

The background of the cover is a photograph of three men, identified as The Stetler Trio, performing on a stage. They are all wearing suits and ties, and are singing into microphones. The man on the left is wearing a grey suit and a gold chain. The man in the middle is wearing a dark suit and a red and white striped tie. The man on the right is wearing a blue suit and a red and white striped tie. They are standing behind a black podium. To the left of the men, a portion of an American flag is visible. The background is a red wall with some architectural details.

GOD'S REVIVALIST

November 2020

and Bible Advocate

The Stetler Trio
reunites for
Virtual Homecoming
2020



about this issue

PRICE VERSUS COST

I have been shopping for wireless earplug headphones. I have convinced myself that I need these for my job. My goal is to be able to listen to an audio file on my computer and switch to an incoming call on my cell phone with just a tap on the earplug. What can I say? I am a man of simple desires!

Of primary concern to me is price—that simple little number displayed on the box or blazing on the computer screen just below the item picture and description. But be careful! Shopping by price can be a bad trap. Lower prices can mean lower quality, less functionality, higher incidence of needed repair, etc.

After you pay the price, there are other costs to be considered—costs such as: What will I have to give up to get this? How easy will it be to maintain and troubleshoot? How quickly does it run through batteries? It soon becomes apparent that cost is more relevant, more real, and more complicated than price. In almost every situation, cost matters more.

This got me to thinking about price versus cost with respect to salvation. With salvation, price is no obstacle for us. It has already been taken care of. I don't say this nonchalantly, as that price was well beyond our means. *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16). Yes, the price for our salvation has already been paid, but there are costs to consider.

There are costs involved in this free gift of salvation. Some changes will have to be made. Salvation will cost you some friends, some relationships, some places you used to frequent. Attitudes must change. Hierarchy of the importance of things will need to be reordered—and a lot more.

The reality is that many of these changes will take a while to be fully realized and become the "new normal." The good news is that we will have help throughout this process. We do not have to go through this transformation alone. In fact, this type of transformation requires the guiding hand of the Gentle Shepherd. This is not to say that we have no part to play. The type of surrender needed to effect this momentous change is very demanding. It requires our total commitment to stay in sync with the Spirit, but the reward for accepting these ongoing "costs" is out of this world! —KF ■

CONTENTS

NOVEMBER 2020
Volume 132 No. 8

FEATURES

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Thankfulness | 5 |
| by Marc Sankey | |
| Standing In Daddy's Strength | 8 |
| by Alicia Bruxvoort | |
| Thanksgiving | 9 |
| by Kate Seymour MacLean | |

DEPARTMENTS

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| The President's Page | 3 |
| Letters To The Editor | 7 |
| News From The Hilltop | 10 |
| Revivalist Family | 10 |
| Dear Phil: A Biblical Response | 16 |
| World Pulse | 17 |
| Student Focus | 17 |
| Called Unto Holiness | 18 |
| Revivalist Pulpit | 19 |
| Alumni News | 21 |
| Thoughts For The Quiet Hour | 23 |

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COVER PHOTO by Rachel Pohl of the Stetler Trio (David, Darrell, and Daniel) performing during Homecoming 2020. See pages 21-23 for more information.

the president's page



RUNNING THE RACE

Endurance

by Rodney Loper, President

Every time I run for exercise, I reach a point after about a mile at which I begin trying to motivate myself to continue. “You can make it to the next driveway.” “You can make it to the next light pole.”

If you’ve done much running, you know how important motivation is. It is not enough to put on your running clothes, lace up your running shoes, and sit down at the end of the driveway. Preparation is extremely important, but in the passage of Scripture serving as a focus for this series, we see that we are to run with ENDURANCE. “*Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us*” (Heb. 12:1 ESV).

The Hebrew writer challenges us with our need for the one thing that all of us must have if we are to be successful—and that is *endurance*. To run with endurance, we need more than just the encouragement of those watching us from the stands, as helpful as that may be. We need someone—Jesus—to come alongside of us to enable us and empower us to run the race!

The context here is important. The Hebrew believers were facing persecution from two sources: people within society as well as from the government itself. They were struggling to maintain a spiritual life and were being sorely tempted to abandon the faith that they had. However, rather than giving up, they were encouraged to endure.

To help us understand this emphasis, let’s look at three questions.

WHAT IS ENDURANCE?

“Patience,” “endured,” and “endure” in these verses are all forms of the same Greek word which means “to abide or stay under.” In other words, endurance is a firm resolve not to quit. When I am not in shape, I run telephone pole to telephone pole. “Lord, if I can make it to that one, surely I can make it to the next one.” A resolve not to quit

is something you must firmly establish in your life. Even if you stumble, even if you fall, resolve helps you to get back up. You are just NOT going to quit.

Every year, Australia hosts an endurance race from Sydney to Melbourne, a distance of 543.7 miles. It is normally only attempted by world-class athletes who train specially for the event. These athletes are typically less than 30 years old.

In 1983, Cliff Young, a 61-year-old, showed up in overalls and work boots to pick up his race number. Of course the press and other athletes thought he was crazy and that he would never finish the race. When the race started, the pros quickly left Cliff behind. The crowds and television audience were entertained because Cliff didn't even run properly; he appeared to shuffle. Many even feared for the old farmer's safety.

All of the professional athletes knew that it took about five days to finish the race. In order to compete, one had to run about 18 hours a day and sleep the remaining six hours. The thing is, Cliff Young didn't know that! He didn't sleep; he kept running! He was the first competitor to cross that finish line in 1983. He set a new course record. Why? He just kept running!

So how should you run the spiritual race in order to make it to heaven? It does not require some "super saint" status. It does not mean that you must attain some special level spiritually that other people can't attain. The way to make it to heaven is to KEEP GOING. Run the race with endurance.

Enduring also means that you will finish in spite of the difficulty, danger, disillusionment, or pain that might be experienced during the race. In other words, maintain confidence in Christ regardless of the obstacles, opposition, or opportunities that might exist. You can be sure that there is at least one person who will obstruct and oppose you along the race—Satan. He doesn't want you to make it. He also dangles "opportunities" in an attempt to get you off the track and out of the race. Be very careful, because if you couple your self-rationalization to his enticements, you can justify just about anything you want to do. Don't fall for these distractions. You will finish the race if you keep running.

As we grow in faith, we persevere under trial. We resist the temptation to quit. We are able to absorb the pressure life hands us because we know that God is ultimately in control! It is right here that we develop endurance and a settled, firm, established, and solid faith.

WHY DO WE NEED ENDURANCE?

As the Roman government and religious opponents persecuted believers, it affected those early Christians both emotionally and spiritually. The Hebrew writer pictures these internal struggles with a couple of words that refer to physical fatigue.

"Wearied" suggests coming to a point where you are worn out, exhausted, and, as the "Loper Standard Version" puts it—"sick and tired." It is the process of being worn down, losing determination, and just simply wanting to give up. "Faint in your minds" has the idea of losing heart. You need help and you need it now! You just can't take it a moment longer.

Remember this is an analogy given in the midst of a metaphor about a race. Therefore, it brings to mind runners who collapse from exhaustion before they ever cross the finish line. They can't make it any further. For those early Christians, faltering often meant going back to their religious roots, such as polytheism. This is often the case when people get discouraged in their faith. They gradually head back to where they started. The Hebrew writer encourages us not to falter before the finish line.

WHAT IS THE MEANS OF ENDURANCE?

We know from our earlier column that we are to "look unto Jesus" (v.2). Next we are told that we are to "consider him that endured such a contradiction of sinners" (v.3).

If you're like me, this phrase isn't easily understood. After some study, I would suggest that it means that we should mentally compare Christ's sufferings with our suffering. "Consider Him" calls us to reflect upon the sufferings of Christ. Meditating on Jesus in the midst of our own discouragement, persecution, or disillusionment is important. It gets our focus off ourselves and on the One Who went through the trials and difficulties that we face in life—the One Who also gives us the grace, help, and strength to make it through the difficulties of life.

We will not find strength to run this race in personal discipline, self-effort, self-help books, or any other self-oriented means. The strength to run the race is found through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. This reminds me of a song by Lanny Wolfe:

*Not the one who runs the swiftest,
Nor the one who shines for a day,
But the one who endureth to the end—
He, he shall be saved.*

CONCLUSION

So, my friends, I would encourage you today to stay in the race. Lay aside anything that may hinder. Don't quit. Don't get tangled up in the mess around you. Keep looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. ■

Note from the editor: This series will resume in the 2021 March issue of God's Revivalist.



Thankfulness

by Marc Sankey

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7
(King James Version)

Why is it so difficult to be thankful and express our thankfulness? Could it be because thankfulness is a selfless attitude, and that we, as normal human beings, are naturally self-focused? Yes, we worry about our health, our material needs, our financial well-being, our academics/education. So, when we pray, our first inclination is to ask God to give us what we need.

