

GOD'S REVIVALIST

December 2020

and Bible Advocate





about this issue

THE ARRIVAL

I have vivid memories of being at Cincinnati Gardens on Wednesday, May 4, 2004. The cavernous coliseum with a seating capacity of 10,208 was home to several Cincinnati sports teams and had welcomed numerous celebrities over the years—the Beatles, Elvis, and President Richard Nixon, to name a few. It was packed that day as the Farmer family awaited the arrival of President George W. Bush.

Hundreds of Bush supporters, having been turned away from the arena when it reached capacity, lined the streets to greet the president upon his arrival. He was on a bus tour of Ohio, a “battleground” state critical to his reelection. Bush had started the day at a pancake breakfast in the Toledo area, with three additional stops along the way.

The prospect of being at the same venue with such an important person was very exciting! As organizers gave us updates on the president’s estimated time of arrival, the energy level became more and more effervescent. When a video of the arriving campaign bus was displayed on the big screen, pandemonium broke out! Was I excited? Yes! In fact, when President Bush walked onto the stage, I became a willing participant in the attendant uproar. It is hard to explain, but a seemingly uncontrollable, quite visceral sound welled up within me and burst forth from my lungs. It seems a bit embarrassing as I think about it now, but we were in the presence of THE PRESIDENT!

Think about our preparation for such a visit. We had to have had an appreciation for the president and valued an opportunity to be near him. We had to have been aware of his plans and properly positioned ourselves to be present at his coming.

Now imagine being one of the wise men who came “from the east” to meet the “King of the Jews,” for they had “seen His star” and had “come to worship Him.” When they found Him, “they rejoiced with exceeding great joy” (Matt. 2).

During Advent season, we remember Christ’s arrival into our world as a babe in a manger, but that was only the beginning. He eagerly wishes to be invited into the heart and life of each individual person in that world. In fact, He has promised His continual presence to all who know Him, value Him, and make sure they are properly positioned for His next arrival. “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:20 ESV). —KF ■

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COVER PHOTO: Sankt Sebastian Church with illuminated Christmas tree at dusk, Bavaria, Germany; ©iStock:bluejayphoto

the president's page



I ENJOY CHRISTMAS

by Rodney Loper, President

I enjoy Christmas. I enjoy the festive atmosphere, the fabulous food, and the fellowship that happens around evergreen trees adorned with lights. I love seeing homes decorated and our campus all aglow with the trimmings of the season. Here in Cincinnati, many enjoy walking through the local zoo on a cold wintery night—not so much to enjoy the animals, but to enjoy the lights and the festive atmosphere.

One thing I *don't* enjoy about Christmas, though, is the shopping that goes along with it! Oh, I love to see my family opening their gifts and the excitement that comes from receiving the “perfect” gift. I even have a gift list on my phone to assist me in selecting those “perfect” gifts. However, even with the list, I have to brave the bustling traffic, crowded stores, picked-over items, and a host of other obstacles. Yes, I have tried to do my shopping early, but I have a big flaw: When I buy a gift, I want to give it to the person right away. Why wait?

Then there's the wrapping. I have to admit, as my daughters get older, they are ready and able to assist me in this tedious task. The problem is that gifts must be purchased before they can be wrapped! (Why can't we start a trend and make a store bag a “gift-bag”? After all, they are not that much different from each other!)

My wife does most of the shopping for our children and other family members. Even if I only have one significant person for whom to buy gifts, I will likely fall prey to the same routine that has marked my Christmas expression to her each year

since we have been married—waiting till the last possible minute to find the now sold-out items on the list that has been on my phone for over a month. Once again I rush off to the store vowing that I will not succumb to this same folly next year.

While all the festivities, lights, food, fellowship, and gift-giving are a part of Christmas, they are not THE reason for the season.

It is easy for us to look askance at the religious leaders during the first Advent of Christ and ask, “How did they miss it?” We note the prophecies, the angelic announcement, the visit from the magi, and events at the temple with Anna and Simeon, and we wonder how they could have missed the greatest event of all time. But, you see, we often miss it ourselves! The same question could be asked of many of us today. How do we miss it? How do we miss the greatest event of all time?

