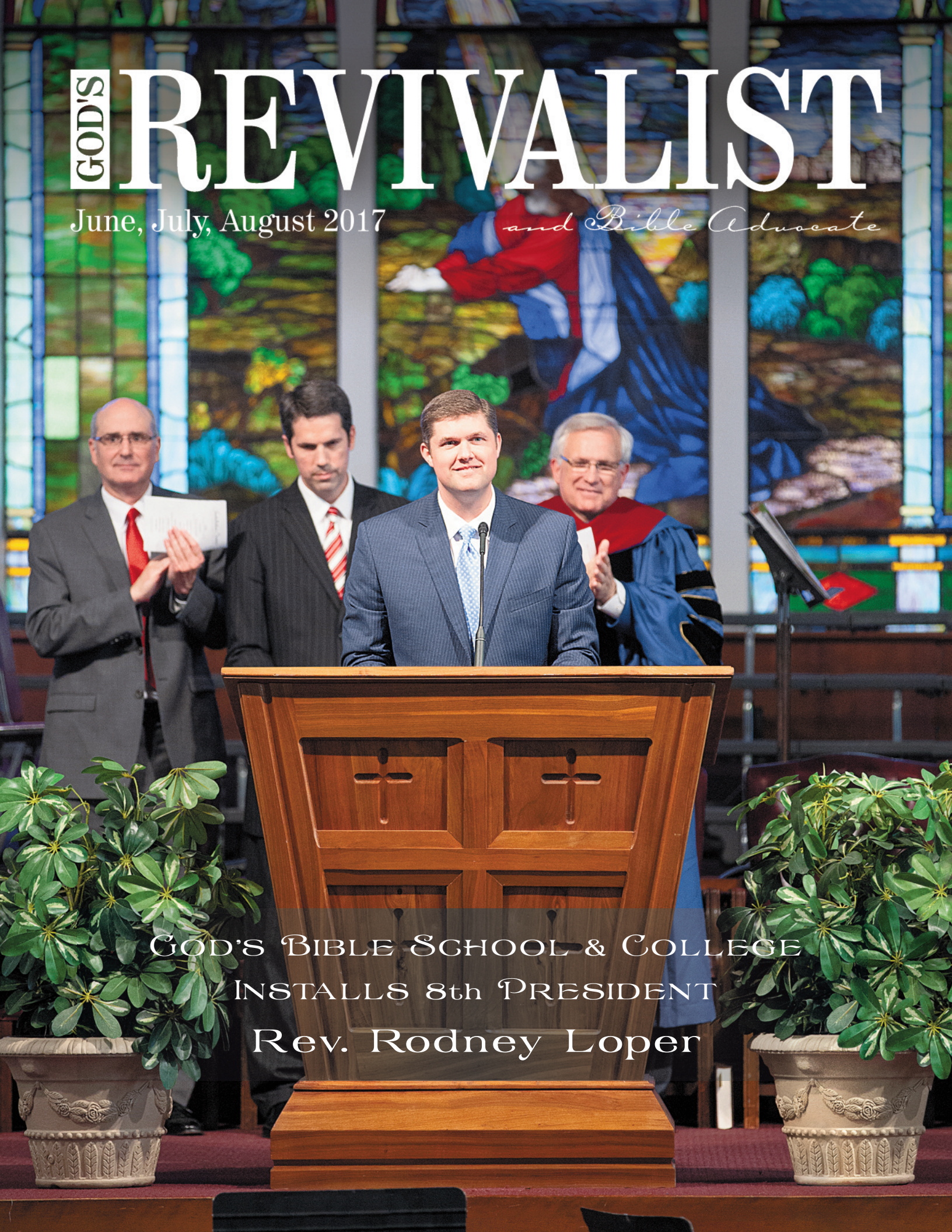


# GOD'S REVIVALIST

June, July, August 2017

*and Bible Advocate*



GOD'S BIBLE SCHOOL & COLLEGE  
INSTALLS 8th PRESIDENT  
Rev. Rodney Loper





## about this issue

### PEACEFUL TRANSFER

**F**rankly, it was quite amazing...and comforting. I sat in the Adcock Memorial Chapel and watched as the power of the presidency passed from Michael Avery to Rodney Loper and reflected on the blessings of the peaceful transfer.

You might think, "But GBS is a Bible college. Isn't it supposed to be peaceful?" Well, yes. But I am sure you are aware of ministries where that has not always been the case. Problems can arise for various reasons. Sometimes a leader does not recognize when it is time to move on, or that there are problems which need to be addressed but are beyond his skill set. Unfortunately, it can even be more serious than that. A sudden crisis might transpire that requires an abrupt change at the top.

Thankfully, this was not that. It was indeed a peaceful transition. In fact, the president-elect has been on campus for the entire school year—getting to know policies, procedures, people, and programs. This transfer of authority has been a testament to the character of both president and president-elect, especially since letting go of power is not always easy.

That reminds me of Lawrence Kohlberg's seventh stage of psychosocial development—*generativity versus self-absorption and stagnation* (ages 40-65). During this stage, an individual can resolve this "conflict" positively (on the generativity side) by doing things to benefit the oncoming generation and mentoring them to ensure they are prepared to assume new roles. Sadly, those on the "self-absorption" side tend to focus on maintaining their own status—even at the expense of others.

Additionally, some find it difficult to be tapped as the next leader only to be placed in a situation where that status is "on hold" while they work alongside of another whom they are scheduled to replace. Again, this was not the case. The attitudes and character of the president and president-elect have made the year-long transition process here at GBS both valuable and constructive. President Avery welcomed his successor with open arms and helped him to "learn the ropes." President-elect Loper—and indeed the school and its constituencies—benefited from this process. We thank God for His help! —KF ■

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COVER: Rev. Rodney Loper addresses the attendees at his installation service. Photo by Amit Dutta.

# the president's page



## DRIFTING

*by Rodney Loper, President*

The writer of the book of Hebrews offers a clear warning to those who will listen. “Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away” (NKJV). If you are like me, you can recall animated preachers warning against drift. Many times, at least in my memory, the warning was broad in its scope. Denominations drift. Movements drift. Churches drift. Organizations drift. While this is true, the primary focus of this warning is for the individual. Drifting is only possible when individuals begin to allow the current of present circumstances to control direction.

How many individuals are struggling right here? We shouldn’t be too quick to point out the flaws of others and thereby miss an opportunity to assess our own personal situation accurately.

I have discovered that it really doesn’t take much time at all to drift spiritually. Good services help people get headed in the right direction. Revivals are great times for spiritual growth, and camp meeting is a time when great victories are won. But in the ebb and flow of life, the pressure of going against the flow of the world is a constant struggle. Sometimes people—even well-intentioned people—relax, and drift begins.

I have also observed that summertime is a key season for drifting. Why? Because summertime allows for more flexibility in schedules. Additionally, for many it is a time of leisure. Summer starts with a holiday, ends with a holiday, and is sprinkled with vacations and special events. All of these things combine to create a schedule that can get out of control. Out-of-control schedules often result in busyness on the one hand, and idleness on the other. Both are major contributors to spiritual drift and must be avoided.

Busyness is one of Satan’s greatest weapons against our present generation. It seems that good, godly people are busier than ever before. Christians,



we must never forget that, as we grow in Christ, we should be more consumed with *being* than *doing*!

In trying to assess our rationale for busyness, I have concluded that it stems from three root issues: (1) We are busy as a defense. We don't want to face reality. (2) We are busy because we don't prioritize. (3) We are busy because of pride. When I tell you I am busy, it proves that I have value. As a result, we limp along spiritually because we are too busy *doing* rather than deepening our relationship with God—i.e. *being*. We so often sacrifice the best things in life by spending time doing things that are just “pretty good.”

Idleness is another weapon that Satan uses against us. Idleness is not as passive as it appears. Idleness, by its very nature, makes us a slave to something. C.S. Lewis wrote, “We are half-hearted creatures fooling around with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum.” Lewis isn't warning against wholesome pleasures, he is warning against idle carelessness that has become our culture's god. Hours are spent on Xbox, sports highlights, hobbies, scrolling through our favorite social media outlet, scouring news sources, peering at our smartphone screen, all the while sitting in a mud puddle making mud pies as we drift aimlessly through life. Remember, the only thing required for drifting is no effort!

Old timers used to say, “Idleness is the workshop of the devil.” One church father called vacation time the “harvest time of the devil.”<sup>1</sup> Another commented, “When we are busy at work, one devil may tempt us; however, when we have nothing to do, then an army of devils are knocking at the door of our hearts.”<sup>2</sup>

One of the clearest examples of the danger of idleness is the biblical account of David and Bathsheba. How could such a man of God, poet, shepherd of the house of Israel, composer of most of the Psalms, and “a man after the heart of God,” fall into adultery and, worse yet, plot the murder of an innocent man? How could this all happen? It all started when, instead of going to battle and leading his soldiers to victory, King David stayed home and relaxed on the roof of his palace. Idleness got him.

