GOOD VERSUS GREAT

There were a number of books I read during my MBA studies that made an impression on me. At the top of that list was *Built to Last* (Porras and Collins). In fact, from the book’s list of successful companies, I selected what I thought were the best in several different industry sectors and set up monthly DRIPs (Dividend Reinvestment Plans) for each. It was all good until the stock market headed south in 2001. However, it is true that the good companies tended to do better, even in rough times. Good companies were those with a good foundation. They were indeed built to last.

One chapter in the book was entitled “Good Enough Never Is.” If you have quantified some position at which you can say you are now “good enough,” you will most likely fall short of your real potential.

I subsequently read another book by Jim Collins—*Good to Great*. Ahhh! That must be it! Get beyond just being “good” and be GREAT. The companies highlighted in this book had done so—great leadership led to great financial performance over a sustained period. Although I really liked many of the characteristics contributing to company greatness, I noticed that not all of the “great” companies were even in business today—Circuit City, for example. Seven years after the book was published, the company declared bankruptcy and was liquidated.

This has me now wondering if “greatness” may be somewhat transitory and more susceptible to fads, trends, and other fluctuations of market forces. On the other hand, I see “goodness” as being more closely associated to concerns that are more within the company’s control. The company is built so well that it can maneuver the currents, withstand contrary waves, and keep moving ahead. A good company keeps its focus on this challenge: “How can we do better tomorrow than we did today?”

My reason for writing this is to say that Dr. A. Wingrove Taylor was a good man. His character and his life lived in faithful service were a testimony to that. He allowed God to build him in a manner which made him usable in Kingdom efforts. He was indeed “built to last.” He was always pursuing personal and spiritual improvement and encouraging others to join him. See the report of the recent Taylor memorial service (p.24). —KF
GOODNESS

by Rodney Loper, President

Soon after the cowardly attack on innocent civilians on September 11, 2001, I was conversing with Dr. H.C. Emmert about this tragedy. In the conversation, he pointed out something that changed my perspective on many things. He said that we like to think there are many different classifications of people in the world: Christians (those who are forgiven and live like it), good people (those who are not Christians but are moral), petty criminals (those who do not hurt others with their crimes but still violate the law), and hardened criminals (those who are willing to hurt others with their crimes and often do).

He went on to explain that this isn’t how the Bible classifies people. The Bible has only two categories: those who are saved and those who are unsaved. These two can be described in other terms; for example, those alive in Christ and those dead in trespasses and sins, or those in the kingdom of light and those in the kingdom of darkness. His final statement has replayed in my mind many times. “We are either contributing to the kingdom of darkness or to the kingdom of light—there is no middle ground.”

If we were to take a poll of the general population, I believe we would find that most people would describe themselves as a “good person.” Is it possible that we are all good and that goodness is subjective?

WHAT IS GOODNESS?

When you think of goodness, what comes to mind? Do you think of deeds or actions—or both? It is tempting to conclude that if you do “good things,” you are automatically a “good person.” But there is more to it than just that. If “goodness” were just about doing good deeds, almost everyone would
have to be considered a good person, for even the worst people in history have done good things at some point in their lives. But there is more to goodness than what we do. Let us dig a bit deeper to see what we find.

“Goodness” not only gives the thought of “excellent, distinguished, and honorable,” but it also includes the idea of upright heart and life. This means that “goodness” includes abstaining from every appearance of evil. “Goodness” also involves moral and spiritual excellence which lead to conformity to God’s laws and principles. The bottom line is that it is through the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives that we can become a truly “good” person. It is not just our efforts to “do better and/or try harder.” While it does involve “doing,” it is much more about “being.” You see, true goodness comes from a good heart—the very core of our being. If we have not allowed God to make our hearts good, there is no real hope of us being good. Scripture gives the reason: “Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit” (Matt. 7:17-18).

Yes, true goodness comes from a good heart and is expressed in a life that is always doing what is in the best interest of others.

WHY GOODNESS IS SO IMPORTANT

In my studies of Galatians 5:22-23, it became abundantly clear that “goodness” and “good works” go hand in hand. Now I know that even the mention of “good works” may cause some to pause; but, friend, as Christians we are to have good works. No, they will not save us. No, nothing we do in and of ourselves has lasting consequence. BUT…with Christ working through us, we are able to do things for the kingdom, and as a result, see men and women brought into the kingdom!

Furthermore, we were created in Christ for good works. Scripture bears this out:

- For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)
- And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work. (2 Cor. 9:8)
- As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. (Gal. 6:10)

Why did God save us? Did He send His Son to die for us so we could just live self-indulgent lives? Or were we saved for a higher purpose? One of the ways we grow in Christ is to work for Christ. We will not find fulfillment in life by working and serving ourselves. We will find fulfillment in Christ and His work. We allow the goodness of God within us to work its way out into the behaviors of our everyday lives. His goodness begets good deeds through us.

- He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God. (3 John 1:11b)
- That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God. (Col. 1:10)

This goes back to being Christlike. When we give our lives to Christ, there is a lot expected of us.

WHO DOES GOD CONSIDER GOOD?

How do we know if someone or something is good? What standard do we use to determine what good is? Let us look at three things that will help us to understand what it means to be good.

God is the standard of goodness. “And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God” (Mark 10:17-18). When you want to tell if you are good, do not compare yourself to your neighbor, compare yourself to God. God is the author and standard of goodness. It does not matter how good you are compared to others.

The one who keeps God’s commandments is good. After Jesus set the record straight with “There is none good but one, that is, God,” He continued by saying, “But if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments” (Matt. 19:17). This means that even to be associated with God, the Good One, requires us to keep His commandments. If we do this, our deeds will manifest the goodness of God within.

The one who uses his talents to glorify God is good. “His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord” (Matt. 25:21).

CONCLUSION

Are you using your talents for the glory of God? Are you putting forth your best effort and leaving the results to Him?

Keep your focus on God and His goodness. Daily ask Him to help you to guard your heart and to keep it so that out of it will flow good things. May your good words and good deeds be anointed by the Holy Spirit and cause others to be brought into fellowship with God and thus experience His goodness.
There is an exclusive boarding school close to my hometown in rural Tennessee. It is known simply as The Webb School. Located in iconic Bell Buckle, it is the oldest, continuously-operating boarding school in the South. The Christian academy I attended sometimes played against their basketball or volleyball teams, but, other than that, I had little contact with the privileged students who lived and studied there.

Boarding schools bring to my mind a few rosy-colored images—stately brick buildings, preppy uniforms, strict schedules, advanced classes, smart students, and lots of money. I think most of these are actually true of Webb. The photos of their campus agree largely with my mental image. But they also promote a high code of conduct which, too, seems a quintessential element of boarding schools. Webb’s motto is “The Character of Home.” They strive very hard to produce in their students a character marked by their “core values of honor, integrity, and civility.”

To be honest, the virtue of goodness just sounds like the description of a boarding school student. Things come to our minds, words like smart, caring, diligent, plays well with others, helps old ladies across the street, writes to his mother, etc. Someone so described could well be called “a good boy.” I can guess that these characteristics would be some of the goals for which The Webb School and other well-respected institutions would strive.

One manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit is goodness. The Greek word used in Galatians 5:22 is agathosyne, and it means “uprightness of heart and life.” The same word is used three other times in the New Testament:

- And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another. (Rom. 15:14)
- For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth. (Eph. 5:9)
- Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: (2 Thess. 1:11)

In each instance, it refers to an extreme characteristic of pure integrity, of being utterly upright. One of the refer-
cherishes is to the character of God Himself. The Old Testament abounds with references to the good nature of God.

- **O taste and see that The Lord is good.** (Psa. 34:8a)
- **For the Lord is good.** (Psa. 100:5a)
- **The Lord is good to all.** (Psa. 145:9a)
- **The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.** (Nah. 1:7)

We are called to reflect the goodness of our Father. Jesus came to show us what that looks like in human form, and the Holy Spirit is here to enable us to do it. He works this fruit in us as we continually live in surrender to His indwelling power.

So how can we practically live out this quality of goodness? How can we embody this trait of goodness in ways that go beyond boarding-school adherence? Are there specific actions we can take and attitudes we can embrace that are in keeping with the nature of the Father and the life of the Son? Absolutely! Let’s look at them.