Are we supposed to refrain from asking God for things? Of course not! Paul tells the Philippian Christians to be anxious for nothing, but in EVERYTHING let your requests be made known unto God...WITH THANKSGIVING...! Even in our asking/petitioning we are to perpetually be acknowledging God's goodness and faithfulness through thanksgiving.

INGRATITUDE AND PRIDE

Sometimes our pride gets in the way of a thankful spirit or an attitude of gratitude. Our natural thankfulness without grace operating in our hearts is inauthentic at best (thoughtless mealtime prayers) and boastful at worst. An example of the latter is Pharisaical or hypocritical thankfulness—that is, thankfulness in appearance only. "I thank you that I am not like other men...." (Luke 18:11). This is pride mas-

querading as thankfulness. See how ingratitude and pride go together? What is ingratitude ultimately but a personal belief that you are sufficient, that you are the source of everything good in your life? The end result is that people will become "lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy" (2 Tim. 3:2 KJV). When pride and self-rule become fashionable, the human heart has no one to thank. We become convinced of our own supremacy and consider all we have as a just reward for our efforts.

INGRATITUDE IS SIN

Ingratitude is a serious sin in Scripture: "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened" (Rom. 1:21 KJV). The picture painted in the rest of the chapter is one of the darkest in all of the Bible as it follows the depths of man's depravity as the human heart turns in on itself and refuses to acknowledge God and be thankful for who He is and His creation. It is no wonder, then, that the Bible not only commands us to give thanks, but to be thankful—continually, at all times, in all circumstances, and for all things:

NOVEMBER 2020

"Giving thanks ALWAYS for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph. 5:20 KJV).

"In EVERY THING give thanks" (1 Thess. 5:18a KJV).

"Give thanks IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thess. 5:18).

What is there in your life for which you cannot imagine thanking God? As Spirit-filled Christians, we are to be giving thanks for all things to God, even those which cause tremendous pain, discomfort, confusion, hardship, etc. We give thanks not just when we get a good report from the doctor, not just when we pass the test for which we studied hard and about which we prayed even harder, not just when God sends the needed money right on time, not just when we get the job we wanted, not just when things go right, but also when they go wrong.

To praise God in those times requires personal sacrifice. While sacrifice and praise don't seem to go together, Scripture informs us that we are "continually" to "offer to God a sacrifice of praise" (Heb. 13:15).

Yes, we are to offer to God our thanks "even if" or "especially when" it costs us something—even when it is painful. It takes an act of the will to lay our all on the altar before a God we don't understand. When we bring a "sacrifice of praise," we choose to believe that, even though life is not going as we think it should, God is still good and can be trusted.

God is good regardless of our circumstances. Our negative or painful circumstances do not change the character of God. I think of the words of Job when his entire family is taken from him in one tragic, catastrophic day: *"The LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD"* (Job 1:21).

"Our praise of God is not to be based on our opinion of His job performance. Praise cannot be treated as a 'reward' we give God for His obvious blessings. Isaiah 29:13 says, 'These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.' Real praise continues regardless of circumstances. It flows continually from a worshiping heart in good times and bad (Acts 16:23-25)." ¹

The "sacrifice of praise" comes from a humble heart that has been purified by fire. It rises from a spirit that has chosen to honor God in spite of the pain that life is causing. We can have thankful hearts toward God even when we do not feel thankful for the circumstance. We can grieve and still be thankful. We can hurt and still be thankful. We can be angry at sin and still be thankful toward God. That is what the Bible calls a "sacrifice of praise."

BENEFITS OF GIVING THANKS ²

The Scriptures are full of commands and encouragements to give thanks to God, to be thankful to Him, but what are the benefits of a thankful heart?

It Rights Relationships. I think you'd agree, it's hard to stay mad at someone when you turn to God in thanks for them. The seeds of a thankful heart are able to overtake the roots of bitterness any day. *"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you"* (Phil. 1:3).

It Gives Light to the Heart. To give thanks is to blaze a pathway for righteousness. It readies the mind for more, but ingratitude is an avid partner in turning one's back on God. *"For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools"* (Rom. 1:21-22).

It Makes Unbearable Circumstances Bearable. Do you know what Christ did the night before He was crucified? He gave thanks (Luke 22:19). An unbearable situation was made bearable because Christ set His mind on one thing and one thing only—the Father. *"For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me'"* (1 Cor. 11:23-24).


It Silences the Enemy. Satan holds no power over a heart full of thanksgiving. As a sacrifice of praise, thanksgiving focuses our attention where it should be—on the provisions of the Father—while self-pity puts us right where Satan wants us—defeated, disappointed, doubtful, and despairing. *"Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger"* (Psa. 8:2 NIV). And if a child can silence them, just think what the conscious choice of thanksgiving on the heels of heartbreaking circumstances might be able to do!

It Glorifies God. And there is no greater accomplishment. Nor is there anything more fulfilling. *"The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God"* (Psa. 50:23).

It Stills Anxiety. Oh, but the bitter bite of anxiety is fierce, stealing any sense of control we may feel. BUT to be thankful in the wake of uncertainty is to embrace a heart of peace. *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"* (Phil. 4:6-7).

It Shields Against Other Sin. When I'm giving thanks with my whole heart, there is little room for much else. But when I'm grumpy or bitter or moping around, the floodgates swing wide for a wide array of sins. *"I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever. For great is your steadfast love toward me"* (Psa. 86:12-13a).

It Helps Us Remember. When we give thanks, we tend to remember a little better Who God is and what



Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

I really enjoyed the article about Auschwitz along with the pictures [March]...and the article "At Capa City" [April]. The story about the inner city missions...was very interesting [May]. Thanks again for the great publication.

JERRY READLE
Denver, CO

God's Revivalist has been a blessing for many years. I always look forward to each issue. Keep up the good work. God Bless!

LARRY RHOD
Jamestown, TN

I would like to renew God's Revivalist for two more years. It has been a blessing and a help to me. I'm thankful you still hold up the standard of holiness.

I pray for President Loper and all the teachers at GBS, for God to give them wisdom as they help young people prepare for their future. We must keep the armor of God on at all times and keep fighting the good fight of faith together.

RUTH BUCKLAND
Dayton, OH

I was doing a bit of correspondence this morning and remembered I wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed your reflection on the mountain you are facing these days ["My Mountain," GR May, p.2], and how you press on. Amazing how we are all so integral to one another and, therefore, find ourselves deeply helped by reflection on our shared humanity. Thank you for sharing so well and openly. Steady on (I tell myself, and others). To quote this beautiful song that has reverberated in my heart for several weeks, "We are not alone; God is with us."

RANDY HUFF
North Pole, AK

He has done. But a thankless heart is a heart that's forgotten Who God is compared to who we are, and yet He died for us anyway. *"I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds"* (Psa. 9:1).

It Leads to Joy. When I stop and consider all the blessings I've been given in Christ, how can I not be joyful? And I don't mean the kind of joy that comes with opening a fresh box of Lucky Charms. I mean the kind of joy that permeates even the hardest of days. *"Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever"* (Psa. 118:1).

It Gives Way to Contentment. To be thankful is to nourish contentment. And to be content is to recognize God is a faithful provider. *"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?...But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you"* (Matt. 6:25-26, 33).

It Teaches the Next Generation to Do the Same. Truth be told, if we don't live it, they won't either. But if we live a life of thanksgiving, giving praise to God for everything, so will they. *"But we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you forever; from generation to generation we will recount your praise"* (Psa. 79:13).

It Brings Us Together. Tragedy may bring people together, but it's thanksgiving that keeps them together. *"Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation"* (Psa. 111:1).

CONCLUSION

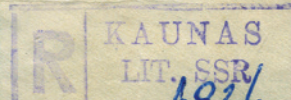
In addition, Proverbs 15:15 says, *"The cheerful of heart has a continual feast."* But dare I say the feast begins with thanksgiving and ends with it as well?

As we come to the close of another year, we Christians would do well to thank our God for His gracious providence, a providence that superintends the course of our lives and promises to guide every step we take into an unknown but secure future. ■

Marc Sankey (BRE '95) speaks in churches, camp meetings, and conferences across the country. He has spent 14 years in pastoral ministry, 10 years in missions, and three years as Vice President for Advancement at GBS. He and his wife Melodie (Miller) (BA '94) have three adult sons; two are GBS alumni and one is a current student. The Sankeys live in Cincinnati, OH. Scripture references are from ESV except where otherwise noted.

1. "Prayer, Praise and Practice (part 4)" posted by Soundcrest, January 5, 2014, at soundcrestblog.wordpress.com.
2. Thanks to Stacy Salsbery who gave the benefits of thankfulness in a November 21, 2017, post at deeperdevos.com.

NOVEMBER 2020



07

Standing in Daddy's STRENGTH

by Alicia Bruxvoort

*"The Eternal is the source of my strength and the shield that guards me.
When I learn to rest and truly trust Him, He sends His help." —Psalm 28:7a (VOICE)*

It was years ago when my firstborn traipsed through a muddy pumpkin field in search of the perfect pumpkin, but I can picture him now. Wrapped in a fuzzy yellow sweatshirt and an ornery grin, he moved up and down the rows of tangled vines and inspected the bulging orange fruit.

