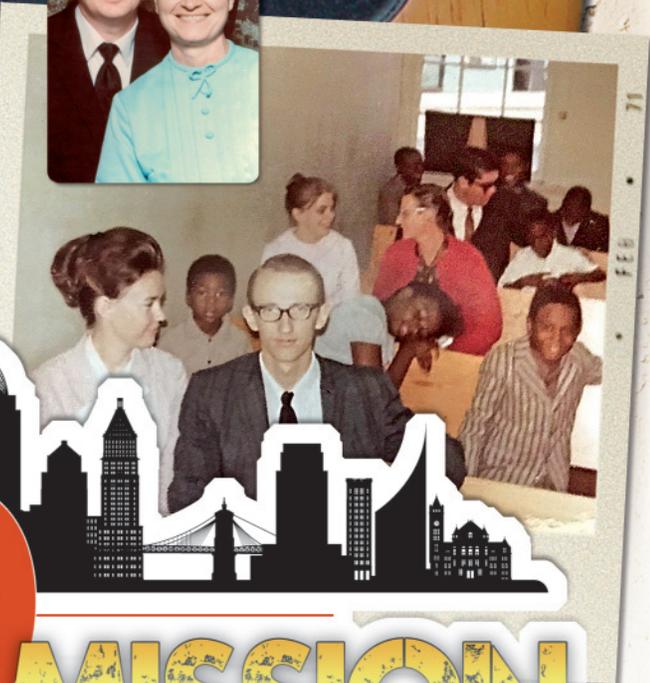


GOD'S REVIVALIST

May 2020

and Bible Advocate



MAIN STREET MISSION

Fifty Years of Rescuing Souls



about this issue

MY MOUNTAIN

Recently turning 70 caused me to reflect on some of the changes I have experienced as I have aged. My life has indeed changed. Some things once done with ease are now daunting. My quick wit has slowed a bit. I simply am not the man I used to be.

So, when I read in Joshua 14 about Caleb's vigor at age 85, I will admit to being a little jealous. After 45 years of valor and service, his warring strength had not diminished. And now he had his eyes set on a mountain, and it didn't even matter that it was already inhabited by Anakim, a race of giants, or that their cities were great and well fortified. Caleb was sure that he would be able to drive them out. Why? In his words, "The Lord will be with me." What faith!

OK. I am not a Caleb. Not only has the natural aging process caught up with me, but I am also afflicted with MS (Multiple Sclerosis). The two have teamed up against me. I used to go up and down stairs without a thought. Now I do so very carefully and always with my hand on the handrail. Jumping up from a chair to go to another room has become a different process. I first have to get up and just stand there for a moment to get my bearings before taking my first step. I also cautiously navigate the ramps around campus that have no rail and experience relief as I get on level ground. And, as if mobility issues weren't enough, I have other problems as well. MS blinded my right eye and impairs the vision in the other. Sleep difficulties have me up usually four or five times a night. Then there are intestinal problems, etc., etc. In fact, a lot of "etc."

But even with these difficulties, I am very thankful that I am still able to get around, as wobbly as it may be. I am blessed with a job I enjoy. Yes, I have struggles. But GBS has afforded me some great coworkers and a supportive administration.

The mountain before me is not like the one Caleb faced, but it is a mountain, nonetheless. My mountain. While I might not be able to face its challenges with the same vitality as Caleb, I can still be successful. Why? Because the Lord will be with me!

The mountain I face each day is a slow decline in "ableness." What is your mountain? Whatever it is, take comfort in knowing that God will be with you! —KF ■

CONTENTS

MAY 2020
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FEATURES

Main Street Mission: Fifty Years Of Rescuing Souls	5
The Beginning Years by Walter Hedstrom	5
Passing The Baton by Don Nichols	8
New Ventures For A New Day by Matthew Hallam	10
Main Street Memories various contributors	12

DEPARTMENTS

The President's Page	3
News From The Hilltop	16
Revivalist Family	16
Dear Phil: A Biblical Response	20
World Pulse	21
Student Focus	21
Letters To The Editor	22
Revivalist Pulpit	23
Alumni News	25
Thoughts For The Quiet Hour	27

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the president's page



RUNNING THE RACE Considering the “Woe”

by Rodney Loper, President

In the first part of the series “Running the Race,” we discussed how Jesus Christ—the Creator and Sustainer of all things—does not fail to impress. Reviewing Who He is and what He did necessitates a “selah” moment. Pause and say, “Wow!” We could call this the theological side (Wow! look at Christ!), the first of a two-pronged theme we find in Hebrews. The “wow” gives us great confidence as we approach the starting line of this race. While there are great rewards for those who respond to God in faith, the decision to run the race faithfully and patiently ultimately rests with us. All the provisions we need are readily available. Still some turn aside. The reality is that believers need to be on guard lest they fall into unbelief and fail to finish the race.

This leads to a consideration of the second theme—the practical exhortation to be faithful to God. This is what I am calling the “woe factor.” Hebrews 2:3 puts it this way: “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?” We should approach the starting line with great carefulness, understanding the consequences of not finishing the race.

Look at a few of these exhortations and warnings from Hebrews:

Guard against a heart of unbelief. (3:12)

Don't come short of God's promised rest. (4:1)

Don't fall away. (6:1-6)

Be unwavering in your faith. (10:23)

Exhort each other. (10:25)

Do not sin. (10:26)

Failure in these areas will lead to spiritual ruin. Sin will sideline you from the race. Its presence means the sacrifice is no longer working in your life!

These consequences are not always experienced in immediate circumstances, but, rest assured, there are indeed eternal consequences. The logic presented in Hebrews is quite clear. If the children of Israel suffered because of their lack of faith—how much greater will judgment be for those of us who have been clearly confronted with Christ?

SOME LIVE BENEATH THEIR PRIVILEGES

Our privileges as Christians today are so much greater than what God's people experienced in the Old Testament. They were looking forward to a promise. They longed to see what the Messiah would bring to their world. Moreover, they were convinced that He was going to fit a political model rather than a spiritual model. As a result, most missed His coming.

We, on the other hand, are living in the last days. We have the benefit of additional revelation. We have

“How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?” We should approach the starting line with great carefulness, understanding the consequences of not finishing the race.

seen the change Christ brought to His disciples and the world. We also have seen the change that Christ has brought to OUR world, especially the transformation that He can make in a life! Therefore, we have an even greater reason to be faithful to God!

But saying that we have a better system, or a better opportunity, is not the same as saying that we have it easy! Whether you were an Old-Testament saint looking forward to Christ, a first-century Christian discovering Christ, or a twenty-first-century Christian reading this article today—there must be a carefulness not to grow apathetic in your walk with God!

SOME NEVER REALLY GET STARTED

There are strong pressures that are pushing against us to turn away from the faith that we profess! Look around at our world. Christian schools and Bible teaching churches are full of second- and third-generation

Christians. Some of these assume that because they were born into a Christian home they somehow have a free ticket to heaven. The reality is that while they are aware of the race, they aren't really in it. They know nothing of the reality of the verse that says, “Out of your bellies shall flow rivers of living water” (John 7:38). When the preacher talks about peace, they get all nervous and fidgety. When the preacher talks about contentment in Christ, they don't know what he is talking about because they are always looking for something else to satisfy. They think if they have money, a college degree, close friends, a loving spouse, THEN they will be content. This is a lie of the enemy. They will only find true, lasting contentment in Jesus Christ. They must faithfully run the race!

SOME USE THE WRONG STANDARD

A related danger is that of being lulled into believing that it is good enough to be a respectable, honest, clean-cut, kind, and moral person. That is not God's standard. God specifically requires that we ask Him to come into our lives and transform us. Living on some experience we had as a child in Sunday school, but without a current vibrant faith within, will not suffice.

The sad fact is that there are people who are on their way to hell because they have never experienced the transforming work of Jesus Christ in their life. They have bought into the idea that they are better than so-and-so and have mistakenly judged that this is good enough to get them into heaven.

Yes, they may indeed be “following rules.” They embrace the school's handbook or the constitution of their church. They invite people to look at them. “I got this!” their attitudes seemingly say. They have a checklist and it is all checked. Oh, yes, they have conformity covered. But it is shallow and without true obedience.

CONCLUSION

In Mark 8:31, Jesus told His disciples that He was going to go to Jerusalem to die for them. In light of this, He said they should deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Him (v.34). If we aren't careful, we will miss the deeper meaning of this. If we focus on denial and cross-bearing, we've missed the first part. Jesus died for us! Because He redeemed us with His blood, because He is completely sufficient—the sinless sacrifice—THEN, we give ourselves back to Him...and are happy to do it! We don't *have* to—we *want* to!

In Hebrews we are clearly admonished that we are to persevere in our faith! We have a race to run. Get to the starting line. Get going. Keep going! ■



MAIN STREET MISSION

Fifty Years of Rescuing Souls

THE BEGINNING YEARS

by *Walter Hedstrom*

I arrived at GBS as a new student in August 1969. I purposely arrived a couple weeks before registration in order to look for job opportunities in the city of Cincinnati. During that process, I learned that Rev. David Jones, the pastor of the GBS city mission on Sycamore Street, was away visiting the South Dakota work with Native Americans. Although I had never preached before, someone asked me if I would fill in until David returned for the school year. I accepted the invitation.

