

# GOD'S REVIVALIST

October 2020

*and Bible Advocate*



*finally...*

**Commencement  
2020**



# about this issue

## GOOD JOB, SON!

**M**y father had dropped by my office at the school just for a chat. It was in the 1990s and I was academic dean at Kansas City College and Bible School (now Kansas Christian College) in Overland Park, Kansas. Daddy (as we children endearingly called him) had agreed to fill in for the remainder of the church year at Southpark Church of God (Holiness) after a midyear departure by the pastor. Daddy finished out that church year for four-and-a-half years! That was a great period for my family and me. Our three children were relatively young, and they were blessed to be around Mamaw and Papaw Farmer.

While he was relaxing in my office one afternoon, there was a knock on the door, and the chair of one of the college divisions stepped in “for a quick question.” He had a problem that needed to be solved. I could tell by his demeanor that it was causing him much difficulty. Rather than suggest a remedy for the situation, I calmly called him by name and asked him, “What do you think we should do?” What followed was a reasonable course of action, which I immediately approved.

As the division chair left the office and shut the door, Daddy quietly said, “You handled that well, son.” I cannot tell you how good that made me feel. In fact, the warmth of this memory still brings a smile to my face.

Why? Did my parents rarely give positive affirmation to their children? On the contrary, they were extremely generous in their praise and often told us, “You are a Farmer! You can do things and do them well.” No, my response to this situation did not come as a result of some deficiency in my upbringing, but rather from a heart overflowing with love for my parents. I wanted to behave in ways which would bring a smile of approval to their faces. So, when I was going about the business of being an academic administrator, fulfilling that call on my life, receiving approbation from my proud father was significant.

Let me be honest with you. When I relive that experience, I am also compelled to consider my relationship with my heavenly Father. I want to love Him as I should. I want to experience that warm satisfaction from knowing that I am handling even the tough situations in a way that pleases Him. I long to hear Him say, “Well done!” —KF 📌

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**COVER PHOTO** by Rachel Pohl. After government restrictions due to COVID-19 brought a premature end to the 2020 school year, college graduation was postponed. On Sunday, August 23, the belated commencement ceremony was held on campus, and graduates marched out of the Adcock Chapel with their diplomas.

# the president's page



## RUNNING THE RACE

**Lay Aside. Look to Jesus.**

*by Rodney Loper, President*

The Christian life of faith is called a race in more than one place in Scripture. In Hebrews, the writer gives us a glimpse of other participants who have run the race before. Chapter 11 is like reading a history of the Boston Marathon. In Chapter 12, the writer turns his attention from the biographical vignettes of historical participants to us, his readers, with advice on how we are to run. It is a race being observed by a great cloud of witnesses who have already crossed the finish line (Heb. 12:1).

The book of Hebrews was written to a church that was losing its militaristic determination to reach their world for Christ. They were starting to drift through life without focus, without vigilance, and without energy. It seemed easier for them to “walk with the crowd” than to run the marathon.

The command to run is a constant theme in Hebrews—keep going, endure, persevere, run, fight, be alert, be strengthened, don’t drift, don’t neglect, and don’t be sluggish. Show your faith the way the saints of Hebrews 11 did—not by coasting through life, but by counting reproach for Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt (11:26). The main point of this text is RUN!

The challenge to run is presented with a beautiful word picture of a great host of people who have assembled to bear testimony to God’s faithfulness and prove that running and finishing the race is possible. We don’t usually think of spectators as being more than viewers of the event before them. However, these spectators are different. As the runners on the track look up into the stands, they see men and women who have already successfully run the race! In Hebrews 11:4 (NASB), the writer speaks of Abel, who, “Through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.” So Abel is one of those in the cloud of witnesses, and he is wit-

nessing to us by his life through the Scriptures. This is the way all the witnesses of Hebrews 11 are helping us. They have gathered along the sidelines of our race, and they show their wounds, express their joys, and give us the best high-fives we've ever gotten: "Go for it! You can do it. By faith you can finish. By faith you can do it. I did it. And I know it can be done. Run. RUN!"

In addition to being told to run the race, we are also told to make proper preparation for the race. This preparation involves a dedicated focus on two critical tasks. The first is to "lay aside." The words "lay aside" have profound significance. After many hours of careful analysis, I have discovered what these words mean. Ready? They mean... "lay aside!"

What are we to lay aside?

### LAY ASIDE ANYTHING THAT ENCUMBERS

In the ancient games, runners would often remove their clothing before the race. They wanted nothing to impede their freedom while running. They also took proper precautions to make sure their body was in proper shape. For a dedicated runner, this often meant shedding excess body weight. It required discipline, self-denial, and a carefulness about one's appetite. I am not going to talk about the need for many of us to be on physical diets, but I do believe that we must follow a healthy spiritual diet. What is your appetite like? Do you have a hunger for the person of God, to feel His presence, to know His plans? Do you hunger to be with the people of God and to give God praise?

Not only is there the *appetite* aspect of laying aside weight, there is also the *attachment* aspect. We must be careful to lay aside attachments that spiritually drain us. The reality is that we are constantly surrounded by multiple distractions that can lead us away from passionately following Christ. These pursuits can consume both our time and energy and ultimately diminish our commitment to spiritual growth. We must decisively lay them aside, lest we succumb to the same fate as Demas, who, because of "having loved this present world," abandoned the race (2 Tim. 4:10). A cautionary side note—Be on guard! Many times what is expressed as freedom is actually the result of a stretched conscience. Be careful!

Lay aside every weight—things that in themselves may not be sins. Concerning this, John Piper said,

The fight of faith—the race of the Christian life—is not fought well or run well by asking, "What's wrong with this or that?" but by asking, "Is it in the way of greater faith and greater love and greater purity and greater courage and greater humility and greater patience and greater self-control?" Not, "Is it a sin?" but, "Does it help me run? Is it in the

way?"....Don't ask about your music, your movies, your parties, your habits: What's wrong with it? Ask: "Does it help me RUN the race?" \*

### LAY ASIDE THE SIN WHICH CLINGS SO CLOSELY

What is this "sin"? Is it the "sin principle"? Is it carnal nature? Is this simply a sin that is peculiar to our personality? Is it some combination of all of these?

Actually, it doesn't matter what it is. Regardless of the proper allocation of this sin type, the effect is devastating. Therefore we must be careful. We must be on guard for the sin that so easily ensnares us.

Within the book of Hebrews, there are major warnings concerning the disaster of falling into sin: danger of drifting (2:1-4), danger of doubting (3:12), danger of immaturity (5:11-6:8), danger of willful sin (10:23-39), and the danger of eternal destruction (12:25-29).

### LOOK UNTO JESUS

The other focus, indeed the *primary* focus that we should have, is "looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith" (Heb. 12:2). This will help us know what things to lay aside and what to hold on to.

Don't look to your own resources and say, "I've tried this before. It won't work." Fix your eyes on Him. You can't run this race on your own. The encouragement of the saints who have already finished their race, or those currently running around you, are helpful, but you must keep your focus on Jesus.

If you are getting tired and feel like quitting, look to Jesus. Stumbling and about to faint? Look to Jesus. Do you feel like you are alone? Look to Jesus! Do you want to spend eternity in Heaven? Look to Jesus. The Author of your faith is also the FINISHER!

### CONCLUSION

Some have just started the race, while others have been running for a long time. It matters little how long you've been on the track; it matters greatly how far you've progressed in becoming like Christ! Are you more like Him today than you were last year? Do you reflect His values more today than you did then? Are you growing, maturing, and expanding in your capacity to be more Christlike?

If you want to be distressed—look within.  
If you want to be defeated—look back.  
If you want to be distracted—look around.  
If you want to be dismayed—look ahead.  
If you want to be delivered—look up!

**Look to Jesus. 🏁**

\* John Piper post accessed at <http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/running-with-the-witnesses>

# Pastor Your Family

Lead Your Children Today  
for The Sake of the  
Church Tomorrow



by Phillip Mills

**T**he thought stopped me in my tracks. The year 2020, with COVID-19, has rocked our church like the game “Upset the Fruit Basket.” As a pastor, the change in service structure brought some peculiar challenges. These challenges brought concern and fear about how “church” would look in the future.

The mandated “social distancing” took its toll in many ways. In the beginning we canceled all services. I posted sermons online in an attempt to stay connected. It caused our church to rework, re-evaluate, and pray for wisdom in how to move forward.

We took it slowly. We began to introduce Sunday services back into our week, one service at a time. First we introduced Sunday morning worship. Then we added Kids church/Sunday school. We started an all men’s prayer meeting on Tuesday evenings. We noticed a dramatic change in our men, and the atmosphere of our morning worship service.

One place in particular where change took place was in our “family” demographic. Church families be-

came creative with Sunday evening worship in their homes. Then, when I announced that it was time to restart our Sunday evening services, several of our church fathers shared their thoughts with me:

“Pastor, since the pandemic, we have spent Sunday evenings having church with our families. We haven’t been wasting this opportunity to instruct them. We have been praying with our children and answering their questions about God, about life, about decisions they are currently facing. Although we have always had family devotions throughout the week, this new time of Sunday evening ‘family church’ has become valuable to us.”

This was encouraging to me. I too was cherishing the focused family worship time each Sunday evening. In one such instance, I was able to pray with my two oldest boys (Landon 8, Ian 5) as they asked Jesus into their hearts, a moment I will cherish forever.

While considering the thoughts of these men on the matter and looking at my own experiences, I realized that our church was becoming a beautiful picture of

Deuteronomy 6:6-7. "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up."

As a father and minister of the gospel, I truly believe that ministry is important! Sunday worship service is important! Fellowship is important! Outreach is important! Traditionally this implies that a father's greatest responsibility when ministering to "his family" is to take them to church. This thinking has merit and does meet the biblical mandate not to "forsake the assembling of ourselves together." However, some clarification is needed. Bringing your family to church does not mean you are ministering to them as a parent. There is more that is required.

My father was a preacher...a good one! But the truth is, I don't remember most of the sermons he preached, even though at times I responded to them. Instead, I remember the times my father sat on the bed in my bedroom, with his arm around me, instructing me in truth. This was where his ministry met my heart. Howard Hendricks has said, "You can impress from a distance, but you can only impact up close." This is a true statement, and I want to say to all parents today, the arrow of truth may be let loose from the pulpit, but it's your love that helps it find its mark in the heart of a child.