Again, the easy response to this article is to toss it aside and pray that others get help. If you do that, you have missed the point. The question that should be pondered is, “Am I personally drifting? How am I doing in my journey with God over the past year or the past few months?”

Now is the time to reengage, to man the oars and return to course. Call out to God before you lose all sense of spiritual direction. Ask for His help in maintaining proper direction and avoiding the pitfalls of busyness and idleness along the way.

Remember this: If you desire to walk closely with God, you will need to make sure you control your calendar and not allow your calendar to control you! ■

Quotations are from St. John Bosco<sup>1</sup> and St. Bonaventure.<sup>2</sup>

# Letters

## TO THE EDITOR

*Letters should be addressed to the Editorial Office, 1810 Young Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202, or emailed to [revivalist@gbs.edu](mailto:revivalist@gbs.edu). Letters reprinted here do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editor of God's Revivalist nor those of the administration of God's Bible School. Names and locations of writers will be withheld at their specific request or at the discretion of the editor. We reserve the right to edit and condense.*

I want to commend you for the great job you did on this issue [Jan/Feb 2017]. The articles, photos, layout, and variety of themes are terrific. I've had comments from several people expressing their appreciation for this tribute to Oswald Chambers and the significant role God's Bible School played in his life. It was great working with you on this issue.

DAVID McCASLAND  
biographer of Oswald Chambers  
Colorado Springs, CO

Just a note to congratulate you and your staff on a fantastic Oswald Chambers-focused edition of *God's Revivalist*. It's wonderful—and included photos I've not seen before. My favorite article was David's description of how the Holy Spirit led him in the writing. I sent him a copy of the serial I'm sending monthly in my newsletter this year—describing all the ways I was led by the same Holy Spirit in writing my two books! Thank you, too, for the mention of Mrs. Oswald Chambers.

MICHELLE ULE  
biographer of Mrs. Oswald Chambers  
(Baker Books, October 2017)  
Santa Rosa, CA

Excellent job on the issue on Oswald Chambers. I read it cover-to-cover. It was so well done in every aspect!

BROOKE GUMM  
Cincinnati, OH

Can't put the issue on Oswald Chambers down! So glad that we get *God's Revivalist*!

JIM BREWER  
Marcy, NY





## HUSBANDS:

### A Tip That Could Save Your Marriage

by Erik Raymond

**W**ith a title like this there is little room for dilly-dallying along the way to the answer. So without much introduction, here is the tip that could save your marriage: Get a part-time job.

There. That's it. Husbands, if you want to save or strengthen your marriage, get a part-time job.

I should say right off the bat that I am not talking about a literal job that will pull you away from the home for more hours. Instead I'm arguing for the husband to approach his time at home with his family with the same thoughtful intentionality and engagement that he would if he were to go to work.

Far too many marriages are suffering because the husband comes home mentally, physically, and emotionally zapped from his work day. He has done well as the provider for the home, and now he is going to come home and collapse into a lazy-boy (aptly named), or in front of a computer, or into some other process of decompression and relaxation from a tough day at work. This type of thing may be okay occasionally, but, if practiced regularly, it will lead to major problems.

Years ago, after starting a new job, I came home mentally and emotionally drained several days in a row. Lying on the floor "resting" became my default posture. One day my wife walked over and said, "Hey, we don't want your leftovers. Don't give everyone else your best only to serve us leftovers."

This hit me like a ton of bricks. My wife and family were grateful that I was providing, but they were not content with a mere provider. They wanted a dad and a husband. In other words, there is more to the job of being a husband than just making money. He needs to

be thoughtfully, intentionally, and continually engaged in the home.

This is why the illustration of having a second job in the evenings works so well. As husbands, we must come home with at least as much, if not more, engagement than we would have at work. Husbands come home to lead their families lovingly. They need to be serving their wives by listening, learning, nourishing, and shepherding them. We can't do that when we are "recovering" from work or checking out for some much needed "me" time. The job description for a husband entails thoughtful intentionality. We have got to be in the game and doing our job.

It would not be a stretch to say that over 90% of the marital counseling I have done as a pastor involves the husband sleeping at his post in one way or another. He hangs his hat on being the provider while neglecting his role as shepherd-leader of the home. Fixing this will not solve everything, but it will drastically improve a lot of things.

So, husbands, let me challenge you to come home from work like you are going to work at a job you love in a place you love. Come alongside your wife to talk, listen, and learn her. Play with the kids. Do some chores. Make some jokes. Read the Bible. Pray together. Play a game. Make some dessert. Fix something that broke. Flirt with your wife. Sit and talk. Whatever you do, do it heartily and intentionally like a guy who is there, engaged with his family, not escaping from his family. ■

**Erik Raymond** is senior pastor of Emmaus Bible Church in Omaha, NE. He and his wife Christie have six children. This article appeared at [thegospelcoalition.org](http://thegospelcoalition.org) where he regularly blogs.

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2017





## What Dad Taught Me:

### Five Invaluable Principles I Use Every Day

**M**y dad is a quiet man, more comfortable working with his hands than delivering a speech or writing an essay. But this doesn't mean that Dad hasn't been a teacher. Dad's life has spoken to me in ways that I still think of today. Most of these lessons were simply by following his example.

My father grew up in a broken home. He didn't know his real father until he was 14 years old. He dealt with the devastating effects of alcoholism and was forced to grow up fast. While still in high school, he got up early to work at a bakery, using this income to support his mother (my grandmother) as she helped raise six children with my father's stepdad.

While in his late teens, my father came to faith in Christ through the ministry of Billy Graham. He later met my mother, a Jewish girl who converted to Christianity, and they got married. I'm the oldest of three children.

Dad was a blue-collar guy, a licensed plumber, who has always been known for the quality of his work. It wasn't the specific job he did but the way Dad carried himself that taught me the most about life, about manhood, and about living out the gospel. These five lessons are ones I've adopted as I seek to honor the Lord with my life:

#### 1. A real man acknowledges his dependence on God.

Even though my father is a rugged, hardworking, "man's man," he has always been unafraid to admit

*by Daniel Darling*



his weakness and need for Christ. I remember getting up every morning and seeing my father reading his Bible.

Now to be sure, I'm not a morning person, so my sons don't find me up early reading the Bible. I do my Bible reading at other times, mostly at night. But I have tried to carry Dad's dependence on the Word with me. Dad taught me the value of making Scripture the center of a family's life. I think this is why all three of his children are actively following Christ.

## **2. A real man takes his family to church every week.**

I guess I didn't realize the importance of this until I became a father and had my own children. It was just assumed that every Sunday we went to church. There was never a question. No matter what was going on that week, no matter how tired Dad was, no matter who was playing whom that Sunday, we were in church. Dad had an ironclad policy: If you were sick enough to stay home, then you were sick that whole day. You didn't play hooky, pretend to be sick, and then play outside on Sunday.

For a young man, this is an important visual statement. Kids need to see their fathers faithfully leading them to church every week. This tells the family that worship of the risen Christ matters so much that we voluntarily set aside a day each week in worship. What's more, a real man invests and is involved in the work of a Bible-believing church. Dad gave himself, his time, his money, and his talents to the work of the Kingdom. I hope that one day my kids will say the same thing about me.

## **3. A real man works hard to provide for his family.**

Again, I didn't realize how rare this is until I grew older and observed the sad lack of purpose and vision among contemporary men. Dad modeled what it looks like to get up every day, like it or not, and go to work for the family. Plumbing is a hard job. It's physically demanding and requires focus and discipline. But Dad never wavered in his commitment to provide for us.

I remember asking him, "Dad, do you ever get tired of doing this every single day?" He replied, "Son, yes, I do. But then I remember that I don't get tired of eating. I don't get tired of having a house. I don't get tired of seeing my kids' needs taken care of. So I quickly get 'untired' of working."

Great answer! Even in a chosen vocation involving your area of giftedness, not every day at work is a day at the beach. Many days are mundane. Some are frustrating. Some days you want to quit, even in the best of jobs. But a real man, a man of God, labors to provide for the ones God has called him to love and serve. By God's grace, I've tried to carry on this work ethic, and it will benefit me my entire life.

## **4. A real man loves his wife unconditionally, in good times and bad.**

My parents have been married for 38 years. There have been many hardships along the way. My mother endured seven miscarriages. She's been afflicted by illness. Dad has seen his own share of health challenges and, lately, unemployment struggles as the housing industry in the Chicago area has suffered. Dad has taught me, through it all, the value of simple, everyday faithfulness. Not all of life is easy. Many seasons are hard and difficult and make a person want to get up and walk away. Dad's faithfulness in good and bad seasons has shown me what a real man does: He endures.