**Cherish Light**

*God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.* (1 John 1:5b)

There is no taint in the divine Nature. He is completely pure—no shadows, no stains, no discolorations, no blots. The Holy Spirit indwelling us gives us the power to choose what is right, to run to the light, both in our inward thoughts, goals, and desires, and in our interactions with others. Philippians 4:8 instructs us to focus on what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise. These are the things of light, the upright things, the good things. Goodness without begins within. Light within shines without. We must cherish goodness at our very core by focusing on these things.

**Practice Truth**

*Thy truth reacheth unto the clouds.* (Psa. 108:4b)

Truth is goodness. We are called to full truth—to embrace it ourselves and to practice it with others. One who does not value truth is not good, for there can be no real goodness if there is deception and falseness. Goodness implies a life which springs from inner integrity. This is what David knew when he said of the Lord, “Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts” (Psa. 51:6a).

**Nurture Compassion**

*But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion.* (Psa. 86:15a)

God evidences His goodness to us in His compassion. He sees our needs and responds at His expense. The New Testament often records that Jesus was “moved” with compassion for the multitudes or for individuals who came to Him. As children of our Father, we are called to let compassion for others guide our actions and responses. This is goodness, for it exacts no price and expects nothing in return; it gives for the sheer and pure delight of doing good.

**Choose Mercy**

*For thy mercy is great unto the heavens.* (Psa. 57:10a)

Of all the responses God could have had toward us, His rebellious and wandering creation, He chose mercy. It prompted Him to give His Son for our redemption. His Spirit works the same virtue in us as we submit to His holy power.

Jesus embodied mercy in His dealings with people on earth—the woman thrown at His feet by her accusers is a beautiful example. As we follow His steps, we will do the same. There is no true goodness without mercy. Those who try to be righteous without it become like the Pharisees—cold and self-absorbed, harsh and proud. To exemplify goodness, we are called “to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God” (Mic. 6:8b).

**Bestow Forgiveness**

*But there is forgiveness with thee.* (Psa. 130:4a)

Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. (Luke 23:34a)

There is probably no greater exhibition of total goodness than to offer forgiveness. Alexander Pope coined the well-used phrase, “To err is human; to forgive divine.”

Every sane, mature human being recognizes that forgiveness of wrong demonstrates a level of grace beyond the norm, a supernatural kind of virtue. In this, we have the highest example possible: God in Christ forgave us.

It is not possible to exhibit the fruit of goodness without being ready to forgive others. This is true uprightness of heart and life; it is goodness at the very core when we choose to forgive the evils of others. Our Heavenly Father asks us to do the impossible, but with the supernatural strength of His Spirit. Jesus told us this is the mindset we should embrace in order to be “good” from a heavenly perspective.

“Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you: That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven.” (Matt. 5:44b-45a)

Louis Zamperini has a famous story—an Olympian, a prisoner of war in Japan, a survivor, a humanitarian. The amazing details of his life are chronicled in the New York Times bestselling biography, Unbroken, by Laura Hillenbrand. But the most amazing part of his story is told elsewhere. It is the dramatic and utterly Christian theme of forgiveness.

After his conversion at a Billy Graham crusade in October 1949, Louis poured all his alcohol down the drain and found that God had also removed his debilitating nightmares and his desire for vengeance toward his former Japanese captors.
During a speaking tour in Tokyo in 1952, Louis met with former guards at the Sugamo Prison. There he talked to them, embraced them, and impressed on them the message of the Gospel. When asked by one guard how he could do it, he replied, “Well, Mr. Sasaki, the greatest story of forgiveness the world’s ever known was the Cross. When Christ was crucified He said, ‘Forgive them Father, they know not what they do.’” And I said, “It is only through the Cross that I can come back here and say this, but I do forgive you.” Then Mr. Sasaki responded to the invitation to become a Christian.\(^2\)

Goodness and forgiveness are inextricably linked. It is a sacred bond forged by the Divine.

**Be Empowered**

*And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.* (Eph. 5:18)

Living a Spirit-filled life is a state of being in process. As we live in surrender each day to the Holy Spirit’s presence in us, we are purified and empowered. The “fruits” of the Spirit are the manifestations of that divine energy flowing out of us. The trait of goodness, that moral uprightness of heart and life, that extreme degree of God-centered and others-focused righteousness, is only possible through this indwelling.

Jesus, the Son of God, worked under the power of the Holy Spirit in the good things He did while on earth. Acts 10:38a tells us that “God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power” and He “went about doing good.”

Goodness. As a motivation. As an action. As an undeniable sign that we belong to Christ and have His Spirit. This kind of life can’t be learned at an esteemed boarding school; it must be birthed and nurtured in us from Above. And just as a student is marked by his alma mater, we will reflect the One who teaches us. It’s a course that bears fruit for a lifetime.\(^1\)

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\(^1\) https://www.thewebbschool.com/the-school, accessed 7-15-19


Valorie Bender Quesenberry (BSM ’94) is a published author, speaker, musician, and freelance writer for various Christian magazines. She is the editor of The Ladies’ Companion, an outreach ministry of Women of Worth, of which she is an executive committee member. Valorie is married to Duane Quesenberry (BRE ’94), a pastor with the Heartland Conference of the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches, and they have four children.

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AWARD CONFIRMS—GBS IS A GREAT PLACE TO WORK!

GBS has been awarded a Top Workplaces 2019 honor by the Cincinnati Enquirer. The list is based solely on employee feedback gathered through a third-party survey administered by research partner Energage, a leading provider of technology-based, employee-engagement tools. The anonymous survey measures several aspects of workplace culture, including alignment, execution, and connection, just to name a few.

“Top Workplaces is more than just recognition,” says Doug Claffey, CEO of Energage. “Our research shows organizations that earn the award attract better talent, experience lower turnover, and are better equipped to deliver bottom-line results. Their leaders prioritize and carefully craft a healthy workplace that supports employee engagement.”

Being named a Top Workplace is a big deal—only 125 companies made this year’s list. Also, this is the ninth consecutive year that GBS received this award! Our dedicated staff and faculty make campus a wonderful place to participate in ministry and create an excellent environment for students to live and learn.

The best part about it? There are opportunities to join the GBS team. With several open positions in different departments, there are various career options from which to choose. See the list at www.gbs.edu/careers. Is GBS in your future?

WEDDINGS

Thelma (“Eli”) Garcia to Eli Albring (GBS current), May 31, 2019, at Randolph Friends Church, Ridgeville, IN, officiated by the Revs. Titus Byer and Luis Miranda (father of bride). [Mr.] Eli has been an admissions counselor at GBS since 2017 while pursuing a degree. [Mrs.] Eli assists in the academy teaching high school Spanish and middle school art. The Albrings reside in Cincinnati, OH.

Shannon Bender (GBS 2016-17) to Jacob Buckler, May 31, 2019, at Afton Wesleyan Church, Batavia, OH, Rev. James Bender III officiating. Both work at Union Bible College, Westfield, IN, Shannon as library director, and Jacob as 5th and 6th grade teacher in the academy. The Bucklers reside in Westfield, IN.

Meagan Cravens (BA ’17) to Jonathan Valentine (HS 2010-13), June 1, 2019, at the Bible Methodist Church, Findlay, OH, officiated by the Revs. Travis Johnson and Chris Cravens (father of bride). Meagan is employed part time by the Flexon Memorial Library at GBS and part time as an office assistant in a local business. Jonathan is a maintenance technician at GBS. The Valentines live in Cincinnati, OH.

Kirsten Stroup to Cale Manley (both GBS current), June 1, 2019, at the Spiceland Pike Church of God, New Castle, IN, officiated by the Revs. John Manley (father of groom) and David Crosley. The Manleys reside in Cincinnati, OH. While finishing their education, Cale works as a valet and Kirsten cleans houses.

Megan Whittaker (GBS current) to Brent LeClere (BA ’19), June 21, 2019, at the Bible Methodist Church,
Kenwood, OH, officiated by Rev. Mark Cravens. Brent is a legal assistant at The Estate Planning Center, Salem, IL, and Megan will be finishing her GBS degree through the Aldersgate Distance Education Program. The LeCleres reside in Salem, IL.

Hannah Sproles (GBS 2014-16) to Joshua Cravens (GBS 2009-17), June 29, at the Arts Park in New Castle, IN, with Rev. Richard Miles officiating. While at GBS, Josh was an admissions counselor. He currently works at Higher Ground Conference and Retreat Center, West Harrison, IN, and Hannah is self-employed, running an online business. The Cravenses live in West Harrison, IN.

