.

1922 The four-year academy begun in 1914 becomes a high school accredited by the state of Ohio.

1923 The Revivalist Memorial Building, a five-story brick structure housing the Revivalist Press and the women's dormitory, is dedicated June 10.

1928 GBS kills "the Giant Debt" of \$119,000 against the orphanage, Hope Cottage, and the Mt. Auburn Campus in a great celebration June 3.



[below] Part of the Revivalist Press during the 1929-30 school year.



[above] Willard Dekker standing beside the Eternity Wagon in 1927. The original Eternity Wagon had been horse-drawn.

# TIMELINE

## 1929-1939

### WORLD EVENTS

1929 "Black Tuesday"—October 29th—saw 16 million shares traded at losses. The Great Depression had begun.

1931 Inventor Thomas Edison dies in West Orange, NJ.

The Empire State Building, then the tallest in the world, is completed.

1932 As the unemployed reached 13,000,000, Franklin D. Roosevelt is elected president, facing the worst depression in U.S. history.

1933 Hitler becomes the chancellor of Germany and the boycott of Jews begins.

1935 IBM introduces the electric typewriter.

1936 *The Queen Mary* crosses the Atlantic in three days, 23 hours, and 57 minutes.

The U.S. population reaches 127 million.

1937 36 die when the transatlantic dirigible *Hindenburg* explodes into flames as it approaches its mooring in Lakehurst, New Jersey.

1938 A federal minimum wage of 25¢ per hour is established.

Word reaches the oval office that Jews are being persecuted in Nazi Germany.

### GBS EVENTS

1930 Minnie Ferle Knapp, widow of the founder, dies February 1. A missionary offering is received at her funeral in the wooden tabernacle.

The five-story Knapp Memorial Building with auditorium, classroom floor, and men's dormitory is erected.

In March GBS begins broadcasting its "Sunrise Worship Service" over Radio Station WKRC at 6:45 a.m. Speaker is President Standley, and singing is by the GBS Radio Chorus.

The Great Depression brings approximately 23,000 to the Thanksgiving Day feast, which costs an estimated nine thousand dollars.

1936 Ohio State Board of Education authorizes GBS to grant the ThB and the BA degrees. In announcing the "Service of Thanksgiving" to mark the occasion, the *Cincinnati Post* states that GBS "is known as the stronghold of the fundamental faith in the Middle West."

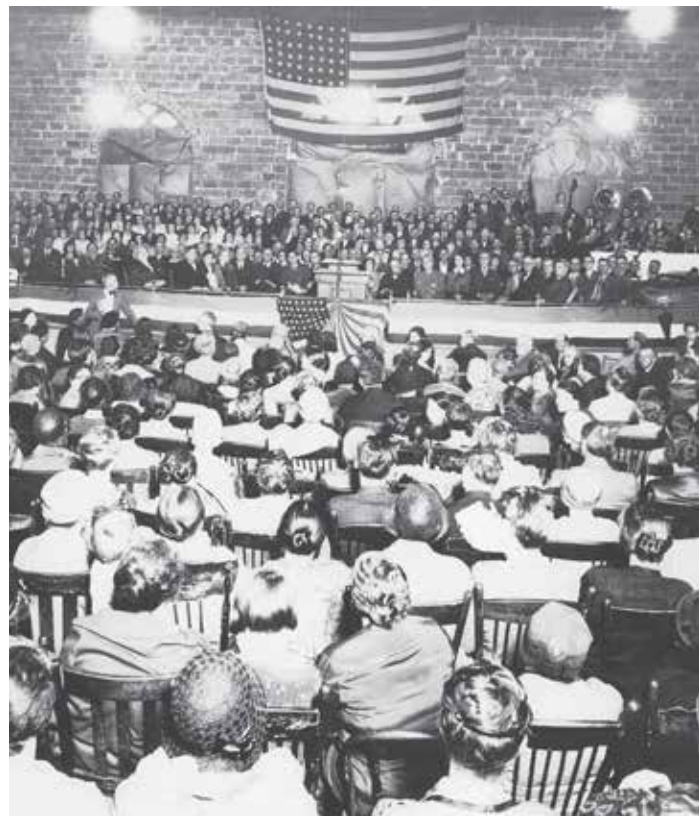
1937 GBS staff and students share in rescue and relief operations during the great Ohio River flood in January.

1938 In spite of harsh winter weather, some 21,000 attend Thanks-





[above] Ground breaking for the Knapp Memorial Building.



[left] Camp Meeting 1930, held in the newly built but unfinished Knapp Memorial Auditorium.

[below] God's Orphanage, located about twenty miles from the GBS campus on a 200-acre farm.