I pray it's said of me that I have the same character and faithfulness Dad has exhibited. He isn't perfect and neither am I. We are both in need of God's amazing grace to cover our many sins. But if I could be half the man Dad has been in his life, that would be enough for me.

## **5. A real man is a living witness of the gospel in the daily grind of life.**

This is related to point #3. Dad not only worked hard, he took pride in his work. I remember asking Dad, while working alongside him as a 14-year-old, why he cared that the drain pipes we were installing inside the walls had to be so straight. "Nobody will see them," I said. "But, Son, I will see them. God sees them. That matters." Dad did his work with excellence, even staying an extra hour to get that one thing right that didn't much matter to me. But it does matter, because the work we do with our hands reflects the Creator. He's given us a job to do, and we should do it well—to His glory.

Dad's work was his witness to an unsaved and watching world. The construction trades are not exactly a haven for clean living. Dad never heard of the words "missional" and "incarnational." He just got up every day and did the very best job he could, and his work was a witness. He was unafraid to share his faith vocally on the job, even though those opportunities were rare. I can tell you, however, that everyone who worked with my father knew he was a Christian, mostly because of the quality work he did.

Too many people in our day and age don't know the treasure of a great father. I'm grateful, by God's grace, that I do. In fact, my father is one of my heroes because he has shown me what it looks like for a Christian man to live out his faith in the nitty-gritty, daily grind of life, among a lost and sinful people. And I'll never, ever forget it. ■

**Daniel Darling**, Vice President for Communications for the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, is the author of several books. This article appeared at [www.churchleaders.com](http://www.churchleaders.com) and is used with permission.





Those in attendance reflected upon God's faithfulness under President Avery's leadership and were given a glimpse into the excitement on campus as President-elect Rev. Rodney Loper shared his passion for the future of the school.

Pennsylvania pastor and experienced bus driver Andy Cooley safely navigated the group to venues

in Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, and Indiana from March 31 to April 5. The tour provided opportunities for GBS alumni to reconnect with and show their support for the school. Noted by Mr. Hartkopf was the joy of seeing recent graduates Kara Moore (BA '14), Dana (Paxton) (AA '12) and Alex (AA '13) Fourman, Michelle (Miller) (BA '07) and Mike (AAS, BA '07) Mater in leadership positions doing the work of ministry!

## SWSE SPRING TOUR

The Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble sounded forth the themes of God's grace and faithfulness during its spring tour. Conducted by music faculty member David Hartkopf and assisted by faculty accompanist Jessica Smith, the orchestra presented spirited symphonic renditions of gospel music interspersed with inspiring vocal numbers and heartfelt student testimonies, "full of Scripture and things God has been doing in their lives."



The Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble

# 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.*

## DEATHS



**Rev. Densel Ray Ball II**, 58, passed away April 27 at the Overland Park Regional Medical Center (KS) after an automobile accident. He was born in 1958 in Charleston, WV, to Densel Ray and Betty Jo Ball. At an early age he professed his faith in Jesus Christ and felt called to the ministry.

After graduation from Mountain State Christian School in Culloden, WV, he attended West Virginia State College (Institute, WV). In 1978 he transferred to GBS. During his student years, he was very active

in public relations, singing in the school's traveling men's group for six years. He held class offices, including that of president during his senior year; and he was active in the Ministerial Organization, including as its president.

After graduating with a BA (Social Science) in 1984, Densel joined the GBS staff as a Public Relations representative. In the four years of work in this department, he made many new friends for the school. He also completed his second degree (ThB '86). After moving west in 1988, he was greatly missed by the campus family.

In Kansas, Densel took some classes at the Nazarene Theological Seminary. He also was very active in church work, serving as assistant pastor even as he held a secular occupation. In 1995, Densel married Michelle Chinski and they had two children, Jacqueline and Densel Ray Ball III (Ty). As he moved into senior pastor posi-





VIP Day Chapel Service



VIP Day Classroom Experience

## VIP DAY

VIP Day 2017 was a tremendous success! Nearly 230 guests graced our campus for the college open

house, 193 of which were prospective students. With campus and city tours, mini classes, divisional time, a parent/sponsor session, recreation, and a humorous banquet, the event schedule was packed.

About 20 guests also participated in a downtown ministry by helping a GBS team hand out bottled water and gospel tracts and staff a prayer station.

President Avery delivered a passionate message for his final VIP Day, challenging the congregation to listen and respond to the "God moments" in their lives. With many prospective and college students alike going forward to the altar, this was a perfect ending to this year's event! We are so thankful for the blessings of God on VIP Day 2017!

## LOCK-IN

On April 28th, the annual Student Government sponsored Lock-in was held at Sports of All Sorts in Florence, KY. From 11:00 p.m. to

5:00 a.m., GBS students, family, and friends had exclusive use of the facility. They participated in volleyball, basketball, and bowling tournaments while enjoying pizza and drinks. A good time was had by all.

## SENIOR CHAPEL

On May 8, the Senior Chapel was held with encouraging testimonies and songs by graduating college students. It was simply too good to keep to ourselves!

For example, Stephen St. Germain from Terre Haute, IN, discussed how he had learned to trust in God and how God had provided for him. He had an interesting concluding admonition: "If I had one thing to say to the undergraduates, it would be to take time to build relationships with faculty and staff because they really care for us."

Mari Hamada of Shimada, Japan, also spoke of God's faithfulness and concluded with the beautiful song, "He's Been Faithful." ➡



tions, he maintained his work in banking. At the time of his passing, Densel was the senior pastor at Cornerstone Wesleyan Church in Kansas City, MO, and a mortgage loan officer at MoBank in Overland Park, KS.

Densel is survived by his wife, Michelle; children, Jackie and Ty; his parents; and his brother, Leslie Franklin (Frank). A memorial service was held at the Westside Family Church in Lenexa, KS, officiated by Kevin Terrell (MoBank manager) and Max Colaw (Wesleyan District Superintendent). Approximately 1200 attended.

Another memorial service was held on June 14 at the Saint Andrew United Methodist Church, Saint Albans, WV, and featured singing groups with connections to Densel.

Special note: Michelle has had two surgeries to remove brain tumors (2013 and 2016) and Ty had hip impingement surgery 10 days before his father's accident.

Therefore, in lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established for the Ball family. For those wishing to contribute, a memorial gift can be made online at [www.kccornerstone.com/ways-to-give](http://www.kccornerstone.com/ways-to-give), or mailed to the Ball Family Relief Fund c/o Cornerstone Wesleyan Church, 6609 N Brighton Ave, Kansas City, MO 64119.



**Dennis Franklin Kinlaw**, 94, slipped into the presence of Jesus on April 10 at his home in Wilmore, KY. He was born in 1922 in Lumberton, NC, to the late Wade and Sally Kinlaw. Dennis was a 1943 graduate of Asbury College where he met and married his beloved wife of 59 years, Elsie Blake Kinlaw, who preceded him in death (2003). Dennis went on to graduate from Asbury Theological Seminary in 1946. He received an MA and PhD from Brandeis University. He pastored for 11 years before returning to Asbury Theological ➡



Abe Kurnia, of Surakarta, Indonesia, admitted that, in comparison to when he left home to come to the United States, "Right now I am a little sadder to leave here to go home." He placed the blame for this on the faculty and staff: "I don't know what I have done to deserve such wonderful people to be my mentors." Abe then played the guitar as Prilia Naraswari (also from Indonesia) sang a medley ending with the well-received "I'm In Good Hands."

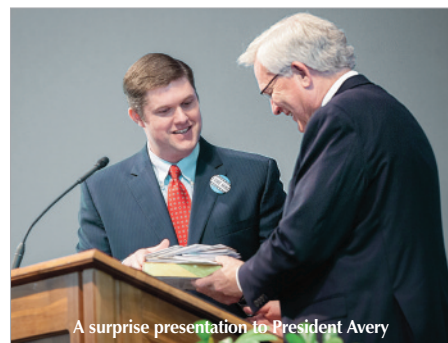
Following the student presentations, President-elect Rodney Loper gave brief remarks. "There is a power of mentorship that is available on campus," he said, encouraging students to take advantage of that. "It will help you become the person God has called you to be."



Attendees of Senior Chapel who wore blue

He then noted that many of the faculty, staff, and students were purposefully wearing President Avery's favorite color—blue. He called the president to the podium and presented him with a surprise gift—cards and notes from the students, faculty, and staff. Their expressions of gratitude formed a rather large pile.

In response, President Avery said, "The sadness in my heart is just



A surprise presentation to President Avery

# REVIVALIST FAMILY continued

➡ Seminary as a professor of Old Testament history, theology, and languages. He later served as president of Asbury College from 1968-1981, and then again from 1986-1991. In 1983 he founded the Francis Asbury Society in Wilmore, KY. He also served as chairman of the board for One Mission Society International for thirty years.