Scripture is also clear on the priorities of a father found in 1 Timothy 5:8. "But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

"Pastoring your family" is not a phrase often heard, but it's a phrase that merits attention. I am not saying that we should stop bringing our families to church. No, that is NOT what I am saying. I am only advocating meaningful and specific teaching experiences with our families.

In light of current events, there is growing concern about our future. I make no claim to have the answers, but Jesus is the answer! I firmly believe the success of the church will be because parents make it a practice to have "family church." Proverbs 22:6 reads, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." This is a wonderful promise for us to put into practice in our homes.

The men in my church are some of my heroes. Their desire to minister to their families regardless of the awkwardness of breaking a tradition, at least for a season, is to be commended. Their choice has renewed my faith in this next generation of Christians. Indeed, they are making a way to instill scriptural truths in their children. They are "pastoring their families today...for the sake of the church tomorrow." ■

**Phillip E. Mills** (BA '11) is an ordained minister with the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches. He, his wife Heather, and their three boys live in Oklahoma City, OK, where Phillip pastors the Calvary Bible Fellowship Church. Phillip and Heather are anticipating the birth of their first daughter this month. The photo on page five is of Phillip and his boys.

GOD'S REVIVALIST and BIBLE ADVOCATE

06



# Letters

## TO THE EDITOR

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

"My Mountain" [May 2020, p.2] was right on target. Thanks to the editor for sharing his life struggles with the rest of us. I also am in these later years and realize that they can be hard. The inabilities, the immobility, and the loneliness are real challenges. But I concur with the sentiment expressed in that short article—the Lord is with us! And the opportunities of the later years are amazing. There is more time to read, to travel, to pray, to influence grandchildren, to impact the community, to volunteer, etc. These are great days in the Lord.

DONALD HUBBARD  
Fairfield, OH

Having spent so many years on the Hilltop, and all through those years promoting *God's Revivalist* on the road, it is easy for me to take it for granted—much like a familiar family member that you assume will always be there. I just finished the June/July/August 2020 issue and appreciated the inspiration, information, and connection with my beloved alma mater and alumni family. Thank you for your key, and often unsung, role in producing the paper.

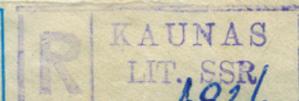
DON DAVISON  
Cincinnati, OH

I enjoy your magazine and read every page.

WANDA WOLFE  
Corydon, IN

I enjoy reading your magazine, so please continue it. God will bless you for training our young people for life.

CAROL SPEICHER  
Belleville, PA



The next time you pray, stop and listen.

# BEHIND THE SEEN

by Sandy Mayle

Can you hear the roar of a bulldozer, the shouting of orders? Can you smell fresh-sawn wood, see hard-hats bobbing busily about between blueprints and buildings-in-progress?

If not, maybe it's time to re-read 1 John 5:14,15: "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him."

We know that we have what we asked. Yes, the prayer of faith, the prayer prayed according to His will, believes that God will respond—believes that when we present our need in faith, He goes to work behind the "seen," developing His best answer.

Of course, we don't know exactly what or how to pray, but God's Word assures us that "the Holy Spirit comes to our aid and bears us up in our weakness; for we do not know what prayer to offer nor how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication" (Rom. 8:26 AB). He presents our request, "reinterpreted" to the Father in a way that harmonizes with His will and our need. He's perfecting our request in order to obtain God's perfect answer, plead-

ing on our behalf "with unspeakable yearnings and groanings too deep for utterance" (v.26).

The Father hears, and in response, blueprints are being laid out, sub-contractors are being lined up, workers (seen and unseen) are being hired and put to work. Work zone floodlights

are switching on. Massive Kingdom machinery is crawling all over the objects of our request, the terrain of our difficulty. God is ordering drilling, tunneling, rock-blasting, road-building, site preparation; and He keeps working in the dark of indecision and desperation, through the night of spiritual blindness, in the foggy drizzle of doubt.

In other words, prayer is a busy activity. Although our eyes may see no action and detect nothing out of the ordinary, God is at work. Our prayers, prayed in faith and according to His will, are being answered.

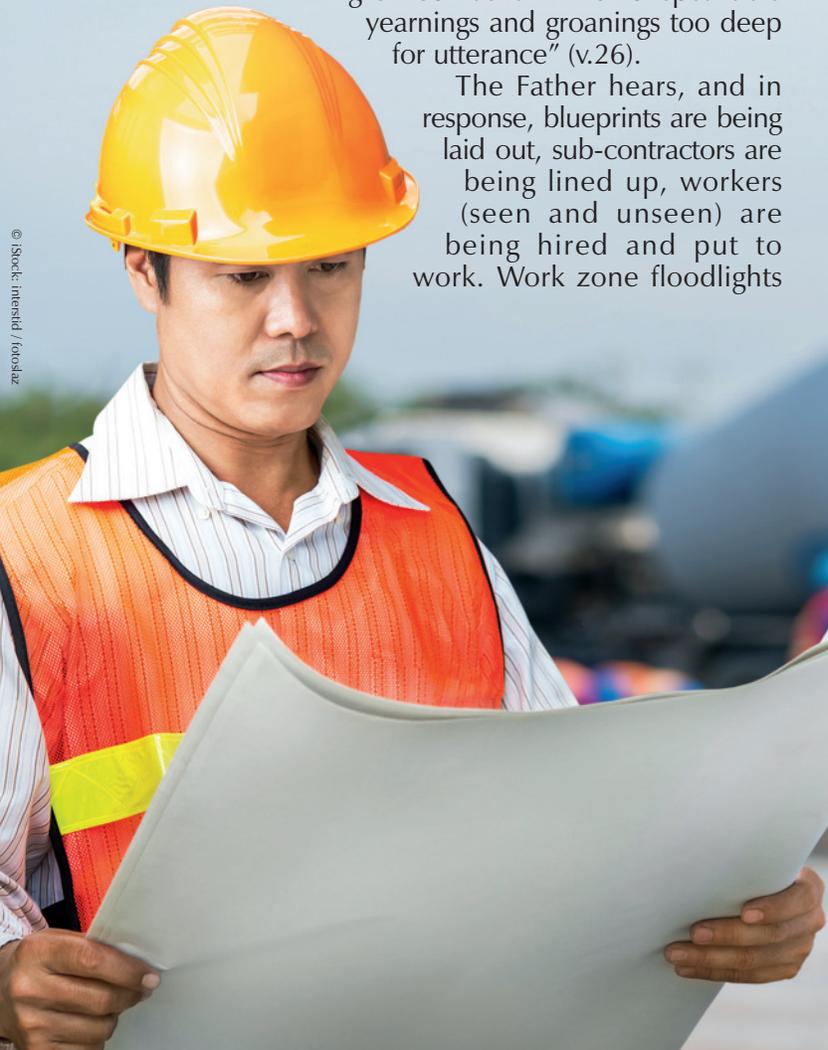
Soooo...what prayers are you praying these days? Do you know God is hearing them? Then you know that without a doubt He is at work answering them in His way.

It may be a long-term project. Mountains aren't leveled nor crooked roads made straight in the blink of an eye. Of course, it can happen immediately—with God anything is possible—but it seems He usually chooses to combine His miraculous touch with the persistence of prayer and the elbow grease of obedience until, finally, the construction of His answer is complete.

That answer may not look at all like what we envisioned when we initially prayed. It might even be a disappointment at first, although in time it will certainly prove to be the highest-end of possible outcomes.

Or it may far exceed what we didn't even dare to ask for, when we prayed in faith, and God worked in response...behind the "seen." ■

*Sandy Mayle is a freelance writer. She and her husband Dave live in Erie, PA. They have three adult sons and four grandchildren. All Scripture quotations are from the NIV, except where otherwise noted.*



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# SANCTIFICATION

## Quiz

by Mark Eckart

**R**ecently, while teaching a class on the Doctrine of Holiness, it occurred to me that it is a lot easier to determine if someone is saved than to determine if he or she is sanctified. As a result of our class discussion that day, I prepared a three-part quiz to help Christians know if they are wholly sanctified.

When seekers are saved, you can tell by a change in attitude, conduct, habits they stop, and habits they start. Another way people can show they are saved is by getting baptized. Adherence to the biblical command to “repent and be baptized” is certainly an objective way for someone to let God, the devil, friends, and foes know that a new path has now been taken. Certainly baptism does not save a person, but I believe a person that has truly been saved will have a desire to obey and be baptized. Baptism can be seen as a confirmation of one’s conversion.

We in the holiness movement, however, teach that there is a second work of grace that every Christian should experience. We don’t just make up this idea be-

cause we like to use theological terms; neither is it just because John Wesley had a lot to say about the topic. While we are deeply indebted to Wesley for bringing this concept to the forefront in evangelical thought, it is much deeper than Wesley. The fact is, the Bible talks a lot about sanctification.

The words “sanctify” and “sanctification” appear in at least seventy verses in the King James Version of the English Bible. In the New Testament alone, we have Jesus, as well as Paul, Peter, and other inspired authors, talking specifically about the importance of being sanctified.

The question is, “How can you know you are sanctified?” We know it is a Biblical concept. We also know that it is a theological doctrine that many church leaders down through the centuries have taught and expected believers to experience. One of my favorite verses illustrating this is 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (ESV): “*Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved*

*blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.*"

Relax. I am not proposing an extensive examination on the doctrine of holiness. I would just like to share what we discovered in class that day—that simple three-part quiz. Admittedly, it is not exhaustive, but it is one objective way to determine if a person has been sanctified wholly. Ready? Here we go!

### 1. What about your money and possessions?

Those who have experienced sanctifying grace in their hearts will not be stingy. Believers who are penny-pinchers on their tithes and offerings and never give to missions or charities beyond their local churches more than likely have NOT been sanctified. A big part of sanctification is giving God full control of everything we own. We are just stewards of what God entrusts us with while on this earth. That attitude will not allow us to be stingy. For sanctified persons, giving to God is not a chore; it is a privilege. They are so in love with God that they can't wait to give offerings to His work. No wonder Paul said that "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7). God's love reciprocates, and there is a special love bond that takes place between God and the person that loves to give to God.

