

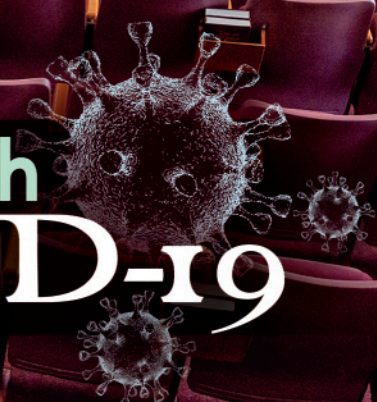
GOD'S REVIVALIST

June, July, August 2020

and Bible Advocate



coping with
CoViD-19





about this issue

COVID-19 AND CHANGE

While I normally enjoy working a day or two a week from home, February was the last month in which I had fairly regular hours in the office. For 40 years I have been able to roam the Hilltop freely—from the time I was one of the campus kids in the 1950s while my parents attended, to my two grown-up stints on campus. My, how COVID-19 has changed things!

Thankfully, my files are in “the cloud” (Dropbox). I can work at home in my “work corner”—laptop poised above me (on a swivel stand) as I lean back in my recliner with an ergonomic keyboard on my lap. Sound like fun? Well, it is, but only to a point. I miss the hustle and bustle of campus life and being around my colleagues! But, the mandated social distancing has necessitated adjustments to “the normal.”

That is the case with GBS as well. Although our students were sent home, they still continued their education, albeit online for the rest of the semester. Some school events had to be canceled—SWSE Tour, Hilltop Piano Institute, etc. Other events were postponed or greatly modified—graduation ceremony was moved from May to August, for example.

You might ask, “What, then, has been going on at GBS?” Good question! Campus administrators have kept in touch with the students through regular video clips giving campus and academic updates as well as providing devotional material. No employees have been laid off, and many of them have given donations back to the school (nearly \$10,000 in the month of April alone!) and volunteered for campus work projects.

Teachers and students adapted to these new realities as well. For example, two music literature recitals scheduled this semester took place online. Videos of the students performing were uploaded and compiled into a YouTube playlist for viewing.

And then there are the campus children. Parents rallied behind creative ways to keep them active, such as a “bear hunt” and a time-staggered neighborhood Easter egg hunt. To give you a little taste of all this, we have included several reports in the Campus News section, which begins on page 10.

Please pray that God will continue to help us navigate these troubling times. Pray also for our students and donors who may be having financial difficulties at this time. Blessings. Be safe. —KF

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COVER PHOTO: Center of GBS life, the Adcock Chapel (photographed by Shane Muir) has already been prematurely empty for more than two months, due to state and federal government responses to a virus. Also pictured are three coronavirus cells as viewed with the aid of an electron microscope (©iStock: AutoClassic).

PAGE 2 PHOTO: iStock: Gargonia

the president's page



RUNNING THE RACE

The Context of Faith

by Rodney Loper, President

I began this series by discussing the “Wow Factor” (April) and the “Woe Factor” (May) as critical preparation for the race described in Hebrews 12. I believe that we need to consider one more preliminary concern. The first word of Chapter 12 points us backwards. “Wherefore” clearly attaches this chapter to what was going on earlier. In light of all that prior information, then run the race. Chapter 12 is deliberately connected to the content in chapter 11—the “Faith Chapter”—because running the race happens in the context of faith. Let’s take a look.

CONFIDENCE OF FAITH

“Faith” and its various forms are found 25 times in the 40 verses of chapter 11, giving us examples of men and women who placed their confidence in God. They LIVED by faith! Notice that their faith was more than just an INTERNAL trust in God. Because they believed that God could do what He said He would, that internal confidence was given full expression in the way they lived.

We used to have several oak trees in our yard, and our kids loved to climb them. Colton, our youngest son, would pull his bicycle over to one of the trees and use it to reach the lowest branch. Contorting his little body, he would worm his way up. It was great fun...until he decided to come down! Realizing that he was up too high, he would begin yelling, “Daddy, come get me.” That is faith—internal faith—believing that I would be the one who was able to help him get out of the tree. But his faith included another element, because when I would get to the tree, Colton would scoot to the edge of the limb and jump into my waiting arms. That external drive that pushed him off that limb was also faith! You can’t divorce those two elements of faith.

How do we get this out of chapter 11? Abel offered a sacrifice by faith (v.4) and Enoch walked with

God by faith (v.5). These are external results of an internal confidence. Noah built an ark by faith (v.7). Abraham searched for the promised land by faith (v.8) and offered Isaac by faith (v.11). Notice all these verbs. What they are demonstrating is action as a result of internal knowledge.

“Those who run the race with patience” (Heb. 12:1), do more than mentally assent to the truth, they LIVE the truth. Their confident faith in God produces the commitment to do whatever it is that God requires.

CONTENT OF FAITH

Some people believe that faith is no more than “blind optimism.” But chapter 11 makes it very clear that faith has CONTENT! Each of these “heroes of faith” trusted God—specifically in what He said. For example, Noah responded to God’s warning about a flood and built an ark (v.7). It is easy to overlook the fact that this wouldn’t have made sense to Noah. It presumably had never rained before. Imagine the ridicule and questions to which he was subjected. Nevertheless, Noah followed God’s instructions and built an ark.

Faith is not believing in something you know is not true. That is an absurdity. Neither is faith a substitute for knowledge. “I don’t need to study God’s word. I have faith.” No. The Bible teaches us that we DO because we KNOW. Seeing how God helped Abraham, Moses, Peter, Paul, Timothy, Titus—all these folks—should give us great confidence. Faith is not only believing that God CAN help, but also that He WILL, and then leaving the results up to Him.

Sometimes what we are asked to do is difficult; it may create discomfort; it may go against our desires. But faith says, “God, You’ve said it. I am going to obey—even if it is difficult.”

COMPENSATION OF FAITH

Sometimes God rewards those who trust Him with spectacular results. Faith enables “normal” people to accomplish great things for God when they slide off the branch into God’s arms. An interesting fact about those listed as “heroes of the faith” is that many had serious shortcomings. For example:

- Gideon at first was cowardly and had to be coaxed to do what God called him to do.
- Barak won a great victory for Israel over an army that had 900 chariots, but he had to be prodded to do so by Deborah.
- Samson routed the Philistines, yet he was tripped up by his lust for foreign women.

They had issues, but they allowed God to use them. Faith enabled them to accomplish things that were explainable only by God’s power. By faith, they conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained

promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight, and raised the dead to life (11:33-35a).

All these accomplishments were quite impressive—even miraculous. But one thing on the list is common to everything accomplished by faith: “from weakness were made strong.” We give up our weakness for His strength. Faith requires recognizing our weakness, but at the same time, laying hold of God’s strength.

Sometimes God blesses those who trust Him with the grace to endure horrible trials without wavering. They were tortured, beaten, imprisoned, stoned, slain, destitute, afflicted, and tormented (11:35b-38). Did they have faith? Yes! Scripture confirms that they “gained approval through their faith” (11:39).

The truth is that while we may experience some grand blessings and accomplish some great things for God, He may also allow us to pass through troubling times. But, if we remain faithful in these difficulties, God will compensate with eternal rewards.

The Scripture says: “And these [heroes of the faith] all” received a good report “through faith,” although they had not received “the promise,” that is, Christ. They saw Him from afar in types and shadows, but we see Him clearly revealed in the New Testament. They were under the old covenant, but God provided something better for us—a new covenant established by Christ’s blood. The old covenant with its sacrifices could not make the worshipers perfect. But the new covenant has sanctified us “through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all” (10:10).