I'd already made it clear we were leaving with just one, so he stooped to consider the shape and texture, the width and height, of every pumpkin that caught his eye.

He wiggled them and slapped them, sniffed them and studied them. Finally, he gave a Goliath-sized gourd a gentle kick and stared at me with an expectant grin. "I want this one, Mom!"

"Weigh it, then pay it!" the sign posted on the edge of the pumpkin field had declared.

One look at Goliath, and I knew I didn't have enough money in my pocket to pay for my son's pumpkin of choice. But before I could voice my objection, a cover-all-clad farmer sauntered to our side.

"I'll give you that pumpkin for free if you can carry it," he said to my boy with a conspiratorial wink.

My little one nodded, then wrapped his spindly arms around the pumpkin's massive middle and tried to lift it out of the dirt. He grunted and heaved, heaved and grunted; but that pumpkin wouldn't budge.

Finally, my preschooler plopped on the ground beside that giant gourd, and I braced myself for the angry wails that were sure to follow.

Much to my surprise, there were no tears or tantrums, just an honest admission: "I'm not strong enough to carry this," my boy told the kind-eyed farmer.

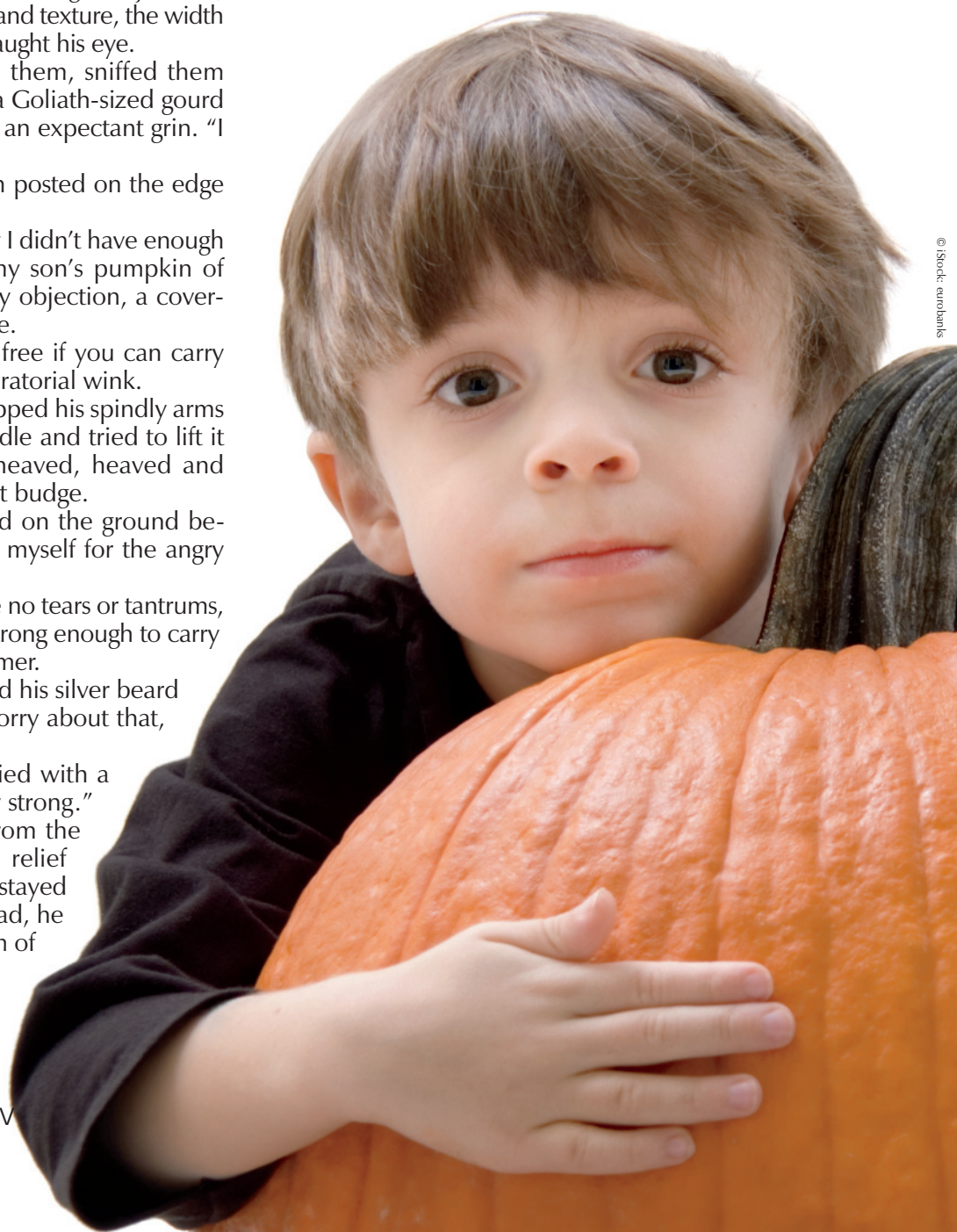
The old pumpkin grower rubbed his silver beard and held my son's earnest gaze. "Sorry about that, young man," he said.

"It's okay," my 4-year-old replied with a confident smile. "My daddy's really strong."

A sing-song chuckle erupted from the farmer's lips, and I laughed with relief when I realized that my son hadn't stayed stuck on what he couldn't do. Instead, he allowed his weakness to remind him of what his daddy could do.

And there on that pumpkin-dotted hilltop, it struck me. That's all God asks of His children, too.

God doesn't expect us to stir up our own strength or multiply our own might. He doesn't command us to conquer our challenges alone or give up when we face our gaps. He invites us to seek His with-ness in our weakness and enlist His extravagance in our lack.



© iStock: eurobank

Scripture reminds us that our strength is found in Christ (Phil. 4:13), and our might comes from our Maker (Psa. 24:8).

Perhaps that's why, in our key verse, we find King David singing with confidence when it seems he'll soon be sunk.

"The Eternal is the source of my strength and the shield that guards me. When I learn to rest and truly trust Him, He sends His help" (Psa. 28:7a VOICE).

And centuries later, we discover the Apostle Paul echoing the same sentiment from a stinky prison cell, where he declares:

"I am at peace and even take pleasure in any weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and afflictions for the sake of the Anointed because when I am at my weakest, He makes me strong" (2 Cor. 12:10 VOICE).

King David and the Apostle Paul understood what you and I would be wise to remember: Our weaknesses can set the stage for God's strength.

Our lack can pave the way for His provision. Our gaps can be windows to His glory. Our "not enough" can make room for His "immeasurably more" (Eph. 3:20, NIV).

Friends, when we truly understand this radical truth, something amazing happens. We become less concerned about what we can't do and more convinced of what God can do. Where we once felt frustration, we find freedom. Where we once felt discouragement, we find hope. Where we once felt frailty, we find strength. And just like Paul, David, and a 4-year-old I once knew, we discover that our weaknesses aren't fatal when we have a Daddy who's faithful...and really, really strong.

Dear Jesus, I want to know You as my strong Father. Teach me how to live in the freedom of Your strength rather than in the frustration of my shortcomings. In Jesus' Name, Amen. ■

Alicia Bruxvoort is a writer and speaker. In addition to writing devotionals for Proverbs31.org, her articles on faith and family have been featured in various magazines. A storyteller at heart, she delights in telling a good tale, but her favorite story is the one she lives daily in Holland, MI, with her five kids and her husband of 27 years.

Thanksgiving

by Kate Seymour MacLean

The Autumn hills are golden at the top,
And rounded as a poet's silver rhyme;
The mellow days are ruby ripe, that drop
One after one into the lap of time.

Dead leaves are reddening in the woodland copse,
And forest boughs a fading glory wear;
No breath of wind stirs in their hazy tops,
Silence and peace are brooding everywhere.

The long day of the year is almost done,
And nature in the sunset musing stands,
Gray-robed, and violet-hooded like a nun,
Looking abroad o'er yellow harvest lands:

O'er tents of orchard boughs, and purple vines
With scarlet flecked, flung like broad banners out
Along the field paths where slow-pacing lines
Of meek-eyed kine obey the herdboy's shout;

Where the tired ploughman his dun oxen turns,
Unyoked, afield, mid dewy grass to stray,
While over all the village church spire burns—
A shaft of flame in the last beams of day.

Empty and folded are her busy hands;
Her corn and wine and oil are safely stored,
As in the twilight of the year she stands,
And with her gladness seems to thank the Lord.

Thus let us rest awhile from toil and care,
In the sweet sabbath of this autumn calm,
And lift our hearts to heaven in grateful prayer,
And sing with nature our thanksgiving psalm. ■

Kate Seymour MacLean (1829-1916) was a Canadian poet. This poem is a tribute to the autumn season.