When David returned to GBS, he had a new vision and his heart was burning for the mission work out West. However, he stepped back into the pastoral position at the mission, and I stayed on to assist. We worked together with a fine group of mission workers at the Sycamore Mission.

We unexpectedly were notified by the City of Cincinnati that the building we were using on Sycamore Street had been condemned and was going to be remodeled. Carl Todd, who worked in the school's carpentry shop at that time (see p.6), had a tremendous burden for the various GBS missions throughout the city of Cincinnati. Several times Brother Todd and I would meet under the steps of the Adcock Chapel in the men's prayer room to pray about a new location for the Sycamore Mission. One day Brother Todd said he found a building on Main Street on the north side of Lib-

erty Street that appeared to be empty. Brother Todd and I contacted the owners, who were lawyers. We explained to them that the purpose for wanting the use of the building was for a mission to reach the children and adults in the neighborhood. The lawyers agreed that we could rent the building for this purpose. We then shared this possibility with Paul Reynolds, director of the GBS City Missions (later high school principal). He gave approval to move forward.



Early 1970s Main Street Mission. Top to bottom: The Henry Family who attended the services; Walter and Linda Hedstrom; Gordon and Linda Kincaid.

The first task was extensive cleanup. The second floor was nearly a foot deep in paper that had been strewn all over. This is where the lawyer owners had previously had their offices. No doubt, vandals had broken into the building and had strewn papers from one end to the other. I scheduled several workdays, and we cleaned up the entire place and painted the ceilings,

walls, rest rooms, etc. We then moved pews and other items from Sycamore Street to Main Street. At this time, while David was still the pastor, he was in the process of moving to South Dakota. He allowed me to co-ordinate the mission transition from Sycamore to Main Street and keep it operating.

The transition to Main Street was very positive—we had more adults attending. We held two services on Sunday and a Bible club midweek. With the new location near several apartment houses, we held a few street meetings and averaged between 35 to 50 attendees. However, when we had something special planned, between 80 and 100 adults and children would be packed into that little mission.

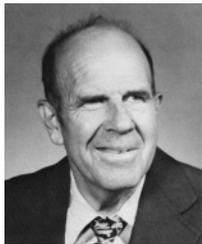
After a few months, David resigned as pastor and I was appointed to take his place. We had a fine group of workers: Bill Reese, Linda Madewell, Beverly Hayes, Janice Neveling, Jeff Hamilton, Lois Ryan, Dennis Ryan, Carol Ryan, Harry Stevenson, Elaine Fetteroff, Linda Vermilyea, and Gordon Kincaid.

One day while in the boys' dorm at GBS, I received word that there was a lawyer on campus who wanted to speak with me. With my heart pounding, I ran down the four flights of stairs to meet this individual. He was one of the lawyers who owned the building we were renting. It was the first time I had met him in person. He informed me that after much consideration he and his partner had decided to donate the building to us for use as a mission! At 18 years of age, I could hardly take in what I had just heard. With my heart still racing, I thanked him for this act of kindness.

I met with President Sam Deets and shared the news with him. He was grateful for the gift of the building and informed me that if the students who worked there would pay the legal fees for the property transfer and agree to assume responsibility for the building, he would personally see to it that the building would be deeded to God's Bible College and we would no longer need to pay rent. I challenged the student mission workers, God supplied the finances, and the deed was transferred and recorded as property of GBS in October 1970.

Needless to say, the faith of the mission workers was greatly strengthened. God supplied all the needs for all the deed and legal work, utilities, repairs, and remodeling. God blessed the little mission in a special way. Not only was the building transformed, but lives were also transformed. An early example was that of Bertha, the tiny landlady of an apartment next door, who was saved in her senior years through our ministry. We bought her a Bible and she held it close and read it carefully. A number of her tenants were sinful people and given to

TWO INFLUENTIAL FRIENDS OF GBS MISSIONS



Carl Todd

Older alumni remember the Todd Shop under the Administration Building where Carl Todd pounded nails, sawed boards, and whispered the name of Jesus. He came to the Hilltop as a student in 1947 and eventually earned two degrees. As a skilled carpenter, he joined the school staff,

and his shop in the cellar became the center of his miracles in wood. Off-campus the contribution of this humble, handicapped Christian was even more conspicuous. With a strong compulsion to reach the "lost and least," he established 12 inner-city missions under the sponsorship of GBS. These gospel centers were operated by GBS students who visited homes in the blighted neighborhoods, transported children, held Sunday school, preached sermons, and used "visualized songs, Bible stories, object lessons, quizzes, memory verses, and contemporary stories" in weekly Good News Clubs. Carl Todd's memory is still sacred on the Hilltop, because what he built outside the Todd Shop was even more enduring than what he built inside. *(adapted from "Inside and Outside the Todd Shop" by Larry D. Smith)*



Richard Sparks

Alumni also remember Richard Sparks, who worked on the maintenance and grounds crew from 1972 to 1995, mostly as a painter. Many of the campus buildings have rooms whose walls still bear the stucco pattern from his brushes used to texture the plaster before painting. His well-known

hobby of planting and caring for flowers around the school was enjoyed by all. Brother Sparks was also very much involved in GBS inner-city outreach ministries. Not only did he help the various missions get necessary paint and related materials for their buildings, but he also collected used clothing and winter coats for distribution to the poor. He was especially active in the Channing Street Mission, which operated below the women's residence hall on the lowest floor of the Revivalist Memorial Building.

drink. Bertha would nearly push the adults (even though twice her size) through the door of the mission and tell us, “These people need the Lord, Reverend.”

One time we were broken into and a few items were stolen. I shared this news with Bertha. She hastened into her bedroom, crawled under her bed, and brought out a large shot gun. She assured me that she knew the Bible said, “Thou shalt not kill,” but if she saw someone bothering the mission in some way, she would shoot to protect it. As a young pastor, I left that in her hands. I knew she meant what she said!

William Emmert, a minister and radio broadcaster, was the missionary director at GBS, and he ran its radio program. He also had a mission work in Haiti. I asked him to bring one of his native mission workers to speak at Main Street Mission. When he did, the sanctuary was full. The students and other attendees gave a very liberal offering for the Haiti mission work!

On July 31, 1971 (see sidebar), I married fellow student and mission worker, Linda Madewell. At the time, she was secretary to Albert Muir in the Revivalist Press office, and she was informed that as a married student she could no longer be a student worker. She could, however, join the staff. Thus, she was employed at the GBS bookstore until her graduation in 1972.

We moved into a fourth-floor apartment on Main Street. We could see the mission from our front windows. There was a lot of crime in that area, and we watched it happen, especially on weekends—car thefts, fights, and even some rioting. There were large windows behind the pulpit that allowed a clear view of the back alley at the rear of the mission. One time, while I was preaching, street kids shot BBs or pellets at those windows. We quickly decided it would be best to close in the windows and put up a partition to protect us and the sanctuary from being harmed.

Eventually we voted to change the name of Main Street Mission to God’s Bible Mission. We invited GBS students to be involved in the ministry—speaking, singing, playing musical instruments, and teaching Sunday school. They also co-operated well in painting, remodeling, paying for roof repairs, and keeping the building looking clean, tidy, and open for “whosoever will.”

Kids, adults, and even large families enjoyed the Sunday school and the two worship services on Sunday. I would pick up people and transport them to the mission and also to special services at GBS. I remember one time I had somewhere between 11 and 13 children riding in my little 1965 Falcon!

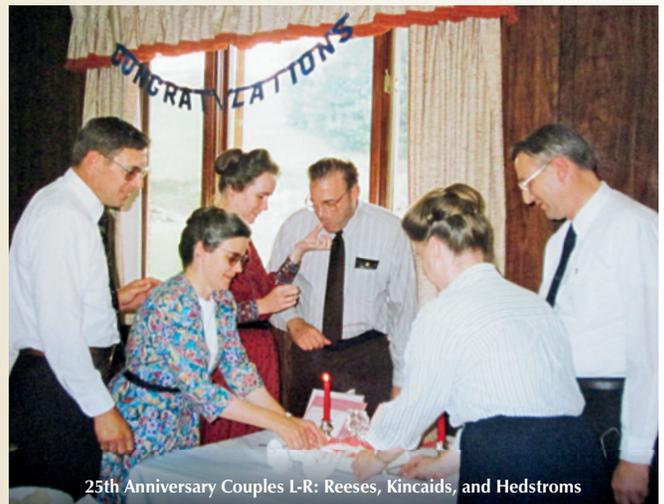
Sometime in late 1972 or early 1973, my wife and I felt led to resign as pastor of God’s Bible Mission. There

had been lots of answers to prayer. Several children, adults, and mission workers sought help around that humble altar and enjoyed worship, testimony, visitation, and ministry. God’s hand was still on our little mission, however. He would supply a series of outstanding students from GBS to pastor the congregation and mature the work at God’s Bible Mission. ■

Walter Hedstrom (BRE '74) pastored several Bible Methodist churches in Alabama (1974-1990) after graduating from GBS. He served on various boards and assisted in various Christian schools before accepting the responsibilities of conference president from 1990 to 2017. After retirement, Walter and Linda moved to Salem, AL. They provide pulpit supply, hold revivals and camp meetings, and mentor young pastors. The Hedstroms have four adult children (two of which graduated from GBS along with their spouses) and 11 grandchildren.