Lindsay Rose (HS ’13, BA ’17) to Keni Kilburn, July 19, at Receptions Banquet in Erlanger, KY, officiated by Rev. Randy Brown. Lindsay teaches kindergarten at Aldersgate Christian Academy and Keni has been a quality manager for Robert Bosch Automotive Steering, Florence, KY, since 2014. The Roses reside in Independence, KY.

BIRTH

To Janan and Ezra Byer (BA ’11), a son, Ezekiel (Zeke) Ron, born June 17, 2019, in Scarborough, Ontario. Ezra is lead pastor at Discovery Pointe Church, which he founded in Toronto in 2014. Janan teaches online for VIP KID. Zeke is welcomed by his big sister, Zoey Jane (2). The Byers live in Toronto.

DEATHS

Elizabeth Jane “Libby” Via, 72, of Waynesboro, VA, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Saturday, March 31, 2018, at her home. She was born May 4, 1945, the daughter of the late Earl and Stella Riddle. In 1961, Libby

HILLTOP PIANO INSTITUTE

We were delighted to welcome a great group of young pianists to campus May 27-31 for HPI 2019! Throughout an eventful week, students of all levels studied music theory, practiced technical skills such as ear-training and improvisation, studied the lives of famous composers, explored specific musical focuses, and performed in a final, much-anticipated piano recital. Attendees also enjoyed participating in sports, creative games, and art classes; investigating piano mechanics; and engaging with the Orff Schulwerk teaching method—all within a supportive community of experienced teachers passionate about helping musicians excel.

SUMMER PR TRAVEL

Adoration, the quartet consisting of Daniel Brandon (accompanist), Tyler Edwards, Clarissa Manley, Timothy Long, and Cameron Sankey, traveled west with Marc and Melodie Sankey. They sang in churches ➡
NEWS FROM THE HILLTOP continued

in Arizona, California, Colorado, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, as well as in the homes of some of our donors. Closer to home, they then sang in churches and camp meetings throughout Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee.

Assurance, the vocal group consisting of Rachel Craig, Ashley Kamplain, Anthony Paulus, Austin Paulus, and Autumn Quisenberry, was privileged to work in many camp meetings and churches this summer in Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia. Traveling with Assurance as a school representative was Greg Hinton.

An additional summer team consisting of Eli Albring (representative) and his wife (also named Eli with the same spelling but pronounced “Ellie”), Samuel Epp, Allyson Robertson, Kari Smith, and Abby Johnstone traveled thousands of miles to sing and assist as team leaders in youth camps throughout Oklahoma, Kansas, Pennsylvania, and other states.

We are thankful for God’s blessings on the groups as they sang and assisted in youth camps. We are grateful for God’s protection and mercies over the many miles traveled.

married Wayne Via. She was a wonderful wife and mother and an active member of Waynesboro Wesleyan Church where she served as Sunday school teacher and treasurer.

Libby and Wayne were comfortably settled in Waynesboro when they felt called to work at GBS in 1980. Except for a two-year period when Wayne reduced his work load to complete a BRE degree, he served as Head of Maintenance from 1980 to 1990. Both were beloved members of the campus family. In 1990, they returned to Waynesboro, where they resumed their life of work and service.

Libby is survived by her loving husband, Wayne G. Via; four daughters, Lori Brooks, Lisa Faulhaber, Marie Hughes, and Michelle Truslow; three brothers, Earl, Melvin, and Paul; nine grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. The funeral was held at Charlton and Groome Funeral Home, Fishersville, VA. Interment followed at Augusta Memorial Park, Waynesboro, VA.

LaVern “William” Scrabeck, 93, of Richland, MO, an Army veteran, passed away March 10, 2019, while in the Gamma Road Lodge of Wellsville, MO. LaVern graduated from GBS high school in 1943. Ruth Durkee similarly graduated in 1949. They married and had one son. LaVern is survived by his son, Joel; siblings Verna Carter, Paul, John, Mary Ohm, Charles, and Carolyn Weller; three grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews, and a host of other relatives and friends. Visitation was held at the Memorial Chapel of Richland, MO. Private family interment was held at a later date.
SUMMER PRAYER MEETINGS

Throughout the summer, staff met every morning at 9:00 a.m. to pray for the needs of the school, recruitment efforts, summer projects, staff, students, alumni, and friends. It was truly a special time!

One attendee commented, “I have appreciated the wonderful prayer meetings that have been taking place in the Oswald Chambers Room every morning. God is good, and I love it when I feel like He is sitting in the room with us and we can come boldly to Him with our praises and requests. Nothing catches Him by surprise, and for that I am thankful.”

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

For the last two years, Marc Sankey (BRE ’94), has served as the Vice President for Constituent Relations. While that entire department is now being reorganized, Marc will continue working in Donor Relations.

Josh Wilson (BA ’18), who had served in our security services since his graduation, is now the Director of Public Relations, working with all PR groups and scheduling services at churches and camp meetings. He is being mentored and trained by veteran GBS Public Relations Director (1988-2017), Don Davison (BRE ’83). Josh has completed one-fourth of his coursework toward a GBS master’s degree, which he will continue.

Matt Hallam (BA ’06) is the new Vice President for Enrollment Services (see p.17). He works directly with President Rodney Loper while supervising Admissions Counselor Jananne Stetler and student recruiters Eli Albring and Greg Hinton.

Richard Miles (BRE ’74) has previously been Campus Administrator and Vice President for Student Affairs. During the past year, Richard worked with Jeff Moore (BA ’00), who serves as Director of Facilities. Elements of the Campus Administrator position are being subsumed by Jeff. Additionally, Richard will no longer oversee Student Affairs, as that department will come fully under

Dr. Benninger was ordained by the Wesleyan Methodist Church in 1951. He was highly involved in many military and medical organizations. He served on the GBS Board of Trustees (1965-70) during the presidency of his brother-in-law, Dr. Sam Deets. His sister, Leota (Benninger) Reynolds (BA ’61), served on the high school faculty and in other capacities (1968-86) along with her husband, Paul (1970-86). Toward the end of his life, Dr. Benninger was an active member of the Brooksville Wesleyan Church, Brooksville, FL.

Dr. Benninger was survived by his brother, Jack; sister, Carolyn Deets; as well as several nieces and a nephew. The funeral was held at the Huff-Guthrie Funeral Home, Franklin, PA, Rev. Adam J. Simcik officiating. Full military honors were rendered by the V.E.T.S. Honor Guard, and interment followed at Brandon Cemetery, Cranberry, PA.
STAFF CHANGES

Janet Albertson is the Donor Records Manager, replacing Lisa Profitt. Previously Janet had worked in the kitchen. She has a degree in nursing and has been employed in the healthcare industry in various capacities. Janet and her husband, Rowan, have six children, four of which attended GBS: Jeffrey (BA ’15) and Elizabeth, Jason, and Emily, all current students. Jason also serves as Administrative Assistant in the Graduate Office.

Jorden Messner (BA ’19) has assumed the role of administrative assistant for both the Academic and Student Affairs departments.

He replaced Andrew Smith, who had served in this capacity for three years and has accepted a teaching position at Liberty Bible Academy in Mason, OH. Jorden previously worked in the Flexon Memorial Library while a student. He has two younger brothers, Taylor and Jacob, who are current students at GBS.

Rachel Pohl (BA ’18) began working for Advancement as a work student in 2013, and in 2016 she began working full-time in that department as she finished her college degree. As part of the restructuring of Constituent Relations, she transi-
tioned to Media and Promotional Content Coordinator and is working with the Director of Communications. A major portion of her responsibilities is to coordinate the production of print and media promotional materials. Rachel is originally from Middletown, OH.

Rebecca Pohl (BA ’19) is the Institutional Research Coordinator as well as the Financial Aid Associate working with Aldersgate Distance Education Program students. As a work student at GBS, she had various stints in the cashier’s office and the business office. She is Rachel Pohl’s sister (see above).

Meagan (Cravens) Valentine (BA ’17) is Morning Circulation Supervisor for the library. During her time as a GBS student, she worked as Student Recruitment secretary and traveled in a PR group as well. Before her recent marriage (see p.8) to Jonathan Valentine (HS 2010-13) (a member of the GBS maintenance team), she worked as a receptionist in a medical office in Findlay, OH.

Carol Ann Davison Blakley, 72, of Bassett, VA, passed away June 22, 2019, at Sovah Health of Martinsville, VA. She was born in 1946 to Frederick and Betty (Sutton) Davison of Decatur, IL. After high school graduation, she attended Illinois State University, Frankfort Pilgrim College, and GBS (BA ’72).