NOVEMBER 2020



FALL REVIVAL

GBS welcomed Rollin Mitchell back to campus September 10-13 as the evangelist for the 2020 fall revival. Rev. Mitchell has become a campus favorite with his unique way of weaving vivid, and often comical, accounts from his life into his sermons as a way to illustrate various points.

The Sunday evening service (9/13) was particularly notable. After reading Mark 5:22-34, he spoke on the topic of "Who Touched My Clothes?"

Jairus, the synagogue leader whose daughter was dying, had fallen at the feet of Jesus and begged Him to help his daughter. While on His way to the house of Jairus, a large crowd followed and pressed around Him. Amidst the crowd a woman came up behind Jesus and touched His cloak because she thought, "If I just touch His clothes, I will be healed." She came with that purpose. She came in her poverty as she "had spent all" on physicians. She came in her misery as she had "suffered



Rev. Rollin Mitchell preaches the GBS fall revival.

many things." She came with a long-standing malady of 12 years. She came in her hopelessness. But when she was able to touch Jesus, she was immediately healed, and she instantly knew "what was done in her."

Rev. Mitchell suggested that everyone needs to touch Jesus; whenever He is involved, He will not disappoint.

This series of messages given in the Adcock Chapel September 10-

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



Rev. Orba Jefferson "Buddy" Perry, Jr., 75, of Anderson, IN, was welcomed to his heavenly home by the Savior he so faithfully served on Monday morning, August 17, 2020. He was born in Houston, TX, to Orba and Mildred Mae (Hunter) Perry in 1945.

Lovingly known to all as "Uncle Bud," he was a man of deep integrity. At the age of 17, he felt a call to preach. He met Aletha Jane Staley while attending Bethany Nazarene College in Bethany, OK. They were married on June 12, 1965. Shortly thereafter, they moved to Indiana to attend Union Bible Seminary; however, Buddy completed his education at Covenant Foundation College where he was one of the first two graduates. In those early years, he served as pastor in New Castle, IN, Greenfield,

IN, and his hometown of Houston, TX, before settling in Anderson, IN, where God gave Buddy and Jane 21 wonderful years of ministry at the Grace Holiness Church.

In November of 1986, Uncle Bud helped establish the International Conservative Holiness Association (ICHA) and served as its general chairman for 31 years, pouring his heart and soul into this ministry, its campground, and people. He also had a passion for missions and made 34 trips to Honduras, as well as trips to South Africa, Haiti, Guatemala, and Mexico.

Surviving Buddy are his wife of 56 years, Jane; three children, Jeff, Jon, and Elizabeth Arnett; ten grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; a brother, Robert; two sisters, Sharon Luna and Barbara Ferguson; and many nieces and nephews. Due to COVID-19, a drive-through visitation was held at the Buddy and Jane Perry Tabernacle on the ICHA Campground, Greenfield, IN. A private family service was held, livestreamed for the public, with Rev. Rollin Mitchell officiating and burial following.

Dwight Emerson Reibling, 94, passed away August 18, 2020, in Bad Axe, MI. He was born February 20,



Cale Manley at Northern Kentucky University



Shaundale Green at Laurel Homes

13 can be viewed on the school's Facebook page under those dates. All the sermons were special, and we thank God for every decision made, every victory won.

2020 OPEN AIR CAMPAIGN

The fall Open Air Campaign (OAC) training and outreach took place from September 28 to October 1. It began with a presentation in chapel by Mike Wilson of OAC and was followed that afternoon by students and faculty heading to Fountain Square for an open air meeting utilizing sketchboard ministry, distribution of tracts, and engaging in conversation with people about the gospel. The afternoon and evening were filled with activities designed to train students on two tracks of ministry presentation—to adults and to children.

The following day began with student training sessions on the "rope trick," an effective attention getter. The ministry team went to the University of Cincinnati over the noon hour and set up a sketch board near the student center. Jayshaun Williams and Nick Long preached to those assembled. Outreach for children took place downtown at the Stanley Row Homes and Sycamore Street during the afternoon and evening.

The last two days involved similar schedules. Wednesday saw a noon session at Northern Kentucky University, with Jaime Becerra and Cale Manley presenting the sketch board message. On Thursday, the group went back to the University of Cincinnati where Charles Satterfield and Stephen Wegendt presented the messages. Of course there were profitable conversations before ➡



1926, on the homestead farm of Irwin and Lillie (Steinman) Reibling of Elkton, MI. Dwight graduated from Elkton High School in 1944 and served in the Army during World War II. Dwight received a BS degree from Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI, after which he pursued ministerial education at United Theological Seminary, Dayton, OH, earning an MDiv. As an ordained minister, Dwight served many congregations around Michigan. He was a multi-career pastor who enjoyed teaching sixth grade and being an insurance underwriter. After retirement from the active ministry, he became a licensed realtor, home builder, and mechanical contractor. He subscribed to *God's Revivalist* and financially supported GBS.

Dwight was preceded in death by his wife of 67 years, Marion Ruth (Brown), as well as his youngest son, Clyde Alan. He is survived by daughter Rosemary Jo Sechrist; son Lyle; eight grandchildren; twelve great-grandchildren; one great-great-granddaughter; and his sister Emma Rohrs. Interment was at Caseville Township

Cemetery, Caseville, MI. A gathering for remembrance will be held at a future date.



Michael Earl Holsapple, 73, of Williams, IN, passed away August 21 at his residence. Born September 11, 1946, in Bedford, IN, he was the son of Eugene and L. Maxine (Mundy) Holsapple. He married Darnell Hatfield on December 17, 1966. He worked 40 years as a tool and die maker for General Motors. Michael attended Faith Mission Church, Bedford, where he was Sunday school superintendent and involved in jail and nursing home ministries for more than 40 years. He was a member of the UAW 440, the National Rifle Association, and Scout Master for Troop 33. He enjoyed traveling, visiting with friends, going to church, and working outside. He loved God, people, and spending time with his grandchildren.

Surviving are his wife, Darnell; son, Jeremy; daughter, Abi Lewis; six grandchildren; and two sisters, Beverly Trowbridge and Julie Lewis. Funeral services were held at the Faith Mission Church with Rev. J. Stevan Manley ➡

➡ and after all of the sessions. The gospel was shared with all types of needy people. The ministry with children also continued at three different locations: Jackson Hill Park near The Christ Hospital, Wesley Chapel Mission Center on East McMicken Street, and the Laurel Homes development downtown.

Dr. Mark Bird, the GBS host for the OAC team, had the following comment: "I am so grateful for Eric Briscoe, Brian Harmon, and Mike Wilson coming once again to do this training and outreach event. As always, they did a fantastic job training students and leading the Campaign."

NEW EMPLOYEES

God's Bible School and College welcomes the following new employees.



Thelma Elisabet Albring – ACA/ College Instructor.

After graduating from Union Bible College in 2017, Thelma taught various elementary grades at Union Bible Academy, Westfield, IN. She is married to Eli Albring, who has worked in student recruitment at GBS since 2017 and is finishing studies toward a bachelor's degree. The Albrings live on campus.



Tyler Edwards – Grounds Supervisor.

Originally from Ridgeville, IN, Tyler has been working on grounds since 2017 when he enrolled in a Ministerial Education BA program at GBS. Tyler is president of the Student

Ministerial Organization. He is married to Caslyn (Rice) Edwards (BA '17), the current Dean of Women. Tyler's father, Daniel Edwards, is a member of the GBS board of trustees, and his mother, Angie (Tallman), attended GBS (1994-95). The Edwardses live on campus.



Julie Going – Cashier. Julie is currently working as the cashier in the business office and is excited to be a part of

the GBS family once again. After graduating from GBS (BA '16), Julie taught first and second grades at Fort Scott Christian Heights, Fort Scott, KS, for four years. Julie's father, Mark Going (HS '80, BA '90), and brother, Curtis Going (BA '05), are both GBS alumni. Julie lives on campus.

REVIVALIST FAMILY

continued

➡ and Rev. Aaron Wardlaw officiating. Burial followed in Cresthaven Memory Gardens, Bedford, IN.



Glen Edward Reiff, 85, went home to be with his Lord on August 31, surrounded by his family. He was born May 1, 1935, in Ogallala, NE, to Dennis and Emma (Nacke) Reiff. His father pastored several churches in different states and then served as a Bible college president in Colorado Springs. In 1947, when Glen was twelve, his parents moved to Guatemala where they planted churches, started a radio station, founded several schools, and launched a Bible institute that became part of Evangelistic Faith Missions.

Because of political turmoil, in 1953 Glen and his brother Paul were sent back to the U.S. where Glen enrolled at GBS. Besides a full load of classes, he worked 40 hours a week to pay his own way through college and was active in church ministry. At GBS he met Barbara Nell Thornton, and they began dating. Glen graduated valedictorian of his class with a ThB in 1957, then returned to Guatemala to rejoin his parents while

Nell stayed at GBS to finish her degree. The marriage proposal and acceptance took several weeks as they were both handled by mail! Glen and Nell married in 1958 and made Guatemala their home, traveling into remote villages, planting churches, and establishing new preaching outposts.