If all you think about is saving money, hoarding possessions, and growing your 401(k), then ask God to work in your heart so you can become a "cheerful giver."

### 2. What about your submission?

This question cuts to the heart of the issue. Believers who always want their own way, do not come under authority, and show a bad attitude when they are told "no" by a boss, parent, or a board of directors probably have not been sanctified. We are not talking about an occasional struggle when dealing with setbacks and unforeseen difficulties, but rather an overall attitude of rebellion.

All through Scripture we find the admonishment to "obey those who have rule over you." To "submit to those who are in authority over you." The Scripture specifically admonishes believers to submit to God, to each other, and to those in authority (Eph. 5:21-6:4). The expectation is that believers walking at a deeper level with God will do their best to follow these admonitions to obey and submit. Those who have said the last "yes" to God's will for their lives will make it a habit to be cooperative and appropriately submissive.

### 3. What about your forgiveness?

A sanctified believer is not a person who carries grudges and waits for the right moment to "get even." How many church splits and divisions could have been

avoided in the past if people would have just been forgiving Christians?

Several years ago, when I first started serving in church administration, a friend who had served several years in a similar position told me, "Get ready, Mark. You will soon find out how mean church people can be." Thankfully, I have found a whole lot of church people are not that way. My friend does have a point, but he is NOT talking about sanctified people. Sanctified people may have a bad day and react in a wrong manner, but invariably they will call back the next day or two and ask for forgiveness for their bad attitude.

Just think what a difference it would make in our homes, churches, and schools if believers truly lived in a spirit of forgiveness! We talk about needing revivals; well, this would be a good place to start. God is very serious about forgiveness. How much clearer can it be than this: "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matt. 6:14-15). The reality is that a believer must practice forgiveness in order to stay saved. Certainly, a sanctified believer must operate in an attitude of forgiveness.

It is worth noting that sanctified believers keep a short account with God. If they are overtaken by a sin of surprise, like unholy anger, or a sin of omission, like prayerlessness, or even a sin of commission, like disobeying one of God's commandments, they will be quick to seek God's forgiveness. Sanctified believers do not practice sin and make a real effort not to sin; but if they fail, there is a remedy: "My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1). The good news is that God will forgive us, and we can go on walking in His light and in obedience.

**"NOW MAY THE  
GOD OF PEACE  
HIMSELF  
SANCTIFY YOU  
COMPLETELY... HE  
WHO CALLS YOU  
IS FAITHFUL,  
WHO ALSO  
WILL DO IT."**

So there you have it—a short, three-part quiz. Although not scientific, each part can be an indicator of whether or not you are sanctified. Why not work through this for yourself? If you find yourself struggling in any of these areas, ask God to help you. He will do a work in your heart. You can be a sanctified Christian. Remember, "He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it" (1 Thess. 5:24). ■

*Dr. Mark S.F. Eckart (BRE '83), District Superintendent of the Indiana South District of The Wesleyan Church, formerly served as a faculty member and Dean of Students at God's Bible School. All Scripture quotations are from the NKJV, except where noted otherwise.*

# NEWS

from the Hilltop



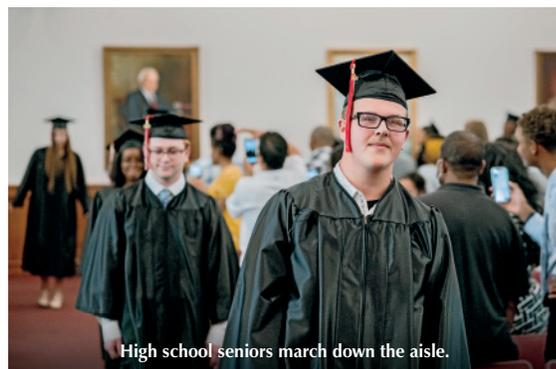
## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Aldersgate Christian Academy held its high school graduation ceremony at 7:00 pm, June 4, in the Adcock Memorial Chapel, with various modifications in place due to COVID-19 concerns. A professional photographer was hired to take photos, which were freely accessible to all graduates after the

ceremony. Chapel seating was segmented alphabetically, and attendees were encouraged to observe cautions such as social distancing.

Principal Timothy Makcen and Vice President for Academic Affairs Aaron Profitt presented 18 high school graduates with diplomas. Three of those graduates had attended ACA since kindergarten. It was an internationally diverse class with students representing families from Guatemala, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Papua New Guinea, Vietnam, and the United States.

Special recognition was given to William Miller and Mihret Yirga, co-valedictorians—both had met the requirements needed and were



High school seniors march down the aisle.

deserving of the award. They received plaques and a \$6,000 scholarship toward college at GBS. The two, along with Tsion Gebremichael, also received Academic Honors Diplomas and blue-and-white tasseled cords in recognition of their excellence in academic achievement and for having completed honors courses.

2020 President's Education Awards for high academic achieve-

# REVIVALIST FAMILY

On these pages, we feature items about GBS alumni, significant events scheduled throughout the "Revivalist Family," and brief news notes from across the Holiness Movement.

## DEATHS



**Phyllis Orndorff**, 89, passed away April 4, 2020, in Cincinnati, OH, with her sister, Anna, holding her hand. She was born in 1931 to Phillip and Barbara Orndorff of Hominy Falls, WV. In her later years she lived with her two surviving siblings, James and Anna Orndorff, in Cincinnati, OH. More details are available in "Alumni News" beginning on p.24.



**Alice Kathryn (Conley) Muir**, 78, of Salem, OH, died May 23, 2020, at Copeland Oaks/Crandall Medical Center. She was born on November 11, 1941, to William and Oly Mae (Ewing) Conley in Monroe, MI. She graduated from Titusville

High School, Titusville, PA, and married Troy Stuart Muir (GBS 1958-59) on June 6, 1962. Both had grown up in the Titusville Allegheny Wesleyan Methodist Church together and began pastoring in that area a week after their marriage. In 1995, the family moved to the Salem, OH, area.

Alice was a Sunday school teacher, church secretary, church pianist and organist, and Bible study host. While living in Salem, she assisted in various ways at Allegheny Wesleyan College and also worked at Wendy's. The Muirs retired from pastoral ministry in 2002. Alice loved her family, especially her grandchildren. Their home was hardly ever without a dog or cat, and she enjoyed taking care of her beautiful flower beds.

In addition to her husband attending GBS and both of her children completing college there, all four of her grandchildren and their spouses are alumni: Shane (BA '09) and Renee (BA '14), Brennan (BA '10) and Ivon (BA '11), Dustin (BA '12) and Kendra (BA '11), and Ashley (BA '16) and Nathan Fall (2013-15). Five of her seven great-grandchildren live on the campus of GBS.



Will Miller, grandson of former CBS president Bence C. Miller, gives valedictory address.



Co-valedictorian Mihret Yirga receives the ACA Leadership Award.

ment and exhibiting exceptional work ethic and determination were presented as follows: Gold Awards to Jonathan Carlisle, Tsion Gebremichael, William Miller, and Mihret Yirga; Silver Awards to Rebecca Gichuru and Michael Lambeth. The ACA Principal's Award for exemplifying the character traits that ACA desires in its students was given to Rebecca Gichuru. Mihret Yirga received the ACA Leadership Award.

David Hartkopf, Dean of Undergraduate Studies and father of two ACA students, was selected by the seniors to give the address. He spoke of life's uncertainties and challenges, noting that these produce character that easier times do not. He reminded the graduates that nothing is more important than one's personal integrity and encouraged students to commit to be honest, upright, sincere Christ

followers—people of deep godly character who will walk in the way of Scripture.

## COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT

Due to the way COVID-19 interfered with the spring semester, college commencement actually took place Sunday, August 23, at 4:00 p.m. in the Adcock Memorial Chapel. President Rodney Loper conducted the service, and Mrs. Martha Miller was the organist.

Janice Johnstone of Dundee, OH, delivered the invocation, and James McBryant of Westfield, IN, read the Scripture lesson. Special music, "Be Not Afraid," was sung by graduate Zachary Potteiger and accompanied on the violin by graduate Sarah McBryant. Chairman of the Board Robert England, Jr., gave the commencement address, sharing a ➡



Alice is survived by Troy, her husband of 57 years; son, Daryl (BRE '86); daughter, Crystal Whitham (BA '86); four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; brother, William; and three sisters, Marilyn Beers, Janice Douglas, and Marcelyn (Sue) Fuller. Services were held at the Salem Bible Methodist Church, Pastor David Crosley officiating. Burial followed at Woodsdale Cemetery, Hanoverton, OH. Due to COVID-19, a delayed recording of the funeral was made available online.



### **Sarah Maudine (Crawford) Wilcox,**

82, passed away June 1, 2020, at her residence. She was born November 25, 1937, in Clay County, AL, to Alton and Zelma Crawford. Maudine graduated from Talladega High School in 1955. In 1958, she married Jimmy Wilcox after a four-year courtship, and they enjoyed 65 years together.

Maudine earned a degree in special education at the University of Alabama before teaching sign language and communication at the Alabama School for the Deaf

for 30 years. Maudine was a charter member of the Talladega Bible Methodist Church where she taught Sunday school, kept the missionary treasury books, and served in various other capacities. She was known for her kindness and her gentle spirit. Jimmy served as a GBS trustee from 1986 to 2008.

Maudine is survived by her son, Jimmy Mark (HS '78; college 1978-84), two grandchildren, Brent Wilcox and Bethany Milstead; five great-grandchildren; one brother, Leslie Crawford; and three nephews. A graveside service was held at Pine Hill Memorial Park, Talladega, AL, with Revs. Bob Blankenship and William Snider officiating.