THREE WEDDINGS IN TWO DAYS

In 1996, Rev. Walter Hedstrom (BRE '74) was the evangelist for the God’s Missionary Church Penns Creek Camp Meeting. While there, he and his wife Linda (Madewell) (BA '72), celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary along with four other former Main Street Mission workers: Rev. Gordon (BA '74) and Linda (Vermilyea) (BA '71) Kincaid; and Rev. William (1970-72) and Hannah (1971-72) Reese. The Hedstroms and Kincaids were married on July 31, 1971, and Reeses were married a day later on August 1. The three couples enjoyed catching up since their days of working together at Main Street Mission. Walter remarked, “God certainly used our experiences at Main Street Mission to be better equipped to serve God in many ministries since that time.”



25th Anniversary Couples L-R: Reeses, Kincaids, and Hedstroms

When Walter Hedstrom stepped down from the pulpit at Main Street Mission, it was Roger Teets who stepped up. Shortly after doing so, he asked Don Nichols to be his assistant pastor, and for over a year they labored together. Don writes about the ministry during that time. —Editor

PASSING THE BATON

by Don Nichols

Ruth Yount (BA '75) and I were attending Laurel Homes Mission and helping there when I prayed and told the Lord that if He wanted me to preach, He would have to open the door. Within two weeks, Roger Teets, who pastored Main Street Mission, asked me to be his assistant pastor. I couldn't turn it down because it enabled me to preach on nearly a weekly basis.

We were blessed to work under Roger and Barb Teets for a little over a year. During that time, improvements were made to the building. One day, all the Main Street Mission workers were asked to meet in the campus chapel with GBS Vice President Barry Walker. He told us that the city was demanding that we have a new steel fire escape put on the back of the building. He said it would cost \$2,000 and the school didn't have the money to do it. We immediately told him we would do our best to raise the money needed. I remember that my weekly tithe at that time was \$5.00, but we all pitched in. We prayed and made the need known, and God helped us to see the bill paid and the mission work go forward.

I remember taking my car to pick up children in downtown Cincinnati one Sunday morning. I parked the car in a brick alley between tall apartments. The kids I had already picked up were in the back seat. I walked around to the other side of one of the apartment buildings to pick up some more children. They didn't come, and I had a feeling I should run back to the car. I did, and as I cleared the corner of the building to where I could see the car, it was rolling slowly backward. I ran around the car, jerked open the door, and hit the brake just before it hit the building. Some wide-eyed children may have heard me rebuke the child

who had gotten in the front seat and pulled the gear shift out of park. I learned in that experience to listen to the whisper of the Spirit and not leave unattended children in a car, especially without setting a parking brake.

After a little over a year, Roger and Barb accepted a pastorate in West Virginia, and Roger asked me to pastor Main Street Mission in his place. I consented, and for the next three years I gave it my best.

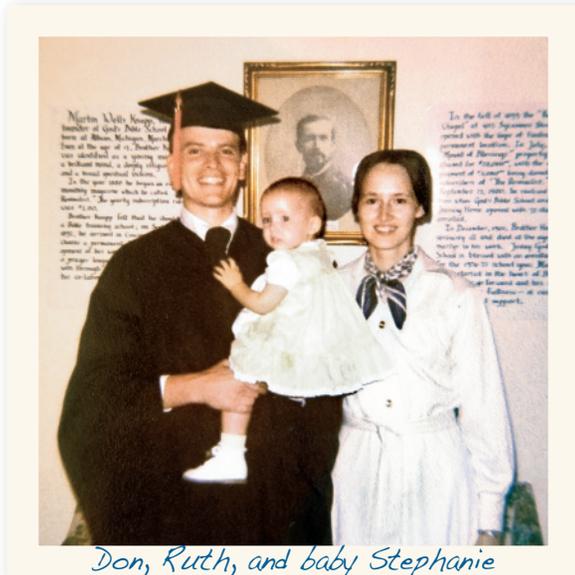
We bought a used van for the mission. We ministered in a Thursday evening Good News Club, as well as Sunday school, morning worship, and a Sunday evening service. The hardest times were during the summer when most students went home. As young people, that was the time that we learned real commitment, flexibility, and, again, trusting in the Lord. It was at Main Street Mission that I conducted my first board meeting, dealt with challenges in church administration, conducted a communion service, went calling regularly, and learned more about maintaining a church vehicle.

While I was pastor at Main Street, High School Principal Paul Reynolds and his wife Wilma were over the city missions as advisors. They audited the treasurer's books, attended services occasionally, and were a source of wisdom and encouragement.

Every year we would have new students from GBS come to the mission. We tried to plug them into a ministry opportunity that seemed to match their gifts. One year Ruth approached Judy Anderson (Simmons), a shy incoming freshman, and asked her if she would be willing to tell a story to the children in Good News Club on Thursday evening. We had no idea the potential in that young girl! The following Thursday, she got up in front of

that group of children with a story that she had personally written and illustrated, and she delivered it with heart-felt passion. She accepted the position as storyteller, and her illustrated story ministry grew tremendously. No one will forget, "Are You Ready, Ricky?"

Tim Kincaid was known for his ability to connect with the children and their parents. He would go out on Sunday morning, get the kids out of bed, help with breakfast if necessary, and bring them to church. He would play the piano and sing and help in various ways around the mission.



Don, Ruth, and baby Stephanie

One memorable experience took place while I was visiting a family downtown. I entered a gate between apartment buildings, after stomping loudly to scare away any rats that tended to be near the line of garbage cans there, and walked back to the little frame home that sat between huge brick apartment buildings. The door opened at my knock, but the stench was so strong from inside the house that it nearly took my breath away. I declined the invitation to go in and gave an invitation to attend church while standing outside the door. Two kids began attending regularly from that home, and sometimes the dad came, too.

Not all of our attempts to rescue souls were successful. I remember one visitation to a woman's apartment in which Dennis Joslin and I had to maneuver through rooms strewn with wine bottles and various forms of trash. I tried to get the woman to come to service, but she was an alcoholic and spent few moments sober. We were unable to help her.

On another occasion, as we were going into the mission for a Sunday evening service, my assistant pastor, Roger McCoy, noticed someone lying in the street where North Main splits. He approached the young man whose name was Curtis White. He was lying there hoping to get run over and killed by a car. Roger got him to get up and come into the mission. He sat on the back seat. I had the congregation stand and join in prayer, which was suddenly interrupted by a loud noise. Curtis had fallen head-long on the floor in the aisle. I must say, the volume of prayer from young college kids jumped exponentially! I was preaching that evening when Curtis slipped out the door. I noticed in just a little while there were police lights flashing through the mission window. I dismissed the service and found that Curtis had lain down in the street again and had been hit by a taxicab. He died, and, sadly, the flowers from Main Street Mission were the only floral arrangement at his viewing.

I wish we could have seen more fruit from our labors there, but Main Street Mission, or God's Bible Mission as it was legally named, was a place for many young people to develop skills in witnessing, leading worship, teaching and discipling, and trusting God. I will ever be

thankful to God's Bible School and College for allowing Ruth and me the opportunity to serve. I fondly remember the many young people who served along with us. Roger and Lois McCoy (who became dear friends), Thomas Plew, Ed and Sharon Durham, Tim Kincaid and Elaine Bunkefest, Pam Wingham, Lynda Ready, Joy Alexander, Diane Philson, Lois Ryan, Beverly Hayes, Dennis Joslin, Judy Anderson, and others.

It has been my observation that most of the students who attended GBS and worked in Main Street Mission went on to become full-time, lifelong servants of the Lord in ministry. ■

Don Nichols (ThB '77) has pastored the Pilgrim Holiness Church, Lima, OH, since 1977. He is the founder and administrator/principal of Pilgrim Christian School. He served as president of the GBS National Alumni Association and member of the GBS Board of Trustees from 1990 to 1996. In 2003, Don received an MA in Ministry from Indiana Wesleyan University and became vice president of the Pilgrim Holiness Church, Midwest Conference. He has served as conference president since 2016. Don and Ruth Nichols live in Lima, OH, and have 3 adult children and 11 grandchildren. The children and children's spouses are all GBS alumni.



immediate right: Paul and Wilma Reynolds gave oversight to the GBS missions. (He became high school principal and she worked in the Cashier's Office.)

far right, top and bottom: Judy Anderson (Simmons) became an integral part of the GBS Child Evangelism Team after Ruth Yount (Nichols) persuaded her, as a shy, incoming freshman, to become a storyteller for Good News Club at Main Street Mission.