CONCLUSION

Let me sum up this section with three applications. I encourage you to think about how they might apply more extensively to your life:

- Faith is ready to sacrifice present comfort for future reward with Christ.
- Faith lives with a God-ward focus, not with a focus on people or things.
- Faith trusts and obeys God and leaves the results to Him.

When God called me to preach, I was working in the body shop of Wright Patterson Air Force Base and enjoying it. But God said, “Rodney, you may think this is best, but I know you, and I have a better plan for you.” Although I couldn’t see it, faith enabled me to trust Him. I responded, “Do what You need to do in my life.”

My challenge for you is this: Ask God to help you cultivate faith. In need? Call for your heavenly Father. Go ahead...slide off the branch into His arms and see what He can do through your life. ■

Handling COVID-19 with PPE

(Practical Pietistic Engagement)

by Michael R. Avery

We have all heard a lot about PPE during this COVID-19 pandemic. To the medical world, this *personal protective equipment (PPE)* has meant the difference between life and death. In the earliest stages of the battle against the virus, it was the most sought-after product by hospitals all around the world as they endeavored to equip medical professionals to battle this deadly disease.

There is another form of PPE that is needed by the church as it seeks to combat the fallout it has faced from COVID-19. I call it *practical pietistic engagement*. It, too, may mean the difference between enduring this crisis with peace and confidence or living it out in panic and fear.

Since COVID-19 is so highly contagious, we have all been subjected to sheltering in place, social distancing, limited work and recreation, and a constant barrage of depressing news. This has brought about a loss of fellowship, meaningful occupation, and normal routine and left us with huge amounts of free time to spend all by ourselves—which of course is the breeding ground for worry and fear. The solution again is **PPE—practical pietistic engagement**.

Facing Fears with Scriptural Advice

Fear is not a new emotion for most Christians, but it is always one that is difficult to combat and can be debilitating. However, the Bible offers us hope and help! Read Psalms 42 and 43 and the entire book of Lamentations (focusing on and re-reading the section in 3:21-26). David was going through some form of serious spiritual dryness and darkness. We do not know the cause, but we do know that it left him in the grip of fear—feeling that God had abandoned him! The same was true for Jeremiah in Lamentations, but in this case, we know the cause. Nevertheless, the remedy for dispelling fear is the same in both:

Remember: “*These things I remember*” (Psa. 42:4) and “*But this I call to mind*” (Lam. 3:21). Both men found it helpful to remember what God had done historically for His people, and to remember what God had done for them personally,



and how much He loved them. *"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases"* (Lam. 3:22).

Refocus: It is easy to place our hope in the wrong thing. This always leads to despair. It is in times like these that we need to *"Hope in God"* (Psa. 42:11) and *"I will hope in Him"* (Lam. 3:24).

Remain Faithful: David said, *"I will pour out my soul"* (Psa. 42:4). Jeremiah said, I will *"wait for Him and I will seek Him"* (Lam. 3:25-26). What these men are saying is that in times of fear just keep doing what you have been doing. Keep praying, keep reading your Bible, keep worshipping.

Sanctifying Solitude by Listening

There are many downsides to social distancing, but there is at least one upside. It is not good for us always to be alone, but it is good for us to have times of solitude. It is in such times that God can get our attention and speak to us.

Some time ago I was away from home without Ruth in a revival meeting. The four walls of my little room were closing in too much, so I drove out into a national forest to spend some time reading and reflecting. I parked beside a small creek, got a folding chair out of my trunk, walked down into the woods, and settled down to read. I was quickly distracted by the fact that no animals, birds, or even insects were about. However, I just sat there very quietly for a good while. It was then that I noticed the birds returning, the chipmunks and squirrels starting to ramble about, and a butterfly landed on my knee. The Holy Spirit works in the same way. He comes out when we get quiet!

"Wasting" Time with God

I am quite sure that when COVID-19 passes, many Christians will bemoan the fact of so much time wasted and so little accomplished for good. Let me suggest that you start now "wasting" that time with God! Delve into your Bible study in ways that you could never have done before. Read through entire books and study them in depth with the help of good commentaries. Spend extra time in prayer walks or just sitting in a comfortable chair and meditating on the goodness of God. Hang out with God in ways you have never been able to do before!

It appears that our medical facilities have finally secured all the PPE they need, and our doctors and nurses are well protected from the virus. I hope that before this crisis is over you will have learned the value of PPE for Christians and will be well protected from what may have been an onslaught of fear, doubt, and spiritual dryness. ■

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

GOD'S REVIVALIST and BIBLE ADVOCATE

06

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.

I appreciate the articles and being able to keep up with what is going on at the Hilltop!

RUTH M. SMITH
North Vernon, IN

I was so blessed by President Loper's article on "Running the Race" when I picked up the April issue of *God's Revivalist* yesterday. It was "right on" for me. Then, the article by Sandy Mayle, "At Capa City" was especially good! It reminded me of my father's preaching years ago. My dad [the late Ermal Wilson, World Missions, The Wesleyan Church] used to preach about "pulling together"—perhaps he even preached it in chapel at GBS.

PAUL D. WILSON
Redford, MI

Thank you for reporting on GraceStory in *God's Revivalist*! It was generous and genuinely appreciated. As we continue to grow GraceStory, it means so much to have the support of those we respect.

AMBER JONES
Email

Thanks for your hospitality when we visited GBS campus a couple weeks ago. It was wonderful to share memories of shared acquaintances through the years and to hear your brief description of the contributions your institution and publication have made to the city of Cincinnati, The Wesleyan Church, and global ministries.

I truly appreciated the recent copy of *God's Revivalist* and the description of the commitment to diversity that has been a long-standing tradition on the Mount of Blessings. May God continue to smile upon you and this strategic ministry in America's heartland.

DR. BUD & CAROL BENCE
Marion, IN

A man in medieval armor, including a chainmail tunic, a surcoat, and a helmet, stands in a forest. He holds a sword in his right hand and a large, round, decorated shield in his left. The background is a dense forest with bare trees and dry grass.

INTERNALIZING *Courage*

by *Richard G. Hutchison*

Recently, while reading through the book of Joshua (ESV), I was noticing those recurring phrases, “Be strong and courageous.” “Do not be afraid.” It’s a powerful theme that resonates with all of us, because we all face situations in our lives which cause us to feel threatened and overwhelmed. Sometimes those feelings can wear us down physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually, until we lose that inner will to continue facing them. Joshua and his fledgling nation faced walled cities, powerful armies, and established civilizations far more developed and advanced than they were. But I have seen individuals and families face challenges that can feel equally intimidating.

THE FEARS WE FACE

Just take a moment and read these words: Accident. Addiction. Arraignment. Aneurism. Biopsy. Cancer. COVID-19. Declined. Demotion. Deployment. Depression. Divorce. Emergency. Evacuation. Failure. Laid off. Missing. Not Covered. Pay Cut. Recession. Rejected. Relapse. Sentencing. Unemployed.

What memories and feelings surface within you as you read those words? Of course, not every word means the same thing to each person. But I can predict with relative certainty that at least a few of those words, if dwelt upon for very long, could release within you a flood of

memories and a tidal wave of emotions. And probably one of the most salient of those emotions, if you were to analyze them, is an acute sense of fear.

COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP

While reading through the ancient account of Joshua’s leadership as Israel was entering and taking possession of their promised land, this theme of strength and courage stands out for a reason. If they did not act out of strength and courage, then they would end up wandering and dying in the desert, as their parents had done. The people of Israel had already been given one opportunity to possess the land, but because they did not believe what God had promised them, they acted out of fear; and fear always has a weakening effect on people—both corporately and individually.