He is survived by 5 children; Beth, Dennis Jr., Katy, Susie, and Sally; 16 grandchildren; and 35 great-grandchildren. Dennis gave his life to the proclamation of the gospel around the world through preaching, teaching, and writing. Funeral services were held in Hughes Auditorium at Asbury University with burial following in Wilmore Cemetery.



**Larry Dean Thomas**, 75, of Westfield, IN, went to his eternal home on Tuesday, May 9. He was born to the late Carl and Garnetta (Mallett) Thomas in Washington, IN. After graduation from Epsom High School in 1960, Larry served in the National Guard for three years. Larry married LaDonna Lemon, on June 9, 1967. He passed away one month prior to their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Larry worked for McCord Corporation in Washington, IN, from 1960 to 1974. He and LaDonna traveled as song evangelists from 1974 to 2016. Larry was public relations director at Union Bible College in Westfield, IN, from 1989 to 1997. He also worked with Thomas Carpets until July 2016.

Survivors include his wife, LaDonna; two daughters, Julie and Joy; 10 grandchildren; brothers, Carl, James, Terry, and Henry; and a sister, Sharon. The funeral service was held at the Pilgrim Holiness Church, Noblesville, IN, with Pastor John Forsee officiating. Burial followed at Sugarland Memory Gardens Cemetery in Washington, IN.

## NOTICE

Independence Bible School, Independence, KS, is in need of three dedicated and qualified elementary school teachers for grades 1-2, 3-4, and 5-6. IBS is an entity of the Bible Holiness Church. For more information, contact Matt Brewer, Principal, at 620-331-3780 or 913-406-7629. You may also contact Stephen Douglas, Board Chairman, at 620-228-1749. ■



a reflection of the huge joy that has been mine for 22 years. It has not been a joy about buildings. It has been a joy about people and relationships. You students have brought so much joy into my life. I can't describe it. It is absolutely...[pause] Words just break down and squeak. I thank you for that, and I thank you for these notes. This is what I will save. I will save your written words. They mean so much to me. And I will read them. Thank you so much."

The service ended with the song "I Want My Life to Count for Jesus," performed by a vocal ensemble, after which all of those who were wearing blue assembled with President Avery for a photograph.

### DOCTOR STEPHEN SMITH!

On Friday, May 12, 2017, a ceremony in Deerfield, IL, marked the graduation of GBS ministerial professor Stephen Smith from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He received a PhD in Theological Studies with a concentration in New Testament Exegesis and Theology. His dissertation, "The Perseverance of the Saints in the Apocalypse of John," is a study of how the author



of the Book of Revelation motivates God's people to persevere in their faithfulness to Jesus. Dr. Smith thanks "all of my friends and family who have supported me over this long journey, and especially my wife, Jessica!" The GBS family congratulates Dr. Stephen Smith.

### MT. AUBURN CLEANUP DAY

GBS students and staff participated in the annual community cleanup on Saturday, May 13. Even though this occurs at a very busy time during the semester, about 20



volunteers from our campus family saw this as a great way to give back to our neighborhood. Families were encouraged to get involved, and Panera Bread provided breakfast. Groups were assigned specific areas to clean up. We thank our students and staff for giving those who live and work in Mt. Auburn a favorable impression of our school.

### MUSIC DIVISION ENDS SCHOOL YEAR WITH CONCERTS

An inspiring choral celebration featuring folk music from around the world took place on May 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Adcock Chapel. Along

with the Oratorio Choir, the concert highlighted brass and percussion ensembles, as well as alumna Renee (Langworthy) Muir (BA '14) on clarinet and students Hollie Kessen and Abe Kurnia on flute and guitar, respectively. Directed by Mr. Tim Crater and assisted by Ms. Jessica Smith, associate director, and Mrs. Martha Miller, accompanist, more than 50 voices joined together in a musical cornucopia of styles, themes, and languages. The program concluded with the ever popular spiritual "Ride On, King Jesus" arranged by Moses Hogan. After the closing prayer by President-elect Rodney Loper, the choir surprised the attendees with a quiet but moving *capella* rendition of "He's All I Need."

Under the able baton of Director David Hartkopf and assisted by Ms. Jessica Smith, the Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble performed its annual spring concert on Tuesday, May 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the Adcock Chapel. Titled "Honor" and billed as a concert of American music, it was dedicated to long-term staff member Floyd Hyatt and in memory of his wife Virginia, who passed away during the school year. Also honored were former members of the U.S. armed services who were invited to stand during a medley of service songs. A lively brass arrangement of



Oratorio Choir





Spring Concert of the Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble

"America the Beautiful" spotlighted the saxophone solo of student Motoo Hamada. The highlight of the concert was the performance of John Williams' "Hymn to the Fallen," which featured the joint college and academy choirs augmented by staff/faculty members and guests.

## COMMISSIONING WEEKEND

A Candlelight Celebration Service on Wednesday evening, May 17, was the official beginning of Commissioning Weekend activities. The campus family gathered on the south lawn for a time of singing and student testimonies, which featured the graduating college and high school seniors. A portable baptistry made it possible for a number of students to be baptized as a public confession of their commitment to Christ. The service concluded with a candle-lighting ceremony, and the many flames that dotted the hillside represented those who leave campus to minister in various parts of the world.

Among the speakers for the weekend services was Richard Gremillion, of Indianapolis, IN, who preached Friday evening on "Things We Must Never Forget," based on Isaiah chapter six. His four points



were: (1) *God and God alone is awesome*; (2) *God and God alone exposes the depth of our depravity*; (3) *God and God alone forgives the guilt of our sins*; and (4) *God and God alone leads us where He would have us serve*. The service ended with a move to the altar, and many received help.



In the Saturday evening service, John Manley, pastor and GBS trustee, gave a stirring message, "Stand Aside, I Ride For the King." It was an encouragement not to lose focus and not to be deterred from doing the King's work.

On Sunday morning, Michael Avery preached his final sermon at GBS as its president. His theme, "A Call to Remember," was taken from 2 Timothy 1:3-14 and had these points:

(1) *Stand by your grandmother*. This means remember your spiritual heritage. Start looking through your heritage—separate the priceless heirlooms from the junk. Too often when you look at your heritage, you tend to make three mistakes: you don't appreciate it at all; you simply don't understand it; or you make your past a hitching post instead of a guidepost.

President Avery then expounded upon the heritage of God's Bible School: a heritage of radical abandonment to God, a heritage of

Divine intervention, and a heritage of outreach to the marginalized.

(2) *Safeguard the trust*. It is our solemn responsibility to safeguard a Wesleyan understanding of scriptural holiness and spiritual experience.

(3) *Stir up the gift*. Don't neglect the heart—keep the fire burning in your heart. He concluded, "My last words to you as president—Mind the Light! Keep the Gift. Mind the Light!"

## COMMENCEMENT

President Michael Avery conducted the commencement exercises on Saturday morning, May 20, in the Adcock Chapel. Mrs. Martha Miller was the organist. Rev. Brian Spangler of East Rochester, OH, delivered the invocation, and Mrs. Marileze Herrer of Duivelskloof, South Africa, read the Scripture lesson, Proverbs 3:13-26. "Only One Life" was sung by Brittany Cravens, accompanied on piano by Michelle Probst.

David Hartkopf (BA '07), on staff since 2009 as music professor and director of the Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble, was chosen by the senior class to give the address. His brief remarks, very well received by the graduates and attendees, can be summed up as follows:

(1) *No matter your vocation, nothing is more important than your integrity*. Never fear the consequences of doing the right thing.

(2) *Commit to excellence in the work you do*. Do things well so others will see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

(3) *Love people*. Trying to love broken people without the love of Christ in your life is difficult. Rooting yourself deeply in Christ allows Him to love others through you.

(4) *Allow eternal things to be the purpose and passion in your life*. Grow in grace in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Give Him glory both now and forever.





Hollie Kessen (L) and Courtney Fourman (R)

Dr. Aaron Profitt, Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented the college graduates, who in turn received their diplomas from President Avery.

Courtney Danaé Fourman was recognized as valedictorian, and Hollie Nicole Kessen as salutatorian. Caslyn Jeanet Rice was presented with the *Educated Christian Award*, and Prilia Dani Nareswari was given the *Oscar Johnson Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Service*.

Chairs from the GBS academic divisions presented the following student awards: **Division of Ministerial Education** (Dr. Allan Brown, Chair): *Zondervan Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Study of Biblical Hebrew*, Zachary Barkman; **Division of Music** (Dr. Jana Pop, Chair): *Music Servant Leadership Award*, Mari Hamada; **Division of Education and Professional Studies** (Dr. Marcia Davis on behalf of Mr. Lyle Witt, Chair): *Student Teacher of the Year Award*, Lindsay Caitlin Rose.

An exciting addition to the ceremony was the hooding of the first GBS graduate student by Dr. Philip Brown, Graduate Program Director. Maricka Herrer received an MA in Biblical Studies, earning a 4.00 grade point average. She faithfully served as administrative assistant for the graduate program and will be joining the staff of the Bible Methodist Shepherd's College in the Philippines as instructor and junior administrator.