Heritage Week 2000...

# Grand Centenary Celebration

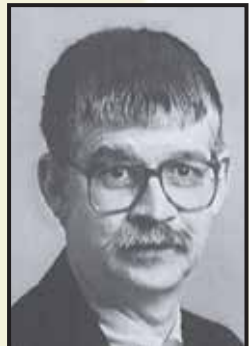
## God's Bible School & College—100 Years!



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



Rev. Leonard Sankey  
Board Chairman, God's Bible School & College



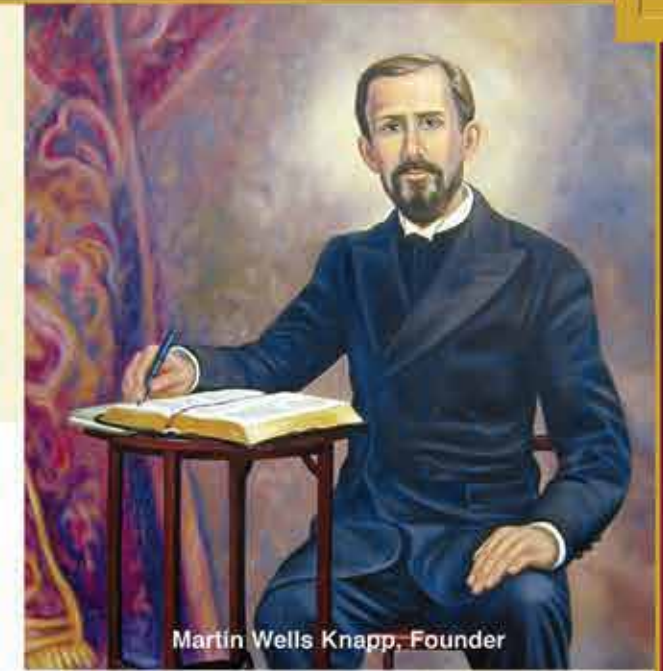
Dr. William Kostlevy  
Archivist, Librarian, and Professor of Church History, Asbury Theological Seminary



Dr. Edwin Kilbourne  
Vice President at Large, OMS International



Mr. David McCasland  
Oswald Chambers Biographer



Martin Wells Knapp, Founder

### Founders Day—

Wednesday, September 27

9:45 a.m.

#### Grand Convocation

- Processional
- Words of Greeting from Distinguished Guests
- Special Music
- Presentation of Official GBS History and Pictorial Book
- Address by President Michael Avery

12:00 Noon

#### Unveiling of Centenary Monument

12:30 p.m.

- Luncheon

2:00 p.m.

- Campus and City Tours to Points of Historical Significance

2:15 p.m.

#### Ceremony Opening GBS Archives (Flexon Library)

7:00 p.m.

- Special Music
- Words of Greeting from Distinguished Guests
- Address by Board Chairman, Leonard Sankey—*"True to the Trust"*

### Thursday, September 28

10:00 a.m.

- Special Music
- Greetings from Mary Hutchison, General Manager of the Oswald Chambers Publishing Association
- Address: David McCasland—*"Oswald Chambers and GBS"*
- Official Opening of the Oswald Chambers Room

2:00 p.m.

- God's Bible School—Connections to the Evangelical Community
- Special Music
- Address: Dr. Edwin Kilbourne, OMS International—*"GBS and the OMS Connection"*

7:00 p.m.

#### The Social Conscience and Missionary Passion

- Special Music
- *George Street (city) Mission, Hope Cottage—Home for Unwed Mothers, Orphanage, The Cowmans and the Every Home Crusade, Thanksgiving Dinners, Gl's of the Cross*

### Friday, September 29

10:00 a.m.

- Special Music
- Address: Dr. William Kostlevy—*"Martin Wells Knapp"*

2:00 p.m.

- Special Music
- Select Readings from Official GBS History

7:00 p.m.

#### Homecoming Celebration

- Music by Alumni
- Choirs and Symphonic Wind & String Ensemble

### Saturday, September 30

10:00 a.m.