A woman was doing her last-minute Christmas shopping at a crowded mall. She was tired of fighting the crowds. She was tired of standing in lines. She was tired of fighting her way

down long aisles looking for a gift that had sold out days before. She was sick and tired of Christmas and wanted it to be done. Her arms were filled with bulky packages. When the elevator door opened, she rushed to enter, only to find that it was full. Not to be denied, she forced herself into the already crowded space as the other occupants grudgingly tightened ranks to allow room for her and her load. As the doors closed, she blurted out, “Whoever is responsible for this whole Christmas thing ought to be arrested, strung up, and shot!”

Several on the elevator nodded their heads or grunted in agreement. Then, from somewhere in the back came a single voice: “Don’t worry. It has already been done. He was crucified.”

I am not suggesting that we abandon the traditions of Christmas. (I don’t want you to return that nice gift you got for me!) However, as you do your last-minute shopping, as the wrapping paper flies, I am asking that you take time to remember the greatest gift ever given—Jesus Christ! ■



The Rodney Loper family wishes you a

Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year

THE “W” IN CHRISTMAS

author unknown

Each December I would vow to make Christmas a calm and peaceful experience. I cut back on nonessential obligations—extensive card writing, endless baking, decorating, and even overspending. Yet, I still found myself exhausted, unable to appreciate the family moments and, of course, the true meaning of Christmas.

The year my son, Nicholas, was in kindergarten was an exciting Christmas season for a six-year old. For weeks, he’d been memorizing songs for his school’s “Winter Pageant.” I didn’t have the heart to tell him I’d be working the night of the production. Unwilling to miss his shining moment, I spoke with his teacher. She assured me there’d be a dress rehearsal the morning of the presentation. All parents unable to attend that evening were welcome to come then. Fortunately, Nicholas seemed happy with the compromise.

So, the morning of the dress rehearsal, I filed in ten minutes early, found an empty spot on the cafeteria floor, and sat down. Around the room I saw several other parents quietly scampering to their seats.

As I waited, the students were led into the room. Each class, accompanied by their teacher, sat cross-legged on the floor. Then, each group, one by one, rose to perform their song.

Because the public school system had long ago stopped referring to the holiday as “Christmas,” I didn’t expect anything other than fun, commercial entertainment—songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes, and good cheer. So, when my son’s class rose to sing “Christmas Love,” I was slightly taken aback by its bold title.

Nicholas was aglow, as were all of his classmates, adorned in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters, and bright snowcaps upon their heads. Those in the front row, center stage, held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song. As the class would sing “C is for Christmas,” a child would hold up the letter C. Then, “H is for Happy,” and on and on, until each child holding up his portion had presented the complete message, “Christmas Love.”

The performance was going smoothly until, suddenly, we noticed her—a small, quiet girl in the front row holding the letter M upside down, totally unaware her letter M appeared as a W. The audience of first-through-sixth graders snickered at this little one’s mistake, but she had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proudly holding her W.

Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter continued until the last letter was raised, and all together we saw it. A hush came over the audience, and eyes began to widen. In that instant, we understood the reason we were there, why we celebrated the holiday in the first place, and why even in the chaos there was a purpose for our festivities. For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear:

CHRIST WAS LOVE

And I believe He still is! ■



What Do I Do with my DOUBTS?



©Stock: GROOMEN

by Ezra Byer

Every believer who has ever followed Christ has gone through seasons when doubt rears its ugly head and attacks our faith.

Doubt comes in many forms but is most evident amid seasons of intense pain and uncertainty. Life seems to be going along just fine. Money is in the bank. The kids are in a nice school. The mortgage on the home is almost covered. Then the unexpected happens. Tragedy strikes like a quick blow to the chest, and suddenly the faith we thought was strong is hanging by a thread.

Assuming this is just a brief setback, we seek God in prayer, pleading for Him to hear us and fix our situation. We expect a quick response, as He is a loving Father. But nothing changes. Days turn into weeks and weeks into months.

What started off as shock soon turns into frustration: "God, why aren't You answering?" Gradually, this may translate into anger: "God, You obviously do not care, or You would not let me go through this!" And if unchecked, this anger will soon turn into harbored bitterness that manifests itself either in quiet apathy or open hostility against God. At this point, no amount of counsel from others is of any help because, internally, we believe God has turned His back on us. Doubt has paralyzed our spiritual journey.

©Stock: AntonioGutierrez

What Is Doubt?

