

# GOD'S REVIVALIST

April 2019

*and Bible Advocate*







# about this issue

## LIVE PEACEFULLY

About 40 years ago, when GBS was planning on including a skywalk to a new building that was going to house the school's main library, the word got out in the community. Some were not happy with the prospect of a skywalk being built over Ringgold Street. A call came to GBS from a person warning us that we had better have a representative present at the next community council meeting.

I ended up being the one to attend. I distinctly remember the council president taking GBS to task for not being a good neighbor—for wanting to “wall out the community” by building a skywalk. It was clear that most in attendance felt the same way. However, no action was taken that night. At the end of the meeting, I approached the head table and introduced myself in a friendly manner. I think it shocked them when I said I was from GBS.

Yes, I could have taken to the floor that night and objected to the characterizations, but I didn't. Instead, I introduced myself and began regularly attending the community council meetings. Attendance gave way to substantive involvement. I got to know other members, and they got to know me. Believe it or not, we ended up getting along!

Initially, though, I deliberately had to set aside my instinct to be right and to fight back. This tack was different: Overlook the abuse and get busy working alongside your detractors; eventually their views will change. And they did.

Some months passed. Our skywalk became part of a formal proposal to the City of Cincinnati, but city officials asked for the community's response before approving the project. By this time I had been elected as a community council board member, and it was in that capacity that I had been asked to hand deliver the community council's letter of support for the skywalk. I will admit to being a little nervous as I walked into the downtown office of the department requesting this information. Why? I thought they might ask me where I worked and would be suspicious if I said, “God's Bible School and College.” They didn't ask.

Do you wonder how this story would have ended if I had begun those relationships with an argument? “If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peacefully with all men” (Romans 12:18). —KF ■

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### STAFF

Ken Farmer, *managing editor*  
Kevin Moser, *art director, assistant editor*  
Shane Muir, *assistant graphic designer*

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# the president's page



## BE A PEACEMAKER!

*by Rodney Loper, President*

It is helpful to remember that the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-8), delivered by Jesus, is an announcement of how His kingdom operates. Frankly, with this homily Jesus turned human understanding on its head. Make no mistake about it, the message is still clear today—life in His kingdom is different.

If we are a part of this kingdom, we do not have the privilege of living out these principles in private. Something is dreadfully wrong if we claim to be a Christian but are the only ones who know it. No, if we are indeed living as a part of His kingdom, our lives will be noticed by others. Our kingdom living will attract attention—the attention of God, yes, but also the attention of those in the Church and those outside the Church.

A Christian is not poor in spirit, mournful, meek, hungry and thirsty, pure in heart, and a peacemaker in isolation. Mark this down: Living these kingdom norms in a sinful world is letting your light shine. The first instinct of those whose eyes have been accustomed to the dark is to wince and recoil when light shines. They may even lash out in hate. But shining light is what we are called to do.

Let's look at one of these characteristics that make Christians stand out in a sinful world—being a peacemaker. In Matthew 5:9, Jesus declared, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." Notice that the blessing isn't to the "peaceful," for it is indeed easy to want peace, talk about peace, pray about peace, and even point out a lack of peace. Rather, this blessing is given to those who *make* peace. "Blessed are the peacemakers."

Moreover, this declaration is not telling us how to become a son of God. Rather, Jesus is simply



saying that “sons of God” are, in fact, “peacemakers.” The clear implication is that if you are not a peacemaker, you are not a child of God!

### **HAVE PEACE BEFORE MAKING PEACE**

The reason some people seem to be surrounded by discord and lack of unity with others is because they have never surrendered to the Prince of Peace. The reality is that sin separated all of us from a holy God, and it is only through the willing sacrifice of Jesus that we can be reconciled. Jesus, the ultimate peacemaker, came to make this peace. Once we have His peace we become ambassadors of peace. This happens through sharing the gospel of peace. “And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” (Rom. 10:15). In addition to delivering the “gospel of peace,” this also involves making peace with fellowmen. Relationships by their very nature have difficulties. Life happens. Disagreements will arise. Peacemaking will be required!

### **SEEK RECONCILIATION BEFORE RESOLUTION**

A peacemaker does not sow discord! There are many people who say they want peace but are unwilling to do the hard work of making peace. If you want peace, don’t do or say anything that will make peace more difficult. Although sowers of discord don’t self-identify as such, their behaviors fit the biblical description. They are usually driven to serve their own interests—even while “doing the Lord’s work.” It also is revealed in rallying people to their side, justifying themselves to others, pointing out the flaws of others, and “telling the truth” to and about others. Too often, these sowers of discord, when presented with the opportunity to make peace, avoid doing so, thus ignoring this clear teaching of our Lord.

While resolution of conflict is a worthy goal, the biblical peacemaker strives first for reconciliation, which focuses on relationship—the other party is an individual of worth, made in God’s image, and often is our brother or sister in Christ! But, we are humans; we all have backgrounds; we all have baggage. As a result, there are things

that will never be agreed on, and that is okay. We can still be true brothers or sisters in Christ!

### **DO NOT ALWAYS AVOID CONFLICT**

It seems contradictory; nonetheless, it is true—peacemakers are willing to have conflict if it is necessary to achieve peace. Just ignoring the problem will not fix it. At times, peacemaking is mistaken as a passive quality, one possessed by people who mind their own business. Their virtue is found primarily in avoiding conflict. But that is certainly not Jesus’ intended teaching. A peacemaker will at times engage conflict—not to inflame it, but to resolve it. The burden to make peace doesn’t belong only to the other person—it is also our burden (Matt. 5:23).

### **DO NOT BE CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR OWN RIGHTS**

It is not about you—how “right” or “justified” you are. And it isn’t about how wrong the other person is “in your eyes.” If Jesus, the ultimate peacemaker, had demanded His “rights,” we would have no possibility of redemption. When we become consumed with our rights, our cause, our agenda, or our control, personal relationships and institutional stability are threatened. Peacemaking suffers when fragmentation and divisiveness give rise to disunity. Again, the Christian’s role as peacemaker extends not only to spreading the gospel, but also to lessening tensions, seeking solutions, and ensuring that communication is understood.

### **TWO CLOSING CAUTIONS**

If engaging involves even a hint of retaliation, it will kill peacemaking. A get-even spirit—even under the guise of a prayer request, a concern that you have, or trying to “help” this person/situation—cannot be tolerated.

Some of us need to learn to shut up! “If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is useless” (James 1:26 NKJV). Later, James warns about the tongue being a fire. Some people are surrounded by fires of their own making. One of the greatest inhibitors of peacemaking is someone who can’t shut his or her mouth!

So, let us recommit ourselves to living by kingdom principles and thus to being a light in a sin-darkened world. Be peacemakers! ■



God’s Bible School & College

**ALUMNI RECEPTION 2019**

Wednesday, April 24, 4:00-5:30

Dayton Convention Center, Room 305/306





# Resting in Him

## Finding Peace in All Circumstances of Life

by Joana Stratton

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I do my best to avoid our local shopping center on Saturdays. The establishment in its entirety manages to have the Christmas Eve ambiance every single weekend. In opposition to my best efforts, I found myself in the vast expanse of overstocked shelves seeking the fulfillment of my meager list of essentials. Rounding each aisle's end with an apologetic utterance of excuse or pardon, I made my way through the brightly lit store. Feeling a sense of accomplishment akin to the hunting and gathering quests of old, I made my way to stand in a rather lengthy line to scan my collected items and pay at the automated machine. With a sigh, I completed the bagging of the final item with confidence. I then, with a sense of flair, extracted my debit card from my wallet and jammed it into the device, knowing that this was the end of my quest—victory was mine. Alas, the machine did not utter the expected ding of completion. Instead, it couldn't read my card. Undaunted, I tried again, but the result was the same. Upon clicking a few buttons, the red light above me began to flash, and the trusty attendant came to my rescue. With sympathy in her eyes, she informed me that my cartful of items, now neatly in bags, had been deleted. Sigh.