In 1998, when Mark Bird became the director of the GBS city ministries, the downtown “missions” became “chapels.” At the turn of the new century, the ministries at Main Street Chapel evolved as it served as the umbrella for several new ventures, including Kids Klub, Teen Power, Teen Power 2, 20+ Club, Main Street Choir, and Teens of Power School (TOPS). Matt and Dorcas (Byer) Hallam were an important part of this growth. Matt recounts their time spent at Main Street Chapel. —Editor

NEW VENTURES FOR A NEW DAY

by Matthew Hallam

The first memories Dorcas has concerning Main Street Chapel are from the Fall of 2000 when eight teenagers regularly accompanied the younger children for Sunday school. They were taught a lesson,

given a snack, and then student worker Matt McCasland drove them home during the morning worship service. The morning service was directed by Pastor Ryan Colson; Nick and Jana Pop were in charge of the music, and around 15 GBS students regularly attended. After service, we served either hotdogs or chili with red fruit punch. We often served a lineup of around 20 community people who were mostly homeless or very poor single individuals.

On Sunday afternoons, students walked the streets and drove the van to pick up kids. That fall, Dorcas pulled the teens into a separate classroom upstairs and began to teach them, calling it “Teen Time.” She decorated a room, prayed for and acquired carpet and a couch, and began to form an identity as a youth group that was part of the church. For the next five years, the teens were transported to the campus of GBS in order to attend every revival service and camp meeting.



Remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins. James 5:20



group of four small photos, clockwise from top right: TOPS students and tutors Joseph Haylock (back) and Michelle Storrer (front); Main Street Chapel service, 2012; Main Street Choir 2007; Serving lunch, 2008.



Main Street Chapel 2006 – Dr. Mark Bird (center front with family) directed the city ministries beginning in 1998



In the Fall of 2001, students Mary Bevin, Dorcas Byer, Michelle Fulkerson, Jennifer Key, Crystal McCall, Anna Osborne, Joanna Reimann, Stephanie Smith, and Steve Smith took a trip to the Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago, IL, with Professor Dan Glick and his son Andrew. The visit moved them spiritually, and they stayed up until about 3:00 a.m. praying and asking God to use them in Cincinnati somehow. Although they were all very ministry-oriented, it seemed that God was doing something unique in them—almost a calling outside of their own previous interests. They agreed to meet for prayer every Monday night and to fast as well as they were able. They soon added an extra Thursday lunch prayer time. Steve Smith led the group as they simply sought God.

In October, Steve needed to do an internship as part of his degree program requirements, and he agreed to help Dorcas conduct a teen meeting during the week on Tuesday nights. It was a small beginning, but it was something. At the same time, Mount Auburn Kid's Club had a growing number of older teens as well, causing Kimberly Easley and Aaron Wetherald to pull out the older teens from that group and begin a youth group there. They met at Filson Park, which was adjacent to GBS. However, (p22) ➡



MAIN STREET MEMORIES

We kept in touch with the Maddox siblings—five sisters and one brother—who as children had attended Main Street Mission while we were ministering there. Several years ago, they arranged with our daughter to honor Ruth and me as a surprise at our church in Lima, OH. Referring to us as their spiritual parents,

Saturdays were days we spent doing work around the mission. One of those work-days stands out in my mind. I was assisting Walt in efforts to brighten the front of our building. He was on a ladder, probably painting trim, and I was down on the sidewalk when we were approached by “Willie,” one of the neighbors. He asked for money to get something to eat. Wanting to ensure that the money would be spent for nothing but food,



Maddox Siblings

they stood in front of our congregation and sang a chorus we had taught them when they were young. There was hardly a dry eye in the sanctuary. They then gave us a plaque of appreciation and some flowers and had me dedicate one of their babies. Afterwards, we all had a wonderful time of fellowship as we enjoyed a lunch prepared by our adult children.

One of the Maddox children recently posted this comment on Facebook: “I thank God for God’s Bible School and the good news club that was held at the Main Street Mission. This ministry was such a blessing to me and my siblings. Thank you, Jesus, for choosing me at such a young age.” —DONALD NICHOLS

Working at Main Street Mission was a great training time for my wife and me. One of my memories is of Linda singing a duet with another lady. A man came into the mission, walked directly to the front, and put some money in their song book as they were singing! —GORDON KINCAID

1997 Main Street Mission workers, clockwise, beginning center front: Sharon McKnight, Tom McKnight (pastor), Fabian Yaurob, Brian Hicks, and Ron Cook (photo by renowned Cincinnati photographer Robert Flischel)

Main Street Workers 1997



God's Bible School
 Main Street Ministry
 Sunday
 Sabbath School 10 AM
 Morning Worship 11 AM
 Children's Services
 Good News 5 PM
 Evening Services 6 PM



Main Street Chapel 2010

I went with Willie to a hole-in-the-wall variety store across the street. One of their items for sale was oven-roasted whole chickens. None were immediately ready, but a few would be cooked in a few minutes. The owner let me pay for the chicken and promised to see that Willie would get his when they were "done." Willie dropped by the mission a bit later, and, grinning

really big and licking his fingers, he thanked me. I think the entire neighborhood enjoyed that scene.

"Lucky" was one of our teens who had become a regular attender. He joined in the singing and participated in the activities of a typical service. All of us took notice when,

in one service, he actually requested a song that he wanted to sing: "O Happy Day." As the introduction was played, and the first stanza was started, Lucky's questioning facial expression quickly changed to dismay and then disgust. He closed the hymnal and dropped it onto a seat beside him. He had been expecting the contemporary version of the song that had just hit the charts, not the more sedate song from the hymnal!
—BILL REESE



Main Street Mission mid-1980s



Tom Kennedy, Bob & Tracy Engle

After graduating from college at GBS (BA '66), I stayed for a few years as a full-time employee, working in the List Room where, among other duties, I prepared *God's Revivalist* for mailing. This was the same job I had as I worked my way through college. During this time, I became acquainted with some of the GBS students who were involved in ministry at the Main Street Mission. Through this association, I started attending



Pastor Hedstrom greets attendees



GBS workers and Johnson children

and helping out. I remember carrying my accordion up and down the four flights of stairs from my apartment on the fourth floor of the girls' dorm and making my way to the mission. I was convinced that this mission was indeed important as a means to try to help bring inner-city children to learn about Jesus and to help the community and GBS to have a good relationship. Another important reason for the mission was to help students who planned to be in Christian work in the future to get experience doing some of that work while in school.

I have noticed the later ministries of several of the couples who attended Main Street. Linda and Walter Hedstrom and Ruth and Don Nichols pastored churches, and Walter and Don eventually became presidents in their church conferences. Another couple, Hannah and Bill Reese, became missionaries to Native Americans.

As for me, I worked in some ACE schools, including a boarding school in Arizona for Native Americans. Sometime later, I obtained a job as a file clerk in radiology at a V.A. hospital in Lexington, KY. As I worked at these jobs, I realized how my experience in the list room at GBS and at Main Street Mission played a big part. —BEVERLY (HAYES) TROUTEN

My favorite memories at Main Street Chapel are centered in Teen Power. Teens love drama and inner-city teens seem to thrive on drama—services were never boring and certainly full of unusual happenings. I loved it! My favorite memories include:

- Talking to a 15-year-old who was so full of anger that he threw several large, outdoor garbage cans around. I recall him softening, sharing his desire to commit suicide, and allowing me to pray with him. He later became a strong Christian.
- A boy with an alcoholic mom who, it seemed, would not help him in any way. I vividly remember the prayer vigil with a group of students begging God to intervene...and the miracle of the boy's mother coming to GBS chapel the next morning!
- A girl exclaiming, "I feel like I just took a long-needed shower!" after praying at the altar.
- The many GBS students who preached their first sermon at Teen Power. It never failed to make me cry as I sat at the back cheering them on. God was going to use them!

• The difficulties that cross-cultural ministry brought. The tension between groups of teens, the fights, the mistrust, the noise, the chaos at times, the lack of predictability—all of these seeming "negatives" coming together and calming under the power of God's Spirit as He spoke to hearts. It could happen at Teen Power, and often it happened during the prayer meetings we workers regularly held. It resulted in God doing what He does best: bringing clarity and compassion—filling us with the needed grace and power to do His ministry. —DORCAS HALLAM

One time at Main, a man asked for money to buy gas for his car. I offered to get him gas instead of money, and he fumbled around with his story. It was obvious he was trying to get out of the situation but didn't know how. At this point I was rather amused and wanted to see how far he would go. As we drove to get my gas can, buy the gas, and take it to the place his car supposedly was parked, his talking got more and more awkward. About a block away from our "destination," he blurted out, "I hope my car didn't get towed." I assured him that no one ever got towed from the alley he said he was parked in—especially not in just 30 minutes. However, once we arrived, "surprisingly" his "car" was nowhere to be found! Imagine that! —MATT HALLAM



left: Main Street kids circa 2015; above: 2007 TOPS tutor, Josh Williams, and student, Justin Jamison.