Three boys were added to the family: Darrell, Stanley, and Duane. After nearly two decades in Guatemala, the Reiffs decided to return to the U.S. in order to give their boys an opportunity to experience the American culture and receive a good education. They arrived in Hobe Sound, FL, in 1976. Glen taught at Hobe Sound Bible College, and Nell served as a receptionist. They converted an "eighteen-wheeler" into a mobile chapel and began ministering to immigrant workers, for whom they also offered classes. As a result, Glen was named "teacher of the year" in Martin County for his effectiveness in training adult learners. In 1994, Nell developed an aggressive cancer and quickly passed away, leaving Glen devastated.

During the early 1970s, Glen and Nell had worked with missionary Helen Leigh in Guatemala. Their boys



Michelle (Elsey) Hopkins – ACA Assistant Principal/Supervising Teacher.

Michelle has served as an adjunct college professor at GBS since 2018 and is currently the children's pastor at Kenwood Bible Methodist Church, Cincinnati, OH. She earlier taught second grade at Miami Valley Christian Academy, Cincinnati, OH, for six years. In addition to completing a BA in Elementary Education from GBS in 2005, Michelle also received an MAT in Elementary Education from Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA (2009). Her husband, Jason, is also a graduate of GBS (BA '06) as well as The Christ College of Nursing, Cincinnati, OH (2009). The Hopkinses live in Cincinnati and have two daughters, Jaedyn (9), and Madison (5).



Scott Loper – Maintenance Technician. Originally from Oklahoma City, OK, Scott attended Aldersgate Christian Academy

and graduated in 2019. Subsequently, he enrolled in college and worked on grounds for two years. He remains a student and now works in the facilities department. Scott is the son of President and Mrs. Loper, and he lives on campus.



Taylor Messner – Food Services Specialist.

After graduating from Bible Methodist Christian School, Pell City, AL, in 2017, Taylor left his home in Leeds, AL, and enrolled at GBS. For the past three years, he was a work student in the kitchen. He has now moved into a

staff position as he finishes his education. Both of Taylor's brothers currently attend GBS. Jorden graduated with a BA in 2019 and is currently working on his master's degree while serving as an administrative assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Vice President for Student Affairs; Jacob is a sophomore. Taylor lives on campus.



Heidi (Rebman) Nelson – Campus Babysitter. Originally from Boise, ID, Heidi attended GBS and earned a BA in General

Studies in 2015. She met her future husband Stephen (BA '13) while at GBS, where he currently serves as chief of security and an academy instructor. Heidi had previously worked as the assistant cook (2015-17) before she took a position ➡



called her "Aunt Helen" in typical missionary-kid tradition. In 1995, Hobe Sound Christian Academy hired Helen to teach. She and Glen became reacquainted, and they were married in 1996. In the 24 years they had together, they served as missionaries to Guatemala for several years, traveled the world preaching and teaching, and eventually returned to Hobe Sound to teach classes in the Spanish Institute and work in the FEA Ministries office.

Glen is survived by his second wife, Helen; his three sons, Darrell, Stanley, and Duane; six grandsons; two great-grandsons; and brother Paul. Due to the COVID pandemic, Glen Reiff was buried by his family in a private ceremony at the Riverside Memorial Park, Tequesta, FL. An online global celebration service of Glen's life was held during the Hobe Sound Bible Church and Hope International Missions Mission Conference, October 4, 2020, followed later that day with an online Spanish memorial service. The May 2018 issue of *God's Revivalist* featured Glen Reiff twice: an autobiographical account of his near brush with death upon meeting Fidel Castro

as a teenager ("Redeeming Castro's Lumber," p.14), and the Alumni News article announcing his receipt of the Missionary Statesman of the Year Award (p.22).



Mark Allen Stieby, 50, of Independence, KY, passed away September 4, 2020, at St. Elizabeth Healthcare in Florence, KY. Mark was born in Covington, KY, on August 19, 1970. Mark had an extensive background in medicine. After receiving a BA in Biology from Thomas More College (Crestview Hills, KY) in 1992, he earned a Doctorate in Pediatric Medicine from Kent State University (Kent, OH) in 1996. He specialized in foot surgery and sports medicine in West Chester, OH. Beginning in 2016 he also served as outreach pastor of GracePointe Community Church of the Nazarene in Erlanger, KY. In his free time, Mark served as the church's food pantry director and was a regular volunteer at City Gospel Mission where he helped men and woman struggling with substance abuse. Since 2019, Mark had been serving as an adjunct GBS professor. ➡

➡ as kindergarten teacher at Heaven's Treasures Academy and Preschool (2017-20) in Cincinnati, OH. The Nelsons live on campus.



Zachary (Zac) Potteiger – 5th Grade Teacher.

After graduating from Marion Christian School, Marion, OH, in 2016, Zac returned to the GBS campus where he had spent his early years while both of his parents were employed by the academy. Three of his four siblings have also attended GBS. Zac earned a BA in Elementary Education in 2020. It is also worth noting that he received the Student Teaching Award. Zac lives on campus.



Lisa Profitt – Division of Professional Studies Office Manager.

Lisa graduated from Mt. Zion Bible School, Ava, MO, in 1997, and from Kansas

Christian College (BA '02). She has been a part of the GBS community for 16 years and has previously served as receptionist, director of financial aid, and donor records manager. She is the spouse of Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Aaron Profitt. They live on campus with their three boys: Elliott (14), Simon (10), and Eben (7).



Amy Redmond – Middle School/High School Science.

After becoming a registered nurse in 2013 (Marion Technical College, Marion, OH), Amy began working as a nurse and went on to complete a BSN (Ohio University, 2015). For the past several years, she has worked in labor and delivery/postpartum, and, prior to that, in a medical/surgical unit. Amy is well connected to GBS. Family members who have also attended include: brother and current GBS president, Rodney Loper (BA

'01); two sisters, Suzanne (Loper) Caplinger (1998-99) and Joanne (Loper) Shaffer (2005-06); mother Diana Loper (HS '70); and grandfather Howard Ayars (ThB '70). Amy and her husband Byron live on campus with their three children: Owen (5), Felicity (4), and Griffin (2).



Lisa (Burton) Robison – Teacher's Aid (part-time).

Lisa graduated from both high school (1996) and college (BA '02) at GBS and worked as music office manager for both Garen Wolf and Jana Pop. Her sister, Angie (HS '99, BA '05), also attended GBS, and her mother, Judie Burton, worked as assistant librarian and in the financial aid department. Lisa served Liberty Bible Academy, Mason, OH, for four years as an elementary teacher and two years as the music teacher. Lisa and her husband Jeremy (BA '07) live in Hamilton,

REVIVALIST FAMILY continued

➡ Mark is survived by his mother, Joyce Stieby; daughter, Mackenzie Stieby; many loving family members; and his dear church family. A funeral service was held at GracePointe Community Church of the Nazarene, Erlanger, KY. Interment followed at Floral Hills Memorial Gardens, Taylor Mill, KY.



Rev. Ronald Garfield Robbins, 83, of Archdale, NC, went home to be with his Lord and Savior Saturday, September 5, 2020. He was born on February 4, 1937, in Randolph County, NC, to Garfield and Faye (Holder) Robbins.

Ronald attended GBS where he met and married Margaret Faith Rodgers. After completing their degrees (Margaret, BA '61; Ronald, ThB '62), they served as missionaries with Evangelistic Faith Missions for thirteen years. Then he served pastorates at Faith Community Chapel, Thomasville, NC, the Bible Methodist Chapel,

Pinellas Park, FL, and the Bible Holiness Church, Randleman, NC. He and his wife attended and were members of Trinity Holiness Church in Sophia, NC.

Ronald is survived by his wife, Margaret; daughter, Rachel Faye Shrum; one son, Timothy; two sisters, Sylvia Link and Kathy Stallings; brother, Leon; four granddaughters; and three great-grandsons. Funeral services were held in the J.C. Green & Sons Chapel in Thomasville with Rev. Odell Link and Mr. Joe Stallings officiating. Interment followed at Trinity Holiness Church in Sophia.

Ronald was preceded in death by his son, Dennis Ronald Robbins, whose wife, Rebekah Robbins, worked as the GBS receptionist while their two daughters attended school: Holley (Robbins) Lavy (AA '08) and Olivia Brooke (Robbins) Stewart (AA '07).

John Bryner, 95, died September 7, 2020. He was born in Prosperity, PA, in 1924, to John and Marjorie Bryner. With his mother's signature on the necessary

OH, with their three children: Ava (9), Jay (8), and Kyle (5).



**Melissa Rizer –
2nd Grade Teacher.**

After receiving her BA from California State University, Northridge, CA, Melissa worked more than 20 years at Cornerstone Christian School, Camarillo, CA, where she served in different capacities: after-school director, kindergarten teacher, and third-grade teacher. In a trip to Ohio to tour a school, she met Dr. Kristin Bird and learned about GBS. Afterwards the Rizers felt God directing them to leave Oxnard, CA, and move to Cincinnati to work at Aldersgate Christian Academy. Melissa and her husband Tyler live in Cincinnati with their four children: Austin (17), Brayden (13), Grace (10), and Bonnie (8).