#### Alumni Convocation

- Alumni Challenge: Dr. Wingrove Taylor
- Alumnus of the Year
- President Michael Avery—*"The Vision for the Future"*
- Awarding of Honorary Degrees

### Local Lodging:

- Crowne Plaza, 1 Mile, 513-381-4000, \$99.;
- Omni Netherland Plaza Hotel, 1 Mile, 513-421-9100, \$160 (King Size Bed).
- Travelodge Newport, 1.6 Miles, 800-578-7878, \$50-55.
- Days Inn, 1.8 Miles, 513-559-0400, \$50-60.
- Hampton Inn, 2.1 Miles, 606-581-7800, \$94 (King Size Bed, Continental Breakfast).
- Travelodge Cincinnati, 2.2 Miles, 800-578-7878, \$42-50.
- Clarion Hotel Riverview, 2.2 Miles, 606-491-1200, \$104 (Covington, KY).
- Red Roof Inn, 5.9 Miles, 513-531-6589, \$57.
- Best Western, 10.7 Miles, 606-525-0090, \$55 (Florence, KY).
- Ramada Inn, 11.2 Miles, 606-371-4700, \$64.
- Motel 6, 11.3 Miles, 606-283-0909, \$42-46 (Florence, KY).
- Super 8, 11.8 Miles, 513-772-3140, \$67.
- Signature Inn, 11.9 Miles, 513-772-7877, \$72 (Continental Breakfast, Refrigerator, Microwave, Iron).

Lets bring all the family home for the Centenary!







[above] The 1935-36 orchestra, Walter H. Johnson, director (far left).



[left] Rev. and Mrs. E.E. Shelhammer. He was a popular holiness evangelist who frequently preached at GBS. His wife Julia taught at GBS. Later she became famous for her mission work in Washington D.C. and for her strong advocacy of civil rights for African Americans. She was invited to breakfast with President Eisenhower and was featured in a *Time* magazine article which praised her for her telephone crisis line counseling.

[below] "Bros. Carlson, Slack, Hershberger, Wilhoyte. This quartet is composed of our students who will represent God's Bible School this summer [1930]. They would like to have a meeting with you. They can sing, pray and preach, and would be a blessing and help to your mission or church."







**[top] M.G. Standley and A.C. Palmer create the “GI’s of the Cross” to take door-to-door and street-corner evangelism across the U.S. and other countries. Soldiers returning home after the end of World War II formed the core of the “salvation forces.”**

**[center] Rev. Fugett and GBS students hold a street meeting in Cuba as part of a GI’s of the Cross crusade.**

**[above] General John Pershing called him the “greatest civilian soldier of World War I.” Here Sgt. Alvin York stands with wife Gracie, son George (a GBS student), and the Standleys. For years GBS quartets accompanied Sgt. York on his speaking tours.**

# TIMELINE 1940-1949

## WORLD EVENTS

**1940** The average life expectancy of an American is 64 years.

The world’s first helicopter takes flight.

**1941** The Japanese attack the U.S. base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The U.S. enters World War II.

**1944** The Normandy Invasion takes place on D Day, June 6th.

**1945** President Truman orders the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Japanese surrender aboard the *U.S.S. Missouri*.

**1946** The first digital computer is introduced measuring 30 by 60 feet and weighing 60,000 pounds.

**1948** As the Soviet Union grows larger, America’s “Cold War” with the Communists grows more intense.

## GBS EVENTS

giving Day dinner.

**1940** The Ten Weeks Course designed to give Christian workers a concentrated preparation in personal evangelism is instituted.

**1941** Sgt. Alvin C. York, World War I hero, speaks at GBS as he enrolls his son for the fall term.

**1942** First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt helps GBS get the needed buses for the Thanksgiving dinner and commends it in her newspaper column.

**1946** Opening crusade of the great GI’s of the Cross Crusade begins at Music Hall, Cincinnati, November 25.

**1948** A war-surplus dining room and fully equipped kitchen valued at \$70,000 is presented to GBS by the U.S. Government. It is dedicated May 16.



## Lloyd R. Day

1950—1961



### THE BOAT DID NOT SINK

Beloved, there is no reason why the school cannot go forward,” insisted Lloyd Day in *God’s Revivalist*, January 26, 1950. “I saw it like a boat almost filled with water and ready to sink; but the Lord said, ‘Peace, be still,’ and there was a great calm.” Then in his mid-forties, the former GBS high school principal had just been appointed president; and his vision of the perils which he faced was starkly realistic. Yet the school did go forward, and the boat did not sink.

President Bence C. Miller put it succinctly many years later. “As former students know so well, when L.R. Day was asked to assume the responsibilities of president, clouds of disaster hung over God’s Bible School. Debts totaling over one million dollars were owed by the school....Friends, associates and ministers withdrew and, if not in words, certainly in actions, predicted ruin...”

Almost immediately the new president launched a massive campaign to “save the school.” In full cooperation with Business Manager Allen Roudebush and the court-appointed Board of Trustees, he raised thousands of dollars through cash donations and debt cancellations to erase the staggering debt and lead the school back to credibility. Rev. and Mrs. E.G. Marsh, Alice “Mom” White, and Nettie Peabody rallied the staff and faculty, directed their prayers toward Heaven, and joined others in stirring appeals in the *Revivalist*.