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NEWS

from the Hilltop

UPDATE ON COVID-19 AND GBS COLLEGE CLASSES

Thanks to God’s providential leading, GBS was positioned to transition on-campus classes to remote learning very smoothly. Two years ago, the Academic Committee discussed consolidating all classes—on campus and online—to a single learning management system (LMS). Because of this, GBS students and faculty had all last year to get comfortable using Buzz, the college’s LMS, which works perfectly

for online learning. On-campus classes already were set up in Buzz, with most assignments submitted electronically. Because of this, nearly all campus classes have continued smoothly, and classes that cannot move online (College Choir and Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble) had already completed enough work to earn credit for the semester.

We celebrate God’s faithfulness in helping us prepare for what we could not have foreseen!

Additionally, the college has taken steps to support students in the transition. Since campus has closed, room and board for spring 2020 will be prorated, so that families are not paying for time students are unable to live on campus. The college has also expanded its “A/Pass/Fail” grading option. Since some students may have difficulty fully demonstrating their learning in the remote structure, after final grades are



Vice President for Academic Affairs Aaron Proffitt

posted, students can choose to convert grades between B+ to D– to a “pass” on their transcripts, which will not affect their grade point averages. Normally this option is provided on a limited basis of one class per semester, but for spring 2020, students can use this more broadly. Faculty have worked with a beautiful spirit of grace and love to support their students, and students are showing great commitment to continuing learning as they study to show themselves approved workers for the Kingdom! —*Dr. Aaron Proffitt, Vice President for Academic Affairs*

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 **Tim (BA '16) and Kyla (Tichener) (BA '15) Lanigan**, a son, **Henry James**, born March 9, 2020, at Community South Hospital, Indianapolis, IN. Henry joins siblings Charlotte (3) and Cora Jane (1).

Tim worked at GBS as assistant director for public relations from 2018-2019. He currently is the associate pastor and music minister at Southport Church of the Nazarene. Kyla is a very busy homemaker. The Lanigans live in Indianapolis, IN.

DEATHS



Rev. Gerald Graham Helphenstine, 67, passed away August 30, 2019, at his Dayton, OH, residence. He was born April 14, 1952, in Maysville, KY, to Charles and Irene (Roberts) Helphenstine. Gerald attended God’s Bible School, graduating with a BRE in 1976. He was a member and minister of the Wesleyan Holiness Association of Churches for over 40 years.

He is survived by his wife, Marietta (Tomblin) Helphenstine; three children, Aaron, Gera Lantham, and Joshua; eight grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Funeral services were held at the Boone-Nickell Funeral Home in Flemingsburg, KY, with Rev. Leonard Roop officiating. Burial followed at Elizaville Cemetery, Ewing, KY.

ROB RYAN JOINS TRUSTEES

In the summer of 1992, a GBS quartet stopped by Wesleyan Bible Church in Council Bluffs, IA. Present in that service was Rob Ryan, who had just finished his junior year of high school. He knew about GBS, as his grandparents had received *God's Revivalist* for years. He enjoyed the quartet service and decided to attend VIP Day at GBS in April 1993. "At the time," he recalls, "I felt like the Lord was leading me into missions, and I enrolled in that division in the fall of 1993." However, it was the music program that had enticed him to GBS.

Also, Professor Sheila Wolf encouraged him to see public schools as a potential mission field every bit as legitimate as any foreign missionary endeavor. In his second semester he switched his major to music.

Soon another GBS student grabbed Rob's attention. "The only girl I was ever interested in at GBS was Stephanie Thompson (1993-1999). After chasing her for a year, we dated awhile and got married August 2, 1996."

After graduating from GBS with a BA in Music Education in 1999, Rob attended the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music where



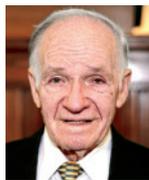
The Rob and Stephanie Ryan Family

he received his teaching certificate (BM Music Ed '01) and completed graduate studies in conducting (MM Conducting '03). He has been a public-school music teacher in the Little Miami school district ever since.

Rob has been active in the GBS National Alumni Association, serving two terms on the GBS Alumni Council, as well as regularly attending multiple GBS events and functions on and off campus every year.

Rob and Stephanie live in Owensville, OH, with their five children: Samantha, Kristin, Jessica, Rebekah, and Robbie. Along with his wife, Rob has served as minister of music for the Christian Nation Church, Pleasant Plain, OH, since 2001. He enjoys family time; playing, performing, writing, listening and directing anything music related; and trying to win a game of chess. He adds, "As a family we enjoy making music, playing games, and just being together. Most of our time is devoted to school and our home church. At least two of our children are seriously considering GBS after they complete high school. I am excited for what God has in store for my family and my children!"

We welcome Rob Ryan to the GBS board and are thankful for his strong opinions about education, ➡



Gerald Jackson ("G.J.") Bragg, 86, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on March 2, 2020. He was born on February 10, 1934, to Homer and Edwina Bragg of Low Gap, AL. Converted at the age of 17, he fully committed himself to a lifelong calling in pastoral ministry. While still in high school, Gerald began preaching in area churches. He became a conscientious scholar whose passion was to study and rightly divide the Word of God. After graduating from high school, he continued his ministerial studies at South Eastern Bible College, Birmingham, AL.

In 1953, Gerald married Peggy Emogene Hess. Together they raised four children, dedicated them to God, and encouraged them to follow the Lord's leader-

ship. As an ordained pastor and elder in the Bible Methodist Church, Gerald served churches in Birmingham, Jasper, Tarrant, and Anniston. At the conference level, he served on the Executive Board and the Board of Trustees. He served as a general conference delegate and was valued for his parliamentary law expertise. He provided legal assistance to the conference, churches, and schools. Along with Peggy, he invested his personal resources and gifts for Christian education advancement and served as chairman and vice-chairman of the Bible Methodist School, Pell City, AL.

Gerald was preceded in death by his wife (2003). He is survived by his son Steven Wayne; his daughters, Aneita Faye Burroughs (BA '77), Carol Jean Bragg (BA '81), and Sharon Kaye Hamby; five grandchildren—one of which is Dr. Jana (Burroughs) Pop (BA '03), the current ➡

➡ and the necessity of parents being purposefully involved in their children’s lives.

NEW GRADUATE DEGREE FOCUSES ON ISLAMIC STUDIES

GBS is now offering a new concentration in Islamic Studies that is available to students in the MA in Ministry program. This is being done through a partnership with Mission Muslim World University, an institution endorsed by Ravi Zacharias and

dozens of other evangelical leaders. Courses are taught by renowned professors such as Dr. J.P. Moreland and Dr. Josh McDowell. Students pursuing this pathway complete the equivalent of 18 credit hours of Islamic Studies with MMWU and transfer the credits to GBS. Students then complete an additional 18 hours at GBS to earn an MA in Ministry with a concentration in Islamic Studies. For more information about this new opportunity, go to www.gbs.edu/MMWU. ■



With varying stay-at-home and social-distancing rules in place that affect the GBS campus and graduates, their friends, and family members, we are postponing the 2020 commencement. Degrees will still be conferred so that graduates can proceed with additional education, employment, and ministry positions. GBS plans to hold commencement exercises in August so that 2020 graduates can receive their well-deserved recognition and celebrate together on campus.

REVIVALIST FAMILY continued

➡ chair of the GBS Music Division; and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at Kilgroe Funeral Home, Leeds, AL, officiated by Revs. Walter Hedstrom, John Parker, and Jon Earls. Burial followed at Jefferson Memorial Gardens, Birmingham, AL.

Stella Mae Morgan Scarbrough, 98, passed from this life, Saturday, March 28, 2020. She was born April 29, 1922, to Walter and Beulah (Long) Morgan. In 1940, Stella married Woody Scarbrough, who served in the U.S.



Army and Air Force Reserves. In the 1970s, with all their children fully grown, Woody and Stella moved into a basement apartment at Christ College in Friendsville, TN, with Woody as the director of maintenance and Stella overseeing the housekeeping department and serving as campus hostess. After the college closed in 1985, the Scarbroughs moved to Defuniak Springs, FL, to the retirement center owned by the Alabama Conference (now Southern Conference) of the Bible Methodist Church. Even in retirement they were busy with maintenance work and camp meeting preparation. In the 1990s, the Scarbroughs moved to Maryville, TN, to care for Stella’s mother who was 98 years old when she died.