2017 College Commencement Participants of God's Bible School and College

## 2017 GRADUATES\* OF GOD'S BIBLE SCHOOL, COLLEGE, AND MISSIONARY TRAINING HOME

### HIGH SCHOOL

**Samuel Allen Cramer,**  
Valedictorian

Amberly Marie Derby  
Van Bao (Grace) Hua  
Candace Rose Kessen  
Nathan Paul Klotz  
Hanna Degife Kore  
Tsegawork Degife Kore  
Tyler Christopher Mills  
Joel Richard Mitchell  
Logan Miller Sankey  
Holly Lynn Scott  
**Anna Marie Snelling,**  
Salutatorian  
Natnael Felege Tariku  
Martha Joy Wegener

### UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

**ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN BIBLE AND THEOLOGY**  
Joshua Beck  
Beverly Burroughs \*  
Laurie Ann Dewhurst \*  
Joshua L. Stobart \*

**ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN GENERAL BUSINESS**  
Timothy Trent Replogle

### ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN GENERAL STUDIES

Andrew James Beck  
Emmalee Bishop  
Anna Mae Kline \*  
Andrew Lee Potter  
Mica K. Terrian  
Laura Wurst \*\*

**ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN INTERCULTURAL STUDIES AND WORLD MISSIONS**  
Stephen Michael St. Germain

### BACHELOR OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Gale R. Brown  
Chad DeWitt \*\*  
Rachel Anne Langstaff \*\*  
Matthew A. Potter  
Kevin A. Spangler  
Nathaniel L. Truitt

### BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CHURCH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Meagan Joy Cravens \*\*  
Brenda S. Hunter  
Cesar Perez  
Jordan Jeffrey Razon  
Lois Burgess Williams

### BACHELOR OF ARTS IN INTEGRATIVE STUDIES

Van Neih Bik  
Andrew Douglas Eads  
Joshua Glick \*\*\*  
Abraham Adi Kurnia \*  
Prilia Dani Nareswari \*\*\*  
Jordan Mark Potter  
Kayla Anne Vandervort \*\*\*

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN INTERCULTURAL STUDIES AND WORLD MISSIONS**  
Sarah Marie Cook  
Rachel Anne Langstaff \*\*  
Emily Stillwell

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MINISTERIAL EDUCATION**  
Christopher Michael Adams  
Patrick W. Dewhurst \*\*\*  
Akashi Nishigata \*

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MUSIC EDUCATION (K-12 NON-PERFORMANCE)**  
Brittany Lachelle Cravens  
Mari Hamada \*\*

### BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MUSIC EDUCATION (K-12 PERFORMANCE)

**Hollie Nicole Kessen,**  
Salutatorian \*\*\*  
Michelle Ann Probst \*\*\*

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MUSIC EDUCATION (K-8) AND CLASSROOM EDUCATION**  
Laurie Ann Dewhurst \*

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN TEACHER EDUCATION (ELEMENTARY)**  
Breanna Potteiger \*\*\*  
Caslyn Jeanet Rice \*\*  
Lindsay Rose

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN TEACHER EDUCATION (SECONDARY ENGLISH)**  
**Courtney Danaé**  
**Fourman,**  
Valedictorian \*\*\*

### GRADUATE DEGREE

**MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL STUDIES**  
Maricka Herrer \*\*\*

★ pending completion of all course requirements

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



Board Chair Robert England, Jr., then called President Avery to the podium and read an official proclamation which granted President Avery the title "Chancellor of God's Bible School and College so long as he shall live." A rocking chair emblazoned with the institution's seal and Avery's new title was unveiled. The congregation gave the departing president a sustained standing ovation, after which he proceeded to perform his "last official act as President of this institution" by conferring the degrees on the graduating class of 2017. Rev. Deron Fourman, of Port Clinton, OH, offered the benediction.

### ACADEMY GRADUATION

For the second year since its inception, Aldersgate Christian Academy held its graduation ceremony separate from that of the GBS college. At 7:00 p.m. on May 26, Principal William Marshall presented 14 high school graduates with diplomas. Special recognition was offered to Samuel Cramer, valedictorian, and Anna Snelling, salutatorian. The ceremony



also honored the eleven students graduating from eighth grade to high school, including Megan Bird, eighth grade valedictorian, and Carolyn Keep, eighth grade salutatorian.

Ms. Sonja Vernon, GBS dean of women, gave the address. Taking her cue from the ACA mascot, she addressed the graduates as "flames," using Philippians 2:15 as her key

## Aldersgate FORUM

October 24-26, 2017

### *"Gender Identity and Gay Marriage: Speaking the Truth in Love"*

Higher Ground Conference & Retreat Center, West Harrison, IN

Early Registration Fee: \$150 • [www.gbs.edu/forum-signup](http://www.gbs.edu/forum-signup)

verse: "...So that you may become blameless and pure, 'children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.' Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky." She then briefly developed three points: If you're going to shine, (1) *you have to be different from the world around you*; (2) *you have to be authentic*; (3) *you have to keep the fire going*.

### NEW PRESIDENT INSTALLED

It was the beginning of a landmark service and holy celebration when on Sunday, May 21, at 3:30 p.m., the Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble concluded its stirring prelude and Martha Miller's rousing organ anthem signaled the march of dignitaries in full regalia down the Adcock Chapel aisle. Included in the procession were the trustees, college faculty, administrators, President Avery, President-elect Loper, and additional persons involved in the special ceremony to install the eighth president of God's Bible School.

Robert England, Jr., chair of both the Board of Trustees and the Transition Committee, greeted all, especially noting representatives from sister colleges and various missions organizations. James Plank, General Secretary of the Interchurch Holiness Convention, gave the invocation, followed by a congregational song, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," led by music faculty member David Hartkopf.

Jason Albertson, president of Student Government, read Matthew

5:1-15 and gave brief greetings from the student body. Keith Waggoner I, president of the National Alumni Association, also welcomed Rev. Loper on behalf of the school's alumni. Dr. Aaron Profitt, Vice President for Academic Affairs, gave a final welcome from faculty, staff, and administration.

David Hartkopf led the congregation in reciting the Chapel Creed as the College Choir ascended the risers for an exuberant rendition of "We Believe."

After another congregational song, a video presentation provided insight into Rodney's Christian heritage and described his ministry journey which had led him, full circle, back to GBS. (More details of his background will be shared in the September issue of *God's Revivalist*.)

Robert England, Jr., gave thanks to the Presidential Search Committee and the Transition Committee for their excellent work, noting that they had overseen an amazingly smooth process. He then introduced Rodney Loper.

### **President-elect Loper's Remarks**

"Looking back, we move forward" was Rev. Loper's theme as he acknowledged resting in the confidence that he is right where God wants him to be. He commended President Avery for his great influence in his life beginning during Loper's student days and continuing throughout his ministry, and thanked him for being a "Christian gentleman throughout the entire transition process."



Fully aware of the significant history of God's Bible School, Rev. Loper noted that he was able to stand before the congregation and look into the future with confidence because of those who had carved the pathway before him. He acknowledged that the school was poised to accomplish even greater things.

Repurposing GBS founder Martin Wells Knapp's vision as his own, Loper expressed his passion to train young men and women to go out and do the work of ministry. He extolled those who, after turning the tassel, refuse to buy into the "American dream" or permit the culture to determine their direction. Rather than allowing fears to cripple them, these determined young people settle for nothing less than to embrace the grace of God and win souls for His kingdom.

The president-elect mentioned four pillars established in his own life that will continue to mark his ministry as president. They are simple, but non-negotiable:

- I believe in the inerrancy of Scripture.
- I believe in salvation by grace through faith.
- I believe in entire sanctification.
- I believe in holy, careful living.

Rev. Loper admitted having mixed emotions—fear mingled with excitement. While overwhelmed with the size of the task before him, he is comforted by the confidence of being "right where God wants me to be."

Upon receiving the call to the presidency, Loper had prayed, "Oh, God, I don't just want to do *my* thing. I want to do *Your* thing." Although he had sensed a peace

through the process, he also prayed for confirmation from God's Word. Led to 2 Samuel 7:3, he read, "Go, do all that is in your heart, the LORD is with you." That brought additional assurance.

In conclusion, Loper returned to his theme. "We look back and see the gracious hand of God leading the school; but we move forward resting in the knowledge that God is with us. So, looking back, we move forward—trusting the God of the past to provide in the present."