Little by little, the tide began to turn; and through the sacrifice of friends and alumni, God’s Bible School was saved from liquidation. From respected professionals to remote housewives, there are many heroes in this sad chapter in the school’s history; and among them is its third president—Lloyd R. Day. He died in 1979. ■

## TIMELINE

### 1950-1961

#### WORLD EVENTS

**1951** As the year begins, 70% of America’s armed forces are fighting in the Korean War.

**1952** General Dwight D. Eisenhower is elected President.

**1953** The Korean War ends in truce.

**1956** Work on U.S. interstate highway system begins.

**1957** Seven earthquakes and dozens of aftershocks rock the San Francisco area.

**1960** John F. Kennedy is elected President.

#### GBS EVENTS

**1950** A great campaign is launched to “save the school.” Alumni and faithful friends rally to keep the school from total bankruptcy. A campus group consisting of Rev. and Mrs. E.G. Marsh, Alice White, and Nettie Peabody form a prayer band on behalf of the school.

**1951** The first student yearbook is published.

**1957** Lettie Cowman writes her last devotional column in *God’s Revivalist*.



[right] The “Boiler Room Boys.” This photograph, taken in 1954, shows Melvin Kessen, Paul Mills, Amos Tillis, Wilton Beck, and Russell Ostrander after they finished cleaning out the coal furnaces.



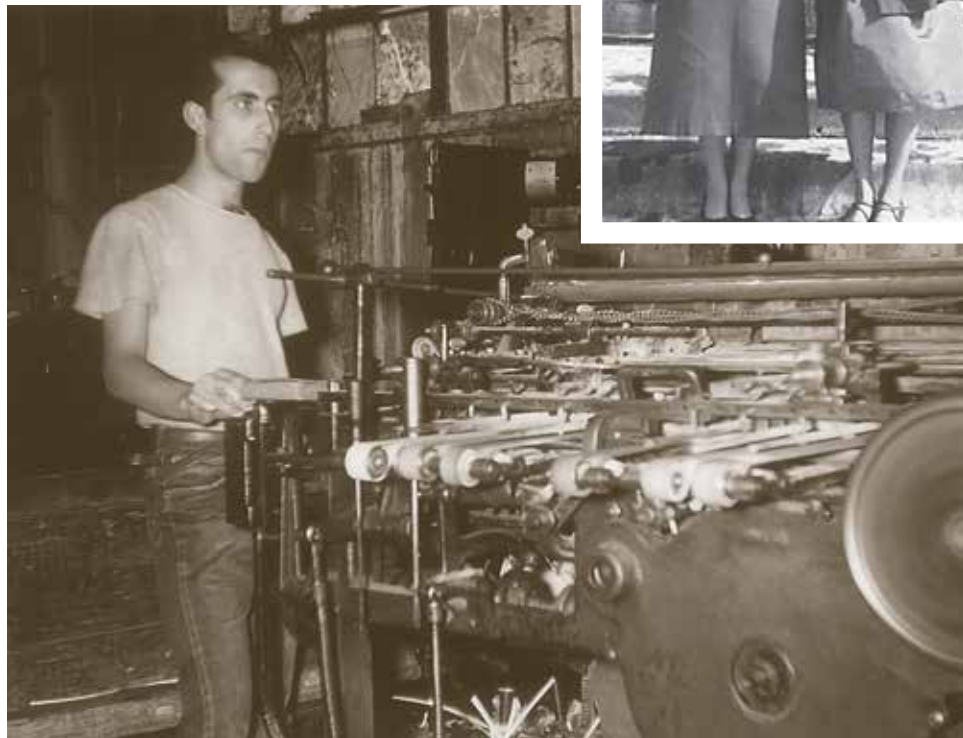
[below] This quartet consisted of Glenn Porterfield, Richard Downing, Leonard Sankey, and Ben Brannon.



[center] Evelyn Ware (left) with college instructor and friend Esther Mae Thornton. Evelyn arrived as a student in 1945 and continued on staff in the Cashier's Office until her retirement in 1997.

[above] Wingrove Taylor is shown in his dorm room in 1952 upon graduation from college.

[left] David Doctorian arrived at GBS from Beirut, Lebanon, in 1954. He was a work student in the Revivalist Press. Years later he became a Missouri state senator.





# Elmer G. Marsh

1961—1965



## GOD'S CLOCK KEEPS PERFECT TIME!

**G**od's clock keeps perfect time!" GBS alumni still remember this oft-repeated motto of the Rev. Elmer Marsh, who came to the presidency of the school in the summer of 1961. At that time, he had already given nearly fifty years to his alma mater and was widely honored throughout the holiness movement. Dearly loved by hundreds of students who had sat under his teachings, his sturdy, gentle piety and his lifetime commitment to GBS has placed his name among the most cherished in its history.