Stella was preceded in death by her husband Woody in 1997. She is survived by her children, Carson, Carole Roush, and Martha Bryan; 10 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; and 5 great-great-grandchildren. A private graveside service was held at Clark’s Grove

Cemetery, Maryville, TN. A celebration of life service will be held at a later date after the COVID-19 crisis subsides. (See Alumni News, page 25.) ■

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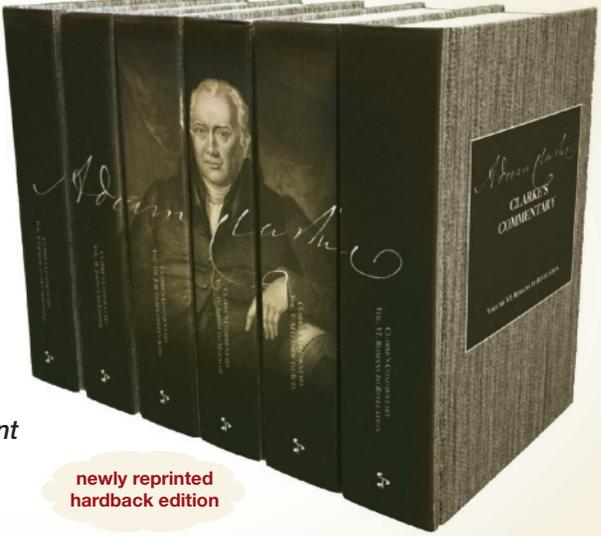
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Dear Phil

You might wonder if there would be suffering if sin had not entered the world. Probably not. Pain or discomfort, probably; but not suffering. This seems reasonable on two grounds. First, pain is a good thing if it is our nervous system warning about something harmful. I assume the nervous system's pain capacity is part of the original good creation to guard us from danger. Adam and Eve would have known relatively little pain. For example, God "multiplied" Eve's pain greatly in childbearing. He didn't introduce what would not have been present otherwise.

Second, the statement in Revelation 21:4 that there will no longer be pain in the new heavens and new earth is perhaps understood too broadly. The word translated "pain" refers to "experience of great trouble," "long, intense pain," or "distress caused by hard, difficult circumstances." Given this, what is removed in the new heavens and earth is the suffering and pain caused by sin. Whether our capacity to feel pain or discomfort remains is unclear.

Regarding your final question: how do we distinguish the suffering of divine discipline and chastisement from general suffering because of sin? It's difficult, perhaps impossible, to make this distinction with certainty in every case. Nonetheless, three points are noteworthy. First, God uses the suffering occasioned by sin (natural disasters, sickness, aging, death, etc.) to sanctify us (Rom. 8:28-29) and refine our faith (James 1:2-4). Second, suffering for doing right marks us as God's children and serves as divine discipline (Heb. 12:5-11). If we have sown to the flesh, our suffering is the corrective harvest of our own planting (Prov. 22:8).

Blessings,
Philip

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

PAIN AND SUFFERING

Does God ever initiate pain or suffering? How do we explain the difference between God's discipline/chastisement (which seems to cause pain) and suffering in general? —Michael

Dear Michael,

Christians have always believed that God, in His sovereignty, permits suffering and pain in the world. The book of Job is proof enough. Your question digs deeper. Does God ever initiate pain or cause suffering? Scripture's answer appears to be "yes." Consider these texts: Deuteronomy 28, Daniel 1, and Acts 2:23.

The curses of Deuteronomy 28:14-68 are enough to raise anyone's hair. For example, Yahweh promises Israel He "will smite you with the boils of Egypt and with tumors and with the scab and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed. Yahweh will smite you with madness and with blindness and with bewilderment of heart" (Deut. 28:27-28). That's just two verses from a litany of pain-filled curses Yahweh says He will bring on those who forsake Him. His purpose for such suffering is that they turn back (repent) and obey Him (Lev. 26:18, 23). Yahweh is not a sadist. He does not inflict pain so He can enjoy the suffering (Lam. 3:32-33). Yahweh initiates suffering to chastise and correct those who abandon Him.

In Daniel 1 we read of the secondary consequences of God's judg-

ment on Judah. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were godly young men. All we know about them suggests that they were never involved in idolatry. Yet, Yahweh's destruction of Judah for its wickedness brought pain into their lives on many levels. They were separated from their parents. They were castrated. They were forcibly exiled from their native land, forced to learn a second language, and serve a pagan king. Why would God bring such pain into their lives? Yahweh initiated suffering to test, strengthen, and then greatly use these young people (cf. James 1:2-4).

Acts 2:23 teaches that the suffering of Christ on the cross, though wholly undeserved, was foreknown by God and part of His predetermined plan. Isaiah 53:10 says, "But Yahweh was pleased to crush Him [Jesus], putting Him to grief." Jesus Himself repeatedly said the prophets all teach that the Messiah must suffer and die (cf. Luke 9:22; 17:25; 24:25-26). Admittedly, much of Christ's suffering was caused by sinful men. Yet, Christ's death as the Lamb of God was planned and initiated by God (Rev. 13:8; cf. Eph. 1:4). It was not merely God's use of suffering He didn't initiate. Yahweh initiated Jesus' suffering to bring about our redemption.



student focus

FUNDING RENEWED FOR COMMISSION ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

A Senate compromise in late 2019 included the three-year reauthorization of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, a commission created in 1998 to monitor religious freedom violations worldwide and make policy recommendations to the White House, State Department, and Congress.

THE BIBLE AND PUBLIC TRUST

During a roundtable meeting for executives and civil society leaders at the recent World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, David Miller, a Princeton University professor, said the key to companies and institutions restoring public trust may lie in the wisdom of the Bible. "One thing that religion tends to do really well is to think about and help heal brokenness." One of the 11 theses for companies to consider was the need for humility. "The institution needs to linger in its humbling moment longer than it may wish if it sincerely desires restoration in the eyes of the general public."

COVID-19 PUTS UMC PLANS TO SPLIT ON TEMPORARY HOLD

The United Methodist Church announced in January that an agreement had been reached allowing for the creation of a new denomination for traditional-minded churches

within the UMC. The plan was to be presented at the UMC's annual General Conference scheduled for May. However, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, this second conference was canceled and will be scheduled later. It is assumed that the split will create a new denomination of "traditionalist Methodists" made up of all of the churches opposing same-sex marriage and LGBT ordination. The plan is to give the new denomination \$25 million from UMC funds and allow the separating churches to keep their local church properties. If this split is effected, the remaining churches will hold a third conference in order to remove bans on same-sex marriage and on LGBT clergy. That group will retain the name "United Methodist Church."

U.S. HAS HIGHEST RATE OF SINGLE-PARENT HOUSEHOLDS

A recent analysis by the Pew Research Center reveals that the U.S. has the highest share of single-parent households of the 130 countries from which Pew obtained survey data. The report suggests that this rate results from the steady decline in two-parent homes in the U.S., noting that 23% of U.S. children live with a single adult, compared to the world average of just 7%. Although some may debate causality, single parenting is strongly related to risk for poverty and lower educational attainment on the part of the children, as well as incarceration among boys, and teenage pregnancy among girls. ■

KAITLYN GUDGER, of Cincinnati, OH, was trying to decide where she should attend college when she made a campus visit to God's Bible School. "When I walked up the ramp, I knew that GBS was where God wanted me. My heart and mind, which had been filled with so much uncertainty, were filled with so much peace when I visited GBS."

While in college, she reports that she has grown in so many ways. "GBS has provided me with so many incredible friends, along with staff and faculty, who have helped me develop my spiritual journey." She appreciates getting to have hands-on experience in ministry that complements what she is learning in the classroom.

She loves music and has been taking piano lessons. She enjoys reading and spending time with family and friends.

Kaitlyn intends to graduate in May 2021 with a BA in Integrative Studies, concentrating in elementary education as well as counseling and psychology. ■

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they were concerned about where they might meet during the winter. They decided to join up with Main Street Chapel and form a new group that would be called “Teen Power.”

In January 2002, Eric Himelick held a revival for Teen Power. More than 40 teens packed the chapel—in fact, some nights more than 60 attended. Many of those teens really got spiritual help. It was exciting to see guys with “dreads” and “doo-rags” testifying and carrying big Bibles. Teens who before had been silent were standing up and testifying. It was incredible! God was moving among the teens.

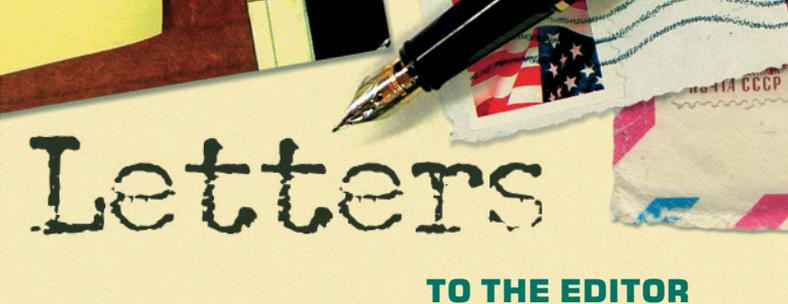
I started attending Main Street Chapel that year (2002), helping with Teen Power. In the fall of 2003, I became the pastor of the mission. The next pivotal point came that semester when Dominique, a Teen Power regular, was sponsored as a student to attend Aldersgate Christian Academy. However, it soon became evident that she needed more support. Dorcas Byer and Danielle Reynolds began to feel an increased burden for the educational needs of students at Teen Power. They shared their vision at the 2004 Camp Meeting, and \$30,000 was raised to start Teens of Power School (TOPS).