Please tell me I am not alone. Maybe it wasn't at the local shopping establishment. Perhaps it was in some other small area of life, like this. By chance, it may be something much deeper and more painful causing worry, anxiety, and fret to enter the scene. I believe that if honesty is to rule the day, we can all give a hearty "I've been there" to moments of worry.

In Galatians 5, we find the listing of the fruit of the Spirit, or the byproduct of the Spirit, at work in our lives. In this list, we find one little five-letter word that is powerful: PEACE! When this is evident in our lives, it brings glory to Jesus! It lifts His name in the eyes of others. Peace is something our world is looking for. There are books written on how to find peace. You can find podcasts about ways to develop peace. You can even find interesting research connected to mindfulness, a popular movement in our country, seeking the product of peace.

According to a dictionary definition, peace can be defined as "freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions." That sounds pretty good, right? In Christ, we have freedom from sin, bondage and oppressive thoughts. In John 14:26-27 we find, "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful" (NASB). This kind of peace is not an absence of conflict; rather, it is deep, abiding confidence in our great God!

So how does this occur? I believe God wishes to work on four specific areas to develop peace in our lives. He



wants access to our eyes, brain, heart, and hands. When faced with a difficult trial seeking to steal your peace, you might need tweaking in one of these areas.

### 1. Eyes Adjusted

Although I've never needed a pair of glasses to see things clearly, I have definitely had moments when my eyes played



tricks on me. Things that I thought I saw, I didn't. There have been times when I didn't see things that were in plain sight. Our spiritual eyes can also play tricks on us. Maybe it is due to an incorrect view of our great God. Maybe we see Him as harsh, unkind, or distant. We forget He is the same God who calms storms for disquieted, overwhelmed, faith-lacking disciples. He is the God who opens eyes to see the multitude of chariots waiting for the correct moment to attack. He is the God who weeps with the mourners, knowing life will soon be restored.

In this first step of fostering peace, we must get a visual adjustment. We must focus on our good Father who has everything under control, no matter what it looks like from our perspective. It is easy for us, like Peter, to take our eyes off of the Master and get them on the waves around us. It is helpful to be reminded of who we serve:

### He is Good!

James 1:17. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." My good Father has my best interest at heart! He knows what is best. He can turn things that seem awful around for my good.

### He is a Provider!

Matthew 6:26. "Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?"

Philippians 4:19. "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

### He is Trustworthy!

Psalms 18:30. "As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him."

Our God is all of this and so much more! Get your eyes adjusted by focusing on the truth of who He is!

## 2. Thinking Transformed

Not only is a correct view of God important, but we must maintain an eternal perspective. When we remember that God has promised eternity to those who love Him, it takes away some of the anxiety of the moment. This is the same God who sent Jesus, His only Son, to die on the cross in our place. Romans 8:18-19 reminds us, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God."

What I am experiencing in my human flesh right now is only a brief moment compared to all of eternity. My peace can be disturbed, or I can focus on all that is in store for those of us who love Him. This life on earth is just a brief moment compared to no pain, no sickness, no sorrow. Oh, I can't wait!

## 3. Heart Overhauled

In the beginning, I mentioned a somewhat silly story of my peace being tested. You and I have all had moments like this, but what happens to peace when the battle rages on? When there are tear-stained pillows and sleepless nights? What then? Is God still at work in us pruning and developing peace?

It appeared as if Jesus' peace was disrupted. The Gospels tell us of Him sweating and praying throughout the night. I imagine His deep sigh over the sleeping disciples and His deep heaviness. He experienced physical tiredness and emotional exhaustion resulting from the knowledge of all that was to come.

His response is beautiful. It's the same response I have seen in my heroes of the faith walking among us.



The response is, “Your will, Father, not mine.” Peace is found in surrender, even in the midst of a long battle. Surrender to the Father and give Him glory for all that is done through this present suffering. Elisabeth Elliot captures this so nicely: “The deepest things that I have learned in my own life have come from the deepest suffering. And out of the deepest waters and the hottest fires have come the deepest things that I know about God.”

#### 4. Hands Extended

When God develops this wonderful fruit of peace in our lives, peacefulness extends to our relationships with others. Because I am at peace with God, a settledness develops in my life. I am not filled with worry and anxiety over how I will come across or what so-and-so will think or expect from me. I am at peace with God, and I can extend that to those around me. Matthew 5:9 confirms, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.” May our fruit show others that we indeed belong to Him.

As with all fruit of the Spirit, peace is an outgrowth of the life in Christ. With proper pruning from our Heavenly Father, growing in our understanding of Him and His word, we can grow in peace and rest in His peace!

I didn’t expose every detail of the story from the beginning. My anxiety was heightened by the long line behind me, including a disgruntled couple from my past. On top of that, I was experiencing brain fog in connection with my physical issues. God works in the midst of all of this. I could have left in a huff, my peace completely disturbed. Instead, God stepped in and worked in me. I remembered my eyes. Even if that couple behind me thought that my bank account was empty, I serve a God who loves me. His approval is what I seek and He has good plans for me. I can rest in that. I remembered my brain. This is but a brief moment of frustration compared to all that God has in store for me. I remembered my heart. “Lord, how do You want to use this moment to make me more like You and further prepared for heaven?” Finally, I remembered my hands. Through God’s help, I turned to the couple behind me and extended a genuine smile, letting them know that they could go ahead as I moved my cart to the end.

This silly little story has deeper applications. They extend to situations of greater levels of fear and trepidation. Believe me, God has been teaching me much about this in recent days. His peace can reign even when our deepest fears seem larger than life. Trust Him. Allow the Spirit of God to cultivate His peace in you. ■

*Joana Stratton holds education degrees from Greenville University (BS '02) and Eastern Illinois University (MS '09) and has been teaching for 17 years, including stints at Hobe Sound Christian Academy and God’s Bible School. Since 2015 she has chaired the Education Department at Hobe Sound Bible College. Joana and her husband Jonathan live in Hobe Sound, FL.*



#### Observations On

“The kingdom of God is righteousness and peace. True wisdom is never argumentative or quarrelsome. It does not strive. It maintains harmonious relationships with everyone, as far as possible.”

—Zac Poonen

“Is the peace of God in the soul disturbed by things down here? No, never! If waters break in stormy currents against a rock, the rock is unmoved; it is only the waters that are disturbed.”

—G.V. Wigram

“I do not want the peace which passeth understanding, I want the understanding which bringeth peace.” —Helen Keller

“God can work peace through us only if He has worked peace in us.... Those who are in the best of circumstances but without God can never find peace, but those in the worst of circumstances but with God need never lack peace.” —John MacArthur

“No one can have the peace of God until they are at peace with God.” —Jack Wellman

“As we pour out our bitterness, God pours in His peace.”

—F.B. Meyer

“Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.” —Martin Luther King, Jr.

“The absence of strife does not necessarily indicate the presence of peace.” —John Hagee

“Peace hath higher tests of manhood than battle ever knew.”

—John Greenleaf Whittier

“The world can create trouble in peace, but God can create peace in trouble.” —Thomas Watson

“God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing.” —C.S. Lewis

“The happy sequence culminating in fellowship with God is penitence, pardon, and peace—the first we offer, the second we accept, and the third we inherit.” —Charles H. Brent

“A great many people are trying to make peace, but that has already been done. God has not left it for us to do; all we have to do is to enter into it.” —Dwight L. Moody

“The way to preserve the peace of the church is to preserve its purity.” —Matthew Henry



# How Can I Find

by Keith Waggoner II

*Philippians 4:4-6 (NIV): "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything...."*

**W**ait a minute! What do you mean, "Don't be anxious about anything?" Paul has lost his mind! What is he talking about? We all have fears that stress us. We all have situations which cause struggle. The resulting worry can consume a person. The old English word from which we get "worry" literally means "to strangle." Have you been there, finding yourself consumed with fear, doubt, and anxiety? It just feels like it is choking the life out of you. Paul, how can you say, "Do not be anxious about anything?"