At the time of the school's brush with financial catastrophe, he assumed a crucial role. "For it was E.G. Marsh who, when the clouds of despair were hanging lowest, took on himself very large portions of responsibility that had been laid down by others..." former President Samuel E. Deets has remarked. "He traveled tens of thousands of miles, week in and week out, in his never-ceasing efforts to maintain rapport between God's Bible School and its creditors. Buffeted on every side, it cannot be remembered that he ever succumbed to bitterness or self-pity."

He was already in his eighties when he became the school's fourth president. "Part of his work was successfully dealing with investors; part of it was gaining and maintaining the confidence of the court-appointed trustees of the school," recalls Kenneth Stetler, who was then on the faculty. "He was a stabilizing force among the faculty because of his prayer life and simple faith that God would supply all our needs."

Undoubtedly it was the force of Marsh's personal character which was his greatest contribution. At his retirement he was made "president emeritus," a title which he carried until his death in 1972. ■

## TIMELINE 1961-1965

### WORLD EVENTS

**1961** An invasion of Cuba by anti-Castro forces ends in disaster at the Bay of Pigs.

**1962** Lt. Col. John Glenn becomes the first American to orbit the Earth.

The U.S. and Soviet Union stand on the brink of nuclear war after a missile buildup in Cuba.

**1963** The U.S. Supreme Court rules 8-1 that laws requiring recitation of the Lord's Prayer or Bible verses in public schools are unconstitutional.

President Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas.

### GBS EVENTS

**1961** Valiant efforts continue to keep the school from closing and restore it to solvency and good name.

**1962** First Homecoming is held as a replacement for the Thanksgiving Dinner tradition. Leslie Wilcox explains that the dinners have been discontinued because of declining attendance due to improved social conditions, problems in financing both the school and the dinners, and tightened regulations by the Board of Health.

# Samuel E. Deets

1965—1975



## REBUILDING AND RENEWAL

President Deets, I would be remiss if I did not thank you for the decade of unstinted love and labor you have lavished upon your Alma Mater. As its talented administrator, your well-crafted course of action has brought it out of chaos to this momentous hour. You have launched the school on our campus renewal program, represented most graphically today by the sounds of construction coming from the new building site.” This was the tribute which Byron J. Crouse, head of the Board of Trustees, offered at chapel services, May 8, 1975, to Dr. Samuel E. Deets, who a few weeks later would leave the GBS presidency.

Deets had not been quite 31 years of age when he had assumed that office in May 1965. With vision and purpose he approached the challenges which awaited him. GBS still reeled from crushing debt, its aged buildings crumbled from neglect; and its future seemed uncertain. His desire was to see the Hilltop restored to its former position of spiritual influence. “I am convinced,” he said, “of the ability and the willingness of the God of God’s Bible School to make it once more the genuinely interdenominational lighthouse of the holiness movement in this country. He will indeed resurrect the school to new life. As president of this school, I shall spare no effort, no amount of time, and no amount of interest to see that this becomes a reality.”

Dr. Deets’ academic insight, tireless energy, and practical “hands-on” approach made his tenure a period of vigorous activity, focused on rebuilding and renewal. A highlight of his administration was the great “Jubilee” camp meeting service, June 8, 1969, celebrating the elimination of the school’s gigantic debt. President Deets also launched a major effort to rejuvenate the long-neglected campus; and in March 1975 ground was broken for the new student activities building.

School finances grew, and many new properties were added to the campus.

After ten years, he announced that “the time has come when from the need for a less hectic schedule, I must withdraw from the point of pressure....As I reflect on the past ten years, I’d do it again. God’s Bible School had—and has—a lot of catching up to do. What happened was that God took a faulty human instrument when none other was available and used it for the purpose for which it was born.” ■

## TIMELINE 1965-1975

### WORLD EVENTS

**1965** President Johnson authorizes the first bombing raids in the Viet Nam War.

**1968** Dr. Martin Luther King and Senator Robert F. Kennedy are assassinated.

**1969** The American death toll in the Viet Nam war reaches 34,000.

Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin become the first humans to walk on the moon.

**1973** The U.S. Supreme Court strikes down state laws banning abortions.

### GBS EVENTS

**1965** Effort is launched to rejuvenate the neglected campus.

**1968** The school purchases a farm at Harrison, Ohio, for the production of beef.

**1969** The court transfers oversight of the school to an alumni-elected Board of Trustees.

At last, the staggering indebtedness of over one million dollars is eliminated.