### **Robing Ceremony**

Following the president-elect's remarks, President Avery walked to the podium. Drawing attention to the president's ceremonial gown, Chairman England explained that



the blue and gold colors represent the school; the four bars on each arm represent presidential status; and the red hood represents ministerial significance. President Avery then removed his presidential gown and, with the help of Robert

England and Keith Waggoner, placed it and its matching cap on Rodney. Melissa Loper joined her husband on the platform as the trustees gathered around them, and President Avery prayed the inaugural dedicatory prayer. ■

GOD'S BIBLE SCHOOL & COLLEGE  
**HOME COMING**

**IT'S TIME TO RECONNECT**  
OCTOBER 13-14



## Dear Phil

(1 John 2:2; Rom. 8:33-34; cf. Zech. 3:1-2). You can tell whether condemnation is from God or from Satan. Does it motivate you to repent? That's God. Does it say you're a failure and there's no hope? That's Satan.

Third, a lot of our relationships with other people are performance based. If you don't keep them happy, the relationship goes south. We wrongly transfer that kind of thinking to our relationship with God. God accepts us on the basis of our faith, and he continues to accept us on the basis of faith.

Fourth, our fallenness inclines us to want to be good enough on our own. We somehow think that we ought to be able to perform well enough to please God. That is nothing but pride, and we must renounce it.

Fifth, in trying to emphasize the seriousness of sin and avoid a cheap grace theology, we sometimes fail to situate those truths within the reality of God's passionate, self-sacrificing love for us.

You asked how to change from a performance model to a relational model. I would start by memorizing the verses I quoted above. Any time "not good enough" thoughts come, quote these verses. Remember, Christ has accepted you (Rom. 15:7). The Father himself has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light (Col. 1:12). If you fail, God will discipline you, but His purpose is not to push you away but to draw you closer (Heb. 12:5-10). If you fall, get right back up, ask God to forgive you and help you take steps not to repeat that fall again, and keep following Jesus (1 John 1:9; 2:2).

Blessings,  
Philip

**A. Philip Brown II** is the Graduate Program director and a member of the ministerial faculty at God's Bible School and College.

### ONE STRIKE AND YOU'RE OUT?

***I grew up in a one-strike-and-you're-out kind of church. Anytime I messed up, I wasn't saved anymore. This was horribly depressing, because I messed up frequently. What does the Bible teach about this? How do I change from a performance model of relating to God to a relational model? —Jacob***

Dear Jacob,

Scripture says, "While we were still sinners Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). We were *sinners* when Jesus died for us. If Jesus was willing to die for us then, what is he willing to do for us now that we're family? Paul takes it a step further: "if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life" (Rom. 5:10). In other words, we were God's enemies when Jesus restored us to relationship with God. Now that we have been reconciled to God, is Jesus going to give up on us? Hardly! Rather, Jesus lives now to ensure we persevere to the end. As the Hebrew writer puts it, "[Jesus] is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them" (Heb. 7:25).

In Roman 8:31, Paul declares that God is for us! God is not looking for an opportunity to remove us from His family or condemn us. God is on our side. He sacrificed His Son

for us. That should tell us, as Paul says, that God will also freely give us everything we need to make it, including more grace and forgiveness (Rom. 8:32). In fact, at the Father's direction, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us. When we don't know what to pray for, the Holy Spirit prays for us (Rom. 8:26)! And, as if that were not enough, Jesus is interceding for us, too (Rom. 8:34)! The entire Trinity is on our team! I can't imagine anything less like "one strike and you're out." Jacob, God is on your side!

I think there are several reasons we struggle with a performance model of relating to God. First, Satan wants you to have a performance model. He knows that you aren't perfect. You will mess up. And getting you to think that God accepts you on the basis of your performance is a sure way to discourage you.

Second, Satan is an accuser of believers (Rev. 12:10). This is part of why we need Jesus as our intercessor. When Satan accuses us before God, Jesus steps in as our advocate





## PLANNED PARENTHOOD REFUSES TO PROVIDE PRENATAL CARE

An undercover video investigation by the pro-life activist group Live Action appears to show employees at multiple Planned Parenthood clinics actually turning away clients who ask for prenatal care which Planned Parenthood promotes as one of the services they offer. Only 5 of the 97 Planned Parenthood clinics contacted in the nationwide investigation were able to offer any level of prenatal care.

## SCHOOL CHOICE GAINING

A recent poll by American Federation for Children showed strong support for school choice. The support was across various demographics: Republicans (84%), Democrats (55%), Independents (67%), Millennials (75%), Latinos (75%), African-Americans (72%). Overall, there was strong support for educational options from 68% of 1100 respondents.

## "JANE ROE" OF ROE V. WADE DIED AS A "FRIEND OF LIFE"

Norma McCorvey, 69, the abortion rights plaintiff who was converted and became a pro-life advocate, died February 18 of heart failure in Katy, TX. This mother of three is believed to have never had an abortion herself,

since she carried to term the pregnancy that was the subject of the court case culminating in Roe v. Wade in 1973. She professed a Christian conversion in 1995 and became increasingly vocal in her defense of unborn children, even petitioning the U.S. Supreme Court in 2005 to overturn Roe v. Wade because she believed abortion was harmful to women.

## CHRISTIAN ALTERNATIVE TO BOY SCOUTS GROWING

Since the Boy Scouts of America decided to accept gay scouts, gay leaders, and now transgender youngsters, Trail Life USA, has experienced a surge of inquiries by those interested in an organization that is more aligned with the original values of Boy Scouts. Participating boys have outdoor adventures, earn badges, and can seek the Horizon Award that Trail Life considers comparable to Eagle Scout rank.

## ISLAM DOMINANCE BY 2070

A Pew Research Center study shows that the religion of Islam is growing so rapidly that it is projected that there will be more people who identify as Muslim than as Christians by 2070. In 2010, there were about 2.17 billion Christians in the world and 1.6 billion Muslims, but the study found that, by 2070, there will be 2.92 billion Muslims and 2.76 billion Christians. ■



## student focus

### ABRAHAM (ABE) KURNIA

was saved while a student in Indonesia. Later, he felt that God was leading him to attend college in another country, and he ended up at GBS in 2014.

Abe says that he was especially dependent on God, and he reports, "I can proudly testify about His goodness, that not at any moment has He ever failed me. He provides all my financial, emotional, and spiritual needs without fail."

Abe has experienced many great things at GBS, but "being in President Avery's D-group [discipleship group] has probably topped everything else. For an international student like me to have discussion on a personal level with the college president is a special treat."

Abe plans to return to Indonesia as a youth pastor and open a restaurant that will hire some of those youth. His hope is to help them get work training and better wages, and to "mentor them and help them mature spiritually." ■

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

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

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





Following are favorite quotations from Oswald Chambers and comments from our readers about how the writings of Chambers have influenced them. Send your submissions to [kfarmer@gbs.edu](mailto:kfarmer@gbs.edu) for inclusion throughout 2017, the year which marks the 100th anniversary of the death of Chambers. We reserve the right to edit and condense as needed. —KF

Two of my favorite succinct sentences come from *Not Knowing Whither*. One is, "Right feeling is produced by obedience, never vice versa" (p.873\*). Like the Bible, you can sometimes let Chambers interpret Chambers. Several pages later he writes, "All God's commands are enablings, therefore it is a crime to be weak in His strength" (p.880\*). These two passages complement each other and speak to my life. My greatest happiness in life has always come with the confidence of having obeyed God. My spiritual life has grown stronger when I have repeatedly fulfilled God's will in my life, saying "yes" to Him.

BOB RAWLINS  
DeMotte, IN

"Doubt is not always a sign that a man is wrong; it may be a sign that he is thinking." (from *Disciples Indeed*, p.409\*).

Powerful insight. While Scripture does at times refer to doubt negatively, it does not preclude the journey that one may be on. While James hits upon wavering in doubt, one of Jesus' followers called out, "I believe; help my unbelief." Not accepting doubt may lead to premature belief easily knocked over when challenged, instead of a seasoned grappling with the truth.

STAN ELLINGSON  
Dayton, OH

There are many great statements in Chambers' *My Utmost for His Highest*, but the following struck my heart one morning at a particularly dark time.

"When once you are rooted in Reality, nothing can shake you. If your faith is in experiences, anything that happens is likely to upset that faith; but nothing can ever upset God or the almighty Reality of Redemption; base your faith on that, and you are as eternally secure as God. When once you get into personal contact with Jesus Christ, you will never be moved again. That is the meaning of sanctification. God puts His disapproval on human experience when we begin to adhere to the conception that sanctification is merely an experience, and forget that sanctification itself has to be sanctified (see John 17:19)" (December 3, p.851\*).

At first the judgment coming from the Throne Room of God seemed harsh as I struggled in a place of bi-vocational employment. And then I realized it had more to do with the territory than with me, and that I was actually in dangerous territory! My preoccupation with the experiences of life had distorted my view of God's work. Whether in the church, at home, or in the employment world, if the "garden" has already been sanctified by the "Gardener," all is well, whether we sense it or not.