- When a single mother tells me, "I am at the end. There is no money in the bank account. I am tapped out, but the bills keep coming." Don't be anxious?
- When you find out your spouse has been cheating on you for quite some time, how do you find peace? Don't be anxious about anything? Seriously?
- When the doctors say you have just a little while longer to live? Peace? How do you find peace in the middle of a situation like that?

The answer can be found in the sentence just before the admonition "Do not be anxious about anything": "The Lord is near." That informs us that no matter what we may be facing, wherever we happen to be, there are four words that will change everything: **THE LORD IS NEAR.**

The Lord is near! But, for those four words to change everything, we must trust God—trust that He is near, and trust that He can and will actually do something about the situation in which we find ourselves.

How is this trust developed? It is not something we just come up with—some magic that we find deep within ourselves. No. Trust requires a healthy relationship with God. Without that, we will not trust in the fact that He is near, or, even if He is, we are not sure He will act on our behalf. There must be a healthy relationship.

# Peace?

## A healthy relationship

**HAS A BEGINNING.** We understand this in our personal relationships with each other. On our first date with the person we eventually married, we undoubtedly trusted them somewhat, but probably didn't trust them completely at that point. We were just getting to know them. Before we talk openly, before we really begin to open up, a healthy relationship has to have begun. Some may have difficulty really trusting God because they have never really had a beginning with God.

## A healthy relationship

**REQUIRES COMMUNICATION.** There has to be a back-and-forth. "In every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (v.6). We talk to God, and then we listen to what He has to say to us. The latter involves reading His Word. To have a healthy relationship with God, to know who God is, what He's about, we read and meditate on His Word. It is much more than some legalistic requirement or obligation. Deep communication is what takes place. The result is that "The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (v.7).





We cannot read through the Word of God without picking up that He is great, He is able, He is worthy of our trust; but for us truly to trust Him requires that we give careful attention to stay connected and in close communication with Him, maintaining a healthy relationship.

### **A healthy relationship**

**RESULTS IN RIGHT THINKING AND LIVING.** “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things” (v.8). Too often our minds are set on whatever the situation is that we are facing. We are not thinking about things that are true, honorable, etc. For that to take place there has to be a transformation. We need right thinking that leads to right living—“Whatever you have learned... put it into practice” (v.9a). The end result? “And the God of peace will be with you” (v.9b).

So instead of holding on to what is stressing at the moment, give it to God. Trust Him. He is near.

What does that look like in real life? How can we have confidence in the midst of stressful situations? Trust Him as a child trusts a good parent.

I remember several years ago taking my son Trey out tubing. He was about five at the time and hadn't been around water much. I put on his life jacket. I wanted him to enjoy it, but I also wanted him to be safe. Trey appeared to be a little anxious as he stepped into the tube. But what happened next changed everything.

I stepped into the tube with him. He sat on my lap. I put my arm around him and also got a firm grip on the side of the tube. What did Trey do? He just sat back and let me hold him. We were skipping along the waves behind the boat pulling us, and Trey was laughing—deep belly laughs. He would lean into the turns, and, as we bounced into the air and back down on the water, he would look back at me. He was having a great time. Here is the reason he could do that. He knew he was safe in his dad's arms. Was there danger? Absolutely. But I was not going to let him go.

**The lesson is this.** Being a child of God is not something to be taken lightly. We have a heavenly Father who is a provider, helper, sustainer, and shelter. A God who has promised to supply all our needs. He has said that all things work together for our good—not just our temporary good, but our eternal good. He says He has all things under His control.

Don't be anxious about anything. The Lord is near! ■

**Keith Waggoner II** (BA '99) serves as lead pastor at Grace Bible Church ([www.idahograce.com](http://www.idahograce.com)), a multi-site church in Idaho. After graduating from GBS, Keith worked for the college for five years, four as Director of Recruitment and one as Director of Communications. Keith, his wife Lori (Frederick) (BA '92), and three children, Trey (17), Kassady (14), and Cole (10), live in Caldwell, ID.

# Letters

## TO THE EDITOR

*Letters should be emailed to [revivalist@gbs.edu](mailto:revivalist@gbs.edu) or addressed to the Editorial Office, 1810 Young Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202. 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 have been reading Chancellor Avery's "Deeper Life Series" featured in 2018. I want to thank him for helping me thirst for a deeper relationship with God.

DENNIS BRUMMERT  
Los Angeles, CA

Enclosed is our January gift with hopes it will help a little. At 85 and 87, and being retired preachers, our income is not so great. We really miss our visits to the hilltop services. They were always the highlight of our year. We anxiously look for each *God's Revivalist* issue. It is so good to see improvements and get acquainted with President Loper through his well-written articles!

CARL AND FRANCES DENNIS  
Lenoir City, TN

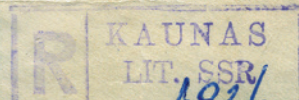
I was glued to the recent *God's Revivalist* articles [November 2018] that were a very fitting tribute to veterans. WW2 made a real impression on me. We lost our oldest brother Bob on *USS Colorado* battleship during the Battle of Leyte November 27, 1944. I was then 11 years old.

After working on our 250-acre dairy farm in Michigan and attending GBS from 1947 to 1951, I was drafted in 1953. My specific duty during the Korean War was a light weapons drill sergeant.

Looking back, my experience and training at the farm and at GBS were responsible for my success (if any) in life. Time marches on for this 85-plus-year veteran, and my bags are packed for my great assignment in the sky. When final taps are blown on God's trumpet, I hope to meet my Commander in Chief Jesus, who will hand me the medal of eternal life.

EUGENE F. "GENE" REDING  
Cpl. U.S. Army (Korean War)  
Lawrence, KS

APRIL 2019







**Student Development Day.** During this annual event, college classes are canceled and replaced with plenary sessions in order to discuss topics that will be helpful to students as they prepare to be ambassadors in today's world. This year's topics were "Understanding Poverty" and "When Helping Hurts." Students were challenged to think about new ways to reach those in poverty with the love of Christ. The times of instruction were enhanced by delicious Graeter's donuts, which were available throughout the morning.



## STUDENT DEVELOPMENT DAY

On February 5, GBS hosted a team from City Gospel Mission for



City Gospel Mission representative Courtney Walton



City Gospel Mission President Roger Howell

## ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL TOURNAMENT

The 2019 high school volleyball/basketball tournament was held February 7-8. This event brought approximately 250 students and their parents and chaperones to our campus from various schools: Daystar Christian Academy (MI), Heartland Christian School (IN), Stone City Christian Academy (IN), Nazarene Christian School (IN), Frankfort Covenant Academy (IN), London Christian Academy (KY), and our own Aldersgate Christian Academy.

# 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.

## BIRTH



To **Korin (Reiner) (BA '07) and Stephen (AA '06) Harms**, a son, **Daniel Lincoln**, born March 12, 2019, at Good Samaritan Hospital, Cincinnati, OH. Stephen is a staff member in the Information Technology Department of God's Bible School and College. Prior to becoming a full-time mother, Korin taught kindergarten in Aldersgate Christian Academy. Daniel is welcomed by four siblings: Stephen (6) and triplets Stewart, Emmalee, and Annabelle (4).