But during that time of tragic unbelief, fear, and generational defeat, there were two men who stood out from the overwhelming majority of their peers—Caleb and Joshua. So, fast forward with me forty years later. In Joshua 10 we see this same Joshua—after deep disappointments and setbacks, none of which were within his control—exhorting the people of Israel to “Be strong and courageous!” (8) and “Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Be strong and courageous” (25). What gave him the (p18)➡

BE SAD During COVID-19...But BE SAD Differently

by Michael Kelley



© iStock: imtmphoto

The losses continue to stack up, don't they?

There is, of course, the general sense of loss right now. Loss of routine, loss of opportunity, loss of mobility. That's the "top-of-the-funnel" loss that everyone feels. But it doesn't stop there. It moves down the funnel to be ever more specific.

It's the loss of vacations. Loss of income. Loss of a kid's baseball season. Loss of personal interaction. And yet it goes even further down for some of us. The loss goes all the way down to actual, real names. Names of people. Loss brings sadness. Of course, the degree of sadness is varied depending on how deep into the funnel you are. But there is a measure of sadness for all.

Christians do not do well with sadness. It's like we have come to believe at some point that sadness and joy cannot co-exist with one another. But they can. They can in the same way that fear and courage can co-exist; that longing and contentment can co-exist; that faith and unanswered questions can co-exist. Unfortunately, though, we as Christians have the tendency to rush past the sadness or the fear or the longing. We have a seeming inability to sit with these things—and even to know that these things are valuable.

But here is a season in which it is entirely right for us to be sad. To do otherwise is to deny the reality of what's happening around us. This is not the time for us to plaster our hearts with platitudes, but instead to acknowledge the reality of the longing, sadness, and grief we feel.

So, Christian, be sad during COVID-19...but be sad differently. To help us do that, reflect with me on the words of Paul:

"We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, concerning those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in the same way God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus. For we say this to you by a revelation from the Lord: We who are still alive at the Lord's coming will certainly have no advantage over those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel's voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are still alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words" (1 Thess. 4:13-18 HCSB).

These believers were sad. They were grieving; and Paul wanted to bring some clarity into their grief. Paul could, I suppose, have exhorted these believers that, in light of the reality of heaven, grief itself is wrong. "Do not grieve" he might have said. But he didn't. Rather, Paul knew there will be grief, and grieving is not wrong. After all, the Lord Himself (p18) ➡

the Upper Window

by Barbara Brock

Some time ago, my husband Bob and I took an exciting trip to the Ark Encounter with longtime missionary friends, Dean and Brenda Rose. The detail in Ken Ham's project is amazing. Noah has been one of my favorite Bible characters since early childhood. Sharing his story in children's ministry on both sides of the ocean has been one of my greatest joys. I have been wonderfully blessed to have had this great opportunity to tell the story of Noah's Ark in Papua New Guinea. There's no way to describe the thrill of seeing three hundred children waiting to hear a Bible story. With their little brown legs folded in front of them, sitting on a straw floor, they eagerly waited for Bible class to begin. Their black eyes sparkled as they listened so intently.

This story has become much more meaningful during these challenging days of unprecedented uncertainty, and the lockdowns of 2020. It's interesting that Brother Noah also experienced unprecedented days of uncertainty and he too was locked in, but God designed a "virtual way of escape." You see, on the very top of the ark, God instructed Noah to build a window (Gen. 6:16). It's interesting to think, when Noah was looking up toward the window, God was looking down upon Noah; He was very mindful of the uncharted waters Noah was navigating.

When God spoke unto Noah,
and said to build an ark,
The Lord knew well the vessel
would cheerless be and dark;
So God said, "Build a window
with outlook toward the sky,
And when it's dark and lonesome,
you'll see Me standing by." —John Bieri

During these challenging days, many of us have been locked in our homes physically. Because of damaged lungs and high-risk vulnerability, I have been in isolation. Not only was I locked in my house, but family and friends were locked out. None of my children have been allowed to visit me; not even my daughter, who lives 10 minutes

away. Quarantine has not been a very exciting pill in my medicine cabinet!

There are different ways of being locked in. Some people, unfortunately, are locked inside themselves with the circumstances of life imprisoning them. Aren't you glad God has provided a "virtual way of escape"? It's the upper window of our soul. How reassuring to think, in these uncertain days, that He has been standing by that upper window—standing by to be "a very present help in time of trouble" (Psa. 91). He's been standing by with "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow." Storms may come, but fear not; He's promised to be nigh. Look toward the upper window; you will see Him standing by. ■

Barbara Brock (BA '67) and her husband Bob (BA '69), former missionaries to Papua New Guinea, directed student personnel/house-keeping at GBS (1992-98). They live in New Castle, IN.



JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2020



GOD'S CARE OF GBS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As you know, we are in unique times. When classes began in January, no one knew they would be interrupted mid-semester with a pandemic, but COVID-19 stepped

in. We made the decision to close campus in mid-March thinking that we would be back on campus after a few weeks. However, it seems that God had other plans.

There are several praises that we want to share with our friends. When this first happened, we made a decision to continue paying our employees through this crisis. At that time, we had no idea that we would be eligible to receive benefits through the Pay-check Protection Act; we just knew it was the right thing to do. We applied for and received funds through this governmental provision.

Two years ago, our academic committee decided to begin using an online learning management system (LMS) for all our campus classes—an LMS that could completely support online learning. We believe this was God's hand guiding us and getting us ready for this situation then.



Dr. Aaron Profitt and Pres. Rodney Loper

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.

WEDDING



Mica Terrian (AA '17) to Josh Klotz (HS '13; 2016-18), March 23, 2020, in a private ceremony in Eden Park, Cincinnati, OH, and with a small gathering of family and friends at Immanuel Church of the Nazarene, Highland Heights, KY, Rev. Mark Jones officiating. Their original plans for a wedding the following week in Findlay, OH, were derailed by the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent state and national lockdowns. Mica worked in the GBS Admissions Office 2017-19, and has been a girls' volleyball coach for Aldersgate Christian Academy since 2015. Currently she works for Catholic Residential Services. Josh has worked at Chick-fil-A since 2015 and is currently a manager. The Klotzes reside in Cincinnati, OH.

Josh's parents, Steve and Mary Klotz, have been on staff at GBS since 2005, mostly in the academy where

Steve has been a science teacher and basketball/volleyball coach. Steve and Mary, along with their youngest son, Jason, plan to leave GBS and move to Papua New Guinea this summer to serve a Bible school associated with the Papua New Guinea Bible Church.

DEATHS



Edna C. (Dunlap) Kerr, 91, of Cincinnati, OH, passed away on December 7, 2019, in her home. Born June 16, 1928, in Franklin, PA, she was the daughter of the late Robert M. and Helen (Turk) Dunlap. She held various jobs, including working as an RA at Polk Center, an intermediate care facility for people with intellectual disabilities, Polk, PA. She did this until 1957, when she married Carlton H. Kerr.

Edna endeavored to walk with God for 55 years. She was an active member of the Franklin Wesleyan Methodist Church, teaching Sunday school and serving on various church committees. Musically talented, she was also one of the song leaders. She sang with the Franklin Hospital Group for 20 years. Edna's grandchildren loved to hear their "Grammie" sing and play the guitar and ukulele. In

Our supporters have rallied to stand by GBS during this time! While donations are down nearly \$30,000 over the last two months, many of you have linked arms with us to send financial support. I must also mention the dedicated staff and faculty here at GBS. In the month of April alone, this fine group of people gave nearly \$10,000 back to the school to help us through this time!