### **Leslie Franklin "Frank" Ball, 58, of**

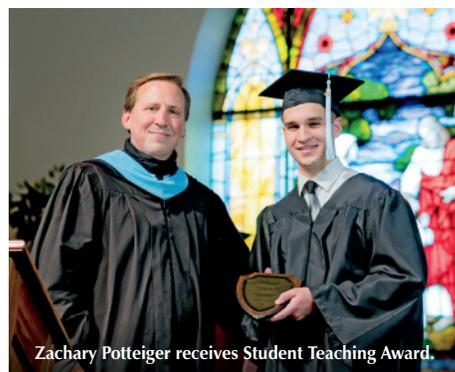
St. Albans, WV, went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, June 4, 2020, at CAMC Memorial Division, Charleston, WV. After attending Mountain State Christian School, Culloden, WV, Frank enrolled at GBS (HS '79; college 1979-86) joining his older brother Densel (ThB '85). They were an integral part of the GBS campus in the 1980s. Both sang in quartets ➡

➡ positive spin on “COVID Graduates”—Chosen. Original. Victorious. Inspiring. Destined (see p.16).

Presenting college graduates was Dr. Aaron Profitt, Vice President for Academic Affairs. Virginia Lee Crofts was recognized as valedictorian, and Janelle Faith LePage was named salutatorian. The GBS academic division chairs presented the following student awards: **Division of Ministerial Education** (Dr. Allan Brown, Chair): *Zondervan Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Study of Biblical Greek*, Joshua Stamper; *Oswald Chambers Ministerial Leadership Award*, Nicholas Ross Jaymes and Jason Michael Albertson; **Division of Music** (Dr. Jana Pop, Chair): *Music Servant Leadership Award*, Josué Díaz Ruíz. **Division of Professional Studies** (Lyle Witt, Chair): *Oscar Johnson Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Service*, Elizabeth



Dr. Profitt honors Janelle LePage as salutatorian.



Zachary Potteiger receives Student Teaching Award.

Natalia Kurniawati; *Student Teaching Award*, Zachary Owen Potteiger; *Charles Cowman Missions Leadership Award*, Anna Rose Winter; *Educated Christian Award*, Jason Michael Albertson.

David Hartkopf, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, awarded Tyler Sowers with the *Association of Christian Librarians Research Award*.



President Loper presents Candace Kessen with her diploma.

# REVIVALIST FAMILY continued

➡ and traveled for the school. Frank was also the GBS photographer, and Densel worked as a GBS public relations representative.

Frank later served in the U.S. Army and was a salesman for several insurance companies. He attended St. Andrew United Methodist Church, St. Albans. In addition to his GBS degree, Frank earned a degree from Marshall University, Huntington, WV, and was an avid WVU Mountaineer Fan.

Frank is survived by his loving parents, Densel R. “Tom” and Betty Jo (Payne) Ball; special friend of 27 years, Robin Summers; niece, Jacqueline Ball Vincent and nephew, Densel R. “Ty” Ball. The funeral service was held at Bartlett-Nichols Funeral Home, St. Albans, WV, Rev. Jonathan Dierdoff, Dr. Ed Grant, Rev. Ross “Pepper” Harrison, Rev. Bob Hoffmann, Pastor Avis Hill, and Mr. Bill Cook officiating. Burial followed in Judson Baptist Church Cemetery, Winfield, WV.

Frank’s parents wish to thank all those who sent donations to the family through GBS.



**Rev. Milton “Earl” Newton**, 86, of Salisbury, NC, passed away Friday, June 5, 2020, at his home. He was born on November 16, 1933, in Clemson, SC, to the late J. Isaac and Ruth (Lawrence) Newton. He earned his high school diploma in 1952 at Southern Pilgrim College, Kernersville, NC. As he continued his college education there, he married Betty Massey on July 24, 1954. While still in college, Earl began his career in the ministry, serving in several pastorates in North Carolina and at All Tribes Indian Mission School in Bernalillo, NM.

In 1969, the Newton family settled in Salisbury, NC, where Earl became involved in the Salisbury Christian School. This served as “home base” while he did evangelistic work for more than 20 years. His ministry also included administrative roles in the Tennessee Bible Methodist Conference for more than 30 years. In 2014, at 80 years of age, he and his wife moved to Hillsboro, OH, where he pastored the Berrysville Holiness Church for two years. They moved back to Salisbury in 2016.

President Loper conferred the degrees on the graduating class of 2020, and Jerry Vandervort of Scottsburg, IN, offered the benediction.

## SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS

Each year we give special recognition to one-time scholarships as well as new endowed scholarships being awarded for the first time (see list of all endowed scholarships on p.18).

### New Endowed Scholarships

**Jack and Janie Wetherald Memorial Scholarship.** This scholarship was established through the generosity of Paul Mayhugh as a tribute to his sister and brother-in-law, Jack and Janie Wetherald, who devoted years in caring for and maintaining the GBS farm—raising gardens full of vegetables and cattle for beef, while

also taking time to mentor GBS students who came there to work. They ministered in this way from 1971 to 1976. Jack and Janie supported missions most of their lives: as missionaries themselves in the Turks and Caicos Islands and Grand Bahama, by caring for others in the ministry, and by raising money for missions.

Janie also traveled to Belize on mission trips. All six of the Wetherald children graduated from GBS, two going into ministry. Nine of the next generation of Wetheralds have also attended GBS.

The purpose of the Jack and Janie Wetherald Memorial Scholarship is to provide an annual scholarship to a junior or senior college



student who has an established missions cognate. *We are pleased to present the Jack and Janie Wetherald Memorial Scholarship for the very first time to Rachel Klotz!*

**Rev. and Mrs. G.W. King Scholarship.** This scholarship was established through the generosity of Mary Ellen Gaunce to honor the lives of her dear friends and pastor, G.W. and Dorothy King. Rev. King pastored the Bible Holiness Church, Paris, KY, from 1958 to 1998. This small church produced seven holiness preachers. The Kings were regular attendees at GBS camp meetings for many years, and GBS was dear to their hearts. Three of their children and four grandchildren attended, and one of their great-granddaughters currently teaches in Aldersgate Christian Academy.

It was Dorothy King's dying request that money from the (p21) ➡



Earl is survived by his wife, Betty; daughters, Sheryl Clemens and Regina Eckert; sons, Dwane, Jeffrey, and David; six granddaughters; seven grandsons; 31 great-grandchildren; brother, Phillip; and sister, Georgia Serocki. The funeral service was held on Friday, June 12, 2020, at the Salisbury Bible Methodist Church Camp Tabernacle with Rev. James Plank officiating. Burial followed in the Salisbury Community Bible Church Cemetery.

Rev. Newton was a friend of GBS. Over the years he spoke in chapel services, camp meetings, and revivals. All of his children and several grandchildren attended GBS and found their spouses there.



**James Orndorff, 98,** passed peacefully June 13, 2020, in Cincinnati, OH, with his sister, Anna, holding his hand. He was born in 1921 to Phillip and Barbara Orndorff of Hominy Falls, WV. In his later years he lived with his two sisters, Phyllis and Anna Orndorff, in Cincinnati, OH. More details are available in "Alumni News" beginning on p.24.



**Nina Darlene Sutton, 72,** of Indianapolis, IN, went to be with the Lord on June 14, 2020. She was born in 1948 in Willow Hill Township, IL, to Lorange and Bertha Keys. After graduating from Oblong High School, Oblong, IL, she attended GBS. While attending college (1966-67), she met David Sutton (ThB '65; BA '67) and they married on June 21, 1968.

Nina was a supervisor at Hurco Manufacturing, Indianapolis, IN, as well as a homemaker. She loved spending time with her children and grandchildren, working jigsaw puzzles, doing yard work, and taking care of her dogs. She was a dedicated and generous caregiver to the young and old.

Nina is survived by her husband, David; four children, Rachel, Jason, Kevin, and Rebecca; nine grandchildren; brothers, Roy, James, Estell, and Chester; along with several nieces and nephews. The family will hold a private celebration of life at a later date. ➡



**Timothy Caron Bass**, 61, of Prattville, AL, went home to be with the Lord on Monday, June 15, 2020. He was born to George and Barbara Bass on April 10, 1959. He graduated from Stanton Christian School, Stanton, AL, and attended GBS (1978), as did his two sisters, Robin (Bass) Durr (BSM '82) and Laurie (Bass) DeMint (BRE '85), and his first wife, Debby (Weddle) Rawlinson (1976-78). After returning to Alabama, he served as a fire fighter and medic with the fire department in Prattville, AL, until his retirement. Although Tim spent some years away from the Lord, he was reclaimed during a period of physical difficulty. Tim's hope and faith were known to others and his testimony will live on.

Tim is survived by his wife, Donna; two daughters, Amanda Boswell and Ashley Daniels; one son, Andrew Bass; four grandchildren; first wife Debby (Weddle) Rawlinson; his parents, George and Barbara Bass; two sisters, Robin Durr and Laurie DeMint; step-daughters; step-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held at the Bible Methodist Church, Stanton, AL, with Rev. John Ingram officiating and Rev. William Snider assisting. Burial followed in Prattville Memory Gardens. Pallbearers were the Prattville Fire Department Honor Guard.



**Woodie Carole (Scarbrough) Roush**, 75, of Maryville, TN, passed away Tuesday, June 23, 2020. She was born February 19, 1945, to Carson Woodrow and Stella Mae (Morgan) Scarbrough. They had expected a boy and were planning to name him after his father. When they had a girl instead, they still named her after her father.

Carole graduated from the GBS high school in 1963. She completed her R.N. studies in 1967 at The Christ Hospital School of Nursing just blocks from GBS, then returned to GBS and completed a BA in 1969. She loved helping others and had a huge heart for missions, serving as vice president of the Southern Bible Methodist Conference Missionary Society. She worked as a nurse at the University of Tennessee Medical Center, Knoxville, TN, for 25 years before retiring.

Carole is survived by her husband, Daniel; two daughters, Jane Allard and Esther Miller; five grandchildren; brother, Carson Scarbrough; and sister, Martha Bryan. Graveside service and interment were held at Clark's Grove Cemetery, Maryville, TN, Rev. Dana Bentz officiating.



**Dr. Melvin Maxwell**, 98, died July 4, 2020, in Winter Haven, FL. He lived a life for God and others, serving in various ministries for 75 years. He pastored in Michigan and Ohio. For eight years, he was district superintendent over 165

churches and planted 40 new congregations. In 1964, Dr. Maxwell became President of Circleville Bible College (now Ohio Christian University.) Under his leadership, college enrollment increased 500 percent and eight new buildings were erected. In his later years, he was Director of Stewardship for World Gospel Mission and served as a volunteer chaplain for Vienna Square, the assisted-living facility where he resided.