## DEATH



**Nadine Spaugh**, 92, of North Platte, NE, passed away on Thursday, January 3, 2019, at Linden Court, North Platte. She was born in 1926, in Upland, NE, the only child to Nels and Ruth Ibsen. The family moved to Colorado Springs, CO, in 1942, and Nadine graduated from Colorado Springs Bible Training School in 1944. The following year she married David Spaugh, and the two lived in Texas and Oklahoma before moving back to Colorado Springs where David attended college. After his graduation, they traveled in song evangelism for a year until moving to North Platte in 1952. Nadine worked at Sears in the catalog department for several years before going to work for Hallmark. She was active in





Between the rousing games of basketball and volleyball, guests attended a chapel service in which President Rodney Loper delivered a challenging message.

Congratulations to the Heartland Saints for sweeping the tournament again this year and bringing home the first place trophies for volleyball and basketball! We thank the Lord for safety, fun, and a spiritual emphasis.

## ACADEMY REVIVAL

Aldersgate Christian Academy held its annual revival services February 25–March 1. Students from grades

5-12 met together in a time set aside as a week of spiritual emphasis. GBS faculty member and pastor of Kenwood Bible Methodist Church, Rev. Mark Cravens (inset photo), spoke to the students about the “good plans” God has for their lives, using Jeremiah 29:11 as his text.



We are grateful that God’s presence was so evident in the services and in the students’ responses, who, along with their teachers, remarked over and over what a great time of refocusing and renewal this was! We are praying that God will continue



to work in our academy as we finish this school year!

## 1810 SUSTAINING DONOR BANQUET

The campus family was delighted to welcome over 100 alumni and friends to the 2nd annual 1810 Sustaining Donor Banquet. This event specifically gives GBS the opportunity to thank everyone who gives monthly to support the school and to provide more information for those who are interested. Guests fellowshiped over a catered meal, enjoyed music by GBS groups Adoration and Assurance,

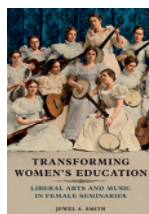


the Wesleyan Church, including youth and children’s work, and was a Sunday School teacher and church organist until her health began to fail. In later years she attended Parkview Church of the Nazarene. Her encouragement and selflessness will be long remembered and she will be greatly missed. Both David and Nadine supported GBS financially and prayerfully for many years.

Nadine is survived by children Ruthie and Glen; 4 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren; and others. Services were held at Odean Colonial Chapel, North Platte, NE. Burial followed in the North Platte Cemetery.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Former GBS faculty member **Jewel A. Smith** (1980-89) has released *Transforming Women’s Education: Liberal*



*Arts and Music in Female Seminaries* (University of Illinois Press, 2019). This significant project received the support of prestigious fellowships: a full-year fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities and a post-doctoral fellowship from the American Association of University Women.

This in-depth study of four 19th Century female seminaries shows how they offered middle-class women the rare privilege of training in music and the liberal arts as a foundation for a teaching career, one of the few vocational paths open to women of that era.

Dr. Smith received her PhD in musicology from the University of Cincinnati (2003). She has taught music at various universities and is currently on staff at the University of Cincinnati (College-Conservatory of Music). ■





VP Marc Sankey speaks at donor banquet.

received a small gift, and learned how their giving impacts campus on a daily basis through a special presentation by President Loper.

For more information about becoming an 1810 Sustaining Donor, visit [gbs.edu/1810](http://gbs.edu/1810) or call (513) 721-7944 and ask for the Constituent Relations Office.

## WINTER CHOIR TOUR

The College Choir, directed by Tim Crater and accompanied by Martha Miller and Michael DeStefano, ministered in 13 services in 7 states, as well as an impromptu con-



Aboard the bus and ready for tour



The College Choir sings at the Bible Methodist Church, Easley, SC.

cert to an enthusiastic audience of travelers and rest area workers at the Tennessee Welcome Center en route to Alabama, and to residents in a North Carolina nursing home. Marc Sankey, Vice President for Constituent Relations, joined the tour as the GBS representative. Mr. Crater described the tour as "marked by the presence of the Lord both in the services and in special times of worship on the bus. There was a strong unity among the students, and this was evident behind the scenes and as they effectively and actively worshiped the Lord together."

We thank the Lord for His evident presence in the choir's ministry and for the eagerness of the students to unite in song and testimony to bring God glory.

## CHAPEL MEDIA PROJECT

For more than a year, an ad hoc committee has been working on improving the quality of chapel media. The first phase involved the replacement of all the chapel video cameras with new PTZ Optics cameras, resulting in a marked improvement to live-streamed video. These cameras pan, tilt, and zoom (PTZ), all from one controller. While some of the improvements come from the cameras' resolution, the majority comes from their dynamic range (ability to handle a wider spectrum of lighting).

The second phase of the project was to improve live-stream sound. In order to accomplish this, we not only replaced our existing soundboard, but we also added a second soundboard. This allows the two systems to share digital signals seamlessly. While one board controls the live chapel mix, the

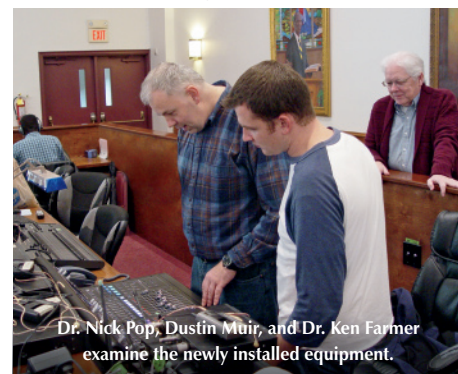
second is dedicated specifically to the live-stream mix. An appropriate mix for the live chapel audience has a very different acoustic profile from the mix needed for live-streaming. Thanks to a generous supporter who donated the necessary funds, the second phase of this project was made possible!



student Josh Luna at the live-stream sound board

There are still two additional phases to accomplish, and additional negotiations are underway with Worship Resources, the Cincinnati company that has been involved in the projects to this point. The third phase will involve a recalibration of the chapel sound. As the speaker cluster setup currently in use does not adequately transmit sound to the sides of the auditorium, phase three will include retuning the system and moving speakers to where they need to be for proper coverage.

The last phase involves relighting the entire platform area. Substantial measures are required to counter the effects of the ambient light from three, large, stained-glass windows and to add additional lights with better place-



Dr. Nick Pop, Dustin Muir, and Dr. Ken Farmer examine the newly installed equipment.





**commissioning**weekend  
MAY 16-19  
at God's Bible School  
and College  
guest speaker  
Rev. James Plank  
commencement  
Saturday, May 18, 10:00 a.m.



**HILLTOP PIANO INSTITUTE**  
MAY 27-31, 2019  
FOR PRICING AND FAQ'S, VISIT  
**GBS.EDU/HPINSTITUTE**  
MAY 13: FINAL APPLICATION DEADLINE  
CONTACT: (513) 763-6546 | MUSICOFFICE@GBS.EDU

ment to cover underlit areas. This includes various parts of the platform as well as the floor area in front of the pulpit. Worship Resources is developing a proposal based on our current lighting assets and a plan to utilize more LED fixtures and, possibly, some digitally movable spotlights. Committee members last met with Worship Resources in November and expect to receive their proposal soon.

If you would like to help fund either of these last two phases, contact Ken Farmer at [kfarmer@gbs.edu](mailto:kfarmer@gbs.edu) or by phone at 513.763.6650. 📌

# Easter

by Fannie Isabelle Sherrick

Let all the flowers wake to life;  
Let all the songsters sing;  
Let everything that lives on earth  
Become a joyous thing.

Wake up, thou pansy, purple-eyed,  
And greet the dewy spring;  
Swell out, ye buds, and o'er the earth  
Thy sweetest fragrance fling.

Why dost thou sleep, sweet violet?  
The earth has need of thee;  
Wake up and catch the melody  
That sounds from sea to sea.