**1975** Ground breaking for the new Student Activities Building is held March 19, and construction begins.





[left] The “Ten Weeks Building” comes down to make room for the new Student Center.

[above center] The original Stetler Trio: Ken Stetler with sons Danny and David.

[above right] Alice “Mom” White. After a lifetime of service and influence on the Hilltop, most notably as Dean of Women and Missionary Prayer Band leader, she went to her eternal reward on December 7, 1967.

[below] “E-day,” June 8, 1969, the last Sunday of the camp meeting. The school became free from debt under the Deets administration. (“E” stood for “elimination”—debt elimination.)



# Bence C. Miller

## 1975—1995



### VIGOROUS SERVICE AT GOD'S BIBLE SCHOOL

**M**y intentions are never to shirk the responsibilities, no matter how great, and to make any sacrifice to see the work of God prosper here and become fully established. I solicit your prayers as the school's new president. It is *God's Bible School*; and because of this fact, we His servants must work to guarantee its prosperity in the years to come."

With these words in its issue of June 26, 1975, Bence C. Miller greeted the readers of *God's Revivalist*. His reputation as a "self-starter" and a "man of great dynamism who wants to see things go forward" was well-established, and he had just been elected as sixth president of GBS. Certainly his experience in building up five struggling pastorates and his work in drafting, engineering, and construction had uniquely prepared him for the challenges which he would face for twenty years on the Hilltop.

He vigorously continued the renewal of the campus with extensive renovation of existing structures; the completion of the student center, which is now named in his honor; and the construction of the R.G. Flexon Memorial Library. President Miller also established the K-8 GBS elementary academy, housed on the beautifully remodeled first level of the Revivalist Memorial building. Other properties became a part of the Mt. Auburn campus, and GBS established a missionary outreach in Belize, Central America.

During the Miller administration, the Hamilton, County, Court of Common Pleas freed the school from judicial supervision in 1982. For the first time since 1907, the school was free to chart its own destiny. Four years later, GBS received full accreditation status by the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges (AABC). This added new stature to the credibility of the school's academic program.

Because he was convinced that GBS was *God's Bible school*, Bence C. Miller gave twenty years of forceful leadership on the Hilltop. As he came to the end of his presidency, he wrote, "I agree with R. G. Flexon when he said there is not another school like it in the world. It is still *God's Bible school*, and it is one of a kind!" ■

## TIMELINE

### 1975-1995

#### WORLD EVENTS

1976 America celebrates its bicentennial.

1981 John Hinckley, Jr. attempts to assassinate President Reagan.

1986 The space shuttle *Challenger* explodes shortly after takeoff.

1991 President Bush sends U.S. and coalition forces to attack Baghdad in what is known as the Persian Gulf War.

The Cold War ends.

1992 The Supreme Court ends invocations at public school functions.

#### GBS EVENTS

1977 Formal opening of the new Student Activities Building is held February 15.

1982 After 75 years, GBS is freed from all control by the Court of Common Pleas, thus ending the oldest pending case in the history of the court.

1986 GBS receives full accreditation status by the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges (AABC)

1990 The R. G. Flexon Memorial Library, connected to the main campus by skywalk, is opened for service.





[left] David Rodgers, Ricky Moody, Carl Antrim, President Miller and Wayne Via. Reconstruction of the parapet wall of the Revivalist Memorial Building was the first step in major renovation of that building.

[bottom] Carl Antrim supervises the block and brick construction of the Flexon Memorial Library.

[below] Construction of the skywalk connecting the new library to main campus.



# Michael R. Avery

## 1995—Present



### REVERENCE FOR YESTERDAY; VISION FOR TOMORROW

June 4, 1995, was Pentecost Sunday; and hundreds of GBS's sons and daughters had squeezed into the creaking, opera-style seats screwed to the chapel floor. This was a high, holy day upon the Mount of Blessings—a festive time of family homecoming and celebration. Michael R. Avery, 1979 GBS alumnus, Alabama pastor, and missionary executive, was about to become seventh president of God's Bible School.

His inaugural address set the tone for his administration—reverence for yesterday; vision for tomorrow! He reviewed GBS's "colorful and dramatic past—a holiness and missionary heritage that is unusually rich and extremely important to both this country, as well as others," and pledged loyalty to its principles. "I will not betray the trust of the great saints who have loved this school and given dearly to keep it true to the Word of God."

Courageously he addressed the future. "We have many exciting plans," he declared, "but we are fully aware of the problems that loom before us." Frankly he acknowledged "significant problems," such as the school's declining enrollment and its "financial quagmire" of indebtedness. With God's help, he promised to "tackle what appears to be insurmountable burdens," and at the same time committed himself to such priorities as faculty enrichment, academic upgrading, and disciplined campus life.