While I really don't care to go through this kind of situation again, I can look back and see where God was guiding us, even when we didn't know it! What does the future look like? I don't know. But I walk into the unknown even more committed to keeping my hand in His! He alone knows tomorrow! —Pres. Rodney Loper

CHURCH RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

Although the SWSE Tour and individual PR-related church services were canceled for the rest of spring 2020, the Church Relations Office redirected its focus to summer 2020 services and events. This has meant scheduling groups for churches, church camps, and youth camps from June 7 through August 2.

In between summer scheduling, the added time made available by the shutdown also enabled the office to put more detailed work into honing the processes of the Church Relations Office. Elements such as more detailed event and service reports, greater documentation for records, and location maps for more effective service strategizing, have



been active in development. Even during such an unusual time, God is doing good things in the Church Relations Office.

CLASSES CONTINUE

As both President Loper (p.10) and Vice President for Academic ➡



August of 2012, due to health concerns, the Kerrs moved to Cincinnati to live with their daughter and son-in-law. After Carlton passed away in 2013, Edna felt blessed to be living with family and near her grandchildren.

Surviving Edna are a daughter, Paula Jean Farmer (BA '72); three grandchildren, two great-granddaughters; and nieces and nephews. After Paula graduated from GBS, she served on the college faculty (1977-80), and worked as office manager for the GBS National Alumni Association (1986-90). Edna's son-in-law, Dr. Kenneth Farmer, Sr., is current editor of *God's Revivalist*. Funeral services were held at the Gardinier Funeral Home, Franklin, PA, officiated by Revs. Jonathan Bell and Richard Price. Edna was laid to rest in the Franklin Cemetery.



William Edward Shaw, 92, of Kidron, OH, passed away on March 5, 2020, after recently being diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis. He was born in Grove City, PA, on March 30, 1927, to Homer and Lois (Zahnizer) Shaw and lived most of his childhood in Hadley, PA. He served in the Army Air Forces in World War II. After his conversion to the Lord, he enrolled in Transylvania Bible School in Freeport, PA. Later he transferred to GBS where he graduated in 1949,

completing high school as well as the Christian Workers Course. It was there that he met his future wife, June Elizabeth Yates (CWC '47) of Wooster, OH. When he saw June walking across campus, he told his college roommate she was the one he was going to marry. They were married June 30, 1949, and they celebrated 71 years together.

William became an ordained minister with the United Brethren in Christ in 1954. In addition to pastoring churches in Pennsylvania and Ohio and serving as an evangelist, William was also employed at the United Brethren Press, the YMCA, Caldwell Heating, and the Youth Development Center. Very talented in carpentry and repairs, he built his home in New Castle, PA, where he and June lived for 40 years. William enjoyed fishing, hunting, camping, gardening, and flowers. He had a quick sense of humor and a warm smile.

William is survived by his wife; two daughters, Beverly Neuenschwander and Karen Marcuard; two sons, William Jr. and Robert; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. A celebration of life service was held at Salem Mennonite Church near Kidron, Pastor Paul Simonsen officiating. Military rites were performed at the gravesite. ➡

➡ Affairs Dr. Aaron Profitt (May G.R. p.10) have noted, God providentially helped GBS make necessary changes in policies and decisions about systems/hardware that enabled GBS to transition on-campus classes to remote learning very smoothly. Professors taught their classes through Buzz, our learning management system, allowing students to participate either live or asynchronously (on demand) which was critical for students who had different work schedules.



Ms. Jessica Smith teaches a class online.

CAMPUS LIFE

In addition to operating within the guidelines for social distancing, careful handwashing, and other recommended precautions, campus life has gone on. The administration has kept the campus family updated through informational videos. Also, in lieu of chapel services, GBS has produced devotional videos by various members of the administration and staff and distributed them by email and Facebook (see devotional by Vice President for Spiritual Life Richard Miles, p.16).

Dr. Nicholae Pop, who oversees chapel media and sound during the school year, selected recorded chapel services from our archives and reposted them in order to give the campus family and others a service to view on Sundays and Wednesdays. GBS also made available free of charge Dr. Stephen Smith's course on the Book of Revelation.



lation. The lectures were live-streamed with the ability also to view them later.

Facilities took advantage of this opportunity to complete various projects that would have been more difficult with students on campus. Some faculty and staff volunteered their help.

GBS FAMILY IN LOCKDOWN

In keeping with Governor Mike DeWine's stay-at-home orders, our

REVIVALIST FAMILY continued



Myrtle R. Jones, 91, of Covington, KY, passed away on Tuesday, April 7, 2020. She was born February 6, 1929, to Leon and Belle (Shute) Brown. Myrtle left her home in Dearborn, MI, at 15 years of age to attend the GBS high school. Her two brothers, Leon and George Brown, also attended. Myrtle graduated in 1948 and attended two years of college (1948-50). She participated in the high school choir and the annual, historic Thanksgiving dinners for Cincinnati's poor. One year, GBS presented her with a Bible for collecting the most money for the Thanksgiving dinner. She gave the Bible to a ministerial student who needed one. She traveled in the summer with the GIs of the Cross caravan.

Although Henry H. Jones did not attend GBS, he was introduced to Myrtle by a friend who attended GBS. They married in 1952. He worked at Central Service Repair in Cincinnati and passed away in 1996. Myrtle

worked at St. Luke Hospital, Ft. Thomas, KY, for a few years as a nurse assistant. She then worked at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Covington, KY, for 32 years, retiring in 1999. The Jones family attended the Latonia Wesleyan Church (which later merged with Highland Avenue Wesleyan Church). Myrtle always enjoyed attending GBS homecomings, camp meetings, and Christmas programs.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Henry H. Jones, Sr. and daughter, Rosemarie Howerton (BRE '76). Survivors include her sons, Henry, Jr. (HS '77) and David; daughters, Linda Scott (BRE '93), Carol Wright (HS '72, BRE '76), Lisa Gilbert (1987-89); siblings, George and Muriel Antonakes; 13 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren. In addition to her children, three sons-in-law are also GBS alumni, one of which is Robert Scott (1983-85) who worked for the Revivalist Press as graphic designer from 1985 to 1994. Interment was in the Highland Cemetery, Ft. Mitchell, KY. To protect the

campus families did just that. The extra time created opportunities for weeding through closets, storage, and basement areas. This gave way to many bargains as items were offered for free (sometimes placed on the porch), or at minimal price. Notifications of available items were made through our campus email system as well as the "GBS Garage Sale Group" on Facebook.

In addition to helping their school-aged children keep up with their online studies, parents cooper-



The Harms kids go scouting for bears.



Look what the Witt girls found in Dr. Davis' window!



The Muirs hunt for eggs

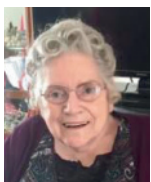
ated on campus-wide experiences that allowed their families to be involved in common activities while participating at times offset from others. One example was the "Bear Hunt." It was based on the classic children's book *We're Going On a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen. Campus families displayed teddy bears in the windows of campus buildings and residences. Families read the book, or played a video

of the author reading the book, as a fun way to introduce the hunt. Then families walked through the neighborhood to see how many bears they could find.

After area Easter egg hunts were canceled, campus families planned a neighborhood Easter egg hunt. Printable copies of various Easter eggs were circulated, colored, cut out, and hung in windows. Some residents left candy in baskets on their porches for kids to take. ➡



wellness of family and friends, a memorial service will be held after COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted.



Martha Rozanna Bird, 93, of Luther, MI, passed away April 12, 2020, at Samaritas Senior Living in Cadillac, MI. Martha was born June 20, 1926, in Detroit to Horace Bloom "H.B." and Gazella (Sebree) Kreider. In 1947, Martha married

Donald E. Bird, and he preceded her in death in 1985.