**Karalynne (Shiery) Watters –
Phone Desk Receptionist.** In 2012, Karalynne (1999-00) and Jason Wat-



ters (AA '20) moved from Adrian, MI, to Cincinnati as Jason had accepted a position as GBS grounds supervisor (2012-14). Prior to her return to GBS, Karalynne worked as a data entry operator for various banking institutions and as an administrative assistant for an auto repair company. The Watters live in the Westwood area of Cincinnati, and their three children attend Aldersgate Christian Academy: Kaitlynne (15), Chandler (11), and Michaela (5).



**Tyler Vandervort –
Media Specialist.**

Tyler enrolled in GBS from Indianapolis, IN, and completed his AA degree in May, 2020.

While a freshman at GBS, Tyler became interested in photography and videography. Since then he has gained knowledge as a wedding

videographer and creator of advertising videos. Tyler is married to Hannah (Gray) Vandervort who is attending GBS with plans to graduate in 2021. Both of Tyler's parents are GBS alumni who have also worked for the school: Carol (Acuff) (1983-85) as English teacher and Jerry Vandervort (BRE '90) as a maintenance technician. His grandparents also met at GBS: Shirley Ann (Carrico) Vandervort (ThB '59) and Wilbert Vandervort (ThB '60). The Vandervorts live on campus.

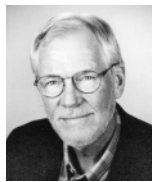


**Anna Rose Winter –
Food Services Specialist.**

Anna came to GBS from Marion, OH, and received her BA in Integrative Studies in 2020. Some of her prior work experience was as a cashier in a retail business and as a head cook at the Salvation Army Camp Swoneky, a children's camp in Oregonia, OH. Anna lives on campus. ■



forms, John joined the Army Air Corps in 1943. When his class graduated from high school, his mother accepted his diploma in John's absence. On mission to bomb the oil refinery at Ruhland, Germany, his B-17 was shot down over Grossraschen. John, the sole survivor, became a prisoner of war. In the early 2000s he began a collaboration with the town of Grossraschen to erect a monument to the 22 souls lost in that crash (9 crew and 13 townspeople). The monument was dedicated on March 22, 2005, the 60th anniversary of the crash. During the ceremony, John shook hands with the German pilot who had shot down his plane.



After the war, John returned home to marry his sweetheart, go to college, and start a family. Upon receiving his undergraduate degree, he secured a job with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and was eventually transferred to the National Animal Disease Lab in Ames, IA, where

he remained for the entirety of his professional life. He also earned a PhD from the University of Wisconsin.

John loved golf, tennis, baseball, hunting, and fishing. In his later years, he rode several RAGBRAIs (Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa organized by the *Des Moines Register*) and in his seventies ran two marathons. He learned the ancient art of beekeeping and how to graft fruit and nut trees. John had an inquisitive mind and had the bulging bookcases to prove it. Education was important to him. He supported GBS as an annuitant, sustaining donor, and *God's Revivalist* subscriber. He funded various GBS scholarships, and established the annual endowed Marjorie Wolfe Bryner Scholarship.

John is survived by his wife, Barbara; sons, Darrell and Steve; daughter, Rebekah; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; brothers; sisters; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his first wife. A memorial service is pending. ■

Dear Phil

CORONAVIRUS AND PROVIDENTIAL PERMISSION

"Why did God allow the coronavirus to attack us?" —Ken

Dear Ken,

I appreciate the way you phrased your question. All things that happen are either planned or permitted by God. There is no such thing as "luck" or "chance." God is sovereign over COVID, as He is over all things (Psa. 103:19; Eph. 1:11).

Any time we ask why God does or permits something in our world, we should remind ourselves of Deuteronomy 29:29 and Proverbs 25:2-3. Moses says, "The secret things belong to Yahweh our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law." Solomon says, "It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter." Sometimes God doesn't tell us what He's doing, and there's no way for us to know for sure.

With that said, God does say a good bit about calamity in Scripture. Here is a sampling. First, God asserts His sovereignty over all calamities: "If a calamity occurs in a city, has not Yahweh done it?" (Amos 3:6b; cf. Isa. 45:7). Second, God uses calamity for multiple purposes. God uses calamity as a display of His power (Exod. 9:15-16) and of the vanity of all other gods (Isa. 57:13). God uses calamity as judgment to end the earthly life of

some wicked persons (Jer. 25:31). God uses calamity as promotion for His children into His nearer presence (Phil. 1:20-23). God uses calamity as redemptive discipline to turn the wicked from their sins to Himself (Amos 4; Jer. 26:3). God uses calamity as refining discipline to reveal and remove what is not godly from the lives of His people (Psa. 66:10). God uses calamity as constructive discipline to build godliness into His people (Rom. 5:3-4; 8:28-29). God uses calamity as an opportunity for His people to serve others through good works (2 Cor. 8; 1 John 3:16-18), intercessory prayer (Ezek. 22:29-30; Dan. 9), sharing the gospel (Phil. 1:12-13), and discipling believers about how to respond to difficulties (James 1:2-12; Phil. 4:11-13).

Of all the passages I just cited, Daniel 9 seems frequently overlooked. Daniel fasts and prays prayers of national repentance for sins he did not personally commit. God holds nations to account just as He does men (Gen. 15:16). Intercessory confession, asking for divine mercy in withholding judgment and in renewing our fear of God, is surely something God wants from us.

God is allowing the coronavirus calamity for all these reasons, and probably more besides. In the hands

of our all-wise God, calamity is a multi-purpose tool, addressing the many facets of the human condition.

Two books have been helpful to me during this prolonged challenge: John Piper, *Coronavirus and Christ*; and N.T. Wright, *God and the Pandemic*. As you might expect, there are a variety of places where I don't read Scripture in the same way as these two brothers. Nonetheless, both contributed meaningfully to my thinking during this year. Here's a nugget from each.

N.T. Wright hit me between the eyes of my heart when he said that a Christian response to pandemic should be to look for ways to actively help those in need. He mentioned the surge of volunteers that England experienced when hospitals and healthcare facilities made known they were short-handed. He is right. Christians don't first protect their earthly lives and only reach out when risk is minimal. Jesus-followers tread the Savior's steps of self-sacrifice for the good of others. I needed to repent of seeing in COVID primarily inconvenience, controversy, and personal safety concerns rather than gospel-sharing, gospel-living opportunities.

John Piper stirred valuable reflection in his comments on the ways in which the pandemic exposes subtle idols. Comfort and convenience easily morph into idols when we love them more than we love others. How can we say, "I'm done with being inconvenienced, when we may be asymptomatic transmitters of deadly disease to others whose comorbidities we don't know?" Love for God is revealed by love for others. If we will not suffer inconvenience to protect the vulnerable, how dwells the love of God in us?

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.



DO GOOD AND LIVE LONGER

A new study out of Harvard shows that people who regularly volunteer enjoy longer, happier, healthier lives. Of course, the psychological benefits of altruism are nothing new. Various studies have made claims about the health benefits of volunteering, but none have quite the strength of this latest research that includes almost 13,000 participants over 50 years old. The conclusion was that those volunteering for about two hours weekly have a considerably lower risk of death. They're also less likely to develop physical impairments. All of these benefits naturally lead to a stronger overall well-being versus people who do not volunteer.

The lead author, Dr. Eric Kim of the Chan School of Public Health at Harvard University, explained it this way: "Humans are social creatures by nature. Perhaps this is why our minds and bodies are rewarded when we give to others."

PROTECTIONS FOR RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Acting on an executive order by President Trump, the Department of Labor issued a new directive and guidance ensuring that religious and faith-based organizations are treated the same as secular organizations when partnering with the federal government. Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia stated that religious organizations "are eligible,

on the same basis as any other organization" to participate in the Department of Labor programs, and noted that this directive acknowledged "the central role that religion and religious freedom play in civil society" and sends "a clear message that the Department of Labor will continue to uphold religious liberty for America's workforce, employees of the department, and religious organizations."

SEX ED SEXUALIZES AND MANIPULATES KIDS

A report by the Family Research Council documents the radical and explicit content of sex education that is currently occurring in public schools nationwide. Among the lessons being taught are workshops where youth are instructed how to consent to sex, and how to "fake abstinence"—abstaining from sex until the next steady boyfriend or girlfriend. The curricula also promotes how minors can obtain abortions and hide them from their parents so they never have to know, how students are pressured to declare themselves LGBT "allies," and how it pushes the transgender claim that they might have been "born in the wrong body."

The author of the study stated that parents with children in public schools need to demand risk avoidance-based sex ed, file universal opt-out letters annually, and attend school board meetings. ■



student focus

RACHEL KLOTZ spent her early years in Ghana, West Africa, where her parents were missionaries. After the family returned to the U.S., her parents became involved in Christian education, most recently at GBS.