Doubt is “a feeling of uncertainty or lack of conviction.”¹ While I have known a handful of believers who would say doubt was never a struggle, the overwhelming majority of Christians have struggled with doubt at some level:

- Level 1:** Why has God delayed in doing what I know He can do?
- Level 2:** Does God care about me and my situation?
- Level 3:** How could God be good and allow this to happen?
- Level 4:** Does God even exist?

Notice how the question shifts at every level. The first category represents the doubts with which most Christians wrestle. A family member dies unexpectedly, and we can see no reason for it. Health complications emerge. An unexpected career change is looming.

Level two gets deeper. It acknowledges that God is in control but questions whether He has a deep interest in our current affairs. Level three openly questions God’s character, and level four gets us to the place of doubting His very existence.

How believers handle level-one doubts determines whether they eventually regress to a level-four condition.

Two Unhealthy Extremes

When Christian leaders speak or write on doubt, I notice two unhealthy extremes. One camp calls for the dismissal of doubt altogether. The second wholeheartedly embraces it.

I struggle with each of these perspectives. In those who dismiss doubt, I sense a bit of naiveté and lack of compassion. I agree with Timothy Keller: “A faith without some doubts is like a human body with no antibodies in it. People who blithely go through life too busy or indifferent to ask the hard questions about why they believe as they do will find themselves defenseless against either the experience of tragedy or the probing questions of a smart skeptic. A person’s faith can collapse almost overnight if she failed over the years to listen patiently to her own doubts, which should only be discarded after long reflection.”²

Fortunately, I’ve seen pushback against the “anti-all-doubt mindset.” But along with this pushback another extreme has emerged. Absolutes dissolve and everything in life is a question. Personally, I have not found authors and communicators who land in this category to be very helpful. In the words of Lesslie Newbigin, “To choose doubt as a philosophy of life is akin to choosing immobility as a means of transportation.”³

The challenge every believer faces is to avoid these two extremes and, instead, allow the pursuit of answers to take them further into the presence of the Father.

Steps We Can Take

While I hesitate to offer steps of advice—as these can often be unhelpful in seasons of great despair—I will share four points that have helped me greatly in seasons of doubt in my own life. These have provided comfort, not only in seasons of depression, but also in those times when I felt like God was non-existent.

First, recognize your level of doubt. If you are struggling with level-four doubts, your questions will be very different from those who are struggling with level-one doubts. Ask yourself, “Am I just feeling uncertain and confused, or am I starting to doubt the character of God?” There’s a big difference.

Second, reach up and reach out. Not once have I ever worked my way out of a time of doubt by myself. Without exception, every time I rose above doubt I had reached out to God and others. Joy was restored by spending meaningful time with God in prayer and in His Word. Help came when I was willing to reach out to other strong Christians and share my concerns. For believers, this step is critical. We must be careful not to let a day of doubt turn into a season of unbelief.

Third, reorganize your schedule. Doubt arises when we lose perspective. If most Christians were honest with themselves, they would see that their times of doubt are often linked to seasons of imbalance. When work, family activities, and extra hobbies fill up the calendar, time alone with God is sacrificed.

It is amazing what taking an honest look at a schedule will reveal. Ask yourself tough questions: “In the past week, how many days did I have meaningful time alone with God? Is attending church a priority on my weekly calendar?”

When I counsel people who struggle with doubt, I often notice these foundational pillars are missing from their lives. By reorganizing our schedules, we take a proactive stance rather than a reactive approach to doubt. As Mark Batterson often states, “Change of pace + change of place = change in perspective.”⁴

Fourth, sing in the darkness. This last one I have taken from the psalmist David. You cannot help but no-

WHEN I COUNSEL PEOPLE WHO STRUGGLE WITH DOUBT, I OFTEN NOTICE THESE FOUNDATIONAL PILLARS ARE MISSING FROM THEIR LIVES.

tice how often David voices his concerns to God and then finishes with a statement like this: “But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head” (Psa. 3:3 ESV).

A statement that has helped me over the years is, “Never doubt in the darkness what God has shown you

in the light.” I love this image: when our spiritual train enters a tunnel of doubt and darkness, we do not jump; rather, we sit back and trust the Conductor.