PAUL WILSON  
Redford, MI

"These habits of daily Bible study and cooperative Bible fellowships resulted in clear changes in [President George W.] Bush—changes so noticeable to those close to him that some months later his mother Barbara was overheard telling someone on the phone that "George has been born again." To this day Bush reads the Bible daily and every other year he reads the Bible in its entirety. Likewise, he has made it a habit to read an excerpt from the famous devotional *My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers on a daily basis."

EDWARD T. WIMBERLEY  
(From Wimberley's article, "Steward-In-Chief; The Theology of George W. Bush and His Environmental/Conservation Policy." *Journal of Religion and Society*, Volume 9, 2007, p.5.)

"No book except the Bible has influenced my walk with Christ at such deep and maturing levels."

RICHARD HALVERSON  
Former Chaplain, United States Senate





## LESSONS IN OBEDIENCE

### PART 2

by Allan P. Brown, Chair

GBS Division of Ministerial Education

**Scripture: Genesis 22:1-14**

In part 1, we learned the first four lessons that God taught Abraham about full obedience. In this sermon, we continue with four more lessons.

#### LESSON #5: We must obey God completely.

[6] And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.

[7] And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." And he said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

[8] And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide [for] Himself a lamb for a burnt offering." So they went both of them together.

[9] And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood.

[10] And Abraham stretched forth his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

Abraham passes the test! I don't know about you, but there's a feeling of gladness in my heart as I read those words. He persevered to the end. He made it to the finish line. He obeyed God completely! Completely. He didn't go all the way to the mountain and then sacrifice a lamb instead. He

didn't offer one of his servants in Isaac's place. No, Abraham obeyed God.

Do you remember the story of King Saul and the Amalekites? Do you remember how Samuel told Saul to destroy them completely? Saul did destroy them, but he decided that he would keep Agag the king alive and save some of the good animals for sacrifice. Do you remember what Samuel had to say about that?

[22] And Samuel said, "Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, *and* to hearken than the fat of rams.

[23] "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, He hath also rejected thee from *being* king." (1 Sam. 15)

Let me sum up what Samuel was saying: if you refuse to do everything that God has told you to do, you have disobeyed Him. Let me say it again, and I want it to sink in—if you refuse to do everything that God has told you to do, you have disobeyed Him. How many times have we obeyed God—*mostly*? How many times have we done *almost everything* that God wanted us to do? Abraham stands before us here as a model of someone who obeyed God completely!

[11] And the angel of the LORD called to him out of heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I."

[12] And He said, "Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him; for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son, from me."

[13] And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind *him* a ram caught in a thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

[14] And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh [The LORD Will Provide], as it is said to this day, "In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen [will be provided]."

Who is the "angel of the Lord"? Well, verse 12 gives His identity away. Notice that He says, "from Me," equating himself with God. Here is a preincarnate appearance of Jesus Christ ("the angel of the Lord"). What a powerful scene! Jesus Christ Himself, the Lamb of God, the One who takes away the sins



of the world, reaches out to stop Abraham from cutting Isaac's throat—"No," He says, "Do nothing to him!" And you and I, looking on, lift our eyes to the horizon of history and see, etched in black against the sky—a cross...a cross with the Son of God bleeding and dying in Isaac's place...in my place...in your place. "The Lord will provide"—those words thunder down through time to redeem a lost and wretched world! God has indeed provided! Praise His name!

### **LESSON #6: The faith that saves is the faith that obeys.**

James chapter two has a short word of commentary on this story:

[21] Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he had offered up Isaac his son upon the altar?

[22] Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

[23] And the Scripture was fulfilled which saith, "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS IMPUTED UNTO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS," and he was called the Friend of God.

[24] Ye see then how that by works a man is justified and not by faith only.

Did you notice what James says in verse 24? He says that a "man is justified by works and not by faith alone." The reason James says this is because there were those who were saying, "I believe in God; I'm a Christian," and yet their lives and conduct did not produce the fruit of obedience. You see, James is interested in what *kind* of faith it is that justifies, because there are different kinds of faith. Did you know that? There are different kinds of faith: there is a faith that is dead and a faith that is alive. The faith that truly saves is the faith that has a vital, living spirit to it—it is an obedient faith.

### **LESSON #7: God delights to experience our love for Him.**

Did you notice what God said in verse 12? "...For now I know that you fear God." Have you ever wondered why God said that? Obviously, God knows everything. He knows how we will respond to the tests and trials He sends our way. He knew how Abraham would respond long before He ever tested him. So why does He say, "Now I know"?

I think the answer is that God delights in experiencing our love for Him. That's why I think God said what He did in verse 12: "...for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your

only son, from Me." God knew "now" *from experience*. God had experienced Abraham's faith in action! And God delighted in his obedience...as He delights in *our* obedience. Oh that we might live to please Him!

[15] And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven a second time,

[16] and said, "By Myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, because thou hast done this thing and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son,

[17] That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies.

[18] And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because thou hast obeyed my voice.

[19] So Abraham returned unto his young men, and they rose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.

### **LESSON #8: God promises are sure and His Word is unchangeable.**

In verses 15 through 18 we have a repeat of the promises that had been made to Abraham by God on previous occasions. We're all familiar with the promises, and these verses have several things in common with the statements that God had made before: (1) I will greatly bless you (Gen. 12:2); (2) I will multiply your descendants (Gen. 12:3; 13:16; 15:5; 17:4-6); (3) Through you the nations of the earth will be blessed (Gen. 12:3; 18:18).

### **Conclusion**

- God tests us to help us grow and become more like Christ.
- God cares about us and the things that are dear to our hearts.
- We must obey God without delay.
- We must anchor our faith in the person and promises of God.
- We must obey God completely.
- The faith that saves is the faith that obeys.
- God delights to experience our love for Him.
- God's promises are sure and His Word is unchangeable.

Let us remember that God is worthy of our trust. He never is unwise in His dealings with us. His knowledge is infinite, and He only desires our very best. We can choose to trust His love even when we don't understand. ■





## — Called Unto Holiness —

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

### CONSECRATION: THE HUMAN SIDE OF SANCTIFICATION

*by C.W. Ruth*

Consecration is not sanctification; but it is the human side of sanctification. As the promise of sanctification is never given to sinners, so the call to consecration is never given to sinners. The attitude of a sinner being that of rebellion, he can simply surrender, and repent of his sins. But writing to believers, the Apostle Paul said, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1). Hence, we see that the *call* to consecration is to the "brethren"; the *incentive* to consecration is, "the mercies of god"; and the *object* of consecration is, that they might be "transformed," and "prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."

Here is one reason why a person is not sanctified when converted: the conditions are entirely different. A sinner must do one thing in order to be converted, while a believer must do entirely a different thing in order to be wholly sanctified. Indeed, it would be utterly impossible for a sinner to present himself "a living sacrifice," seeing he is "dead in trespasses and sins"; not until after the soul has been quickened in newness of life can he present himself a "living sacrifice." The struggle of the sinner, in his surrender of himself to God, is to give up what is evil; the struggle of the believer in making his consecration, is to give up what is good—his time, his plans, his possessions, himself, his all—to God.

Nor is an *objective* consecration sufficient. By an *objective* consecration we mean a consecration or devotion to a certain work, as being consecrated to the work of a deaconess, or the work of a missionary, or the work of the ministry. There are multitudes of persons who are objectively consecrated—consecrated to certain lines of religious work—who, nevertheless, are not wholly sanctified. The consecration necessary to entire sanctification is rather, what may be termed, a *subjective* consecration. The purpose of a subjective consecration is not, primar-

ily, to do something for Him, but rather to let Him do something for us. In other words, a person must consecrate himself unconditionally to the Lord for the express and specific purpose of letting the Lord completely purify and sanctify the soul; and not only so, that when such consecration is made, and all is upon the altar, there still remains one more step to be taken, to wit, the step of faith. Having fully met conditions, faith must take God at His word, and believe that He doeth it. We are "sanctified by faith" (Acts 26:18).

Real consecration includes all we have, and all we ever will have; all we are, and all we ever will be; all we know, and all we ever will know, for time and eternity; and is a pledge of an eternal "yes" to all the will of God. It is not sufficient for a person to say, "I have given up all I know." Included must be all we do not know; all He may reveal in the future. Such a person can never *re-consecrate*. They who habitually re-consecrate are simply playing at consecration and have never yet learned the real meaning of consecration. But where a real death-bed consecration has been made, and the last point yielded to God, so that there is a glad "yes" down deep in the soul to all the will of God, faith becomes spontaneous, and the soul will realize the altar sanctifieth the gift (Matt. 23:19).