She loved babies and was a fantastic mother. Martha enjoyed spending time with her family, especially grandchildren. After her children were grown, she was a cook at Pineview Boys Home, Evart, MI. Martha assisted many families by helping care for older family members. Martha was an exceptional cook and baker and was known for her cinnamon rolls. She loved making decorative pillows and crocheted dishcloths that she shared with her family. Martha was a faithful member of Evart

Bible Methodist Church, followed by Edgetts Wesleyan Church, and Harvest Worship Center.

Martha is survived by six sons, David, Daniel, Timothy, Thomas, Mark, and Michael; three daughters, Maribeth, Rebekah, and Ruthanne; 18 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; a great-great-grandson; siblings, Frances Thompson, H. James, Ruth Dexter, and Anna Bontrager; and many nieces and nephews. Martha's son, Dr. Mark Bird, is a professor at GBS; and daughter-in-law, Dr. Kristin Bird, is an adjunct professor. Private family services were held at Edgetts Wesleyan Church, Luther, MI, with Pastors Dan Miller and Mike Green officiating. Burial followed at East Ellsworth Cemetery, Luther, MI. A public memorial service will take place at a later date when the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Brenda Kay (Johnson) Birdsall Britton, 70, passed away on Thursday, April 23, 2020, in Nolensville, TN. She was born May 30, 1949, in Campbell County, TN, ➡

YEAR-END MUSIC EVENTS

Even though the Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble canceled its spring tour, a group of members, under the leadership of Director David Hartkopf, “got together” online to create a virtual vocal ensemble video of the song “In Good Hands.” This took some time to produce. Our digital media specialist, Shane Muir, put in long hours along with the students, who learned and recorded their parts individually from home. It was released on the school’s Facebook

page and may also be viewed at youtube.com/watch?v=WZXsdR5oT9Y.

Not to be outdone, Director Tim Crater, “orchestrated” a similar video with members of the College Choir. This was released on Facebook and also may be viewed at youtube.com/watch?v=aRx5yHQ0cMQ.

Two music literature recitals scheduled for the semester were canceled. Audio/video recordings of these performances were collected from the individuals and assembled into two “virtual” recitals, which were posted for viewing by the students and campus family.

VIRTUAL VIP DAYS

This year “VIP Day” was held “virtually” due to governmental COVID-19 restrictions. The 130 prospective students who registered were each mailed a V-VIP Kit that contained GBS giveaways, information, and other goodies. The event was held over three days (April 28-30) on Facebook Live so that prospective students could interact in real-time with GBS staff and faculty.

Day 1 consisted of a tour of the GBS campus. Prospective students

were able to view the beautiful campus and meet many staff and faculty. Also, they were able to vote what liquid/food was dumped onto their guide at each stop of the tour! Day 2 featured a panel discussion with several academic leaders.



SWSE members participated in a virtual vocal ensemble video through a compilation of remote, individual recordings.



College Choir members participated in a virtual choir video through a compilation of remote, individual recordings.

REVIVALIST FAMILY continued

➡ to Herman and Mary (Jordan) Johnson. She was a 1967 graduate of LaFollette High School and attended GBS (BA '71) and Tennessee Temple earning degrees in Education.

In 1970, Brenda married Dale Birdsall and became a devoted pastor's wife to the congregation of Gordon Lake Wesleyan Church in LaFayette, GA; a loving mother to Robyn and Jennie; and a caring teacher as well. Brenda continued teaching after her husband's death in 1976. Six years later, she met and married Timothy Britton. This union brought two more daughters, Christy and Kathy, followed by a son, Timothy, and another daughter, Ruth Ellen. Brenda was an active member of Cane Ridge Free Will Baptist Church, Antioch, TN, and enjoyed her time as a first-



grade teacher at Woodbine Christian Academy, Nashville, TN, and her role as a Pre-K teacher at Jenkins Day School, Nolensville, TN. Perhaps her greatest joy was being “Mimi” to her eight granddaughters and her two grandsons. Brenda was a blessing to all who knew her. She possessed an unwavering love for God, a divine ability to love others, and a deep desire to share the love of Christ with everyone she met.

Brenda is survived by her husband, Timothy; daughters, Robyn Snow, Christy Britton, Jennie Gamboa, Kathy Murphy, and Ruth Britton; eight granddaughters; two grandsons; and brothers, Robert, Daniel, and Wendell. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Dale Birdsall and her son, Timothy Andrew Britton. Graveside services were held at Nolensville Cemetery, Nolensville, TN, Rev. Greg Fawbush officiating. ■




They answered predetermined questions as well as live questions from the audience. They also participated in a food challenge featuring Cincinnati favorite foods. On Day 3, a panel discussion took place with the Student Affairs staff. They answered student-life questions and participated in a truth-or-dare challenge. The day ended with a 360-degree tour of Cincinnati. Prospective students were given the opportunity to participate in a scavenger hunt throughout the tour.

Overall, Virtual VIP Days went well, and we are thankful to God for His blessing on this activity. The archived events can be viewed on the "GBSC Recruitment" Facebook page under the video section.

COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Although there was no "normal" year-end commencement, plans were made for a graduate recognition, and students completing degrees received a special gift by mail. A video celebration was also released. College graduates are able to receive their diplomas right away so that they can begin the next phase in their ministry. For some, that will be pursuing graduate education.

GBS is planning a later commencement for our spring 2020 college graduates. This is tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of Convocation Sunday during the opening weekend of the fall semester in August. 📌




Leave a Legacy

FOR GBSC'S FUTURE GENERATIONS

Impact future GBSC students and take advantage of tax and financial benefits by donating through one or several of the following avenues:

- Stocks and Bonds
- Charitable Gift Annuity
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- Retirement Assets
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Learn more about planned giving today!
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GBS Missionary Convention

October 25-27
 "M28:19 Discipleship"
 Plenary Speaker: Harold Martin,
 Director of FEA Ministries





With Jesus through the Storm

by Richard Miles

“Master, Master, we are perishing!” And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm. —Luke 8:24 (ESV)

We’re in a storm. Our storm is not on the Sea of Galilee with the winds, waves, and rain. Our storm is the coronavirus storm; and it’s not the waves we hear crashing, it is our health and economy that we hear crashing. Normal life is in turmoil.

Who could have thought a few weeks ago that cities would pass laws that if you are caught in groups too large or if you are closer than six feet, the police can move you or even arrest you! Schools, businesses, and churches are closed. In fact, most of the country has been told to stay hunkered down in our homes. Extraordinary!

We must remember that, like the disciples on stormy Lake Galilee, Jesus is in this storm with us. We are in the boat with Him.

I became lost driving through Atlanta, and, as Brenda and I were talking and trying to figure out where we were to go, our toddler son was in the backseat listening.

“Daddy, are we lost?” he asked.

I responded with the question, “Are you lost?”

“No,” he said. “I’m not lost. I’m in the car with you.”

That is the difference! Jesus is with us in the storm. We tend to think that the amazing part of this biblical story is that Jesus could stop the wind and the waves. It certainly shocked His disciples! While that is miraculous, the most important lesson for us is that we need to travel with Jesus and never give up our faith in Him—even in the storm. And even if He does not stop the storm.

All of the disciples faced incredible challenges and suffering—intense storms; but they learned on the stormy lake that Jesus *could* stop the storm if that is what was best. Stopping the storm isn’t always what is best, however.

The early Church suffered greatly before the storm of persecution was calmed, but the success of the Church during the persecution was so great that Tertullian said, “The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.” You see, God even used the persecution of His people to further His work in saving the souls of the people He created.