Five years later, morale is high! Under President Avery's leadership, financial stability is evident, enrollment figures are rising, and campus renewal continues on the Hilltop. The campus chapel has been thoroughly renovated, air-conditioned, and dedicated to the memory of the Rev. J. Wesley Adcock. Major remodeling has occurred in the Revivalist Memorial Building, and an elevator and a new heating system have been installed.

Faculty housing has also received major attention, and a fountain and new landscaping have been added. In 1996 the H.E. Schmul Ministerial and Research Center was opened with appropriate ceremonies. In addition to a small chapel, this features the personal library of Methodist/holiness books which H.E. Schmul had personally presented to the school.

Even more important is the renewed sense of ministry, as students and faculty share the president's undivided commitment to Christian service. GBS is unique in its strategic (p26) ➡

## TIMELINE 1995-2000

### WORLD EVENTS

**1995** The federal building in Oklahoma City is bombed, killing over 170 and injuring hundreds more.

**1996** 230 perish when TWA flight 800 explodes off Long Island, New York.

**1997** Princess Diana dies in a fiery car crash in Paris.

**1999** Two students open fire in a Littleton, Colorado high school killing 13 before committing suicide.

**2000** The world's population is estimated to be 6.2 billion.

### GBS EVENTS

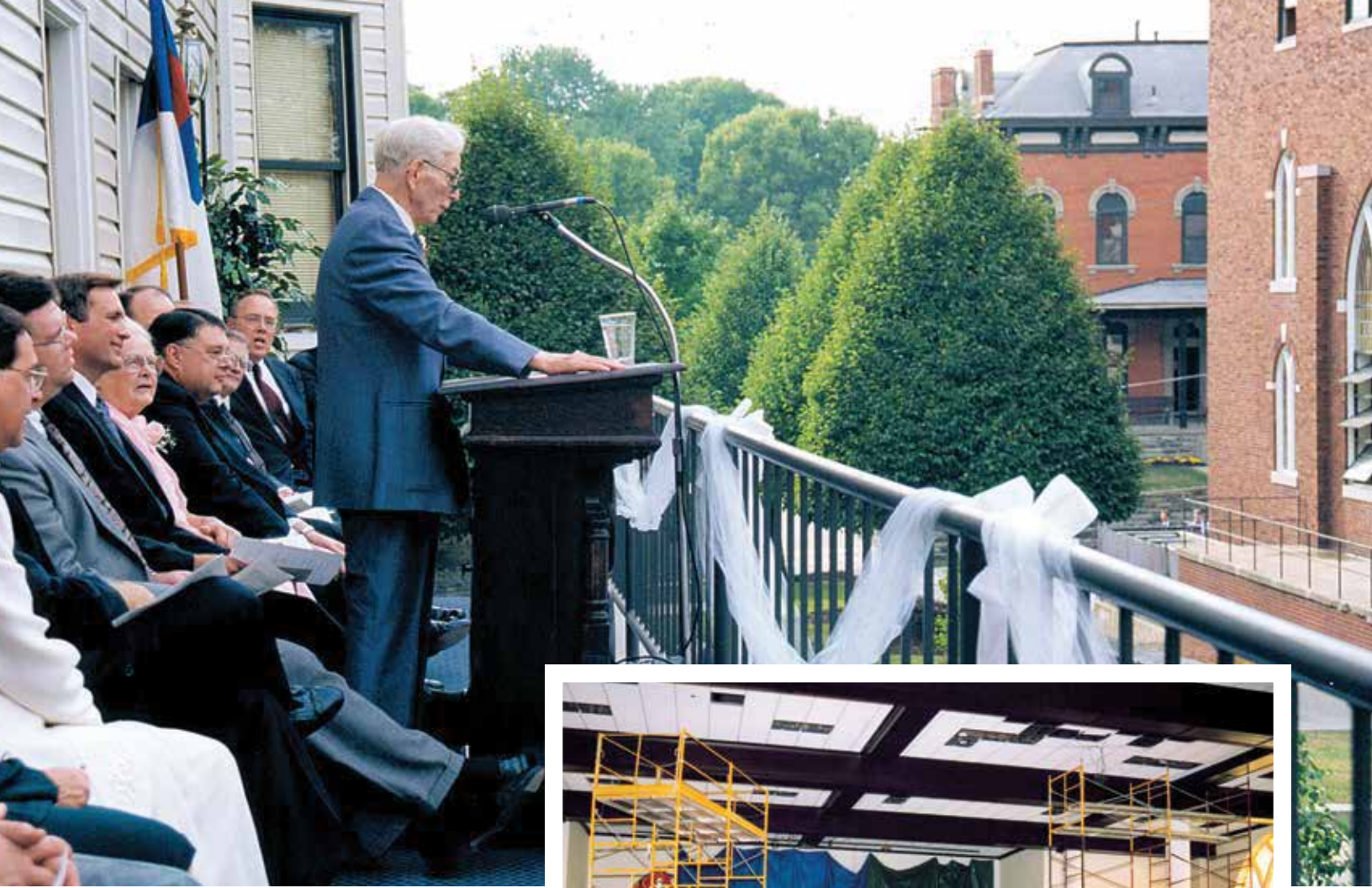
**1996** The H.E. Schmul Ministerial and Research Center is opened.