Dr. Maxwell is survived by his wife, Betty; two sons, Larry and John; one daughter, Patricia Throckmorton; eight grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren. The funeral was held at the First Church of the Nazarene, Winter Haven, FL.



**Almina J. (Lussenhop) Hughes**, 89, went to be with her Lord and Savior on August 10, 2020, at her home near Silver Lake, KS. She was born on June 30, 1931, just outside of Morton, MN, to Albert and Edna (Payne) Lussenhop. In 1936, during the Great Depression, the family moved to Kewanee, IL, where she and her five sisters grew up. She graduated from high school in Wyoming, IL, in 1951, and then graduated from Olive Branch Mission Training School, Chicago, IL. In 1954, she returned to Kewanee and got a factory job to earn enough money to attend GBS, where she entered the Christian Workers Course.

At GBS, she met Erskine Hughes, and they married on June 16, 1957. Almina graduated as valedictorian of her class (CWC '58) and enrolled in the college department, where both Erskine and Almina earned bachelor degrees in 1960. They moved to Kirksville, MO, to work at Kirksville Bible School. In 1965, they moved to Overland Park, KS, where Erskine taught at Kansas City College and Bible School while Almina assisted in the library. They both earned graduate degrees in library science from Emporia State Teachers College, Emporia, KS. In 1973, Erskine took a job at the community college in Pratt, KS. In 1974, they moved to Preston, KS, and Almina was a teacher and librarian at Fairfield High School, retiring in 1993. In 1997, they moved to their final home near Silver Lake, KS. Erskine passed away in 2008.

Almina and Erskine were GBS supporters who were especially helpful with donations of educational technology and library equipment. Their substantial support to the "Electronic Classroom Project" enabled GBS to outfit a number of classrooms with electronic smart boards and projection systems.

Almina is survived by her son, Robert; a grandson and granddaughter; two great-granddaughters; sister, Donna Motley; and many nieces, nephews, and friends. A graveside service and interment were held at Silver Lake Cemetery, Silver Lake, KS.



**Faith E. Hemmeter**, 85, died at her residence in Frankfort, IN, August 11, 2020. She was born August 3, 1935, to Lillian (Rickel) and Walter Hemmeter of Cleveland, OH. She served as a teacher and missionary for over 40 years in Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Bolivia alongside Irene Maurer (ThB '59) and under the authority of Evangelistic Faith Missions, Bedford, IN.

Survivors include a brother, John Hemmeter; one cousin, Dora Rose Cureton; one nephew, Walter Edward Hemmeter; two nieces, Charity Faith Davis and Majorie Jane Adams; five great nieces; and one great nephew. Funeral services were held at the Faith Mission Church, Bedford, IN, with Revs. J. Stevan Manley, Steven Hight, and Russtom Ghebremichael officiating. Burial followed at the Cedar Crest Cemetery in Clare County, MI, Rev. Nathan Shockley officiating.

**Rev. Robert (Bob) E. Dain** died August 14, 2020. A pastor and Christian broadcaster, his family was instrumental in founding National Religious Broadcasters.

Bob is survived by his son, Kyle C. Dain; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; two uncles; and several cousins. A service was held in Dayton, PA, for family members. He was laid to rest next to his wife Carolyn (Clifton) Dain, who passed away in 2015.



**David Alan Hoard**, 56, of Anderson, IN, went to be with Jesus on August 15, 2020. He was born in 1964 to Thomas and Darlene (Marshall) Hoard, of Vandalia, IL. After graduating from high school,

David attended GBS (1982) and Covenant Foundation College in Greenfield, IN. He married Rachel McCormick on July 6, 1985, worked at Roudebush Equipment in Westfield, IN, and was a member of Grace Holiness Church in Anderson. The International Conservative Holiness Association Campground was dear to his heart, and he gave many hours of volunteer work there.

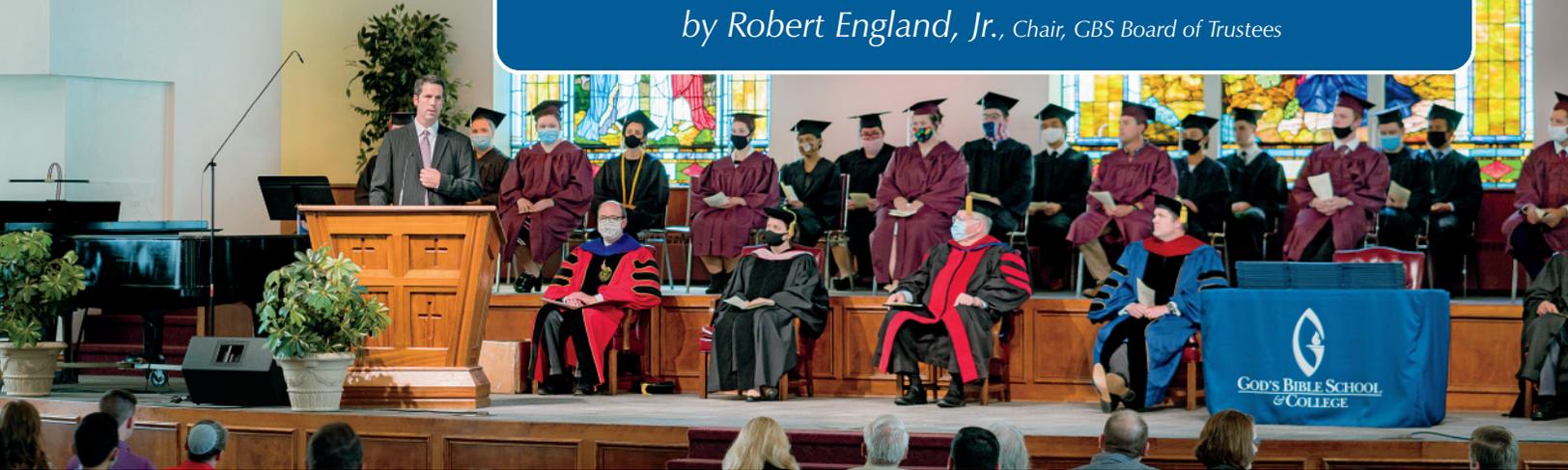
Survivors include his wife, Rachel; three children, Matthew, Philip, and Elisabeth; two granddaughters; his parents; sisters, Nancy Lake, Amy Hoard, Kathy Estes, Deborah Price, Maria Hardig, and Christa Hoard; a brother, Steven; and nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held at the ICHA Campground, Greenfield, IN, Pastor Tim Wiford officiating. Burial followed in Maplewood Cemetery, Anderson, IN. ■

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# 2020 Commencement Address

by Robert England, Jr., Chair, GBS Board of Trustees



**C**ongratulations! You have successfully completed the easiest part of your life! Like it or not, this is the year of the coronavirus, or, as it has frequently been called, COVID (Coronavirus Disease). It is amazing how an “invisible particle” has reshaped our world over the past few months. My life experience has taught me that when you can’t conquer something that puts a cloud in your sky, find a way to harness its strength to take you to a better place. Therefore, it would seem to me that it is an indisputable fact that you are “COVID graduates.” Your graduation date had to be adjusted and everything in your lives has been tweaked with the changes that are a direct byproduct of dealing with this pandemic. Since I work in medicine, I have heard and seen a more negative side of this disease. However, to the class of 2020, here is a positive spin on the word COVID:

## **C – YOU ARE CHOSEN**

Long before you were born, God knew you. He knew everything about you to the smallest detail...and He LOVED you! The God of the universe—who spoke time and space into existence—knew the color of your eyes, your funny laugh, and how much you would hate onions! He chose YOU!

I moved with my family to this campus when I was 10 and not very tall. I well remember lining up against the wall in the gym as the teams were decided for a game of basketball. There were many times that I was the last or next-to-last to be chosen. Over the years, my skills improved and my height increased, which meant that I was able to join those pick-up teams closer to the front of the line. But I never forgot that feeling of just hoping that one of the team captains would have pity on me and save me from the torture of hanging out along the wall to the very last.

But God didn’t choose you because there wasn’t anyone left! He created you for a purpose—a special purpose—and chose you to be on His “team.” Actually, He went even further and welcomed you into His family!

## **O – YOU ARE AN ORIGINAL**

The vast majority of people that I know have struggled at some point in their life to be excited about who they are and what they have to offer.

If you take the time to explore this sacred campus and read the history of God’s Bible School, you will discover many individuals who have made their mark on the world. Just peruse the Alumni Wall of Fame in the Martin Dining Room or look at the portraits at the back of the chapel. It is easy to read the bios of these “GBS Heroes” and feel insignificant.

But I know the backstories of enough of the individuals that we hold in high esteem to know that they were not always well known, and they didn’t see themselves as “giants.”

Always remember that God made you for His purposes, and He isn’t comparing you to a Wingrove Taylor, a Nettie Peabody, or a Martin Wells Knapp. He wants you to fill the spot that He created just for you, and giving in to the temptation of feeling inferior is actually an insult to God!

## **V – YOU ARE VICTORIOUS**

The fact that you are wearing a cap and gown today signifies that you have secured a victory on your academic journey! This represents a milestone that sets you apart and makes a statement that you have succeeded in achieving a difficult goal as a college graduate, which is no small feat!

On the spiritual side, you are assured of victory as you stay close to Jesus and carry out His plan for your life. As David Gibbs has said, “We fight **IN** victory, not **FOR** victory!” The battle has been won; the final score has already been determined. Just be faithful unto death, and He will give YOU the crown of life!

## **I – YOU ARE INSPIRING**

It is an inspiration to hear someone’s story—the challenges that have been overcome and the successes that have been enjoyed along the way. I don’t think

anyone sets out necessarily to inspire others, but a surrendered life that is selflessly lived for God's glory is truly inspiring.

You never know who is watching you, and an encouraging smile or a kind word may be all that is needed to give someone the inspiration to face a new day. Never underestimate the blessing you can be when you live the Spirit-filled life.

## D - YOU ARE DESTINED

God has planned for this moment in your life since before you were born! He has destined you for greatness, not according to the world's standards, but according to the measure that really matters.