She accepted a teaching position at Salisbury Christian School, Salisbury, NC, and applied for a missions position in the Pilgrim Holiness Church in 1974. She served as principal, teacher, and missionary to Dominica (West Indies) for the next three years. When the school closed, she became principal and high school supervisor at Bible Holiness Christian Academy, Christiansburg, VA. She married widower Bobby F. Blakley, Sr., in 1981 and moved to Henry County, VA.

Carol is survived by her husband, Bobby F. Blakley; daughters, Ruth Ann Bailey and Sue Blakley; son, Bobby, Jr.; nine grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; sisters, Marlena Smith, Michaela Prokaski, and Rebekah Davison; brothers, Frederick and Donald; a host of nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews; and other cherished friends.

Funeral services were held at Martinsville Church of Truth, Martinsville, VA, Rev. William Preskitt officiating. Burial followed at Henry Memorial Park, Bassett, VA.

Alfred “Al” Leo Burroughs, Sr., 91, entered his heavenly home on July 17, 2019, in Marion, OH. Al was born to the late Theodore and Nina Burroughs in Ronceverte, WV, in 1928. He graduated from Ronceverte High School in 1947. Following the death of his father, Al and his mother moved to Marion, Ohio, in pursuit of employment opportunities.

After brief employment at Marion Power Shovel, Al began a long career in data services, eventually joining a team at General Telephone and Electronics Corporation of Ohio. Data processing was evolving at that time, and he played a major role in managing and providing technical solutions.

Al married Betty Jean Pfeiffer, on October 2, 1948. He nurtured his five children with patience, discipline, and humility, and encouraged them to follow the Lord’s leadership. He was a kind, witty, and soft-spoken man who always had time to answer a question or help solve a problem. He was committed to Heritage Bible
Robert Michael Loper, a college student last year (2018-19), had been assisting with grounds work at GBS. Michael is now working full-time in the facilities department as a maintenance technician. He came to GBS from Canal Fulton, OH. Previously he operated his own landscaping business and did electrical work on the side.

Tanya (Heatwole) Brown (HS ’91) is employed in the cafeteria. After receiving an associate degree at Ivy Tech, Sellersburg, IN, Tanya had taught at Aldersgate Christian Academy (1996-99). She is married to Randy (BA ’02) and they have four children: Elisha (18), Josh (16), Abby (11), Hannah (7). Tanya’s parents were GBS missionaries to Belize, Central America (1982-91). The Browns reside in Hamilton, OH.

ACADEMY CHANGES

Sarah Watson (BA ’13), is teaching first grade, which previously was combined with second grade and taught by Melissa Gresham, who will continue to teach second grade. After her GBS graduation, Sarah taught first and second grades for six years at Bible Methodist Christian School, Pell City, AL. She is currently pursuing graduate studies in elementary education at Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA.

Rebekah Highlen (BA ’14) will be teaching fourth grade in the academy, replacing Aimee Snider, who will be an adjunct professor in the college department. For the last

Anna Pearl Tremaine, 78, passed away July 24, 2019. Anna was born in 1940 in Los Angeles, CA, into a family with a rich spiritual and musical heritage. Her father, Walter Rauhut, played the viola and directed church music, often accompanied by her mom, Dorothy. Anna carried this heritage on through lifelong music ministry in the churches she attended.

After graduating from Pasadena Nazarene College (now Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA), Anna met her husband, Jim, shortly after she spied him in the choir loft one Sunday. They married in 1964 and Anna taught 4th grade for a few years before ending her career to raise their four children in Carpinteria, CA. The two have blessed thousands of people with their prayers, visits, calls, and cards of encouragement. Faithful supporters of GBS, they were often on campus for special services.

Anna is survived by Jim, her loving husband of 55 years; son, Troy; three daughters, Tamara Goodwin, Tori Walker, and Tricia Aubrey; 12 grandchildren; and one great-grandson. A service celebrating her life was held at the First Church of the Nazarene, Kansas City, MO.

HITHER AND THITHER AMONG US

Alumnus Nathan Gumbiner (AA, BA ’10) Plants New Church. Nathan was a sound engineer at GBS during his years as a student. After graduation he moved to Middletown, OH, where he was already working at the Franklin Bible Methodist Church as youth pastor. In 2013, he accepted a position as a Church Planting Resident at EastLake Community Church, Moneta, VA. While there he met and married Allyson Keaton, who was teaching at the church’s Smith Mountain Lake Christian Academy. In July, the Gumbiners moved to Frisco, TX, to plant a church in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex under the auspices of EastLake Community Church.
ARE YOU GOOD?

“For you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth).” —Ephesians 5:8-9 NASB

Are you good? If you are anything like me, this question may give you pause—especially when you remember that Jesus told the rich young ruler, “No one is good except God alone” (Mark 10:18 NASB). And still, in both Galatians and Ephesians, Paul tells his readers that a life in the Spirit brings forth goodness. Before Christ, we lived in darkness. Sin reigned in us. However, as believers, we “are Light in the Lord,” and goodness should characterize our lives. Just like a good fruit that is genuine, authentic, and has integrity any way you slice it, the child of God must also be genuine, authentic, and show integrity from the inside out.

We live in a world where image is everything, marketing is king, and perception equals reality. It shouldn’t surprise us that so many fail to live up to the hype. Underneath the shiny exterior is a rotten core. But the Christ-follower is different. Jesus didn’t focus on “selling” His message with a slick facade. He was simply Himself, operating in the fullness of the Spirit; and because of His goodness, the world will never be the same.

What about you? Are you good? Is the Spirit bearing His fruit of goodness in your life? Are you walking today as a child of Light? If not, the way is open. The Spirit is waiting. He longs to cleanse, to fill, to make you right, to make you good from the inside out.

Sonja Vernon is Vice President for Student Affairs at God’s Bible School.

Alumnus Henry Smith (HS ’69, BRE ’73) Elected to HLC Board. Long-term Christian educator Dr. Henry Smith was recently elected to serve on the board of trustees of the Higher Learning Commission, the largest of the six regional institutional accreditors in the United States. HLC accredits degree-granting, post-secondary educational institutions in the North Central region, which covers 19 states, including Ohio. In addition to serving in various administrative roles at private Christian institutions, most recently as President of Indiana Wesleyan University (Marion, IN) from 2006 to 2013, Dr. Smith has remained deeply committed to the accreditation process and has served as an active peer reviewer for many years.

Henry is the son of the late Lewis and Mildred Smith. [Seven of their eight children attended GBS, as well as a number of grandchildren, including Dr. Stephen Smith (BA ’02), a current member of the Ministerial Education faculty.] Henry serves as a professor of communication for IWU’s graduate and undergraduate communication courses, primarily online, and resides in Cicero, IN.

Alumni Brennan (BA ’10) and Ivon (Garcia) Muir (BA ’11) Open Ezra Biblical Seminary in San Gabriel, Mexico. Tim Keep, Director of Missions for the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches,
GOD’S REVIVALIST and BIBLE ADVOCATE

NEWS FROM THE HILLTOP

says that it is clear that the Lord has been preparing Brennan and Ivon Muir, along with a small team of young leaders, for this vision for the last six years. The curriculum being utilized is from Shepherds Global Classroom (SGC), founded and directed by Tim Keep and assisted by several individuals associated with GBS, including former president and current chancellor, Michael Avery. In addition to partnering with Bible Methodist Missions, SGC also partners with International Association of Bible Fellowship Centers, Evangelistic Faith Missions, Hope International Missions, and Holiness Pilgrim Mission.

Chad Pollard New President at KCC. The Kansas Christian College Board of Trustees announced the selection of Rev. Chad Pollard as 12th president of the college and academy for the Church of God (Holiness), Overland Park, KS. He replaces Delbert Scott, who retired after serving in that capacity for nine years. Mr. Pollard is a graduate of both Overland Christian School (OCH) and KCC. Previously he had pastored (2003-10) before being appointed as administrator of OCH. In 2016, he added KCC Vice-President of Finance and Operations to his portfolio. His presidential tenure began July 1, 2019. Mr. Pollard holds a BA in Pastoral Ministry (KCC ’03) and an MA in Ministry Leadership (IWU ’09). Chad, his wife Karey, and their four daughters reside in Overland Park, KS.

NOTICES

AmazonSmile. Many enjoy the convenience of ordering items online. AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Take a moment to go to smile.amazon.com, type “God’s Bible School,” press enter, and then hit the select button. After that, make sure that you make subsequent Amazon orders through AmazonSmile!