**1997** GBS commemorates 100 years of "Revivalist Camp Meetings" in Cincinnati.

**1998** The main campus auditorium in the Knapp Memorial Building undergoes major renovation.

**2000** GBS begins the celebration of its Grand Centenary Year, which will continue through camp meeting 2001.





[above] H.E. Schmul, preacher, publisher, and leader of the Interchurch Holiness Convention, speaks at the dedication of the Schmul Chapel and Ministerial Resource Center.

[right] The school's seven-decades-old auditorium receives major renovations and is renamed and dedicated as the J.Wesley Adcock Chapel.



[above] Sarah Wolf and others began a weekly ministry to the kids from the GBS neighborhood.

➡(p25) inner-city location, and there is passionate concern for outreach there. Our choirs and musical groups continue their tradition of bringing inspiration to churches across the nation, and our “preacher boys” are finding exciting opportunities to exercise their calling. New faculty have brought excitement and added resources to our educational program. Across the holiness movement, there is renewed focus on the Mount of Blessings.

“Because the harvest hasn’t end.” That’s not just another motto at GBS, for there is deep concern that GBS assume its historic role in preparing young men and women for that harvest. As we celebrate 100 years of Christian service, President Avery’s leadership demonstrates both profound respect for GBS’s heritage and reassuring affirmation for its future. ■



# Centennial Commemorative Items



## 100TH ANNIVERSARY AFGHAN

This includes a depiction of the Administration Building in center with time-tested GBS mottos around the edge.  
\$64.00 (including \$4. S&H)

## SPECIAL ISSUE CENTENNIAL CLOCK

This is a classic octagon timepiece. It is mahogany with a drawing of the Administration Building in its center. Two mottos, "The sun never sets on the students of God's Bible School" and "God's clock keeps perfect time" are printed on the face.  
\$80.00 (including \$5. S&H)

## CENTENNIAL MUGS

These are cobalt blue with microwavable gold lettering.  
Set of 2-\$19.50 (including \$6. S&H)

## TWO GBS HISTORIES

(1) *God's Clock Keeps Perfect Time*, a 456 page pictorial history of GBS with explanatory text. Prepared by Kevin Moser and Larry D. Smith.  
\$89.95 (Including S&H)

(2) *Back To The Bible: The Story of God's Bible School* by Wallace Thornton. To be released spring 2001, this is GBS's scholarly interpretive history.  
Prepublication Price-\$19.95 (Including S&H)

## ALSO SOON TO BE RELEASED!

GBS Centenary Video featuring original movie sequences from the 1920's and 1930's. Prepared professionally under the direction of Wes Humble, this amazing presentation includes scenes from the old Revivalist Press, the annual Thanksgiving dinners, school picnics, camp meetings, and the GBS orphanage.



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*God's Bible School Interpretive*  
History Book \$19.95 (incl. S&H)



## *Where Once the Feet of Saints Have Walked*

*Written for the GBS Centenary by the Rev. James Bender ('97 BRE)*

Where once the feet of saints have walked We follow in their place To bear the charge that's handed us— A faith we must embrace.	The winds of change and storms of doubt Have buffeted her soul, But they have not deterred her sight And vision of the goal.
At times throughout the passing years God gives a special mission, To preach, to pray, to save the lost: To live the Great Commission.	Though scoffers came to muse and laugh The years have proved them wrong, For from the blessed "Hilltop" Still rings a holy song.
And Brother Knapp was such a one, Called for such an hour, That every person might receive God's holiness and power.	Come, listen to the echoes Resounding through the halls Of men and women gone before In answer to their calls.
And so he built God's Bible School For those from every nation Who wished to go and tell the world Of God's complete salvation.	Their holy shout fills all the earth And reaches to the sky To mingle with eternal saints Who echo back the cry.
	Where once the feet of saints have walked A hundred years have passed. We'll bear the charge that's handed us And forge a faith to last.