Ye stars, that dwell in noonday skies,  
Shine on, though all unseen;  
The great White Throne lies just beyond,  
The stars are all between.

Ring out, ye bells, sweet Easter bells,  
And ring the glory in;  
Ring out the sorrow, born of earth—  
Ring out the stains of sin.

O banners wide, that sweep the sky,  
Unfurl ye to the sun;  
And gently wave about the graves  
Of those whose lives are done.

Let peace be in the hearts that mourn—  
Let "Rest" be in the grave;  
The Hand that swept these lives away  
Hath power alone to save.

Ring out, ye bells, sweet Easter bells,  
And ring the glory in;  
Ring out the sorrow, born of earth—  
Ring out the stains of sin.


*Fannie Isabelle Sherrick* was an American poet known mostly for songs and poems she wrote throughout the 1860s. Her collected works were published in 1888 in a volume entitled *Star Dust*.



© iStock: Eachat



# *the* DEMANDS *of* CALVARY



He looked back upon his humiliation. He thought equality with God not something to be grasped, but took upon Himself the form of a servant. He laid aside the royal robes of heavenly splendor and clothed Himself with the fading garment of our humanity. He saw all of this and was satisfied. He saw again as we spat in His face, plowed His back with a scourge, spiked Him naked and thorn-crowned to a tree, and mocked His anguish until the sun hid its face in shame and the earth reeled in terror. He relived drinking the bitter cup to the very last drop. He looked upon it all—all the rejection, all the agony—and was satisfied with the travail of His soul.

The travail of His soul has provided a completely adequate atonement for the deepest needs of every man who has ever lived or ever will live. He met every demand of a broken law, fully satisfied the justice of an offended God, and silenced every accusation of Satan. He held nothing back. He gave His all. Jesus Christ is satisfied with what Calvary has wrought. The question that surfaces immediately in my mind is this: “Is He satisfied with the full appropriation of Calvary as it touches and works its way out in my life?”

A missionary returning from Africa during the early stages of World War II went down to the bottom of the ocean in an ill-fated ship. In one of her last letters she wrote, “The gift of forgiveness has become exceedingly precious to me when I ponder the cost to Christ to pardon mankind. God has to curse His only child to free me from the curse of sin. To lay nothing to my charge, He charged His own Son with all the guilt a sinful world could produce. To give me a mother’s care, He forsook His Son in His hour of loneliness and need. To give me a taste of the sweetness of Heaven, He caused His Son to taste the bitterness of Hell. To fill my heart with all the peace it can contain, He filled the heart of His Son with all the agony it could contain. Oh, the fathomless love of the Father’s heart for me, a sinner sunk in fathomless sin! *Pray for me that God may get all out of my life that Calvary can get out of it. And that in me and through me He may see the travail of His soul and be satisfied.*”

The haunting question that leaps from the pages of this missionary’s letter is this: “Has God got out of my life all that Calvary can get out of it?” When He looks at me and remembers the travail of His soul, is He satisfied? Have I allowed the cross of Christ to wean my heart from all other

*by Michael Avery*

One of the most striking statements found in Holy Writ about the atoning work of Christ was penned some 700 years before Calvary ever occurred. Isaiah lifts the veil that shrouded the future and with graphic words paints a moving portrait of our suffering Savior. That picture, however, does not stop with His suffering. With the masterful strokes of a prophetic brush, Isaiah shows the triumphant Son of God looking back as it were from eternity, back on all that Calvary meant and provided. The expression of the Savior’s heart on all that He saw was framed in these words: “He shall see the travail of his soul and be satisfied” (Isa. 53:11).



## PASSION WEEK Reading Plan

*One of the best ways to prepare your heart for Easter is to walk with Jesus through the Scriptures from Palm Sunday through Good Friday to Resurrection Morning. Reading any one of the four Gospels will provide a valuable perspective on Passion Week, but no one Gospel includes every detail of the story. To get a complete picture, it is helpful to read selected portions.*

### Palm Sunday

Jesus makes his Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, fulfilling prophecy: "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey" (Zechariah 9:9 ESV).

**Read: Luke 19:28-44**

### Monday

Jesus cleanses the temple, infuriating the religious leaders. "Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves" (Mark 11:17).

**Read: Mark 11:12-19**

### Tuesday

The religious leaders challenge Jesus' authority and try to trap Him in several difficult theological debates. Jesus condemns them for their hypocrisy.

**Read: Luke 20:1-26,39 and Matthew 23:1-39**

### Wednesday

The religious leaders plot to kill Jesus. When Jesus allows a woman to anoint Him with very expensive oil, Judas Iscariot offers to betray Him. "Then one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot (who was about to

betray Him), said, 'Why wasn't this fragrant oil sold for 300 denarii and given to the poor?' ... Jesus answered, 'Leave her alone; she has kept it for the day of My burial'" (John 12:4-5, 7 HCSB).

**Read: Matthew 26:1-16**

### Maundy Thursday

Jesus celebrates Passover with His disciples in what is now called the Last Supper. Then He goes to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Judas hands Him over to the authorities. "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done" (Luke 22:42).

**Read: Matthew 26:17-75 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

### Good Friday

The Jewish mob pressures Pilate, the Roman governor, to sentence Jesus to death. He is crucified and buried. "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh" (1 Peter 3:18).

**Read: Matthew 27:1-61, Luke 22:54-23:56, and Isaiah 52:13-53:12**

### Saturday

The disciples mourn the death of Jesus while the Roman guard secures His tomb. The women "prepared spices and ointments" to anoint Jesus' body "and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment" (Luke 23:56).

**Read: Matthew 27:62-66 and Romans 6:3-11**

### Easter Sunday

The women go to Jesus' tomb but find it empty. An angel announces that "He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay" (Matthew 28:6), and they hurry back to tell the others. Later, Jesus appears to His disciples.

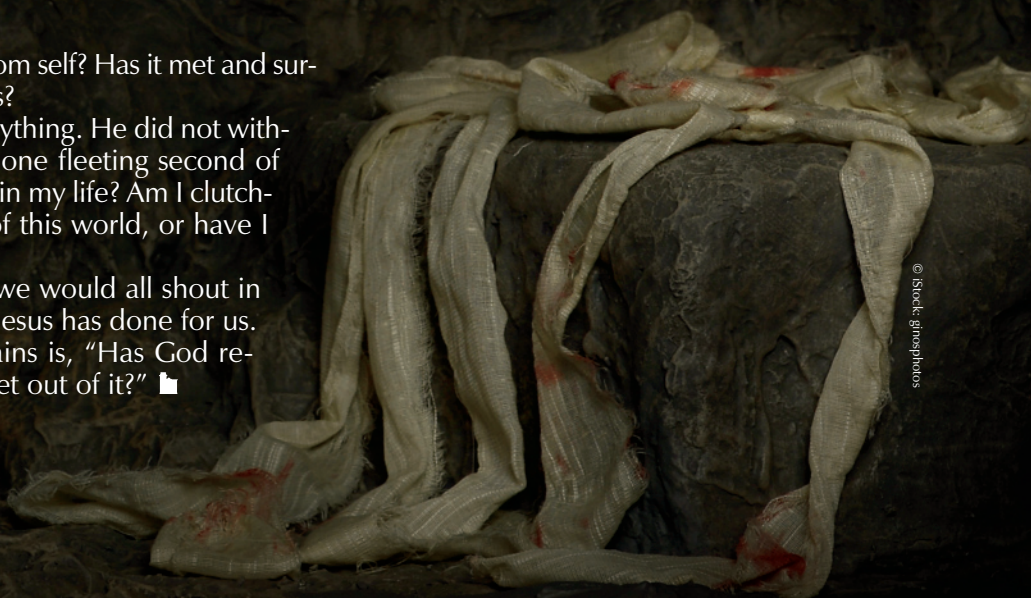
**Read: Luke 24:1-49 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

affections, from sin, from the world, and from self? Has it met and surrendered to the love that Calvary demands?