Pastor Needed for Pilgrim Holiness Church, 2105 Curry Road, Schenectady, NY. Candidates should send a letter of interest and a resume to: Isabelle Whitney, Church Secretary at izwhitney@reagan.com. For additional information, call (518) 872-7064.

RENEWALIST FAMILY

The Muir Family

Stephen Nelson (BA ’13) will be teaching various subjects in the middle school and math in the high school. Since his graduation, Stephen, has worked as a full-time security guard and part time in the academy. He will now work half-time in each job.
Matt Hallam was born in Graysville, PA, in 1984 to parents Ben and Maggie who had met at Penn View Bible Institute as students. His father was a carpenter and lay pastor, and his mother was a homemaker. During his older teen years, he began visiting colleges and was most impressed with GBS, especially liking its location in the city. He began his studies there in Ministerial Education in 2002 and became involved in Teen Power, a ministry of Main Street Chapel. It was also there that he became acquainted with fellow student Dorcas Byer. He continued participating in the teen and children’s ministries at the chapel and was asked to become co-pastor with two other students during his sophomore year. In 2005, Dorcas graduated with a BA in Intercultural Studies. The following year, Matt completed his BA in Ministerial Education. Believing that God wanted them to continue working in urban ministry, they continued their mission at the downtown chapel.

In 2006, Matt became evening manager for Indiana Wesleyan University (IWU) at their West Chester campus in the Cincinnati area. In 2008, Matt and Dorcas were married, and Matt began working on a master’s degree at IWU, earning an MA in Ministry in 2011. He currently is a PhD Candidate at Evangel University with plans to complete his dissertation within the next year. Matt worked at IWU for 13 years in a variety of roles. Promotions necessitated a move to the main campus in Marion, IN, and the Hallams became comfortably situated nearby with their growing family.

In 2017, when asked about any interest in returning to GBS, the Hallams’ initial “no” was followed by serious prayer and consideration. Eventually, and for a variety of reasons (including family in Cincinnati and a continuing burden for urban ministry) Matt and Dorcas realized they should return to Cincinnati. Although IWU was willing to allow Matt to continue his position as Associate Vice President of Enrollment after their return to Cincinnati, it seemed that God was directing the Hallams otherwise. In January 2019, President Rodney Loper contacted Matt about employment at GBS. This time, Matt accepted the position of Vice President for Enrollment Services.

We welcome them back! The Hallams have five beautiful children: Caleb (11), Emily (9), Haley (7), Aleah (5), and Jacob (2). Please pray for the Hallams as they settle. Pray for Matt as he begins developing his vision for enrollment at GBS and completes his doctoral dissertation; and pray for the family as they resume urban ministry.

Goodness is about character—integrity, honesty, kindness, generosity, moral courage, and the like. More than anything else, it is about how we treat other people.” —Dennis Prager

“The fragrance of flowers spreads only in the direction of the wind. But the goodness of a person spreads in all directions.” —Chāṇakya

“To return good for good is human; to return evil for evil is brutal; to return evil for good is diabolical; but to return good for evil is Divine.” —Anonymous

“Perhaps it is impossible for a person who does no good to do no harm.” —Harriet Beecher Stowe

“A Christian must always be kind, gracious, and wise in order to conquer evil by good.” —John of Kronstadt

“It is not only that sin consists in doing evil, but in not doing the good that we know.” —Harry Ironside

“All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.” —Edmund Burke

“The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works.” —Augustine

“Good can exist without evil, whereas evil cannot exist without good.” —Thomas Aquinas

“Goodness is the only investment that never fails.” —Henry David Thoreau

“It is a grand mistake to think of being great without goodness, and I pronounce it as certain that there was never a truly great man that was not at the same time truly virtuous.” —Benjamin Franklin

“Do good works for others, and the goodness will come back to you and make you a better person.” —Gerard Malanga

“We are each made for goodness, love, and compassion. Our lives are transformed as much as the world is when we live with these truths.” —Desmond Tutu

“Man has two great spiritual needs. One is for forgiveness. The other is for goodness.” —Billy Graham

“Goodness makes greatness truly valuable, and greatness makes goodness much more serviceable.” —Matthew Henry

“There is not much danger that real talent or goodness will be overlooked long; even if it is, the consciousness of possessing and using it well should satisfy one, and the great charm of all power is modesty.” —Louisa May Alcott

“If a thing is free to be good it is also free to be bad. And free will is what has made evil possible. Why, then, did God give them free will? Because free will, though it makes evil possible, is also the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having.” —C.S. Lewis
The Apostle Paul tells us in Galatians 5:18 that we are to be led by the Spirit, but don’t let any man imagine that he can be led by the Spirit until after a number of things have taken place in his life. First, he must be convicted by the Holy Ghost until he realizes that he is a sinner, and in the next place he must repent of his sins, and in the next place he must confess his sins, and then he must forsake his sins, and then he must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. These things all must take place in the life of a man before he can be born of the Spirit. And when he is born of the Spirit, that brings him into the family of God, and now as a son or a daughter of the Almighty he can consecrate himself wholly to God, lay himself on the altar, take his hands off, and believe, as Abraham did, “what he had promised, he was able also to perform” (Rom. 4:21), and then he will be filled with the Spirit. Now these things must take place before a man can be led by the Spirit.

At a glance the reader can see that nothing will be easier than for that man to be led by the Spirit, and the Holy Ghost will become his Leader, his Guide, and his Instructor. Christ has said that, when the Holy Ghost “is come, he will guide you into all truth.” That is another way to say that the Holy Spirit will lead you. He also said that He would bring all things to your remembrance; that is, the Holy Ghost will take the very words of Jesus just as He spoke them and so write them in your heart and in your mind that it will be well-nigh impossible ever to forget them.

So we see that to be born and filled and led will make the most peculiar creature in the world out of a man. And a peculiar creature is not a man that does peculiar things. Understand, he might do peculiar things, but the peculiar things are not always an evidence that the man has this wonderful experience of full salvation. But, nevertheless, a man that is really led by the Holy Ghost will go many places and do many things and say many things that will seem strange to other people....

The man that is led by the Holy Spirit will never pass through a day that we used to call “blue days,” lonesome and sad and downcast, although he may have many trials and hardships and many battles with the devil. But if his heart is filled with the Spirit and he is led by the Spirit, he will have a joyous, victorious life. In fact he will be more than conqueror, because when a man is led by the Spirit it proves that he is willing to be led. No man can make a leader until he is willing to be led himself; no man can make a teacher until he is willing to be taught; and no man can make a commander until he himself is willing to obey.

A beautiful thing about the Spirit-filled life is that no power in earth or hell can drive the Holy Ghost out of the life of the man that is being led by Him. Poverty can never do it; afflictions and disappointments can never do it. To be snubbed by a friend and sneered at by an enemy will never drive Him out. Bless God, as long as I myself am willing to keep the Holy Ghost as my Leader, there is not ever enough power on earth or in the pits of outer darkness to rob me of my Leader! How thankful we ought to be that God in His goodness and love and mercy has provided a way by which a man passing through a world of sin and darkness should have such a wonderful Leader and Guide as the blessed Holy Ghost! Bless His name! My heart leaps for joy as I remember that He said, “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Heb. 13:5). And for thirty years I have gone no place that the Holy Ghost didn’t lead me, and, thank God, I never will. Bless His name forever!

Rev. Reuben “Uncle Buddy” Robinson (1860-1942), was a worldwide evangelist, humorist, and writer. He preached an average of 500 sermons a year to 72 denominations in his 61 years on the sawdust trail. He wrote 13 books and a column for the Herald of Holiness.
Those Were the Days
REMEMBERING THE 1980s

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Dear Iva,

There are two sides to God’s delight in His people. The first is a function of our union with Christ. The second is a function of our behavior. All believers are united with Christ (Eph. 1:6-7; Rom. 6:3-5). As a result, we all participate in the Father’s boundless delight in His Son (cf. 2 Pet. 1:17). My current understanding is that this union-based delight cannot be greater. Perhaps that’s what the author had in mind. On the other side—the behavioral side—Deuteronomy 28:62-63 says, “...because you did not obey Yahweh your God. It shall come about that as Yahweh delighted over you to prosper you, and multiply you, so Yahweh will delight over you to make you perish and destroy you; and you will be torn from the land where you are entering to possess it.”

If we refuse to obey God, He may delight over us to destroy us. That’s certainly not the kind of delighting any of us wants! The Old Testament reveals how this played out over Israel’s history. God constantly called His people back to Him for centuries until He finally destroyed most of them and exiled the remnant.