In 2007, Tony Snow was forced to step down as press secretary for the president of the United States when it became clear that he was losing his fight with cancer. President George W. Bush selected Dana Perino as Tony's replacement, and, as she grappled with what it would mean to take over the job, she felt inadequate to fill his role. Tony made her look him in the eye as he said these reassuring words, "You're better at this than you think you are."

You no doubt approach this transitional time in your life with some fear and excitement as you face the unknown. It may be tempting to sell yourself short, but always remember that the King of Heaven has destined you for something amazing!

1 Peter 2:9 declares, "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (NKJV).

There has never been a day that the world needs your message more than today. The increasing brokenness around us provides abundant evidence that you are entering a dark world. But the greater the challenge, the greater the opportunity!

You have been given a world-class education at God's Bible School and College, and our prayers go with you as you leave the Hilltop and embark on the next phase of your journey. As you walk into the future with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, we can't wait to hear the stories of how God will use you to change the world!

So, COVID graduates, remember that YOU are: Chosen, Original, Victorious, Inspiring, and Destined. And—by the way—with God's help, you are better at this than you think! God bless you all! 🙏

**Robert (Robbie) England, Jr.**, (HS '88; BA '93) chairs the GBS Board of Trustees and is a physician's assistant living in Jonestown, PA, with his wife Rachel (Downs) (1990-92) and their four children.



The group of college graduates who endured pandemic restrictions and returned to campus for the belated commencement ceremony

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**MA IN BIBLICAL STUDIES**  
Jason Michael Albertson \*

\* pending completion of all course requirements

*italics indicates graduates in absentia*

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



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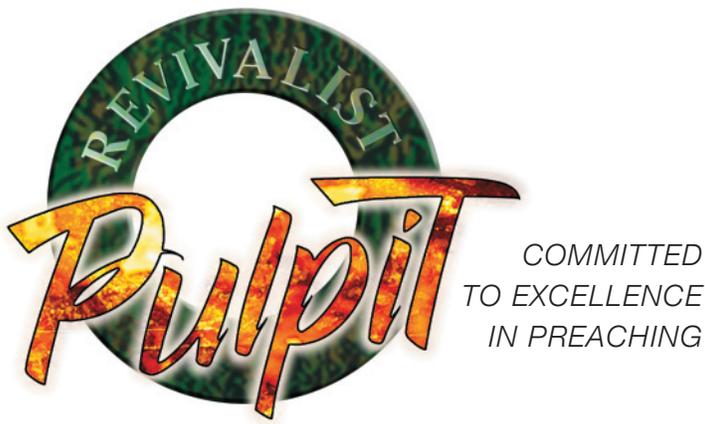
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## RELATIONAL HOLINESS

by Steve Oliver

*Scripture: Mark 12:28-31 (ESV)*

*And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?"*

*Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.*

*And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'*

*The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."*

### INTRODUCTION

The idea of holiness—total devotion to God—runs like a mighty river through Scripture, from the final day of creation week being set apart as holy to God, to the Mosaic food law which reminded God's people of their dedication to Him with every bite they took, to the prophets calling the people back to God and God alone, to Jesus' declaration that the greatest commandment was, "Love the Lord your God with your entire heart, soul, mind, and strength." The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost made this command a reality in the hearts of the Apostles, and through the centuries millions have found that the abiding, sanctifying Spirit turns their hearts godward and enables them to center their entire lives on Christ.

But did you ever notice that when Jesus was asked about the greatest commandment, He didn't just give one commandment? After "You shall love

the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength," He immediately went on to the second commandment: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Total devotion to God is always accompanied by unreserved devotion to others. We might well expect that loving God would be our highest calling. But no—Paul declares that loving one's neighbor is what fulfills the law, and James refers to loving others as "the royal law." Fulfilling the second command, "love others," is the result and evidence of fulfilling the first command, "love God."

Theologically, perhaps we can say that love for God includes love for God's image. Loving God's image in ourselves means that we strive to develop God's image in ourselves through self-discipline and spiritual growth. Loving God's image in other Christians means that we nurture God's image in them through admonition and encouragement. Loving God's image in non-believers means that we share the gospel with them and try to influence them toward godliness. If we love God, we will love His image wherever it's found, and so we will treat every person with kindness and respect for the simple reason that they bear the image of the God we love.

And so, while the primary idea of holiness is an individual's total devotion to God, this devotion will always result in a renewed focus on others as well. At every stage, and throughout the New Testament, holiness is deeply and inescapably relational.

### THE NEW TESTAMENT INSTANCES OF PEOPLE RECEIVING THE SPIRIT CONTAIN A CONSISTENT RELATIONAL ASPECT

Acts 1:14 and 2:1 describe the time leading up to Pentecost and emphasize the fact that the disciples were together in one place and in harmony with one another. Throughout the New Testament era, the Holy Spirit was usually given in conjunction with the laying on of hands, an act which, since it obviously required at least two people, is inherently corporate in nature. This was so common that, in Acts 8, Simon the sorcerer thought that the act itself conveyed the Holy Spirit. It is true that, in Acts 10, Cornelius and the other Gentiles received the Spirit without Peter laying his hands on them, but this seems to be an exception—and they were certainly not alone when the Spirit came. In fact, while the New Testament contains numerous instances of people receiving the Spirit, there is not one record of anyone receiving the Spirit while alone. God is not limited and can give the Spirit in any circumstance, but the consistent New Testament pattern is that the Spirit is received in connection with other believers.

## HOLINESS ADDRESSES RELATIONAL PROBLEMS

In chapter 4 of his epistle, James explains that his readers' "quarrels and fights" are caused by a deep-rooted drive to gratify their self-centered desires. After exhorting them to humble themselves before God, James tells them that their problem is either that they are sinners, in which case they need to "cleanse [their] hands," or that they are "double-minded," in which case they need to purify their hearts. James' view, then, boils down to this: if people are quarreling and fighting, it's because they are either unsaved or not entirely sanctified.

In 1 Corinthians 3, Paul points to the Corinthians' jealousy, strife, and division as evidence that they still have a fleshly orientation of life—that is, that they are not entirely sanctified. And Paul's exhortation to avoid fellowship with unbelievers (2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1 ESV) concludes with, "Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God." So according to Paul, part of holiness is to separate from the unholy, and one evidence of holiness is that an individual will get along with other believers—both clearly relational issues.

## THE PROCESS THAT LEADS TO HOLINESS IS A RELATIONAL PROCESS

Perhaps the clearest example of this is 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 (ESV): "May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father." Obviously, to "increase and abound in love" is a relational process, and this is the process by which God will "establish your hearts blameless in holiness."

Paul's prayer in 1 Thessalonians 5:23, that his readers be entirely sanctified, must be understood in its context. Paul has just spent eleven verses describing the kind of life that leads to entire sanctification. Verses 12-15 contain nine commands, all of them involving relationships. Verses 16-18 contain three commands regarding an individual's attitudes. Verses 19-22 contain five commands dealing with personal growth as a result of prophecy, which was part of corporate worship. Only then comes the prayer and promise of entire sanctification. So out of 17 commands leading to entire sanctification, nine are clearly relational, five are related to corporate worship, and only three are strictly individual.

## THE LIFE OF HOLINESS IS A DEEPLY RELATIONAL LIFE

In Philippians 2:1-2, we are told that if there is any "participation in the Spirit," we are to be "of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind." In other words, living in the Spirit will result in unity.

Colossians 3:14-15 tells us to "put on love," which will result in "perfect harmony." This is obviously relational—but Paul goes on: "and let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body." We understand that the peace of God in our hearts should be the "umpire" of our lives, directing us in what we do. We are called to live in harmony with this peace, in a way that does not disturb this peace. But we are called to do so "in one body." There is a relational aspect to this peace—it's not hard to convince yourself that you are OK in your own mind, but when you open yourself up to accountability and communion with other believers, you find the peace of Christ being deepened by your relationships in the Body of Christ.

Wesleyans are generally familiar with the call to holiness in Romans 12:1—"present your bodies as a living sacrifice"—and the ongoing life of holiness described in 12:2—"be transformed by the renewal of your mind." What we often miss, though, is that Paul goes on to describe the principle of this transformed mind in the following verses: "For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think," but rather to realize that "we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another." So the ongoing transformation of our minds, the new way of thinking that we are to cultivate in our daily lives, is a new understanding of our relationship with other believers. It is learning to live as members of Christ's body, in deep unity and communion with one another.

We must never lose sight of the fact that holiness is personal. It is having my heart purified by the abiding Holy Spirit, and as a result, having an intensely God-focused heart. But we must also never forget that this shift in our personal relationship with God will result in changed relationships with one another. Yes, holiness is personal, but at every stage, in every aspect, holiness is also deeply relational. ■

*Dr. Steve Oliver is the lead pastor of Troy Holiness Church, Troy, MO. Pastor Steve earned his PhD in New Testament Interpretation at Bob Jones University in 2012 and has served in a variety of pastoral positions. He and his wife Angie have three children aged 17, 15, and 11.*



Eron Miriye receives the King Scholarship.

➡(p13) sale of her property be given to train young ministers. This will continue the fulfillment of their ministry desires already realized in the seven pastors who were the fruit of their church ministry. Their sacrificial lives for Christ will continue to impact the ministerial students who receive this scholarship.

*We are pleased to present the Rev. and Mrs. G.W. King Scholarship for the very first time to Eron Miriye!*

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Devon Moore

His work in Christian education has influenced generations of young men and women at home and abroad and will influence generations to come. The friendship and years of service to GBS will never be forgotten. All around us, Dr. England’s fingerprints can be seen. From his imprint on students (several now professors in the classroom), and his academic administration (1988-96), to the

beautiful landscaping on our campus, Dr. England’s legacy lives on.

*We are honored to present Devon Moore with the Robert England Memorial Scholarship.*

**James Orndorff Memorial Scholarship.** This scholarship is provided by God’s Bible School in memory of James Orndorff. James has been a well-known fixture around GBS since 1956. The friendship and years of service to the school will never be forgotten. In their later years, James and his sisters Anna and Phyllis regularly attended chapel services and special events as long as health permitted. For a period of time in his retirement years, James retrieved the campus mail from the post office every day. Phyllis and James are



Brooklyn Williams, Carl Rogers, and Kyle Johnstone

now in heaven (see obituaries pp.10, 13; and Alumni News, p.24). We are grateful for the faithful lives they lived and their love and support of God’s Bible School.