Jesus held back nothing. He gave everything. He did not withhold one drop of His precious blood or one fleeting second of His life. Have I allowed Calvary to do that in my life? Am I clutching to any of the trinkets and souvenirs of this world, or have I forsaken them all in the light of Calvary?

I'm firmly convinced that this Easter we would all shout in harmony that we are satisfied with what Jesus has done for us. But the haunting question that still remains is, "Has God received from my life all that Calvary can get out of it?" ■

**Dr. Michael Avery** (BRE '79) is the former president of God's Bible School and College (1995-2017) and its current chancellor. He and his wife Ruth (BA '80) live in Cincinnati, OH.







## What is a working definition of biblical peace?

**PB:** Peace exists on a spectrum. At the bottom end would be the absence of active conflict. Further up the spectrum, peace involves actual harmony between persons. Even further up is where that harmony flourishes in the lives of the individuals involved. So, peace is actually not merely an absence of conflict, but a positive presence of well-being. We are going to have to be willing to dial back and forth along that spectrum depending on what we are talking about.

## Is there a difference between “peacemaking” and “peacekeeping?”

**RM:** To me, peacekeeping indicates that you are maintaining something or avoiding something. Peacemaking says, “There’s a problem. We have to fix it.” However, I think they come from the same core biblical principle. One danger is that peacekeeping may not always be growth-producing. Because any relationship requires honesty for it to be close, and peacekeeping might be an attempt to avoid necessary conversations and the conflict that might occur, so peacekeeping—normally a good thing—can at times be counterproductive.

## So, is peacekeeping passive and peacemaking active?

**SV:** Sometimes in relationships, if you are just going after peacekeeping, you may not be passive; you may be doing everything in your power to keep a certain conflict from coming up when maybe that conflict needs to be addressed.

So, in a sense it is passive, but in another way it can be dangerously non-passive.

## What is the relationship between war and peace?

**AP:** It is an obvious point, but one which needs to be said. War comes from a pattern of failure to make peace. War just doesn’t drop out of the sky. “Oh, look! We have war!” There is a pattern of choices not to push through conflict, not to seek reconciliation. Any war that has any Christian justification should have as its primary goal the creation of peace. So, any justifiable war is correctly understood as an act of peacemaking. I think history shows that wars frequently come because, in seeking to resolve past conflicts, there was maybe resolution, but there wasn’t reconciliation. In that sense, wars would be more peacekeeping than peacemaking and therefore on the low end of the spectrum of peace.

## What about individuals picking up arms in conflict?

**AP:** There are two Christian streams of thought here. There is what is commonly known as “just-war Christian thinking,” which says if the war is ethically and philosophically justifiable, then the individual is right to take up arms to make peace. There is also a “Christian pacifist thinking” that says, “My job is to make peace and not through violence.” That does not mean that those individuals don’t engage in war. There is a tradition of pacifists refusing to arm themselves but assisting in war efforts; for example, going onto battlefields as medics to save lives. I think both approaches are appropriate.





**James 3:18 talks about “the fruit of righteousness being sown in peace of them that make peace.” Would anyone care to comment?**

**DH:** That is an awesome verse that talks about an important harvest! The fruit of a righteous person’s life—the legacy they will leave—will be this harvest of righteousness and peace. I want to be that kind of person! You have to be a peacemaker, and it isn’t always easy. But as much as possible, I want to “live peaceably with all men” (Rom. 12:18). So, don’t ever let the peace-rupture be your fault.

**Be at peace with everybody?**

**RM:** Well, Jesus is our example, and He doesn’t give us much wiggle room on determining with whom we should be at peace. It is easy to find excuses not to make peace. “It’s their fault.” “They’re wrong.” I think we must do everything we can to make peace, but we can’t force it. The point of that verse is that if there is nothing more that you know that you can do, and continuing to pursue peace might actually cause greater discord, then you’ve probably done all that you can. But I don’t think that point should come quickly.

**So, I have pursued peace with everything in me and have been unsuccessful, does that mean I am done with peacemaking in that instance?**

**RM:** We don’t know. It could be. What I have tried to practice and have encouraged others to do as well, is to

pray for the “God moment.” And I have seen that moment come. There are times when you do need to stop investing your time and energy in people who are not going to hear. That doesn’t mean you shouldn’t keep praying for God to step in and give them hearing ears.

**PB:** To follow up on that, after Paul says, “As much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men,” he adds, “Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good” (Rom. 12:21). So, with your enemy, you are to be actively engaged in doing more good to them than they can do bad to you. It is like a contest that you need to win. Romans 14:17 says, “The kingdom of God is not meat and drink.” That means it is not about what you eat, but it is about “righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.” So God calls us as people to value these three things as essential, cultural values in the kingdom. And we pursue these things even when we disagree with each other. That is what Romans 14 is talking about. When some people thought that you should eat only vegetables and other people thought that eating meat was acceptable, Paul said that rather than allowing disagreement to become the focus of their relationship, they should make peace and edification the focus. That is the goal.

**What do we do when we come at peace from two different perspectives—Christian and non-Christian?**

**RM:** I think the only thing we can do is to be Christian. Let that contrast be seen. That isn’t always easy, but we are here as lights. We are here to represent Jesus. That is what He did. There will be conflict between Christ-followers and the world, but we face that conflict by being a representative of Christ in a world that doesn’t like Him and the Christian worldview.

**SV:** It shouldn’t be surprising that nonbelievers think differently than we do. So, when we talk with those who are dead spiritually, our job as Christ-followers is to form relationships with them, to shine a light, but not to be blinding them with it. It is not our job to “shape them up” in the first conversation. Our job is to love them—to be bold to speak where we are coming from—to be bold to say what we believe Scripture says—but always doing it in a framework of love, and then allowing the Holy Spirit to do His job to work on their hearts. It is not our job to change hearts. It is our job to shine the light and to show Christ.

**What is the relationship between peace and truth?**

**PB:** Ephesians 4 says that we are to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Peace is not biblical peace if it is not centered around truth. However, we must remember that there are levels or categories of truths. If the conflict is over essential truth, then I’m going to have to stand for that truth regardless, and I am going to do that in the most Christlike way I know how. If it is secondary level truth, because we hold different views, there may be conflict. For example, parents may not agree on what is the best homeschooling curriculum for





their children. There can be conflict of views. However, if they are disagreeing biblically, they will also be seeking each other's best interests and edification.

**Could the panelists talk about the ways in which they process things? What if best efforts make things worse?**

**SV:** Sometimes things will temporarily get worse. Sometimes the most loving thing to do is to confront. It is uncomfortable. The easiest thing to do would be to avoid that, but your friendship—your fellowship—would then be damaged and slowly die. The better path is confronting the issue in a loving way and with a lot of humility, because often there is humanity and brokenness on both sides. The risks are uncomfortableness, awkwardness, and misunderstanding, but ultimately, with God's help, there can be resolution and reconciliation.

**AP:** I agree. Peace with unresolved conflict isn't peace. It is not on that spectrum at all. No healthy relationship avoids conflict. A relationship grows through resolving conflict. However, in some situations, reconciliation is incredibly challenging. I am talking about those who have suffered at the hands of others, especially in abusive relationships. In those cases, a victim may want reconciliation but must wait for the "God moment." Unless God breaks the other person and brings them to a point of repentance, there can be no reconciliation. So, the job of the victim is to pray for brokenness for the abuser in order to bring about reconciliation—that is peacemaking. And that is hard!