I take from this passage that God delights less in those who disobey and more in those who obey (cf. 1 Cor. 10:5; Heb. 10:38). That raises the question, “In what way(s) does God delight in us ‘more?’” Consider the following verses from Proverbs:

A false balance is an abomination to Yahweh, But a just weight is His delight. (Prov. 11:1)

The perverse in heart are an abomination to Yahweh, But the blameless in their walk are His delight. (Prov. 11:20)

Lying lips are an abomination to Yahweh, But those who deal faithfully are His delight. (Prov. 12:22)

These verses seem to suggest that each time we are honest, walk blamelessly, or deal faithfully, God takes delight in what we have done. If we approach the question of God delighting in us in this manner, we can see that we delight Him more as we grow in knowledge of how to please Him. The more Christlike thoughts we think, the more Christlike words we speak, and the more Christlike deeds we do, the more we delight God.

Proverbs 15:8 says, “The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to Yahweh, But the prayer of the upright is His delight.” Each time we pray, God delights in us talking with Him. If we converse with God more, we increase the frequency of that particular delight of God in us.

Regarding the concept of growth and maturity: Spiritual growth is transformation from being less like Jesus to being more like Jesus in thought, word, and deed. When we are saved, we are united with Christ and made new. But our newness is like the new born babe (1 Pet. 2:1-2). There is a lot of growing to do. Ephesians 4:13-16 teaches that we are growing up into Christ. Romans 8:28-29 teaches that God has predestined all His sons to be made like Jesus so that He will be the preeminent Son among all His sons. 2 Corinthians 3:18 tells us we are being changed from glory to glory by the Spirit of the Lord as we look on Jesus. Our obedience to Romans 6:11 or Romans 12:1 or God’s answering the prayer of 1 Thessalonians 5:23 are only steps along the journey of becoming like Jesus, which stretches, as Leslie Wilcox wrote, “beyond the gate” till the moment we see Him and are like Him. The process of growth is God’s chosen method of securing our good, the good of Christ’s Body, the discipleship of the world, and ultimately His own glory.

Blessings,

Phil

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

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GOD IS GOOD
by Richard Miles

Scripture: Psalm 145:3-10

INTRODUCTION

Melissa was a 13-year-old girl who rode our van to church. Once, when she didn’t show up for church, I went to her house to inquire about her. Neither her father nor her brothers were there. I went to her mother’s house, but she didn’t know where Melissa was. She did not know where she was and did not seem to care, but she suggested I check the halfway house for runaways.

That is where I found her. I met with Melissa and her juvenile officer. We listened to her story of the abuse she suffered at home. When I asked what we could do for her, the officer said, “Well, you could file for being a foster parent.” So my wife and I both filed necessary papers, as did my in-laws. Melissa was placed in my in-laws’ home. She essentially became our church and community “project.”

I remember well the day that Melissa said to me, “It is Father’s Day and I want to go see my dad.” I didn’t think this was a good idea and decided to confer with the juvenile officer, who told me it was acceptable “as long as someone else is with her at all times.” How heartbreaking! Here was this girl wanting to be with her father, but she couldn’t be with him without supervision because he wasn’t good.

I remember another time when students were participating in a group exercise concerning how to heal from hurts. One student volunteered this painful memory: “The biggest hurt in my life was when my dad looked at me and said, ‘You can’t never do nothing right.’” So sad!

One very bright elementary-aged boy was not doing well academically. He was sent to my office on a regular basis. I asked his teacher to enter him in the science portion of an upcoming academic competition. “Do you know what his grades are?” she asked. I countered with, “Yes, but he is the smartest kid in science in your class regardless of his grades.” The next time he stopped by, he announced that he would like to enter two other categories as well. He placed in the top three in all three categories.

When he returned to class, however, he started flunking out again. His dad reluctantly agreed to come in for a conference. At the meeting, he confessed that he didn’t know what was wrong with his son. “I just bought him a brand-new four-wheeler. I give him everything he wants. What’s wrong with him?” His son’s teacher, who also was present, replied, “Maybe that’s what is wrong. Maybe he has everything but you.” He was not a candidate for “Father of the Year.” His was not good parenting.

What about our heavenly Father? From my early childhood memories, I remember my family praying before our meals: “God is great. God is good. Let us thank him for this food. By his hands we all are fed. Give us, Lord, our daily bread. Amen.” Is God good? Is your God good? Is the God of the Bible good?

He is; but many times, even though we may intellectually acknowledge that, we have a hard time getting it into the core of our being.

GOD IS GOOD BECAUSE HIS CHARACTER IS GOOD

Character is what we are—all the time. For example, a husband who quits beating his wife for a day is not a good husband—he is a wife-abuser. A wife who is faithful most of the time is not a faithful spouse—she is an adulterer. A man who lies occasionally is not honest. Why not? Because there is something wrong in his character. But God’s character is good—all the time. In fact, He is the source of all goodness.

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts. I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works. And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible [awesome] acts: and I will declare thy greatness. They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness. (Psa. 145:3-7)

From this Scripture we see that God is the absolute perfection of goodness (v.7). He is a holy God and He desires us to be holy also—not to punish us, but to make us good. It is comforting to know that, because He is always good, you can ALWAYS trust Him to be good. Since His character never changes, He cannot be anything but good.
GOD IS GOOD BECAUSE HIS ACTIONS ARE GOOD

Moreover, because His character is good, His actions are good! We understand that our Lord is indeed “great” and should be praised for His “mighty” and “wondrous” works. These call upon us to rightfully declare His “great goodness” (v.7). God is the epitome of all goodness and the perfection of it. Because God is good, He possesses all the attributes of goodness—honesty, compassion, fairness, and justice, to name a few. These are immutable aspects of His character. As His followers, we should emulate these characteristics.

If God is good, why does it sometimes feel as though He is being a little tough on us? That is simply because He is good. Good parents jealously hover over the concerns of their children. Parents who love their children will correct them. Love compels parents to do what is best for their children (see Heb. 12:5-12).

And, why do some go around with unbelief, thinking God is stingy? Perhaps because they don’t believe He is really good. Even earthly parents know how to give good gifts to their children. How much more will our heavenly Father do likewise (Luke 11:11-13)?

Even in our hurts, we need to be careful about claiming that God is not good. In God’s Wisdom in the Plan of Salvation,* the author gave an illustration about the only two survivors of a shipwreck. Upon reaching the safety of a nearby island, one was full of praise and thankfulness for having survived. The other was very angry because he had lost everything on the ship. When items were discovered that enabled their subsistence, one claimed it was some good benefactor who had prepared for people who may be in need. The other one claimed it was proof that pirates were there and calamity was just around the corner! We should look for the good in all situations. Our good, heavenly Father gives us what we need, not always what we want—and that is a good thing. God knows best what we need.

A self-described “agnostics theologian” once answered the question “Who is God” this way: “God is that little voice inside that is always saying, ‘Not quite good enough.’” I used to know that God. Some of you might even have that God today. If so, trade him in for the good God!

CONCLUSION

Let’s turn back to Melissa. She was made to want her father. A father was supposed to be there for her. But she could not be with him, because he was not good. Then one day, as my in-laws and she were traveling across town, Melissa ran away. She ran away from the only people who really loved her and cared for her. Years later, while they were in a grocery store, my in-laws noticed a lady who kept staring at them. Finally, she walked over and asked, “Did you take in a foster child 30-some years ago?” They replied, “Yes, a girl named Melissa.” She said, “I am Melissa. I couldn’t even remember your name. I was so messed up. I didn’t even know how to find you. And God put me right here. I want you to know something. You probably think you failed, but you were the only people who ever showed me kindness and love, and I didn’t know what to do with it.”

Then my father-in-law said, “Melissa, I have always had a question. When you were living with us, you always slept with your clothes bundled up in the bed. Why?”

“Oh, those were my run-away clothes. Growing up I always kept those near me in case I had to run out of the house at a moment’s notice to escape abuse. Many times I spent the night hiding in a ditch.”

After having run away from my in-laws, Melissa had lived a terrible life, and she told them about some of it. But one day some ladies knocked on her door and asked, “If you died today, where would you go?” She screamed at them, “Hell,” and slammed the door in their face. “I couldn’t sleep for three nights, and I kept thinking about you. I found a church and I went in and got saved. God has changed me. I am married to a Christian man and raising my children as Christians.”

What about you? Do you have some type of “run-away bag?” If so, you need to throw it away and draw up close to our good God. You don’t have to be afraid to be real with Him or be afraid to open up your most personal world. You don’t have to be afraid to share your fears, your hurts, your deepest secrets. He can handle it. He is safe because He is good.