"Not only was I saved and baptized here, I have spent hours in classrooms and faculty offices receiving godly counsel, and in chapel and revival services where I have been challenged to my core. I am not the same person I was when I started out my college years as a freshman."

Rachel loves the atmosphere of GBS and is active in student ministries (College Choir and Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble) and her local church.

She intends to graduate in May 2021 with three degrees: AA in General Studies, AAS in Music Ministry, and BA in Integrative Studies with two cognates and a minor in education. Following graduation, Rachel sees herself working in a high school in the U.S. or on a mission field. ■

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

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

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



— Called Unto Holiness —

In this space we use writers both past and present to discuss various aspects of Christian holiness.

WHY SHOULD WE BE HOLY?

by Samuel Logan Brengle

We should be holy because God wants us to be holy. He commands it. He says, "As He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation: because it is written, Be ye holy, for I am holy." God is in earnest about this. It is God's will, and it cannot be evaded....

We must not forget that "God is love," and His commands are not harsh, but kind. They come from the fullness of an infinitely loving and all-wise heart. They are meant for our good.... Oh, how tender are His words! Listen. "And now, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all His ways, and to love Him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, to keep the commandments of the Lord, and His statutes...for thy good?" (Deut. 10:12, 13) For thy good!...There is nothing harsh, nothing selfish in our dear Lord's command. It is "thy good" He is seeking....

We should be holy because Jesus died to make us holy. He gave Himself to stripes, and spitting, and cruel mockings, and the crown of thorns, and death on the cross for this purpose. He wants a holy people. For this He prayed. "Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy word is truth" (John 17:17). For this He died. "Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14)....

We should be holy in order that we may be useful. Who have been the mightiest men of God of all the ages? They have been holy men; men with clean hearts on fire with love to God and man; unselfish men; humble men, who forgot themselves in their love and toil for others; faithful men, whose lives were "hid with Christ in God...."

To be holy and useful is possible for each one of us, and it is far better than to be great and famous. To save a soul is better than to command an army, to win a battle, to rule an empire, or to sit upon a throne.

Again, we should be holy that we may be safe. Sin in the heart is more dangerous than gunpowder in the cellar. Before Peter got the blessing of a clean heart and the baptism of the Holy Spirit, he yielded to the sinful nature within, and cursed and swore, and denied Jesus. Before David got this experience, he too fell into awful sin, and nearly lost his soul.

Remember that holiness is nothing more nor less than perfect love, for God and man, in a clean heart. If we love God with all our hearts, we shall gladly keep all His commandments and do all His will as He makes it known to us; and if we love our fellow men as we love ourselves, we shall not knowingly do any wrong to them. So we see that this holy love is the surest possible safeguard against all kinds of sin, either against God or man, and we cannot count ourselves safe unless we have it. Without it, Peter and David fell; but with it, Joseph and Daniel resisted the temptations of kings' courts, and the three Hebrew children and the fire-baptized Stephen and Paul gladly faced death rather than deny their Lord.

Finally, we should be holy because we are most solemnly assured that without holiness "no man shall see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14), and God has made all things ready, so that we may have the blessing if we will, thus leaving those who refuse or trifle and fail without excuse.

I bless Him that, years ago, He wakened me to the infinite importance of this matter, sent holy people to testify to and explain the experience, enabled me to consecrate my whole being to Him and seek Him with all my heart, and gave me the blessing. Will you have it, my comrade? If so, receive Jesus as your Sanctifier just now. ■

Samuel Logan Brengle (1860-1936) was a commissioner in the Salvation Army and a leading author, teacher, and preacher on the doctrine of holiness. This is an excerpt from chapter two of The Way of Holiness (Schmul Publishing Co.: Fifth Impression edition, 1977).



THE THANKFULNESS PERSPECTIVE

by N. Keith Waggoner I

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV)

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

INTRODUCTION

I am assuming that almost everyone is looking forward to Thanksgiving—even in these difficult times. What do you think of when you hear the word Thanksgiving? For many of us, we probably think of the three F's: food, family, and fun.

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time of the year. It is a distinctive holiday. It doesn't commemorate a battle or anyone's birthday or anniversary. It is simply a day set aside to express our nation's thanks to our nation's God.

Giving thanks is a theme of the Bible. Thanksgiving is mentioned 38 times and some form of the word “thanks” is used well over 100 times. The Scripture shared here is one of the most popular for this season. It not only encourages us to give thanks, but also demands that we do so.

Our perspective is critically important as it relates to being thankful. The story is told of a young lady who, before the days of cell phones, wrote home from college, and her letter went something like this:

Dear Mom:

Sorry I haven't written sooner. My arm really has been broken. I broke it, and my left leg, when I jumped from the second floor of my dormitory... when we had the fire. We were lucky. A young

parking lot attendant saw the blaze and called the fire department. They were there in minutes. I was in the hospital for a few days, but Paul, the parking lot attendant, came to see me every day. Mom, it was love at first sight. He asked me to marry him, so I am dropping out of college to begin making our wedding plans. I am sure you understand. I hope things are going well at home. I will write when I get the chance.

Love, Your daughter, Susie

P.S. None of the above is true. But I did get a “C” in sociology and flunked chemistry. I just wanted you to receive this news in its “proper perspective!”

In reality, to be thankful in all things, we do need a proper perspective of our circumstances and of our Heavenly Father.

THE CONTEXT

The believers in Thessalonica were not unlike the church today. There were serious questions about the future, there were differences of opinion, and they had their share of hard times. But as Paul was wrapping up his first letter to them, he took time to insert these three verses—verses that applied to this young church, and verses that apply equally to the church today.

Experts suggest that one of the best ways to take on a challenge is to break it down into small steps. I would like for us to focus on verse 18. Let's break this challenging verse down and examine each in its five components.

“GIVE THANKS”

The definition of giving thanks is: To show one's self grateful, to be thankful. All of us are capable of this. We can all give thanks. In fact, if anyone has a reason to give thanks, it is us. As Americans, we are rich. Think about this:

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head, and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy. According to the “Global Rich List,” even at the U.S. poverty level, you would still make more money than 89% of the world.

We should not have to be commanded to give thanks. Thanksgiving should come naturally from a heart of gratitude.

“IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES”

We are not instructed to give thanks FOR all circumstances. Rather, we are instructed to give thanks IN all circumstances. There is a big difference. We thank God FOR all the good circumstances that happen to us, whereas we thank God IN all the bad circumstances that happen to us.

Be thankful for the taxes you pay, because it means you are employed.

Be thankful for the clothes that fit a little snug, because it means you have enough to eat.

Be thankful for a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning, and gutters that need fixing, because it means you have a home.

Be thankful for your huge heating bill, because it means you are warm.

Be thankful for all the complaining you hear about our government, because it means you have freedom of speech.

Be thankful for the person behind you in church who sings off key, because it means you can hear.

Be thankful for the piles of laundry and dishes, because it means you have loved ones who need you.

In every circumstance, we can find something for which to be thankful! But you may ask: “Why should I

We are not instructed to give thanks FOR all circumstances. Rather, we are instructed to give thanks IN all circumstances. There is a big difference.

give thanks in all circumstances? Give me a really good reason.” Well, the next phrase in our Scripture gives it.

“FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD”

We should give thanks in all circumstances because it is God’s will for us. There is no better example than that of Job. You remember the story—Job had lost everything he owned and was then afflicted in his body. What did Job say? “The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD” (Job 1:21 ESV).

Too often the tendency is to say: “I need God to change my circumstances for the better and then I’ll give thanks.” No! Give thanks FIRST and then God

will change your circumstances for the better, or at least change the way you see those circumstances. Remember this: The will of God will not lead you where His grace cannot keep you.

This leads us to the last two words of verse 18.

“FOR YOU”

Why did the Holy Spirit inspire the Apostle Paul to write “for you” and not “for all”? I think it was because “for you” is much more personal. “For all” would mean any of over seven billion people. “For you” indeed means for YOU!

“You” means that God knows you by name. He knows your situation—everything that is going on in your life. Not only does He know everything about you, He also cares about what is going on, how it affects you, and your response to it! God wants you to know that He is fully aware, in control, and asks for your thankfulness in return.

Note, however, the three words which preface “for you.”

“IN CHRIST JESUS”

As a child of God, we may too frequently find ourselves in difficult circumstances. But that is not the only thing we “are in,” for we are also IN CHRIST JESUS. From the moment we receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we are IN CHRIST. Guess what? That means that in EVERY circumstance of life, we are NOT alone. Christ is with us. Now that is something for which to be thankful!

CONCLUSION

Let me conclude with this proposition: To have the proper “Thankfulness Perspective,” we need to understand and appreciate the source of everything good in our lives—our loving Heavenly Father!

On Thanksgiving week, as we gather with family and friends, let us be truly grateful for all the wonderful blessings God has so abundantly given. Most of all, let us be thankful for His gift of Jesus Christ and the privilege of knowing Him as our personal Savior.