**So, is it best to let the abuser make the initial approach for reconciliation?**

**AP:** Not necessarily. You can approach the abuser and seek reconciliation, but I must give this warning: abusers are gifted manipulators. Often if victims approach those who have wronged them, sinned against them, or abused them, the perpetrator will try to flip the situation around to make it the victim's fault and create a new cycle of abuse. So, if the person you appropriately confront is unrepentant, you can take a witness or two with you as you deal with the situation, and if that doesn't work, you can take your case to the church. However, if the abuser is not connected to the church, that complicates available options. At that point, beating your head against the wall and allowing someone to continue to sin against you by continuing to create new cycles of abuse is not helpful.

**Is this whole process more complicated for those who are overly conscientious?**

**SV:** This is a good place to make the case for having a spiritual mentor. This is very important for all, but especially so for the ultra-conscientious. A spiritual mentor is

usually not your "best bud." It should be someone who is close to God and available to help you navigate through some of that conscientiousness. They can help you to slow down and process things better. When you feel an urge to go talk to that person "right now," pause. That is generally not the prompting of our good, kind, heavenly Father. Remember, if God wants you to deal with something, His Holy Spirit will be faithful to your heart. There have often been times when I wasn't sure if I was supposed to address something or not, and I've said, "Lord, you know that the minute that I know this is from You, I will do it. I will not fight you. I settled that a long time ago. But right now, I'm not sure. So, I am not going to do anything until I am sure." And in that moment I think it is really good to have someone come alongside you. That is not gossiping. It is appropriate to go to your spiritual mentor and say, "Here is my situation, do you have any godly counsel?"

And, lastly, don't be too sensitive about others around you. Just because your friend is out of sorts, it may not be about you. In fact, it is a little arrogant to think that every time somebody is not having a good day, it's your fault. They may not think about you as much as you think they do. And, if you are concerned that it is your job to fix everyone, rethink that!

**Would each panel member like to give a summary statement?**

**DH:** I am blessed to work with people that I know are true peacemakers. You should get to know them, talk to them, and get godly counsel from them. Be courageous and be a real peacemaker. It is true righteousness. It is true Christianity.

**PB:** God's way of doing things is always best, even if in the short term it seems worse.

**AP:** Seeking reconciliation, seeking to be a peacemaker, gives God a window of opportunity to break through and work miracles in lives and relationships.

**RM:** You have heard me say that I believe that love is the unselfish and sacrificial commitment to the good of others. I think if that is what drives us, we will confront when we need to confront, and we will seek peace wherever we can; and I think one key to that is listening for understanding. Go for what is right, not for the win.

**SV:** I cannot be overly concerned about looking good in every situation if I want to be a true peacemaker. I need to be willing to be vulnerable and open. I must be willing to hear about my own faults, surrender my right to be right and my right to look good, and be able to listen and hear with ears that appreciate the honesty of others. When I go in with a heart that is open and vulnerable, and I truly want reconciliation and respond in repentance when I need to, a door so often opens, and reconciliation follows. ■





## PERFECT PEACE

by James Plank

**Scripture:** *"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee."—Isaiah 26:3*

The picture of peace is not only the calm lake with a beautiful sunset painted with soft tones, but it is also the raging storm, painted in harsh tones, with a tiny songbird tucked safely in the shelter of an outcropping rock. While the storm howls about it, all is peace and safety on the inside.

The songwriter wrote:

*When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll,  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
It is well, It is well, with my soul.*

Peace is one of the great fruits of the Spirit, one of the great attributes of the sanctified life—a peace this world cannot give and cannot take away. Isaiah promises, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee." Whatever the storm on the outside, God's sanctifying grace can make our hearts to be at peace.

### THIS IS A KEEPING PEACE

Our world is awash with instability. This stems from the unsanctified heart accurately described in James 1: "a double minded man is unstable in all his ways." It is the description of many professing Christians today.

So many start out to serve Jesus. They purpose to be all God wants them to be. But so few know of the double cure, and fewer still pursue that "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord." They are not aware that there is a crisis experience whereby peace can replace carnality. They do not understand this Divine promise: "Thou wilt keep Him in perfect peace."

Life is a long time, full of twists and turns, ups and downs. If there is not a peace on the inside, the currents of life will naturally wash away the spiritual life, no matter our determination or good intentions.

Young people who start out "all in" are soon "up for sale." Convictions once dear are soon let go. Other people start to dictate what's right and what's wrong. Like a bad case of vertigo, the entire spiritual world starts to spin out of control. The inner man becomes a victim of carnal pride, anger, jealousy, and lust.

God has goals for your life that will make you fruitful and productive for His Kingdom. His ultimate goal is to give you an abundant entrance into Heaven. None of this is possible without His keeping peace.

The word peace in its very definition and scriptural meaning is "the rule of order in place of chaos." Chaos defines our world and chaos describes the life without God in full control. Truly, for each one of us, it will be Christ or chaos.

It's simply not safe to neglect all that God provides. We must seek that keeping peace that comes with a life entirely devoted to Christ and a mind centered on Him. With the psalmist we can then testify, "My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed" (Psa. 57:7)

### THIS IS A PERFECTING PEACE

The package deal of entire sanctification includes peace that comes on the inside and rids the man of carnality and sin—a complete love for Christ without the world sharing a part.

When the fruit of the Spirit is evident in your life, peace reigns in the soul. The word "peace" comes from "shalom," the Hebrew word expressing the idea of wholeness, completeness, or tranquility in the soul that is unaffected by the outward circumstances or pressures. This is what the Bible describes as "perfect peace."

We naturally recoil at calling anything that has to do with us as "perfect." The Scriptures, however, are constantly calling us to a Christian perfection. This has little to do with perfection of the mind or body, but rather a perfection of completeness and wholeness in our love relationship with Jesus, unmixed with sin.

"I'm not perfect, just forgiven" is a popular quote that looks great printed on the bumper sticker of your car, but living out that philosophy is dangerous. No, we are not perfect in our heads. A reverse gear is always necessary in our lives. Growth in grace remains the great potential and necessity for all, but we will only know the "peace that passeth understanding" when it is a perfect peace—complete, whole, entirely centered on Christ. "I'm just forgiven" too often becomes an excuse to keep falling back into the old sinful life.

There is a perfecting peace that God wants to give to every believer—a peace that will steady you in the



hour of temptation and will give you complete and total victory over all sin.

### THIS IS A HEAVENLY PEACE

When a man is sanctified, a bit of Heaven is tucked in his soul. His thoughts are on Christ—our Savior, our Redeemer, our Friend, and our Coming King. Heaven is, after all, not about gold streets and pearl gates, but about Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

It is fascinating that Isaiah prophesied the birth of the Messiah—words written at a time when Jesus Christ was yet in heaven, long before He would make His journey to a mother's womb—with these outstanding words: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isa. 9:6).

If heaven could be described with one word, it is "peace." No war, no misunderstandings, no cancer, no death, no taxes, and no tears.

In the most difficult moments of life, keeping thoughts on Christ and what He has promised will hold you—a heavenly peace. It's a promise. It's a fact.

*And I think when I rise to that city of peace,  
Where the Author of peace I shall see,  
That one strain of the song which the  
ransomed will sing  
In that heavenly kingdom will be:*

*Peace, peace, wonderful peace,  
Coming down from the Father above!  
Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray,  
In fathomless billows of love! —W.D. Cornell*

This keeping, perfecting, and heavenly peace is available to all. There is no need to struggle on, longing and wishing for the peace that He alone can give. Hebrews 4:9 declares, "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God." Jesus also said, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).

Mark 4:37-41 gives the account of a storm. Jesus and His disciples had had a very busy day. They were crossing the sea

by boat when a storm hit with fury. While the storm raged, Jesus was asleep.

The disciples, many of them experienced seamen, were scared to death and awakened Jesus: "Do you not care that we are about to drown?"

Jesus arose from his rest and simply spoke three words to the storm: "Peace, be still."