As a result, in the fall of 2004, Dorcas and Danielle started TOPS with four students. Also, Kim Easley began a choir with the four students, and they had their first service at Afton Wesleyan Church in Batavia, OH. This was the first of over 50 services in which the choir would perform during the next 12 years.

As tended to happen to the workers at Main Street Chapel, Dorcas and I were married in the summer of 2006. We both had just graduated from GBS and didn’t know what our next step should be. After praying and talking with several people, we felt led to continue leading Main Street Chapel, Teen Power, and TOPS. Miraculously, jobs, housing, and everything we needed to remain in ministry at Main Street opened up. This enabled us to lead these ministries until the fall of 2016 when we moved to Marion, Indiana.

During that period, more than 20 students went through the TOPS program either as academy or college students, the choir held more than 50 services, and a number of people from the inner-city became Christians and helped in leading and supporting the ministry. Also, hundreds of GBS students helped to some extent in the ministries associated with Main Street. ■

Matt Hallam accepted a position at GBS and returned to Cincinnati with Dorcas and their five children in the fall of 2019. They again became involved in the Main Street Chapel ministry. During the interim of their absence, Teen Power ended in 2016, and TOPS in 2018, due at least in part to the substantial time commitment required of the student mission workers. Currently Main Street Chapel has 25 to 30 persons regularly attending, with approximately 20 from the community.



Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Letters should be emailed to 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.

Thanks so much for including “Temptations will Continue—That is Normal” by Hannah Whitall Smith [GR October 2019]. One of the founders of the Church of the Nazarene, C.W. Ruth, wrote a booklet called *Temptations Peculiar to the Sanctified* that should be required reading for new believers and those discipling them. (Its available online for free!) Back in 1928, Ruth, who also wrote *Entire Sanctification, A Second Blessing*, added to Smith’s wisdom: “It is no sin to be tempted, seeing Christ was tempted, and yet without sin. It is only when the temptation is consented to, and the will yields to the suggestion and solicitation coming from the tempter, that sin enters. Temptation is that which proceeds from the enemy; sin is that which proceeds from the individual. Hence, we must not call our temptations sin, nor our sins merely temptations.” Ruth further warns that “the person who prides himself in the fact that he has an experience in grace making him superior to the rest of his brethren, is almost certain to become an egotist and a bigot.” Jesus Himself was tempted; we dare not preach or teach that there’s a state of grace that places the believer above Christ.

DR. ANDREW J. GRAHAM
Hobe Sound, FL

What a blessing to be reminded of the godly lives of Dr. and Mrs. Taylor [GR September 2019]. How thrilling to contemplate that at the last trump these saints’ mixed remains, divided between the two nations, shall be gloriously resurrected as two immortal individuals. Thank you for arranging each issue very interestingly.

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GOD'S PLANS IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR CHAOS

by Logan Sankey

Scripture: Jeremiah 29:4-14

"...Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." —Jeremiah 29:11b*

Do you ever wonder what God is up to? Why He allows certain things to happen? Why He doesn't answer the request for which you keep praying? Why there are so many difficult people in your life? What, if anything at all, God is doing in your life?

God's people asked the same kind of questions during the days of Jeremiah. Times were rather bleak spiritually. There had been many wicked kings of Israel who involved the people in idolatry. As a result of this sin and idolatry, Jeremiah was called by God to be a prophet or a "truth teller," to proclaim judgment from God for their disobedience. The time came when Babylon conquered Judah and deported them. God's people were exiled, living in a foreign ghetto thousands of miles from their home.

In the midst of all this horror and suffering, God gave Jeremiah a message to all the exiles, to settle down and live life as normally as possible in Babylon (vv.5-7) and even to pray for the welfare of their "new home" as it would provide for their welfare (v.7).

Then, in the midst of all this came God's comforting words. *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'"* (v.11). He would bring them back from exile. God's plans are always the best plans! Let us take a look at them.

I. God's plans are known plans.

"For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the Lord" (v.11a).

God knows His plans because He made them. We do not know all of God's plans, but God does.

While we may make plans which we set aside or gradually forget about over time, God's plans are not like that. God's thoughts and plans for His people are fixed and always front and center, never placed on the back burner. The plans God had for the exiles were for their ongoing welfare and not their hurt, and eventually for the future for which they so longed.

God is always working on good plans for us. He knows the plans and will carry them out. Jeremiah listed all the things God would do. *"I will be found by you...and will bring you back from captivity"* (v.14). This Scripture makes it clear that God will do the finding, the gathering, and the bringing back. God was saying to them that He was going to ensure the ultimate execution for these plans Himself.

II. God's plans are promising plans.

"I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the Lord, 'and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile'" (v.14b).

The exiles thought they had every reason to be pessimistic about their plight. They were being held captive and they had no way of escape. But God had plans to give them both hope and a future. The exiles would not have to live in captivity forever. It was a fixed-term captivity of 70 years.

Even though God's people were going through the worst times, things were still promising because God knew what He was doing. The exile was NOT the end of existence for His people, but the beginning of a new phase in their relationship to Him. Rather than turning His back on them, He was letting them come to the end of themselves so that they would have a different and correct view of what living for God looks like.

God does the same today. He lets people get to the end of themselves—people who are tired and confused and who are tired of being tired and confused. And in the middle of their rebellion, God speaks and says, *"I've got plans for you. But these plans are conditioned on your obedience to me."*

There will be people in your life who will tell you what you want to hear. They may say things like, *"Your breakthrough—your answer—is right around the next corner!"* However, God works according to His will and His timetable. God's ultimate purpose is for us to be like His Son Jesus Christ. And so, God might allow hurt-

ful people and painful things in your life to make your faith increase in Him and to find your purpose in Him, rather than some quick breakthrough or answer. Although it may be hard for us to comprehend during that moment, rest assured that *“in all things God works for the good of those who love him”* (Rom. 8:28).

The Christian must always live by faith in God’s promises. To draw comfort from God’s plans for the future, one must take them by faith. What is Biblical faith? From Hebrews 11 we know that faith believes what God says, obeys what God requires, and trusts in and rests on God’s promises.

The refugees in Babylon had to live by faith. During the 70 long years of their captivity, they had to trust the promises of God. The text says that they had to build houses, plant gardens, raise families, and pray for the welfare of the city by faith. Things looked promising only as long as they trusted God to do what He had said He would do. God’s plans are always the best plans.

III. God’s plans are good plans.

“I have good plans for you.... I plan to give you hope and a good future” (29:11 ERV).

However promising the plan sounded, the exiles might have balked at the “70 years” aspect. Most people like it best when God works things out quickly...like, by the end of the week. Seventy years is a long time to wait. One can imagine the exiles hearing about these plans and asking, “How is this a good plan? That seems too long.”

The answer is that God’s plans were good for this reason: Every single one of the exiles deserved to stay in captivity as long as God was pleased to keep them there. But God promised to give them something that they did not deserve. By His grace He would bring them back home. Doesn’t that sound just like God? God’s plans are rooted in God’s goodness and His grace.

God’s plans are not only gracious for the future, they are also gracious for the present. The exiles in Babylon did not have to wait seventy years for God to do them any good. His plans included their present prosperity. The word “prosper” is the same word Jeremiah used when he said, *“Seek the peace and prosperity of the city...because if it prospers, you too will prosper”* (v.7). It is the Hebrew word *shalom*, meaning order, stability, health, and safety. *Shalom* is all-encompassing peace. God promised that He would begin to give His people that kind of peace right away.

Some Christians struggle with a lingering suspicion that God is out to get them, and they see temporary difficulties as confirmation. Perhaps that is why God makes a point of saying that His plans are not harmful.

God’s plans for His children are only good. Even if God sends suffering their way, it will be for their good. Rather than indulging in fear and worry, grab hold of the goodness of God.

IV. God’s plans are personal plans.

“Call on me...and I will listen to you.... You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart” (vv.12-13).

God sent His people into exile and let them experience all the hardships because He wanted them to get to the point where they would seek Him with their whole heart and realize that what they needed was Him.

So it is often through trials and pain that God teaches His people that He is their help. He is the one to be called on. He is the rock upon which believers must place their trust. Therefore, we do not need to wait to call upon God. He is available to us personally right now. Whenever we call, He will listen. Whenever we pray, He will answer. Whenever we seek Him with all our heart, He will be found!

Jesus repeats the same wonderful promise, *“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks, the door will be opened”* (Matt. 7:7-8).

Though God says that we must seek Him with our whole heart, Jesus is also seeking us. Jesus said in Luke 19:10, *“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.”* When we go toward Him with one step, He comes running to us. Even now He is calling.

*Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
Calling for you and for me;
See, on the portals He’s waiting and watching,
Watching for you and for me.*

*Oh! for the wonderful love He has promised,
Promised for you and for me;
Tho’ we have sinned, He has mercy and pardon,
Pardon for you and for me.*

*Come home, come home,
Ye who are weary, come home.
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
Calling, “O sinner come home!”* ■

—Will L. Thompson

* All Scripture quotes are from the NIV except where otherwise noted.