God will fulfill His purpose, and His purpose is not that we live in comfort and plenty. His purpose is “to seek and to save those who are lost.”

Notice Jesus said to the disciples, “Let’s go to the other side of the lake” (v.22)—*not* the *middle* of the lake to drown—the *other side* of the lake. Why the other side of the lake? A man filled with too many evil spirits to name needed to be set free. Not only did this man need to be delivered, the people needed to see Jesus deliver someone that no other human being could tame.

God is the One Who can tame our storms whatever they are. Make sure you are in the boat with Jesus! ■

Richard Miles (BRE ’74) pastored churches and worked 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) (BA ’73), have two adult children and seven grandchildren. This article was adapted from one of his recent daily video devotionals (see p.12).



student focus

DRIVE-IN WORSHIP SERVICES

U.S. Attorney General William Barr spoke out against coronavirus restrictions that apply to worship but not other similar situations, such as fast-food parking lots. Local officials in Greenville, MS, had been trying to stop services from being broadcast via radio frequency to congregants sitting in their cars in the parking lot. Eight police officers were sent to ticket the faithful, \$500 apiece, for attending services.

PRAYING DURING CRISIS

Large majorities of Americans who pray daily (86%) and of U.S. Christians (73%) have taken the coronavirus outbreak to prayer—but so have some who say they seldom or never pray and people who say they do not belong to any religion (15% and 24%, respectively). Among U.S. adults who attend religious services at least once or twice a month, 59% now say they have scaled back their attendance because of the virus, and 57% report having watched services online or on TV instead of attending in person.

PRO-ABORTION CLINICS CLOSE

Power to Decide, a pro-choice organization, reports that the new Trump administration rule that prevents family planning clinics receiving taxpayer money from promoting or referring for abortion has resulted in 876 pro-abortion clinics losing

federal funding. The Department of Health and Humans Services said that these clinics were choosing to “place a higher priority on the ability to refer for abortion instead of continuing to receive federal funds to provide a broad range of acceptable and effective family planning methods and services.”

RECORD LOW HOLD BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

According to a new survey by American Worldview Inventory conducted in January by the Cultural Research Center, only 6% of Americans possess a biblical worldview. The current level is half of the level of 25 years ago when these measurements were first being made. Of those categorized as “born again Christians,” only 19% have a biblical worldview.

LAW REQUIRING ULTRASOUNDS BEFORE ABORTIONS UPHOLD BY SUPREME COURT

The U.S. Supreme Court let stand a Kentucky law that has been blocked by courts since it was passed in 2017, finally paving the way for the law to be enacted. The law requires mothers to look at an ultrasound of their child. Doctors are also required to play audio of the fetal heartbeat. Although the case sets no precedents, it does imply that the court’s conservative majority could be inclined to grant the ability to states to regulate the abortion industry. ■

TAYLOR MESSNER remembers the sense of community he felt when his family visited the campus. It was “one of the main reasons” he chose to attend GBS.

“At GBS, I have been a part of several different ministries, including leading the singing and playing the piano for worship, Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble, and others. With these opportunities, I have learned a lot about how to operate a ministry and prepare myself to minister.”

Taylor is working on a bachelor’s degree in integrative studies, with his two focuses being counseling and psychology. After graduation, currently scheduled for spring 2022, he plans to get a graduate degree in family and marriage counseling and help churches understand the importance of mental and emotional health. He would like to be involved in ministries that create programs to teach churches the importance of helping those who are emotionally and mentally unstable, and to work with families struggling with divorce. ■

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

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

**or give online anytime at
www.gbs.edu/givenow**

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2020

➡(p7) ability to exemplify such courage—despite the doubters around him and the obstacles in front of him?

WHERE DO WE FIND COURAGE?

Some people would say that Joshua's courage came from deep inside himself, and I agree to a certain extent. But that is only half of the truth. The more important question is, "Where did Joshua's courage come from before it ended up deep inside of him?"

Even non-Christians can be both recipients and transmitters of courage. Theologians often refer to "general grace" or "common grace" to indicate that which God bestows upon the righteous and the unrighteous alike—although the latter do not tend to acknowledge or appreciate it very well (Romans 1). However, acting out of courage requires input from outside of ourselves.

What was Joshua's source? The answer becomes clear when you look again at Joshua 1:6, 7, 9; and 8:1. Notice who is speaking each time you read those words, "Be strong and courageous." It is not Joshua who is speaking to the people; it is God who is speaking those words to Joshua. That is the secret. The reason Joshua was able to exemplify such bold, courageous, decisive leadership was because God Himself had spoken courage-infusing words of assurance and confidence deep into Joshua's soul, until those same words became a part of his own leadership vibe and vocabulary.

THE COURAGE-INFUSED SOUL

Before you can find the courage inside of yourself to face a set of fear-inducing challenges, someone outside of you must first speak and infuse that courage into you. It might be a parent, a coach, or a friend you respect. But it has to be put into you before you can bring it out under pressure.

While Christians do draw courage from many of the same sources / channels / instruments as non-Christians, they also have an even deeper source from which to draw—the perfect revelation of God through both His written Word (Scripture) and the enfleshed Word (Christ). This Divine revelation inspires the kind of faith/convictions from which the purest and best forms of courage can grow and manifest.

Joshua's courage came from this profound source. It was infused in him by God Himself. Joshua had internalized God's words of courage and hope until they began to flow out of his own heart and mouth—making him a courage-infusing leader to the people around him. ■

Richard G. Hutchison (BA '98) has worked with Bible Methodist Missions since 2010 as a missionary-educator in the Philippines, where he serves as academic dean of Bible Methodist Shepherd's College. He has earned several graduate degrees (DMin, Asbury Theological Seminary; MS Theology, Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary; MDiv, Temple Baptist Seminary) and serves as an adjunct professor at GBS. Previously, he served twelve years as a pastor in Ohio and Tennessee. He is married to Sarah (Thomas) (BA '97). This article is adapted from his blog "Culture, Sanctity, Mission."



➡(p8) wept at the tomb of His friend Lazarus (John 11:35-38).

It is comforting to know that the Christian does not need to repent of his or her tears; the Christian has no need to apologize for feelings of loss. The Christian, whose bonds with others in Christ should be the strongest of all, should grieve even more deeply at the loss of someone else.

Grief is not wrong, but Christian grief is uniquely different from "those who have no hope." Christian grief is a transformed kind of grief. There are a couple of ways, I believe, that Christian grief is indeed unique. It's unique in that we understand that the true source of grief is not random events or diseases, but the condition of sin which we and the rest of the world are in because of our rebellion.

But it's also transformed because we know death is not the end. The gospel has made a fool of death in that the thing which is the result of our sin has become the doorway to life everlasting with Jesus.

In our sadness, then, we should know first of all that it is not wrong, but secondly, that our sadness is informed—and therefore transformed—by the gospel. But Paul wasn't done yet, for there is still another way that sadness should look different on Christians. That is, our sadness is meant to be shared.

Our tears are not meant to be kept between us and our own souls; rather, we are to "encourage one another with these words." That's not to say private grief is wrong; surely there is a time for grieving alone. It is, however, to say that if we never share our grief with others, we are being disobedient to the commands of Scripture and, in a way, are being selfish with our pain.

These are truths that are meant to be stated and then restated and then restated again. Because we are forgetful in our sadness, we should bear the burden on behalf of each other in remembering these principles. And when we do, our tears of grief will not be like those who have no hope, but instead transformed, temporary, and communal. ■

Michael Kelley works for LifeWay Christian Resources leading a team of writers who produce biblical content for churches. He also speaks in churches, conferences, and retreats and has authored several books. This article from michaelkelley.com is used with permission.