Maybe you need a fresh reminder of just how good God is. Completely good. Perfectly good. Celebrate that! Thank Him for it. Perhaps you realize that you always keep a little distance between yourself and God because you can’t quite trust Him. You are afraid and a bit defensive—afraid that if He really knows you like you are, He won’t like you or He won’t accept you. No! God’s too good. You can take your worst to God—your Father. He can take it.

Hang around good people and you will be influenced by them. Hang around God and experience His awesome goodness. God is good…all the time!]

Richard Miles (BRE ’74) pastored and served in Christian schools for 25 years before returning to GBS in 1997 as Vice President for Student Affairs. He now serves as Vice President for Spiritual Life. He and his wife, Brenda (Hodge) Miles (BA ’73) have two adult children and seven grandchildren.

CHRISTIANITY GROWING IN CHINA

Although China is under the rule of the atheistic Chinese Communist Party, and there is increasing persecution of Christians, there has been a rapid growth (10% annually) of its Christian population. If that rate continues, China will have more Christians than the United States by 2030. Government raids on churches and imprisonment of some of their members have not caused the churches to disappear. One arrested pastor made this comment: “Rulers have chosen an enemy that can never be imprisoned—the soul of man. Therefore, they are doomed to lose this war.”

THE VATICAN AND GENDER THEORY IDEOLOGY

The Vatican released a publication entitled “Male and Female He Created Them: Towards a Path of Dialogue on the Question of Gender Theory in Education.” The document rejects gender ideology that denies biological differences between men and women or treats gender as something people choose for themselves. This may have surprised those who thought the Catholic Church would begin to liberalize policy on sexuality. According to Pope Francis, Gender Theory “denies the difference and reciprocity in nature of a man and a woman and envisages a society without sexual differences, thereby eliminating the anthropological basis of the family.”

SING Hallelujah

A Christian worship song has become the unofficial anthem of the Hong Kong protestors who have been demonstrating their opposition to a Beijing-backed extradition bill. It is thought to have begun on June 11 when a prayer meeting outside the government complex ended with the singing of “Sing Hallelujah to the Lord” (©1974, Linda Stassen-Benjamin). Since that time, it has been sung by millions who continue the protest, and leaders in this democracy movement, including Christian pastors, try to buffer protestors and the police and use the song to keep both sides calm.

INCREASED ROLE FOR RELIGION IN SOCIETY

According to Pew Research, around half of Americans favor religion playing a greater role in U.S. society while 18% oppose that idea. The study involved 27 countries with representative samples of at least 1,000 people per country. Among these countries, France (20%) and Japan (20%) had the lowest percentage of those favoring strengthening religion’s role in society while Indonesia (85%), Kenya (74%), and Tunisia (69%) had the highest percentage. The study did not make a distinction between different religions, but Indonesia is 87% Muslim and Tunisia is 99% Muslim.
Opening Remarks by Michael Avery, Former GBS President, Current Chancellor

We have gathered here today to inter the remains of two special people who loved these sacred grounds, who loved being here on these sacred grounds, and who will now further sanctify these grounds by finding their final resting place here in the soil of this hallowed hilltop. I welcome the Board of Trustees, the campus family, and especially the Taylor children: Brainerd, Paula, Phoebe, and MaryGrace. Let us begin by hearing the Word of the Lord.

Scripture Reading by Rodney Loper, Current GBS President

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

—Revelation 14:13

Eulogy by Michael Avery

Today we pay our final tribute to A. Wingrove Taylor, a man affectionately known as God's Bible School’s “Favorite Son,” and to Doreen Patricia (Harper) Taylor, a woman affectionally known as the “First Lady” of the Caribbean Wesleyan Holiness Church. Dr. Taylor passed away December 26, 2017, and Mrs. Taylor passed away January 22, 2018.

From the moment Wingrove Taylor walked up the historic ramp leading to the heart of the GBS campus in 1948, this school began, as he stated, to “exert the greatest influence on my life second only to family and church.” However, what no one knew then is that this slender, stately student from the small Island of Nevis would in turn profoundly influence the institutional and spiritual life of GBS for half of a century. No other single person who
was not an employee of the school has had more lasting impact on GBS than Wingrove Taylor.

The Taylor connection with GBS began when GBS-associated missionaries established churches in the Caribbean on the Islands of St. Kitts and Saba. A remarkable young woman from Saba was converted and came to GBS in the fall of 1905. Her name was Irene Blyden. Irene very quickly attracted the attention of another ministerial student from the Caribbean Island of St. Kitts, Richard Alfred Taylor. Richard was there to prepare for the ministry but providentially found a woman who shared his burden for his life’s work. Both finished their training at GBS and returned home to help pioneer churches. They also raised a remarkable family. Their third child, born in 1923, was a boy. They named him Alarick Wingrove Taylor.

This rebellious boy, who longed for the “far country,” had a marvelous conversion that changed the trajectory of his life forever. I remember him telling the story many times in the GBS chapel. He told of struggling greatly to yield to God—but the yielding came. He then told of struggling to know he was saved. He said, “I wearied myself to the point of exhaustion. Finally, I just fell into bed and soundly slept. When I awoke the next morning, I had the bright assurance of salvation!”

In the fall of 1948, Wingrove enrolled in the Christian Workers Course at GBS, but eventually moved to the college department where he completed a Bachelor of Theology, a Bachelor of Arts, and two certificates in music, graduating summa cum laude and valedictorian of his class in 1952.

He returned to the Caribbean where he gave 41 years of service as a pastor, district superintendent, college president, field superintendent, and finally general superintendent of the Wesleyan Holiness Church of the Caribbean. That alone sets him apart! But along the way he was given four honorary doctorates, multiple achievement awards, as well as national recognition within the Wesleyan Holiness Tradition. GBS honored him with the Distinguished Alumnus Award as well as an Honorary Doctorate.

Dr. Taylor served on the GBS Board of Trustees for 44 years. I served with him for almost half of that time. As a board member, he was peerless and he was fearless. He could speak “solemnity” in seven different languages. He was professional; he was careful; he was logical; he was biblical; he was orderly; he was saintly. I actually believe he thought that those last two things were close to being synonymous. He loved and insisted on parliamentary order! He once told me that next to his Bible, Roberts Rules of Order was his most treasured book.

The spiritual guidance he gave from our chapel pulpit was no doubt where he made his most lasting influence. It was here that he impacted thousands of GBS alumni and friends through his preaching. He served as a camp evangelist annually for almost 40 years. His sermons and “heart talks” were powerful. The depth of his insight into the Word was remarkable. His alliteration was impeccable. His gentle bantering with the congregation was often comical. “Come, come, my friends.”

Personally, I saw Dr. Taylor as a genuinely gifted man in so many ways. Yes, he was a musician, singer, scholar, author, preacher, and administrator—a real “ten-talented man.” However, the greatest gift he has given to me is not what he has done in ministry, but what he became while doing ministry. In a world of shallow, image-manipulating, politician preachers, he was the “real deal.” He personally found and lived out a radical relationship with Jesus.

Standing behind and building up this great man was a great woman: Doreen Patricia (Harper) Taylor. Dr. Taylor referred to her affectionately as his “darling Do.” Born in 1928 in St. Kitts, West Indies, to Mary McDowell and Reginald Harper, Doreen was eldest of five siblings. Although she took secretarial courses following high school, she put aside her own career aspirations in support of her siblings’ opportunities for advancement. In 1953, Doreen married A. Wingrove Taylor, who had recently graduated from God’s Bible School, and embarked on an incredible
journey in support of her husband’s ministry, first in Trinidad and Tobago as pastor of the Belmont Pilgrim Holiness Church, and later as the district superintendent of Trinidad and Tobago. In 1964, she moved with her family to Barbados during her husband’s presidency of the Caribbean Wesleyan College. During this period, she also supported her husband’s ministry as pastor of the Kew Wesleyan Holiness Church, undertaking, among other things, the role of Sunday school teacher to a group of young women.

When Wingrove became the first indigenous general superintendent of The Wesleyan Holiness Church in the Caribbean, Doreen was by his side supporting him while rearing four children and seeing them safely embarked on their own careers in Barbados, Canada, and the United States. Martin Luther once said, “The greatest gift of God is a pious, amiable spouse who fears God, loves His house, and with whom one can live in perfect confidence.” This was an apt description of Doreen Taylor.