The minister who says that sanctification simply means consecration is either exceedingly ignorant on this subject, or else is willfully mis-stating the case; he cannot consult any dictionary or lexicon of authority without finding that the word sanctification has a twofold meaning: consecration, or "setting apart," which is the human side; and purification, making free from sin, and making holy, which is the divine side. "Give yourself to God in all things, if you would have God give Himself to you." ■

*Christian Wismer Ruth (1865-1941) was one of the founders of the Church of the Nazarene. This selection is excerpted from The Second Crisis in Christian Experience (The Christian Witness Company, 1912).*





## ALUMNI RECEPTION AT IHC

The annual alumni reception was held April 19 during the Interchurch Holiness Convention in Dayton, OH. More than 400 alumni and family members converged on the Dayton Convention Center Banquet Room, where they enjoyed a light meal and dessert while connecting with fellow alumni and listening to President Avery and President-elect Loper as they shared updates on campus improvements and presidential transition status.

One highlighted news item concerned the GBS Graduate Program, which is just finishing its first year of operation and had been expected to show a small loss. Instead it posted a \$5,000 profit. There were 18 students participating in this inaugural year, and enrollments for the coming year indicate there will be 24 students. President Avery suggested that a scholarship fund specific to the Graduate Program needed to be established.

Pictures were projected on a screen to show various projects that had been completed in recent months: the foyer area of the Miller-Deets Student Center was completely remodeled and student recruitment offices moved to that area; 1844 Josephine, designated as the new president's residence, was completely remodeled; new stonework was completed on the campus proper; a new GBS sign was installed at the intersection of Ringgold and Young Streets; a new van was purchased; the Music Hall was renovated, including restoration of the porch to its original grandeur, replacement of windows and painting of trimwork, and installation of a new heating/AC system.

Siblings James (ThB '59) and Anna (CWC '58; ThB '61; BA '68) Orndorff were honored with the 2017 Philanthropy Award for the many years of sacrificial giving and support of God's Bible School. A picture of the beautiful house they donated to GBS was shown to those at the reception.

President-elect Loper thanked participants in the 1810 Sustaining Donor Program who give on a monthly basis to GBS. He challenged others to get involved, and, as a result, a number of new members joined. Special gifts were distributed to all 1810 Sustaining Donors.

Alumni President Keith Waggoner I discussed the regional alumni meetings at Pell City, AL, in July and Franklin, OH, in September of last year. He hopes to have more of these in the future. He also encouraged all to attend the 2017 Homecoming on October 13-14. Plans are being finalized to honor someone very special. Finally, Keith gave an update on the Avery Leadership Scholarship. Currently, over \$68,000 has been committed to this initiative.

Alumni Association First Vice President Joey Ratcliff offered a prayer of dismissal.

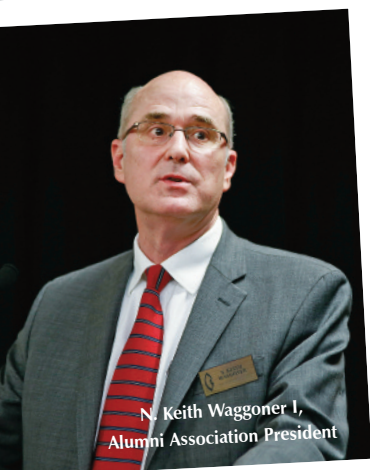
The Alumni Association wishes to thank all of our corporate sponsors who make events like this one possible ([www.gbs.edu/sponsor](http://www.gbs.edu/sponsor)). ■

—N. Keith Waggoner I, National Alumni Association President



lining up for lunch

President-elect Loper greets Howard Russell, president of Christian Healthcare Ministries.



N. Keith Waggoner I,  
Alumni Association President

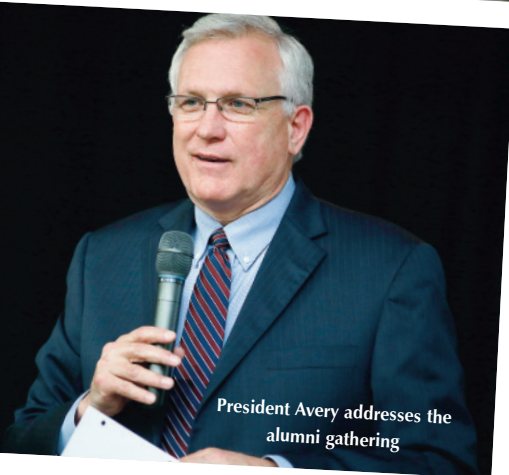


Alumni show off new babies

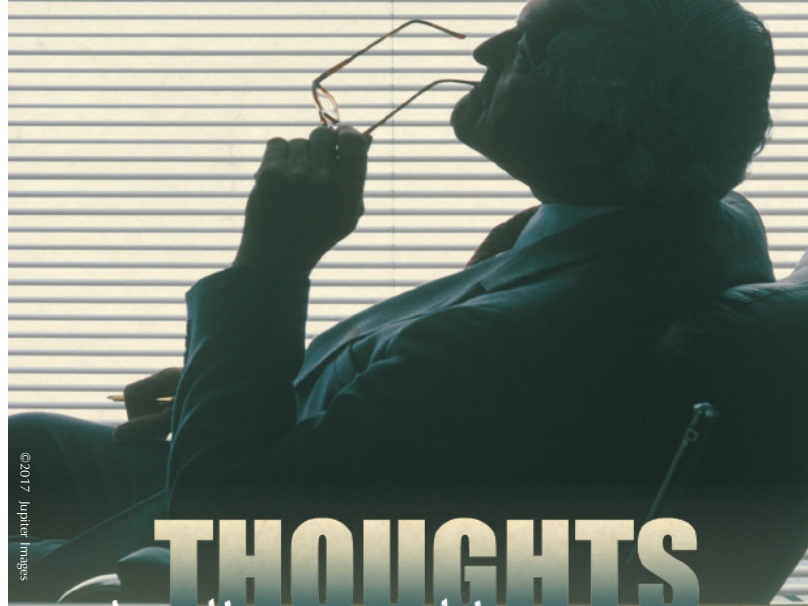




above: Alumni siblings Anna and James Orndorff receive the Philanthropy Award.  
below: Table of Presidents. The Lopers, Waggoners, and Averys share lunch.



President Avery addresses the alumni gathering



© 2017 Jupiter Images

# THOUGHTS

for the quiet hour

by Sonja Vernon

## STILL FRUITFUL

*"The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon...They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green." — Psalms 92:12,14 ESV*

We live in a world obsessed with youth, terrified of growing older—a world preoccupied with the latest potion, pill, nip-and-tuck that will keep us eternally young even into our later years. We lurch along on our march through time, digging in our heels and grasping and clawing at anything that might slow down the relentless journey toward the end. But Scripture presents a much different view of aging for the righteous. The psalmist saw it, not as something to be feared, but as a blessed time of continued fruitfulness! The righteous won't do just OK in old age, he said. They won't barely creep into the kingdom. They will flourish! Their lives will be vibrant with the life of the Spirit, and their fruit will continue to multiply through the years. Have you met older Christians like that? I have. And it is one of the most beautiful things I have ever seen. The fruit of their lives intensifies my hunger. The life they exuded increases my longing to deepen my own roots. They encourage me to drink deeply of the water of life. Are you watching your hair turn gray—or turn loose? Are there more wrinkles today than there were a year ago? Don't despair! Your time isn't over! There are those around you who desperately need to be nourished by your fruitfulness, and Scripture promises all the grace you need to maintain the life and growth within. Go deep. Grow strong. The world is counting on you! ■

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

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2017



# Phonathon 2017

September 11-14

September 18-21

September 25-28

Help us reach our goal of **\$120,000** for Phonathon!

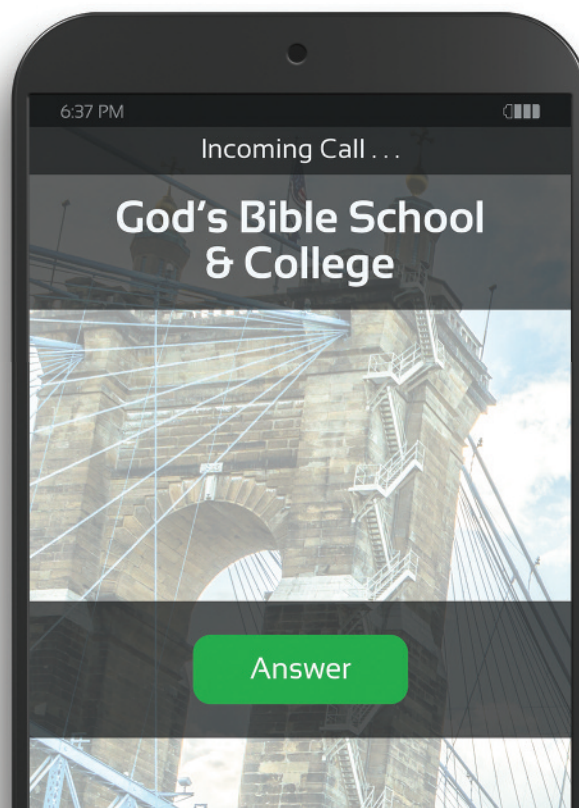
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