LIKE GOD

by A.M. Hills

"But like as he who called you is holy, be ye yourselves also holy in all manner of living."

—1 Peter 1:15 (ASV here and throughout)

INTRODUCTION

The word "like" suggests at once the divinely implanted principle of imitativeness. There is not one gifted and noble mother in all the world who would not be pleased to have her best qualities repeated in the life of her daughter. There is not one great artist or genius in literature or statesmanship who would not be pleased at the thought that the great gift would reappear again in his son. It is a natural feeling of the parental heart.

Now the great moral attribute of God is His infinite, eternal, unchangeable holiness. Need we wonder that He is so anxious to have this characteristic reproduced in every child of His redeeming love? It would be the wonder of earth and heaven if God didn't feel that way toward us all.

There are many holiness people who are not holy people. They are in the ranks. They follow the crowd. They like the company; but they have not the inner experience. We should have a reality as well as a profession—an experience as well as a name. They who have the real experience do exploits...

I. God's Holiness is a PERFECT Holiness

It is unthinkable that God should have an imperfect holiness. It would then be all out of harmony with His other attributes. But our holiness is to be like God's. It is to be genuine from skin to core. There is no "suppression" in this kind of holiness, no concealed carnality within. There is no "inward sin and corruption to the last hour of life."

Some preach "cleansing and holiness;" but they say, "We shall never be sinless in this world." There are still "depths upon depths of mischief that lie hidden within us." Now we might ask what kind of holiness is it that is "not free from sin to the last day of our lives?" What kind of holiness is it which co-exists with "indwelling corruption," "which always will defile the very best deeds and holiest efforts of this life?" What kind of cleansing is it which leaves "depths upon depths of mischief in us" to defile our lives? Manifestly "corruption" holiness, "sinful" holiness, is not God's kind; and our holiness is to be like God's.

Someone says, "That is an overwhelming standard. Is it not too high?" We answer, "Jesus lifted up this standard: 'Be ye therefore perfect.'" John tells us, "Every one that hath this hope set on Him (Jesus), purifieth himself, even as He is pure." We should accept the standard and depend on God's almighty grace to keep it.

II. It is a PRACTICAL Holiness

"Holy in all manner of living." It is not merely talk and cheap profession, but godly deportment. It is not fad-riding, but everyday godliness—that speaks the truth and pays the grocery bill, and the doctor, and the newspaper, and the preacher, and the milkman. Its solemn covenants are not a mere "scrap of paper." Practical holiness is not fanaticism, for it is guided by the Word of God and walks in "His steps Who did no sin." God practices holiness, and so must we if we are like Him.

It means holiness in our physical life. We are to "eat or drink, or whatever we do, for the glory of God." It means to clothe ourselves for health, rather than for display of our person: bathe, sleep, wake, work, and play for God. If our body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, treat it reverently and care for it for God. If your mouth belongs to God, do not put tobacco or whiskey into it; for that insults God, and shortens life and your power of service.

It means holiness in your intellectual life, your reading, study, opinions, doctrines; "bringing every thought and imagination into captivity to Christ." It means loving truth and seeking it with an honest heart to put it in practice. Otherwise one is not holy as God is holy.

It means to be holy in political life, hating and opposing every kind of sin, prohibiting every public evil. It means to be holy in social life; no ungodly companionships; no unholy lodges; no forbidden marriages. It means a clean parlor, a clean library, clean pictures, a clean household where Jesus might feel at home.

III. It is a **PROFESSED** Holiness

God professes His holiness; and He never wearies of telling us that He is holy. His command is: "Be ye yourselves holy, for I am holy." Now, plainly, we cannot have a holiness like God's unless we have a similar disposition to let it be known.... God said: "Ye are my witnesses." Possess and profess is the law and the life of genuine Christian experience.

The Israelites had to bring a basket of early fruit to the place of worship and profess before the priest. "And thou shalt set it down before Jehovah thy God and worship... And rejoice in all the good which Jehovah thy God hath given thee" (Deut. 26:10-11).

God will have the glory, and we must profess the blessing or lose it. The disciples said: "We cannot but speak the things we saw and heard." We are witnesses of these things. The devil would like to have us keep still and grieve the Spirit and lose the blessing.

IV. It is a **POSITIVE** Holiness

We are quite aware that the negative side of holiness comes first—the cleansing from indwelling sin.... There can be no holiness at all without getting rid of the uncleanness of the heart. The very words for holiness and sanctification mean cleansing from sin.... Sin is the deadly damnable thing that God hates.... Holiness means getting rid of sin, actual and inbred, sin in every form and kind and degree. This is why the devil and wicked men and carnal preachers are so opposed to the genuine holiness movement.

But there is also a positive side to the blessing. It is more than a cleansed heart. The heart is first emptied of depravity and wickedness, and then filled with the Holy Spirit, and all the fruits of the Spirit—joy, peace, goodness, patience, power, and love.

V. It is a **PERSONAL** Holiness

There are those who profess to teach holiness, and who call themselves holy; only they say they are not holy in themselves, they are holy in Jesus. They imagine they have a legal, fictitious holiness in Him. He is a covering for their vileness; and God, when He looks at them, does not see them, but sees their covering—Jesus. In other words, they try to make themselves believe that God works a deception on Himself....

This is bad theology; it is not Bible. What does our text say in the Greek and the Revised Version? "Be ye yourselves also holy," "Ye shall be holy for I am holy." ...Charles Spurgeon preached in one of his sermons: "Arise, believer, and behold thyself perfect in Christ Jesus. Let not thy sins shake thy faith in the

all-sufficiency of Jesus. Thou art with all thy depravity still in Him, and therefore complete." ...To tell people "full of sins and depravity" such a message was a horrible perversion of truth. And there is no Scripture for such rank antinomianism.

VI. It is a **PURE** Holiness

It is because the Holy Ghost fire has burned carnality out. As God said in Isaiah: "I will turn my hand upon thee, and thoroughly purge away thy dross and will take away all thy sin" (1:25). So also in Malachi: "He is like a refiner's fire, and He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver. And He will purify the sons of Levi, and refine them as gold and silver; and they shall offer unto Jehovah offerings in righteousness" (3:2-3). "Every one that hath this hope set on Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure" (1 John 3:3). Scriptural holiness has the holy Christ for its model....

Real holiness goes deeper than the outer conduct, and cleanses us from the indwelling sin. That inbred sin principle which fights against our piety and makes us jealous, and revengeful, and willful, and passionate, and hot-tempered, and selfish, and self-indulgent must be and is consumed by the fire of the Holy Ghost before we have the holiness described in the text that makes us "holy like God," and "pure as He (Christ) is pure."

VII. It is a **POSSIBLE** Holiness

We know it is possible for many unanswerable reasons. (1) Jesus prayed for it (John 17). (2) Jesus died for it. "Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it that He might sanctify it, having cleansed it" (Eph. 5:25). (3) Jesus commanded it (Matt. 5:48). (4) He calls us to it (1 Thess. 4:7). (5) He promises it. "Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it" (1 Thess. 5:24). (6) He baptizes us with the Holy Ghost and fire to produce it in our hearts. For these six best of all reasons we know we can have this blessing.

VIII. It is a **PRESENT** Holiness

Jesus never sought holiness. He had it. God does not seek or try to grow into holiness; He has it now. And ours is to be like God's, a present holiness. God says under oath that we may have it now and all the days of our life (Luke 1:73-75). In our text we are commanded in the aorist tense (genesthete) "Be ye now at once holy like God." ■

Aaron Merritt ("A.M.") Hills (1848-1935) was a minister/educator in the Church of the Nazarene. This excerpt is from The Uttermost Salvation, Nazarene Publishing House, 1927, pp.7-10.