Multiplier thousands of people have good reason to thank God for Wingrove and Doreen Taylor, but none more than the GBS family! May God bless their legacy, and may we all honor their memory.

**Congregational Song by Tim Crater**

GBS choir director, Tim Crater, led those gathered in a reverential song—“Great Is Thy Faithfulness.”

**Remarks by Leonard Sankey, GBS Trustee, Former Chair**

Wingrove Taylor was one of my professors. True, he never stood in a classroom where I was a student. True, he never gave me a written grade for my classwork; he never called me in for consultation; but during the years of our acquaintance he passed along the results of his own scholarly attainments, the lessons he had learned in administrative duties, and his wrestlings with parliamentary procedure until he had conquered its mysteries and precision.

He taught me the natural way to weight control—drink a glass of water 20 minutes prior to the meal being served in order to not feel as much hunger as you might otherwise. He told me once that his ancestral family had been slaves, but he himself was a man set free, not just from human bondage, but from the chains of sin. He taught me that humor and wit are to be treasured but not trashed by over-use. Nearly every board meeting for 39 years, his gentle but consistent tutelage brought me greater knowledge of Roberts Rules of Order, though admittedly my own comparatively dull comprehension didn’t profit as much as it should have.

Standing out to me, reflecting on our many years of friendship, are these incidents...no, not incidents, but learning moments.

—The few times we rode together in my car, to and from Indianapolis and Cincinnati. On a couple of occasions Doreen was with us and added her own delightful charm to the conversation.

—The service in which he shared his own personal testimony to God’s marvelous work in his life. In particular, he told about the evening service in which he climbed the steps to the platform in the chapel, and up in the corner, by himself, he experienced his own Bethel—he met God face-to-face.

—The day in board meeting when we were talking about his early life. He told us that the missionaries had taught the people of the Islands that “black is equal to holiness”—men dressed in black suits, adorned by black ties, and probably accompanied by black socks and black shoes. To fellow trustees he said, “If black is holiness, then I am holier than thou art.”

—The quiet moments when he expressed his love and appreciation for me, my wife, and family; the cadence of his Island-generated speech, the kindness in his eyes, the grace of his smile, the comfort of his hand on my shoulder...the memory of these are enshrined in my heart and mind.

**Remarks by Robert England, Jr., GBS Trustee, Current Chair**

At the age of 10, I moved with my family to this historic campus and was made aware of Dr. A. Wingrove Taylor, the POWERFUL EXPOSITOR. As a regular fixture at the annual GBS camp meetings for many years, Dr. Taylor mesmerized the audiences with his articulate, literative messages that were always given with an extra “punch,” thanks to his strong, British accent.

At the age of 29, I was privileged to join the GBS board and get to know Dr. Taylor, the PROCEDURAL EXPERT. He told us that for most of his years as a trustee, he would read the entire unabridged Robert’s Rules of Order prior to each meeting. He was known to interrupt the business of the day by saying, “Mr. Chairman, you can’t do that!” When questioned, “Okay, Dr. Taylor, what should we do?” he would reply, “I’m not sure. I’ll have to consult my book.”

It was also during this time that I became acquainted with Wingrove, the PERSONAL ENCOURAGER. As the sitting vice-chairman of the Board, he nominated me to replace the sitting vice-chairman of the PERSONAL ENCOURAGER. As the sitting vice-chairman of the Board, he nominated me to replace him in that position with the stipulation that I “go to school with him.” When I questioned him as to what he meant by “go to school with him,” he informed me that I must learn Dr. Taylor, the PROCEDURAL EXPERT. He told us that for most of his years as a trustee, he would read the entire unabridged Robert’s Rules of Order prior to each meeting. He was known to interrupt the business of the day by saying, “Mr. Chairman, you can’t do that!” When questioned, “Okay, Dr. Taylor, what should we do?” he would reply, “I’m not sure. I’ll have to consult my book.”
After some additional coaching from him however, I finally sent him an email that opened with, “Dear Wingrove, (you have no idea how hard that was!).” I didn’t have to wait long for his affirming response, “Three cheers for Robbie!”

At the age of 47, I witnessed Wingrove Taylor, the POSITIVE EXAMPLE. My family and I went to visit the Taylors at the nursing home that he had chosen to move to so he could be near his dear wife, Doreen, whose health was failing. Although she did not seem to be aware of what was occurring around her, he felt that if she did know, she would want him to be close. He had a puzzled look on his face as my children and wife walked into the room, but I’ll never forget the way his countenance softened with recognition as he looked up at me and said, “How are you doing, my friend?” What a wonderful example of selfless love and embracing a positive attitude despite the challenges that had come his way! I prayed for Dr. and Mrs. Taylor before we left their room and he was gracious and supportive, as always. As we walked down the hall, my son put his arm around me and asked, “Was it hard to pray for Dr. Taylor?” “It was,” I concurred, acknowledging the obvious gap that existed between the teacher and the student. “However,” I added, “the beautiful thing is that Dr. Taylor doesn’t view it that way. He is great because he doesn’t think of himself as great!”

It has been the treasure of a lifetime for me to be able to serve on this board with Dr. Taylor and watch him in action. Beyond that, it has been an amazing gift for me to get to know him on the personal side and have the honor of calling him my friend. He was the model of decorum and propriety and exemplified an attractive, Christlike spirit to everyone. Here are just a few of the many things that I have learned from Dr. Taylor:

—He would say, “Others may, but I cannot,” encouraging us to focus on belonging to Christ, not comparing ourselves to others.
—When asked in the nursing home what God was teaching him, he told me, “Don’t allow disgusting people to disgust you.” I find that I need to remind myself of this truth repeatedly.
—He proved that you don’t have to speak the loudest or the longest to be heard. Dr. Taylor was impactful in his strategic, respectful manner.
—Shortly after our first son was born, I asked Dr. Taylor if he had any wisdom for parenting. He said, “If I had it to do over again, I would be more ministerial and less magisterial.”
—He found humor in the struggles of life: when needing a cane to help stabilize his balance, he told me that he had become a “Canaanite” and when he and his cane-carrying friends would meet up they would “raise cane!”
—He practiced Dallas Willard’s precepts of humility: he never pretended; he never presumed; and he never pushed.
—He never became comfortable with public recognition. At his retirement luncheon, GBS board members were given an opportunity to speak about the impact that he had made in our lives. After comments from a couple of trustees, Dr. Taylor indicated that it was time to wrap it up and get back to business.
—You are never too old to learn. When my family visited with Dr. and Mrs. Taylor in the nursing home, we were surprised to find that he was reading the Bible in French on his laptop (at the age of 94!). When I asked if he was fluent in French, he said, “No, I learned some in high school.”

May God bless the memory of Dr. and Mrs. Wingrove Taylor! Brain-er, Paula, Phoebe, and MaryGrace, we are eternally indebted to you for sharing your parents with us. They certainly were two individuals who have exemplified for all of us what it truly means to live a “long obedience in the same direction.”

Closing Prayer by Michael Avery

Heavenly Father, may you bless the memory and influence of these our dear departed loved ones. May their souls rest in your eternal care.

As for those of us who remain and will soon follow, may we be mindful that you have prepared a place for our souls and you are this moment preparing our souls for that place.

Oh God, prepare us with holiness. Prepare us with desire. And even while we sojourn upon this earth, let us dwell in heavenly places with Thee, beholding the beauty of Thy countenance and the glory of Thy person.

We ask in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.
**What is Phonathon?**
Phonathon is a unique opportunity for you to connect with our students and support the Student Work Program!
This year, three students will call you, our alumni and friends, throughout the fall semester to thank you for your support, hear from you, pray about requests you share, and give you the chance to invest in work students.

**What is the Student Work Program?**
Students enrolled in our Work-Study Program have the opportunity to hold part-time jobs on campus—financially enabling them to attend GBSC and providing them with valuable workplace experience while in college. It’s the only way a number of students can attend GBSC, and it’s vital for day-to-day campus operations.

**How can I make a difference?**
Gifts of all sizes towards Phonathon support our work students and get us closer to our annual goal of $120,000 for the Student Work Program.

**Want to learn more?**
Visit gbs.edu/phonathon to learn more, meet our callers, or make your pledge.

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**THERE’S STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES**

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Complete the courses on campus or online. The choice is yours!

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**Meet Our Callers!**

ANTHONY Paulus

RACHEL Klotz

SAMUEL Cramer

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Not sure what courses to take? Check out gbs.edu/late-fall-option

Ready to get started? Call (513) 763-6565 or text (513) 402-2428