Have a great Thanksgiving! ■

N. Keith Waggoner I (HS '74) currently pastors in Russiaville, IN. After graduating from GBS, Keith received both a BS and MS from Indiana Wesleyan University, worked for Caterpillar Inc. more than 30 years, and has served as a GBS trustee for 22 years. Keith is married to Sharon Kirkman (1972-75) and the two are active in evangelistic singing. Their three adult children all attended GBS. The Waggoners live in Frankfort, IN.



Homecoming 2020

A Virtual Gathering

Homecoming 2020 was like none before. Missing were hundreds of visiting alumni converging on campus and catching up with old classmates about life since college. Instead, a virtual homecoming combining livestreamed events with pre-recorded videos was broadcast online. Of course, the celebration was enjoyed in person by a small group of campus personnel, family members of participants, and a few specially invited guests. All those in the live audience were instructed to observe COVID protocols.

PRELUDE AND OPENING

The two newly-formed college musical groups sang prelude music. Redemption consists of Ethan Bender, Ryan Craig, Samuel Epp, Lane Webb, and accompanist Daniel Brandon; and Assurance is Ashley Kamplain, Clarissa Manley, Anthony Paulus, Austin Paulus, and accompanist Katelyn Shaffer.



Redemption sings.

President Rodney Loper joined with the event emcee, former alumni president and current board member Jack Hooker, in opening the service with greetings and prayer. They noted that although this homecoming had originally been planned as multiple events around a theme of remembering the decade of the 1970s, combining everything into one service would still be interesting, informational, and encouraging.

The Robert Ryan Family took the stage. Rob (BA '99) is a current member of the board of trustees. He and his wife Stephanie (Thompson) (BA '99) have five children. Together they



Assurance sings.



The Rob Ryan Family sings.

sang a medley of songs on the goodness of God followed by Brent Vernon's classic "Heritage of Holiness."

NEW ALUMNI RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Jack Hooker invited President Loper and two members of the newly created Alumni Relations Committee of the Board of Trustees to the stage.

This committee deals specifically with alumni-related matters.

President Loper explained that recent changes in the Ministry By-laws necessitated a change in the structure of the Alumni Association. This prompted him to meet with the Alumni Executive Council during the spring. After discussing proposed changes, all parties involved gave unanimous support for what they believed would create a win-win situation for both the alumni and the school. The council was also excited because the proposed changes give alumni a more powerful connection to actual governance of the school with respect to alumni-related



Nathan Smith explains the structural changes in the Alumni Association.

events, projects, and concerns. At the end of that meeting, the Executive Council voted unanimously in favor of the proposal.

Nathan Smith (BA '08), chair of the new committee, spoke next. He named the three other trustees who had been appointed to this committee: Dr. Leonard Sankey (ThB '60), Viola Durr (BA '78), and Robert Ryan (BA '99). Additionally, these members selected three members of the Alumni Association to serve on the committee as at-large members: Robyn Clemens (BA '82), Susan LeBaron (HS '81), and Anthony Webb (1991-94).

The previous Executive Council and the new Alumni Relations Committee are currently working together to maintain an Alumni Association Constitution while bringing it into con-

formity with the changes in the GBS Ministry Bylaws. They are also collaborating on the creation of documents describing the membership and functioning of the new committee. The new committee will assume the tasks and responsibilities that normally fell under the jurisdiction of the Executive Council. Nathan Smith concluded that the alumni could relax knowing that the events they have been used to enjoying are in good alumni hands. He reminded alumni to stay connected to and support the school.

VIOLIN SOLO

Dr. John Enyart, Sr. (ThB '63, BA '66), who taught 14 years at GBS, including 11 years as Music Division chair, played a violin solo, "He Hideth My Soul," accompanied by Dawn (Schenck) Owens (BA '71).

CAMPUS UPDATE

President Loper and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Aaron Profitt gave an update on how the school has persevered even though COVID-19 had interrupted the Spring Semester and necessitated changes for the Fall Semester. President Loper noted that God helped the finances of the school during this period, as no full-time employees were laid off, and all were paid fully and on time. He gave credit to the faithful support of alumni and friends and encouraged each alumnus to become a "Sustaining Donor"

through the 1810 Sustaining Donor Program (www.gbs.edu/1810).

President Loper explained that the school took the occasion of a sparsely populated campus to accomplish projects related to our 35 houses and seven major buildings. Many of these changes will be highlighted in the campus improvements section of the upcoming December issue of *God's Revivalist*.

Dr. Profitt gave a brief update noting GBS progress on accreditation through the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). This will provide nationwide acceptance of our teaching degrees. We now have several licensure-eligible programs with plans for an assessment visit in the spring from our education programmatic accreditor. Additionally, GBS is maintaining its non-licensure program as well. Because of our commitment to prepare students for Christian education, GBS will continue its ACSI certification (Association of Christian Schools International).

Concerning missions training, Steve Hight is the current Visiting Professor of Missiology. This program, now in its fourth year, allows GBS to bring in practitioners from a variety of missions agencies. Having a variety of experiences and expertises, visiting professors come to campus several times throughout the year to teach a number of core missions courses as well as missions electives. This gives them opportunities to share their

knowledge in areas in which they are especially gifted.

GBS has a cooperative graduate level degree program with Mission Muslim World University. Students working toward an MA in Ministry with a concentration in Muslim studies take 18 hours of graduate work through MMWU and an 18-hour core through GBS.

Lastly, GBS has a new Study Abroad Program that allows students to immerse themselves in another culture for a semester or even a year, taking online classes from GBS while they study local culture and language and work with missionaries.

STAFF APPRECIATION AWARD

President Loper highly praised the excellent staff working in ministry here at GBS and pointed out the fact that GBS has been honored as one of the Top Workplaces in Cincinnati for 10 years in a row. He called one of these employees, William (Bill) Marshall, to join him



Pres. Loper presents the Staff Appreciation Award to Bill Marshall.



Dawn Schenck Owens at the piano accompanies Dr. John Enyart on the violin.

on stage. After sharing some biographical information about Bill [see GR May 2017], President Loper concluded by saying: “If we were to give those who have been around Bill opportunity to give some accolades, they would clearly say that he cares about people. He is a great model servant; he models servant leadership. He never sees hard work as being beneath him and loves serving the people with whom he works.”

This was the first Staff Appreciation Award presented by the new Alumni Relations Committee of the Board. It was given in recognition of Bill’s 20 years of special service to GBS: three as high school teacher, four as high school principal, ten as academy principal, and three as facilities office manager.

THE STETLER TRIO

A significant part of the evening was the return of the “original” Stetler Trio—Daniel (HS ’69; BRE ’74; ThB, BA ’75), David (HS ’71, BRE ’76), and Darrell (HS ’73, BRE ’77). They opened with a medley of songs including “In the Cross,” “Gentle Shepherd,” and “How Firm a Foundation.” After singing, they reminisced about their early music ministry with their father, long-term GBS professor, Kenneth Stetler (ThB ’55, BA ’58); the recording of their album at Benson Sound Stage in Oklahoma City, OK; and their disbanding as a trio when they felt God telling them that



The Stetler Trio reminisces.

it was time to move on. Each of them has been active in other ministries since that time. Then they gathered around the piano for a final song, “What a Precious Friend is He.” It was beautiful!

CLOSING

As the service concluded, a video featuring George Vernon III (BRE, BA ’74) invited people to mark their calendars for Homecoming 2021 on October 8 and 9 when the focus will be the “Decade of the 1970s.” Jack Hooker thanked all for being a part of the virtual homecoming celebration. After President Loper offered a closing prayer, Dr. John Enyart played a final violin solo as a list of sponsors scrolled on the split screen. ■



by Sonja Vernon

PROMISES DEFERRED

“And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised.”

—Hebrews 11:39 (ESV)

When I was in 6th grade, I memorized Hebrews 11 for a school assignment. Over and over, we would recite that faith was “the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen.” We talked about Abel, Enoch, Abraham, Sarah, Rahab, etc.—characters of great faith in the face of impossibilities; and then came more obscure names like Gideon, Barak, and Jephthah, whose faith led to miraculous occurrences. Oh, I wanted to be like them! But then the Hebrew writer tells us of those who were tortured, mocked, flogged, chained, imprisoned, stoned, sawn in two, killed with the sword, and forced to wander about homeless and destitute. “Of whom,” Scripture says, “the world was not worthy” (v.38). And even though they were commended by God and too good for this world, they “did not receive what was promised.” It doesn’t seem fair, does it? Even today some of God’s most precious saints die in obscurity without seeing the fruits of their labor. How do we reconcile these facts with the promises of God? While these heroes never saw with their human eyes the fulfillment of the promise, we must never forget that this world is not the end! If we are living for this world only, Paul reminds us, “we are of all people most to be pitied” (1 Cor. 15:19 ESV). There is much, much more to come for the Christ-follower. None who have ever placed their faith in Christ have been disappointed. Don’t despair! Live looking forward. His promises will be fulfilled. Always. If not in this life, then in the next. ■

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



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