ALUMNI CHOIR REUNION

In what one attendee described as "more of a retreat than a reunion," the GBS Alumni Choir spent a wonderful day laughing, crying, singing, and sharing memories together.

On Saturday, March 14, 2020, a group of former choir members gathered with Garen L. Wolf I (Music Division Chair 1976-2010) and his wife, Sheila (faculty 1976-2012), for a day of reunion. The event was hosted by Jewel Smith (faculty 1980-89) at the Ashland Avenue Baptist Church in Cincinnati. The event was organized by the Alumni Choir Planning Team: Matt (HS '89; 1989-00) and Joy (Bender) (BA '00) Barnett, Paul (BA '81) and Robyn (Myers) (BA '82) Clemens, Rob (BA '99) and Stephanie (Thompson) (BA '99) Ryan,

and Lisa (Burton) Robison (BA '02). A large group of alumni and friends volunteered to help staff the reunion. Participants arrived from several states, including Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, North Carolina, West Virginia, Virginia, Alabama and Georgia. This year, organizers were also delighted to welcome a number of choir members from the 1960s and early 1970s who had had more than one generation of family members to participate in GBS College Choir.

The reunion began at 9:30 a.m. with Dave (1975-77) and Connie (Collingsworth) (BA '78) Hillgoss overseeing registration; and with Craig (BRE '79) and JoEllen (Walker) (BA '77) Dahler, John Neville (BA '90), and Rod Puckett (1980-84)

serving as the welcome team. A light breakfast was hosted by Patricia (Sechrest) Neville (1985-87) and Vivian (Lang) Walker (HS '86, 1986-87), with 1810 blend coffee provided by GBS. A gallery wall greeted attendees with a variety of photos, vintage recordings, and other memorabilia.

A full-day children's program was provided by Esther Byer (BA '15),



Matt and Joy (Bender) Barnett lead worship songs.



Mary (Black) Burton, Bill and Brenda (Jones) Roark



Steve Mills shares devotional thoughts.





Spontaneous worship erupts during a time of singing.



Garen Wolf directs.



Singing with gusto!



Martha Miller at the piano



Sandy and Melvin Adams

allowing parents to relax and enjoy the day. Abbey Stetler (2015-17) staffed the nursery for children under three.

During the morning rehearsal, Garen Wolf conducted songs that had been part of the choir repertoire throughout his tenure, including some numbers that have become Alumni Choir favorites. Martha (Madden) Miller (BSM '82) provided piano accompaniment. Mr. Wolf shared personal thoughts and encouragement as voices from various decades

united together. At the close of the rehearsal, the group was honored to have President Rodney Loper (BRE '01) give a personal greeting and update from the school.

In "Reflections from the Risers," Steve Mills (BRE '84) shared some inspiring devotional thoughts and hosted a time of testimony. Inter-

perspersed throughout the testimonies, Matt and Joy Barnett led choir members in familiar songs. Tears flowed and hands were raised as personal stories from choir members' lives were shared and voices were lifted in praise.

The group then gathered in the gym for a meal provided by event planners and alumni, with Lisa (Burton) Robison, Jerry and Mary (Black) (1990-93) Burton hosting. During lunch, Rob Ryan served as MC for "Traveling Light," in which choir

members shared amusing stories from their years of choir travels. Carla (Hinds) (BA '82) Shuck shared some very funny testimonies and Janan (Agan) Miller (1968-70) talked about switching names with a friend when she introduced herself on tour. Brandon Hilligoss (BA '09), who was also a soloist for the day, recounted some of the hosts and places he had stayed during tour and Lanee (Carpenter) Marshall (BA '01) talked about being introduced incorrectly by a pastor. Jason Tyler (1997-01) had the crowd laughing when he confessed that he sang too loudly when he was standing directly beneath the choir microphones and had to be moved. An auction occurred throughout the lunch hour, with Garen Wolf serving as auctioneer. The auction was one of the highlights of the day, as many wonderful donated items from alumni and local businesses were auctioned to help raise money for the day's expenses.

The Alumni Choir then moved back into the sanctuary for an afternoon rehearsal. To close the day, Bro. Wolf prayed a blessing over attendees and the choir sang, "Loving God, Loving Each Other," which has become an Alumni Choir tradition.

Photography of the event was provided by Rob Scott (1983-85, staff 1985-94) and other alumni. Further

information can be found by joining the Facebook group "GBS Alumni Choir (1976-2010)."

MARICKA HERRER RETURNS TO AFRICA



Since 2017, Maricka Herrer (BA '15; MA '17), has served as an administrative assistant and faculty member at the Philippine Bible Methodist Shepherd's College, Villasis, Pangasinan. She is scheduled to transition from the Philippines to South Africa, her home country, where she will be a Bible Methodist Church Missionary Trainer for Africa. This new chapter has been the plan since the very beginning of her missionary journey.

Maricka was the first student to earn a master's degree (biblical studies) at GBS in 2017. She completed her coursework with a 4.00 GPA after previously earning two BA degrees in 2015 and having been honored as co-valedictorian of her college class.

She will begin her new duties by serving with Hope International Missions' South Africa and Lesotho ministry team under the direction of Glenn and Stephanie Gault. Their goal is to help open grassroots theological training classrooms throughout Africa. Pray for Maricka as she makes this transition.

KENT STETLER TAKES HELM OF YOUTH CHALLENGE



After nine years as executive director of Youth Challenge, a holiness ministry geared toward high school and college students, Jonathan Heath resigned to focus on other areas of ministry. The executive board asked Kent Stetler (BA '15) to be the new executive director, a position he assumed in April. He, his wife Jananne (Glick), and infant son, Kaden, reside in Cincinnati, OH, where Kent is registrar at God's Bible School and College.

CRAIG BROWN NAMED CEO OF CHM



(Joe) Craig Brown II (HS '86), oldest son of former GBS Academic Dean Joe C. Brown I, has been named president and CEO of Christian Healthcare Ministries headquartered in Barberton, OH. As a healthcare cost-sharing organization recognized by the U.S. government, CHM members share each other's medical expenses through monthly financial gifts. Craig, who most recently served Ohio Christian University, Circleville, OH, as a vice president and Chief Relationship Officer, follows Howard Russell as director of CHM. ■



by Sonja Vernon

THE GOD WHO ENTERS IN

"In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old." —Isaiah 63:9 (ESV)

Our world is in pain. We see it all around us. So many we love are hurting in one way or another. Since the fall of man when sin marred a perfect creation, grief and fear and death and destruction have pursued us. But even before that fateful day, a plan was set into motion. The God Whose heart is always self-giving decided to offer His one and only Son as a redemptive sacrifice, to turn back the hands of decay and un-make the evil that would run rampant in a sin-cursed world. Too often we see that perfect Son, that God-man, as a "new and improved" version of the God of the Old Testament. We think that Jesus is a "kinder, gentler" God who came to temper the wrath of God the Father. But how wrong we are! Jesus came to reveal the heart of the Father, not to change it. We see a glimpse of this beautiful heart in the words of the prophet Isaiah. The God who would later send Emmanuel ("God with us") reminded His people that when they suffered, He suffered with them. He saved them. He redeemed them. He carried them. This is not a God who sits aloof, unmoved by a hurting world. Oh, no! This God is intimately involved in the lives of His children. He chooses to enter in and to alter our circumstances simply by His presence in them. Can you trust Him today? Can you rest in His nearness? He is with us. ■

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



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