Logan Sankey, the youngest son of Marc and Melodie Sankey, was a missionary kid in Mexico from age 6-12. He currently is a junior in the Ministerial Division at GBS working toward a BA in Pastoral Ministry.



WOODY AND STELLA SCARBROUGH

A Family of GBS Alumni

Stella Mae Morgan was born into the home of a Baptist preacher on April 29, 1922. Six years later, the Great Depression hit. It was a time when poor people learned to be even more frugal than they normally were. Stella remembers being very poor. The Morgan family lived by the Great Depression motto of “use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without.” Moreover, as was often the case during this era, Stella’s formal education ended when she was in the 6th grade. She was needed at home to help with the housework and care for new babies as they came along. Perhaps the experience of living in poverty and the lack of education helped influence Stella’s life as an adult, making her frugal with her resources and a strong supporter of Christian education.

As a young girl, Stella had made up her mind to live a Christian life, and she knew she would need a Christian husband. So, at age 14, she began praying for a Christian husband. Stella sang in the choir and sat up front in church so as not to be with the rambunctious youth group which sat in the back.

Then the brother of a neighborhood girl she played with caught her attention. She told her daddy, “See that nice-looking man going down the street? I am going to marry him someday, even if I have to ask him!”

This statement scared her father because he knew that Woody (Carson Woodrow) Scarbrough did not come from a Christian home. Worse yet, Woody’s father was an alcoholic who was absent from home for months at a time. However, Woody’s mother was praying that her youngest son

would not follow in that lifestyle. She was a hard-working and church-going woman who ran a boarding house—cooking meals and scrubbing clothes on the washboard to make ends meet. Although she died when Woody was a young teenager, he learned his work ethic from her. Afterwards, his sisters tried to care for him and were very strict with him. All the while, God was being faithful to his mother’s prayers and was preparing him for a Christian wife, but it would be a long process.

Although Woody had attended church before he was married, he was not a Christian. (He had been one of those rambunctious kids previously mentioned who sat on the back pew!) Woody sold his car to have enough money to marry Stella, and, on November 23, 1940, he and Stella began their life together.

Woody joined the U.S. Army and made the military his career. He rose to the rank of Technical Sergeant, and later served in the Air Force Reserves, compiling almost 25 years in military service. This meant that Stella was a military wife for most of her married life, until Woody retired from the reserves in 1978.

After returning from Germany following WWII, Woody made it a habit to drop Stella off at church on Sundays without attending the services himself. Later, he began remaining at the church in his car during the services. Finally, he began attending the services with her. Stella’s sweet example of Christ drew Woody to the Lord. Eventually, her desire for a



TOP: Woody and Stella Scarbrough with children Martha, Carole, and Carson. BOTTOM: The children with their mother in more recent times.

Christian husband was fulfilled when Woody became a Christian.

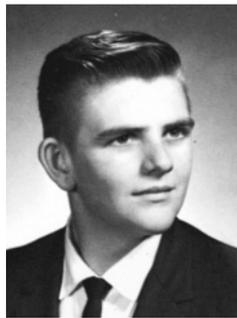
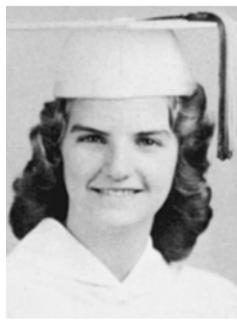
“So,” you ask, “why are you featuring this story in ‘Alumni News?’”

Let me answer that this way. Sometime during the 1950s, Rev. Levi Whisner, a GBS alumnus (HS '47; ThB '50), came to Maryville, TN, and pastored the Five Point Rescue Mission. It was at the mission that the Scarborough family became acquainted with the doctrine of holiness. After “believing and receiving,” they never forsook the Holy Way. It was also at this church that they were introduced to God’s Bible School. Woody had had a desire to go to a mission field, but due to the health of Stella, he had been advised against it. Instead of working in foreign missions, they put their money and life into their family and the Five Point Rescue Mission.

The Scarbroughs had three children: Martha Mae, born 1942; Woodrow Carole, born 1945; and Carson Lynn, born 1948. Eventually all three graduated from the GBS high school and attended college there. It was not easy for the Scarbroughs to let their children go so far from home. However, they were grateful to have met Rev. Levi Whisner and to have learned about GBS.

Through the influence of the Holiness Movement, Woody and Stella became very generous. They managed their finances well so they would have money to give to missions, Christian education, and other needs. Woody and Stella lived out their lives in ministry: at the Five Point Rescue Mission (active laypersons/supporters); at Christ College in Friendsville, TN (director of maintenance; housekeeping supervisor); at the retirement center owned by the Alabama Conference of the Bible Methodist Church, DeFuniak Springs, FL (residents and volunteer workers); and back to Maryville, TN (caretakers for Stella’s aged mother).

Although Woody died suddenly from a heart attack in 1997 and Stella just recently passed away (see



LEFT SIDE, TOP TO BOTTOM: Martha (Scarborough) Bryan, GBS high school senior photo 1960; Carole (Scarborough) Roush, GBS college senior photo 1969; Carson Scarborough, GBS high school senior photo 1966.

TOP RIGHT: Stella and Woody on their 50th wedding anniversary, surrounded by their grandchildren (and several spouses) (L-R): Andrew Bryan, Vonnie (Sankey) Bryan, Cheryl (Scarborough) Vernon, Susan (Scarborough) Hunt, Martha (Scarborough) Sams, Christa (Scarborough) Fulton, Heather (Bryan) Dickinson, Esther (Roush) Miller, Jane (Roush) Allard, Laura (Bryan) Hausman, and Daryl Hausman. (Grandson Lincoln Bryan is missing.)

IMMEDIATELY ABOVE: Stella’s great-granddaughter, Britany Hausman, performs a violin solo with the GBS Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble, May 14, 2015, while a student at GBS.

LEFT: Stella holds a cherished photo of her departed husband, Woody, dressed in his military uniform.

obituary, p.18), it is their legacy which we honor here. Their daughter, Martha, graduated from the GBS high school in 1960 and continued in her footsteps were her two siblings, Carole (HS '63; BA '69), and

Carson, (HS '66; 1966-68). Both Martha and Carson met their spouses at GBS.

Martha is the wife of Edgar A. Bryan (HS '61; BA '67), and together they have labored in pastoral ministry and Christian education. Carson

married Linda C. Burton (BA '67), and they also are involved in pastoral ministry and Christian education. Carole received her RN degree from The Christ Hospital between her high school and college degrees at GBS. She is married to Daniel Roush, has been involved in missions through her local church and conference for many years, and remains active in nursing.

Of those in the next two generations, a number have also attended GBS. Two granddaughters attended the college: Nora Jane (Roush) Allard (1988-89) and Heather (Bryan) Dickinson (BA '97). Several great-granddaughters have also recently attended: Kate (Bryan) Cragun (2011-13), Brittany Hausman (2012-15), and Natasha (Hausman) Wilson (BA '16).

Even though neither Woody nor Stella were alumni of GBS, their lives were touched by many pastors, evangelists, missionaries, educators, and students associated with the school. As a result, they made many sacrifices to see that their own children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, as well as the children of others, were given the opportunity to enjoy a Christian education. Because of this, and knowing that their father loved music and missions, the three Scarbrough children have established the "Carson W. and Stella M. Scarbrough Memorial Scholarship," an endowed scholarship given annually to a music or missions major at GBS on an alternating basis. 📌

Material for this article was adapted from "Stella Scarbrough," a chapter written by Janet Burton (GBS staff 2014-19) for the upcoming book, Ladies to Remember, Volume II, by Women of Worth Literature Committee, scheduled for release in 2021. For more information, contact Tammy Fair at tammydf@outlook.com.



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by Sonja Vernon

LOVING MY NEIGHBOR

"Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law." —Romans 13:10 (NKJV)

Recently this column discussed loving our neighbor (in the context of racism), but in light of recent events, it seems appropriate to revisit the topic. At this writing, we are in the throes of a global pandemic. States of emergency are being declared. Data seems to be changing by the minute. Many are finding it difficult to know how to plan wisely while refusing to give way to panic. I debated addressing the peace God gives in the middle of turmoil, and indeed He does! But what has been foremost in my thoughts is the fact that this crisis gives the body of Christ a unique opportunity to showcase selfless love. In a society built on independence and individualism, COVID-19 is teaching us what it means to need each other, to unite in solidarity against a common threat, and to realize that our actions can have massive effects on others (see South Korea's "Patient 31"). It is reminding us that we are part of something greater than ourselves, and just like the cells of the body, each of us must do our part to keep the entire organism alive and well. At this time, it appears that COVID-19 is deadliest to the most vulnerable among us. Sadly, some have cavalierly determined it not to be a threat to their own demographic and thus, not a threat at all. But our Scripture lesson reminds us that love means we refuse to do harm to a neighbor, we choose to limit our own "rights" for the greater good, we choose to fulfill the law by loving others as we love ourselves. Don't miss this moment. The world is watching. 📌

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