*We are honored to present Brooklyn Williams, Carl Rogers, and Kyle Johnstone with the James Orndorff Memorial Scholarship.*

**Dr. Glen Reiff Memorial Scholarship.** This scholarship is provided by God’s Bible School in memory of Dr. Glen Reiff. He had the rare gift of seeing every person as equal in Christ. He was blind to racial, social, and economic classes, seeing only people for whom Christ died. Glen’s parents were missionaries in Guatemala, so he spent his growing-up years there. As an adult, he was a

missionary for many years in Central America. He was the founder of Hope International Missions Spanish Ministries, beginning the work with



Darin and Dennis Baldwin receive the Reiff Scholarship.

services held in semitrailers. The past several years he taught classes at the HIM Spanish Bible Institute.

*We are honored to award the Dr. Glen Reiff Memorial Scholarship to Darin Baldwin and Dennis Baldwin.*

**Hope International Missions: General Missions Scholarship.** This scholarship is provided by Hope International Missions to assist mission students preparing for missionary work. Recipients must demonstrate spiritual fervor, desire for academic excellence, and exemplary Christian character and conduct.

**Evangelistic Faith Missions: Rev. Robert and Bonnie Thompson Missionary Scholarship.** This scholarship is a one-year, up to two-thousand-dollar scholarship. Students eligible for this scholarship are



Cearse Rice

those who are studying missions in a conservative holiness Bible college or are enrolled in a study program that will prepare them for missionary service, with the intention of pursuing a missionary career.

*President Loper presented both the Hope International Missions Scholarship and the Evangelistic Faith Missions Scholarship to Cearse Rice. ■*

## Dear Phil

rest of what Scripture says about obtaining wisdom, (4) choose to follow the wisdom they believe they have received, and (5) do foolish, even stupid, things. I've seen this in child-rearing, financial decisions, marital decisions, and more.

All that leads me to conclude that James 1:5 can't mean "ask God and He'll generously give you wisdom on any issue." James 1:5 is not a promise of a direct line to God for wisdom about anything. It is not a promise that if I ask, God will directly give me specific wisdom regarding how to invest His money. That conclusion fits neither the immediate context of James 1 nor the broader context of what God has revealed about wisdom in the rest of Scripture. Yet, that is the way many Christians read it because they don't pay attention to context.

I think we could argue that James is applying the broader principle that we are to cry out for wisdom (Prov. 2:3-4) to the specific topic of how to respond to trials with persistent joy. We should ask God for wisdom about all of life. No question. This I affirm heartily.

And I do ask God for wisdom, but I also know that God provides that wisdom through a wide range of avenues: (1) study of Scripture, (2) spiritual authorities (Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:5; 1 Thess. 5:12), (3) wise counselors (Prov. 24:6), including parents and spouses, (4) providential circumstances (Col. 4:3), (5) the Holy Spirit's leadership (Gal. 5:16; Rom. 8:14), and (6) the peace of Christ (Col. 3:15).

Bottom line: Ask God for wisdom and listen to His voice through all the avenues He uses to speak.

Blessings,  
Phil ■

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

## WISDOM AND THE PRAYER OF FAITH

*I get my approach to prayer from James 1:5-6: "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously...and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting...." When I need wisdom in a particular area, I ask God. Then I assume, based on the command not to have any doubting, that the next thing I hear is God responding to my prayer. Is that an incorrect way to approach it? —Justin*

Dear Justin,

I do not understand James 1:5 to be a promise that any time you need wisdom and you ask for it in faith, God will give it to you directly. Here are the reasons:

First, just as a reminder, I'm sure you already know that verse numbers and chapter divisions were added to the Scripture text to help us locate things. They should not be a basis for isolating James 1:5-6 from James 1:2-4. If your Bible version begins each verse on a separate line, then it is easy to forget that and treat each verse separately from its context.

Second, as you know, the most basic principle of interpretation is "context determines meaning." Immediate context (the paragraph a verse is in) is the most important element of context for determining meaning. James 1:2-15 addresses the issue of testing/temptation. This is clearer in Greek than in English, but in English translations the key words "trial/tempt" show up in verses 2, 12, 13, and 14. James

doesn't have to specify that he isn't talking about wisdom in general because the context isn't talking about wisdom in general.

Shifting to the broader context of the book, James addresses wisdom in chapter 3 as well (3:13-17), but what he says there doesn't clarify what he means in James 1:5. The book of James has a lot of similarities to Proverbs, so that's my next stop as a scriptural context for James' way of thinking and writing.

In Proverbs, I find that wisdom must be listened to (2:2), asked for (2:3), diligently sought (2:4), daily sought (8:33-34), and purposefully retained (7:3-4) from Scripture (28:4; 29:18), from Yahweh (2:5-6), from parents (4:1; 6:20), from multiple wise counselors (11:14), and from wise companions (13:20). I find that people are naturally foolish (22:15) and need both reproof and the rod to move from folly to wisdom (29:15).

Third, I have watched people who (1) ask God for wisdom, (2) believe they received that wisdom directly from God, (3) don't follow the



## student focus

### U.S. STILL “EXCEPTIONALLY” RELIGIOUS

A new study by Lyman Stone of the American Enterprise Institute explores the history of religion in the U.S. First, the bad news: The share of Americans who self-identify “or report being affiliated with any religion” has plummeted from over 95% to around 75% today. The good news is that America’s religiosity has risen and fallen in the past, and the fact remains that “America today is more religious than it was two centuries ago—and indeed at any point between 1750 and 1930.” Therefore, we should be careful not to read too much into the current decline. Also, even though church attendance rates in the U.S. have fallen significantly over the past century, the decline was far less than in other countries. Only in Israel, Italy, and South Africa are rates of church attendance comparable to those of the U.S.

### ENCOURAGING ABORTION EQUALS NO PARENTAL RIGHTS

The Georgia Supreme Court ruled that a father forfeited his parental rights to his biological child when he encouraged the mother to get an abortion and offered to pay for the procedure. She refused, but subsequently legally surrendered her rights to the child. Since that time, the now four-year-old boy has been living with a couple who were attempting to adopt him.

The biological father contested the adoption, but the court said that after the mother’s refusal of his offer to pay for the abortion, the father did not visit the mother, inquire about her well-being, or offer her any emotional or financial support, and concluded that the offer indicated that the father “wanted no relationship at all with [the child], as an abortion would have ensured that no relationship could ever develop.”

### TEMPLETON PRIZE WINNER

Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health, was awarded this year’s Templeton Prize, which recognizes individuals whose achievements relate to questions about the universe and humanity’s place in it. This was awarded in a virtual ceremony as Collins was working 100 hours a week to rally the country’s medical response to coronavirus.

Prior to his NIH role, Collins led the Human Genome Project from 1990 to 2003, which mapped the 3 billion DNA letters that make up the human genome. In a 2001 interview, Collins said: “We human scientists have an opportunity to understand the elegance and wisdom of God’s creation in a way that is truly exhilarating. When a scientist discovers something that no human knew before, but God did—that is both an occasion for scientific excitement and, for a believer, also an occasion for worship.” ■

**CONNOR DAVIS** grew up in Frankfort, IN. He and his family were active in their local church and traveled in children’s ministry. Without feeling a specific call to “traditional ministry,” he was unsure about his future. After attending a VIP Day at GBS and learning that he could take classes toward an engineering degree at other local colleges at no additional cost above what GBS charges per credit hour, the path became clearer. “GBS was perfect for me; I could increase my knowledge of the Bible, grow in my faith, and study toward an engineering career all at once.”

Connor’s ministry dream is to be the person his church can count on for work projects and event background logistics. “I hope to be a part of making practical ministry and worship happen.” He is working toward two degrees: the professional studies program at GBS and mechanical engineering and manufacturing at Northern Kentucky University. He is “learning that the best things happen when I let God decide.” ■

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## James and Anna Orndorff

### *A lifetime of Giving*

Pause a moment. Close your eyes. When you think about a GBS graduate, what specific images come to mind? A pastoral family actively ministering at a holiness church? A missionary working to spread the gospel in some faraway country? A Christian educator shaping the intellect and character of the next generation? Yes, all of these are possibilities. But there are other graduates ministering among us in ways that are not always obvious. This account will introduce you to two of them—siblings James and Anna Orndorff.

### EARLY YEARS

James and Anna were two of the six children born to Phillip and Barbara Orndorff of Hominy Falls, West Virginia. James was the firstborn—September 4, 1921. He was a sickly child, and doctor's predicted he would not live to see his sixteenth birthday. Anna came last—August 11, 1936. There were three other brothers (Victor, 1923; Vinton, 1927; and Clifton, 1929) and one other sister (Phyllis, 1931).

Phillip got saved on Christmas night, 1917, and later received a call to preach. A godly man in the community took an interest in him, and together they spent many hours studying the Bible. Barbara worked outside of the home, teaching school for a while before she was



The Orndorff siblings (back to front, left to right): James, Victor, Clifton, Vinton, Anna (looking back), and Phyllis

hired to run the Hominy Falls Post Office, which also served as a little country store. For 27 years she sorted and handed out the community mail surrounded by 100-pound bags of feed and other general commodities. It was not unusual for people to sit on the feed bags while they waited for the mail to arrive.

All of the Orndorff children attended the one-room schoolhouse in Hominy Falls before moving on to Richwood High School. James had to walk two miles to catch the school bus for a 20-mile ride to Richwood. After he graduated, a bus garage was built just below the Orndorff house. So Anna and some of her older siblings did not have to endure the long walk along with the frost and snow that accumulated on their eyebrows during the frigid winters.

According to Anna, all of the Orndorffs were good students, but she jokes that her siblings “were all

better’n me.” James and Victor were especially smart. Their teachers told them that with their abilities the sky was the limit—they could be whatever they wanted to be. After college, Vinton worked for Ashland Oil, and Clifton became a mechanic and worked in a factory in northern Ohio. “It took four people to keep up with him, but construction was what was really in his blood. He could build anything.” Eventually, he enjoyed sharing his talents by assisting with projects on short-term mission trips. Meanwhile, Anna and Phyllis worked in the store, and, when they each turned 16, they were also sworn in to help process and dispense mail.