With those three words, the sea was calmed and the turbulence was over. The disciples learned a valuable lesson about peace in that moment. It is not about the circumstances, but about the Christ who sails with you.

Traveling by airplane or boat, if turbulence or storm arises, it is good to watch the captain. If he is not alarmed, there is no need for us to be alarmed.

Whatever storm you face right now, keep your eyes on Captain Jesus. He is not alarmed. Three words still speak to the storms of our lives: "Peace, be still."

If the storm of carnality yet exists in your soul, pray that Jesus Christ will speak "Peace, be still." He longs to see the fruit of the Spirit at work in your life. He gave everything on Calvary's cross to sanctify you with His own blood. His desire is that peace, perfect peace, might be yours, as you keep your mind stayed on Him. ■

**James Plank** is General Secretary of Interchurch Holiness Convention and has been the senior pastor of God's Missionary Church, Beavertown, PA, for 25 years. He and his wife Marie have a son, Jamison, and daughter, Jennifer. The Planks reside in Beaver Springs, PA.

## Peace is not about the circumstances, but about the Christ who sails with you.







## student focus

### BABY BOOMERS RETURNING TO CHURCH

One of the most significant findings in the ninth round of data from the 45-year Longitudinal Study of Generations is the increasing number of Baby Boomers becoming more involved in religious activity like churches. One in five Boomers has increased his or her religious and church activity in the past few years. That's approximately 19 million Boomers when the percentage is applied to the entire generation. Some suggested reasons for this shift are that Boomers have more time, and they want to use that extra time pursuing a more meaningful life, including church. As they become more aware of the brevity of life, they seek answers to questions they had not previously asked.

### TRANSGENDER TEENS AND SUICIDE

The study, "Transgender Adolescent Suicide Behavior," published in *Pediatrics*, the official peer-reviewed journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, found that one in every two transgender adolescent boys (born female but identify as male) has attempted suicide in the past year. Additionally, the study reported an attempted-suicide rate of over 40% for adolescents who identify as gender non-conforming (neither exclusively male or female) and nearly 30% for

transgender girls (born male but identify as female). By comparison, they found that 14% of all teenagers had attempted suicide at least once. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is the second-leading cause of death among adolescents and young adults ages 10 to 34 in the U.S.

### DIGITAL VS. PHYSICAL BIBLES

Americans' access to digital books may be growing, but they still enjoy reading a physical copy of the Bible. A new Barna survey shows that while 57% of Bible users read the Bible on the Internet and 55% on a smartphone, 89% read a physical version—a percentage that has remained steady the past eight years.

### LITTLE SISTERS SAFE FOR NOW

After over a year in limbo, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a new rule that finalized the interim religious exemption the Little Sisters of the Poor received back in October 2017 which kept the government from forcing them to provide birth control to their employees. After being forced into years of ongoing litigation fighting the contraception mandate from HHS, the Little Sisters may now live freely in accord with their religious conscience and return to serving the elderly poor in the 25 homes they operate. ■

**LAURA WURST** grew up in upstate New York where she was homeschooled. After attending a large Christian College for one year, she transferred to GBS. She was interested in attending a smaller Bible college and earning an associate degree, which she accomplished in 2017; but during that year she "fell in love with GBS and knew God wanted me to stay longer!"

GBS has prepared her very well for ministry by "providing an atmosphere focused on spiritual growth, biblical teaching, and practical experience opportunities." Throughout the last several years, God has put a passion in Laura's heart for orphans and children in need. She completed an internship at Galilean Home in Liberty, KY, where she cared for babies with special needs or whose mothers were incarcerated. What she learned there "greatly complemented" her education.

Laura expects to graduate in May with a BA in Integrative Studies, after which she hopes to work with needy children or families. ■

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## OUR MINISTRIES IN HONDURAS

by Janna Cressman (BA '01)

There are times in our lives when we pause to reflect upon how God has used past experiences to impact current ministry. That has definitely been the case with me. Different times in my ministry, I recall the experiences I had while ministering to the children who lived in the public housing projects known as Laurel Homes. Little did I know at that time how this endeavor was preparing me for future opportunities. Week after week, a group of us from GBS would work in children's ministry, either outdoors or in a designated indoor location, right there in the inner-city area of Cincinnati.





Today, my family and I minister in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, serving with Hope International Missions [2]. We are blessed to work with church planters Eric and Hannah Kuhns [1]. Our family focuses on children's ministry, mercy ministries, and hospitality ministry.

**Children's Ministry.** Our children's ministry is in two locations in Tegucigalpa. Right now we are teaching biblical foundation facts and using stories in the Bible [3,7] to give the children biblical knowledge. Much of what I do here is similar to what I used to do in my weekly visits to Laurel Homes in Cincinnati.

Our children's ministry also includes training the nationals to become teachers and leaders in children's ministry in the local church. It is exciting to work alongside these individuals who are helping right now, knowing that they will be leading in the future. We also hold child evangelism workshops.

**Mercy Ministries.** These include my visits to the children's cancer ward at the public hospital. At these hospital visits, we try to spread the salvation message and love of Jesus to children and the parents of children who are extremely ill. I must say this ministry is close to my heart.

Mercy ministries also includes the city dump ministry, operated by my husband Wesley and the Kuhnses. It is very unique. There are over 1,000 people who live and work at the dump. We prepare soup and rice and take bags of clean water to these people [6]. Our daughter Ella loves to help prepare vegetables for this ministry [4,8]! Eric Kuhns typically preaches a salvation message, and then food is distributed to people who are in need of spiritual and humanitarian aid. Wesley and Eric both have a desire to see a permanent discipleship program started in this location.

**Hospitality Ministry.** We also have a thriving ministry in our home every week [5]. Each Sunday, those who attend all three Sunday services are invited to our home for lunch, as well as afternoon coffee and cookies. We also host visiting ministry teams, evangelists, and others. We are blessed that our rented home can accommodate these people. We hope in some way we are a blessing to them.

Our family looks at ministry as a family affair. For me, learning to serve started in my parent's home (a parsonage), the local church, and then continued while studying at GBS.

When you think of it, pray for our ministries in Honduras. ■

**Janna (Hooker) Cressman** (BA '01) taught in the GBS Aldersgate Christian Academy as well as in the college department from 2001 to 2009. Janna and Wesley have been working with Hope International Missions since 2015. They live in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, with their children Ella (5) and Carter (1).



by Sonja Vernon

## PEACE ON THE JOURNEY

*"Then he sent his brothers away, and as they departed, he said to them, 'Do not quarrel on the way.'" —Genesis 45:24 ESV*

Joseph's words to his brothers make me smile. The sons of Jacob had just found out that Joseph was now one of the most powerful men in Egypt. The brother they had desired to kill and had successfully sold into slavery now held their very lives in his hands, and they were terrified. But Joseph showed mercy (and also much insight) when he filled their carts with provisions and instructed them not to quarrel on the way home. Joseph knew his brothers, their natures, and their capabilities. Quarreling would likely start before they were out of the city limits, and their energy for the important journey would be wasted in fruitless fighting.

We too are on a journey homeward in a land filled with famine. Our Elder Brother, whom we also tried to annihilate, has given us abundant provisions. And I believe He also says to us, "Do not quarrel on the way." A starving world is waiting for the water of life and bread of heaven, but so often they see us fighting over things that are meaningless in light of the surrounding need. And while we bicker, they perish. We are called to "seek peace and pursue it" (Psa. 34:14b). Isn't it time to unite around a common cause and to give eternal nourishment to those dying in sin? Unlike the sons of Jacob, we have a divine traveling companion in the person of the Holy Spirit. As we walk with Him and surrender completely to His Lordship, the fruit of our lives will be peace; and a hungry world will be saved. ■

**Sonja Vernon** is Director of Student Affairs at God's Bible School.





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