Their father became the long-time pastor of the local Methodist Church. However, a number of his parishioners opposed his preaching on sanctification as a second work of grace. To supplement his income, he



James Orndorff — official U.S. Navy photo during World War II

worked at the tippie in the mines, loading coal into railroad cars. He got along well with his boss.

One day the supervisor said, "Phillip, I want to ask you something. Why do so many people have it in for you?" Phillip was surprised and indicated he was unaware of such animosity. His boss continued, "I don't know how many people have been over here from Hominy Falls wanting me to fire you."

He refused to be discouraged in the face of growing criticism, but things began to get even rougher. The pressure on his boss to fire him was part of a campaign to "starve him out," but the family continued to have plenty to eat. When still others let Phillip know they would prevent him from being buried in the local graveyard, he replied, "I am not dead yet."

All the while, Pastor Orndorff helped everybody, even those who

were "out to get him." Anna recalls the time that one of those critical parishioners became deathly ill and called the pastor in the middle of the night. "I remember Papa getting up and going to pray with him."

Perhaps it was some of those among this obstinate group who enticed Victor to start drinking to spite his father because of his preaching against the consumption of alcohol. But even while a prodigal, Victor remained good-hearted. He would run with his sinning buddies all week long, but on Sunday he would say, "We are going to

church." They would pile into a pew and listen while his father admonished them from the pulpit to give their lives to God.

James attended West Virginia University. Once, when he was home from school, a great revival was in progress at the Methodist Church, and James was soundly converted. Anna remembers that two neighbors, Edison Weaver and one of his buddies, were out hunting and heard the singing at the church. Edison said, "Let's go to church tomorrow night." He went, but his friend did not. During the service, his attention was drawn to a woman in the aisle whose face was aglow with the joy of the Lord while her hands were in the air. Edison got happy himself, was saved at his seat, and began to shout. He later received a call to preach.

Eventually, Pastor Phillip was informed that his services were no longer needed nor wanted at the

Methodist Church. Unfazed, he built a tabernacle on the family farm with the help of Clifton, his "builder" son, who became the first convert during the first revival meeting preached by Edison Weaver in the new facility! Anna was saved at a later time in one of Edison's meetings.

James completed his undergraduate degree at WVU and began studying to become a physician. He dated several young ladies, including a nurse with whom he had discussed marriage. A "Dear John" letter ended that prospect. Then he was drafted into service during World War II. Due to his medical education, he became a medic on a mine sweeper ship. It was a very dangerous assignment as their ship navigated Japanese waters. One of his duties was to keep the entire crew properly vaccinated. God protected him throughout his tour, and after he was released from the Navy, he spent some time with his family. The war had interrupted his university studies, and James never completed his medical degree.

In 1956, Anna broke up with her fiancée prior to her August wedding. Edward had previously pressured her to elope, and Anna felt that marrying secretly without the consent of her parents would have dishonored them. She believes her parents' prayers prevented her from going through with the wedding. Edward was later tragically killed in a mining accident. Within a month of her intended wedding date, Anna and her brother James found themselves en route to God's Bible School as students.

## ON THE HILLTOP

A Cincinnati lawyer who regularly attended the Orndorffs' annual camp meeting had suggested that they should consider enrolling at GBS. Believing this was of the Lord, the siblings submitted their applications. When Connie King (Palm) informed them that they were

accepted, they started for Cincinnati, picking up fellow student Robert Hiler on the way.

James recalled driving along Route 52 through the beautiful countryside and small towns until they reached Cincinnati, where they began to look for someone who might be able to direct them to the school. The only information they had was the street names of Ringgold, Channing, and Young. Arriving at Liberty Street, they began ascending Liberty Hill, thinking the school must be at a higher elevation since it was known as the “Mount of Blessings.” Suddenly someone exclaimed, “There’s Ringgold Street!” They slowed down and turned on the next street, which was Channing. This led them directly to the campus.

According to James, “The way I explained it afterward was that the Lord had a bullring in that Mercury’s nose and led us all the way. It was September 4, my 35th birthday. What a birthday present from the Good Lord!”

They both worked to pay their way through school. Anna first worked at a nursing home before moving on to other jobs, including a stint with the Internal Revenue Service. James’ first job was at The Christ Hospital. When his supervisor assigned him the task of purchasing cigarettes, James refused on religious grounds, and the supervisor fired him.

At GBS, James earned a ThB in 1959 and Anna earned a Christian Worker’s Course certificate in 1958, a ThB in 1961, and a BA in 1968. After the first few years of living in dormitories and nearby apartments with various roommates, the siblings began sharing residences—24 years in one of the Ritter apartments on Young Street; two years in the Hayes House, 1832 Josephine; and 22 years in the Artz House at 1827 Josephine.

Anna had been friends with the elderly Olga Artz for 30 years. She weekly chauffeured Ms. Artz to stores, restaurants, doctors, the hair



Anna and James are named “Alumni of the Year” by Alumni President Steve Mills during Homecoming 2007.

photo by Kevin Moser

salon—anywhere she wanted to go. When Ms. Artz passed away, her son Pete gave the house to the Orndorffs. It has been their home since 1998.

## CAREERS

After completing his degree at GBS, James continued his studies at the University of Cincinnati, earning a graduate degree in teaching. He then taught public school in Kentucky for a short time, but soon realized it was not something he was suited for. He worked at Holmes Hospital for more than twenty years before being transferred to University Hospital for a couple of years prior to retirement. One of his work benefits was free classes at the University of Cincinnati. Every three months of work qualified him for a free class. He took advantage of this every time, studying a wide range of subjects from meteorology to electricity. After his retirement from University Hospital, he worked at GBS making bank deposits and the daily mail runs to and from the post office.

Anna worked at Ohio Financial Services for 22 years doing clerical

work and printing. Unfortunately, she had a difficult boss who treated her poorly. Reaching an emotional breaking point, Anna was unable to work for nine months. She mentioned her problems to an acquaintance, a lawyer, who called the personnel office. Eventually, the old boss was fired and she was asked to return. This time she worked in the mailing department. Her new boss was a good manager. Because Anna liked being busy, she told him, “I need more work”; so she was given additional work. When she retired in 2001, her supervisor said, “It’ll take two or three to replace you.” That made Anna feel good.

## THERE FOR EACH OTHER

Phillip, the patriarch of the family died in 1972. James was with his father when he died. Then their mother was diagnosed with cancer. Phyllis, who had continued her work in the hometown post office and store, quit her job and took care of their mother until her passing in 1975. James made sure he

was there at the end as well, having saved enough vacation time to make that possible.

For years after that, Phyllis came to Cincinnati to stay with James and Anna during the cold months. As their other brothers passed away, leaving Phyllis without family in West Virginia, Anna invited Phyllis to move in with her and James. Anna cared for her for years as Phyllis began suffering from dementia. She was glad to be able to do it because she had always been grateful for how Phyllis had quit her job to take care of their mother. While Anna held her hand, Phyllis slipped into eternity on April 4, 2020 (see obituary p.10). A sister-in-law also died less than a week later.

Anna continued to care for James, who was approaching his 99th birthday. Two months after the death of Phyllis, James passed away peacefully on June 13, 2020, with Anna holding his hand (see obituary p.13). Within days, another close relative, their cousin Ann, also died.

## A LIFETIME OF GIVING

Not only have James and Anna Orndorff lived lives of notable generosity and kindness, as many friends, missionaries, and Christian organizations can attest, they have especially loved “their school” and have been very consistent in giving back to it.

Near the end of his term as president of GBS, Michael Avery visited the Orndorffs and gave them a commemorative clock and plaque. He informed them that the sum of their financial gifts to the school amounted to more than \$200,000. James and Anna were astonished! They were just ordinary people of modest means who made it a habit to give regularly. They had no idea that their monthly checks and occasional special offerings had added up to what seemed to them to be an enormous amount of money.

Several years ago, Anna realized how daunting it was for her to take care of her large home while also caring for her siblings. She contacted a realtor who put the house on the market for \$190,000. As people stopped to look at the house, Anna realized she didn’t want to go through with the sale after all. She was afraid that the wrong neighbors would be bad for GBS. “We told the school that we would sign the property over to them if we could live here as long as we are able.” This one charitable gift has effectively doubled their total giving to GBS!

James and Anna Orndorff are not what you would call “traditional” ministers, but they have had an impactful ministry of prayer support and giving. Asked why they have lived this way, Anna said, “The Lord has just blessed us, you know. James was always good to give. I just love to give. I guess that is just in my blood. I would rather give to the Bible school than anywhere else.” ■



by Sonja Vernon

## HOW'S YOUR DIET

*“In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following.” —1 Tim. 4:6 NASB*

We live in a food-obsessed culture. Don’t believe me? Look up “food stylist.” Search the web, and you’ll find thousands of entries telling you if a particular food is good or bad, superfood or junk food, and which diets incorporate it. Speaking of diets, your choices are infinite—Keto, Mediterranean, Flexitarian, Vegan, Nordic, WW, and the list goes on. Celebrity testimonials and before-and-after shots entice us to eat this thing or that, promising miraculous results with minimal effort. But the truth of the matter is unchanged with the passage of time. What we eat matters. The foods we choose will either build us up or harm the bodies God has given us. We can’t just eat anything we want (depending on our appetite) and have bodies that are in tip-top physical shape. Why? Because some foods nourish us, and some just don’t. In 1 Timothy, Paul reminds his young protégé that spiritual food parallels the physical in this way. Sound doctrine and words of faith feed our spirit. They fortify us and make us spiritually strong, able to live faithfully as good servants of Christ—unlike the old wives tales and foolish disputes in which we are often tempted to indulge (1 Tim. 4:7, 2 Tim. 2:14-17). So, I ask you today, how’s your diet? Are you taking in things that are helping you grow in grace, flex your spiritual muscles, and thrive as Christ’s ambassador in this present world? If not, there’s this great diet plan.... ■

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



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