Doubt is like a fog that hovers over our souls, tempting us to doubt all we have known to be true and good. Like the philosopher Descartes noted, sometimes it can cause us to question if even the most basic realities of life are real. But this is when we must sing all the louder, for nothing is more sure to bring us out of a spiritual fog than a song of praise. Worship lifts our souls above that which is temporary and fleeting. It extends an open invitation to God to reveal a fresh aspect of His character we have not previously discovered.

Struggling with doubts today? That’s okay, but take time to deal with them. Reach up and reach out. Don’t let a day of doubt turn into a season of unbelief. And most importantly, trust your Conductor.

A Promise to Which We Can Cling

Sometimes the doubts of life can hit us in waves, plunging us into what feels like an endless pit of darkness. During these seasons, we find ourselves stumbling about, pleading with God for some explanation, some hope, some way out of our misery. But in these seasons, God loves to hear us sing.

While the moment may seem bleak, we can trust that God is working. He is painting a grander picture than we can imagine. In the ashes of suffering, God is working. Deliverance is on the horizon. While you are waiting, sing to God. This season you are going through will not last, but the life-changing lessons God reveals to you during this time of pain will last throughout eternity.

I close with these profound words from the late Dennis Kinlaw: “If we turn to the Lord, we will find that He can break the constricting hold of our dreads and set us free to embrace them. He does not want to save us from all the storms of life. He wants to save us in those storms, for it is there that we find we cannot afford to live without Him. The storms can drive us to His breast. We can give thanks for the storm because in it we found Him.”⁵

He is good, and, therefore, “It is good.” Our souls can sing again. ■

Ezra Byer (BA ’11) lives in Nampa, ID, with his wife Janan and two children. He is the founder of themondaychristian.com, and his upcoming book, *Walking with a Limp*, releases in February 2021. This article is a snippet of that very book.

1. This definition is from [lexico.com](https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/doubt): <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/doubt>.
2. Timothy Keller, *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism* (London: Hodder and Stroughton, 2009).
3. Lesslie Newbigin, *Proper Confidence: Faith, Doubt, and Certainty in Christian Discipleship* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing, 1995), 23-24.
4. This is a quote from Mark Batterson’s Twitter feed on January 3, 2015: <https://twitter.com/markbatterson/status/551514907212914689?lang=en>.
5. Dennis Kinlaw, *This Day with the Master: 365 Daily Meditations* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010), August 10 devotional.

GOD’S REVIVALIST and BIBLE ADVOCATE

08

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.

Thank you for the incredible article, “Whom The Son Sets Free Is Free Indeed” [Sept 2020] by Roderick Davis! It was so encouraging to read about the power of God in Mr. Davis’ life—even when circumstances seemed completely impossible—and the steady faithfulness of Brother Hyatt. I believe Floyd Hyatt, known only in our small circles on earth, is one of the great saints in the kingdom of heaven.

DANIELLE WATTERS
Cincinnati, OH

Thank you for *God’s Revivalist* magazine! I read it from cover to cover!

CATHY BOGEMAN
Andalusia, AL

Find enclosed payment for a two-year subscription to your excellent periodical. Once read, ours is shared with friends!

ETTA FRANKLIN
Shoals, IN

I noticed with pleasure the picture and mention of Carl Todd [May 2020]. One memory I have of him concerns a Sunday night that he took three of us from GBS to his mission. As Carl was driving along, he looked over at me and asked, “Do you want to preach tonight?” With about twenty minutes to prepare, I preached my first sermon. Fifty-five years later, I am still preaching the same glorious gospel of Jesus Christ, and I thank the Lord for Carl Todd and God’s Bible School.

FLOYD VINCENT
Archbold, OH

I appreciate getting the magazine and reading the articles.

WAYNE POTTEIGER
email

Audacious, but Justified

by Aaron Earls

Asking someone to marry you is an outrageous request. You may not think about it much, but you are asking a lot of the other person. When I asked my wife to marry me, I wasn't just asking her to go to Applebee's or play Putt-Putt. I was asking her to trust me with her life. I was asking her to voluntarily spend the rest of her life following me wherever God leads. I was asking her to start a family with me and trust me to be able to take care of that family.

I was asking a lot. I was making an audacious, outrageous request. Yet, she still said "yes." Why? Easy answer: She loved me and was responding to a proposal that she had been waiting for.

"Will you marry me?" is a huge question, but have you ever stopped and thought about some of the things we ask God to do? Just think about asking God to come down during our worship. That is an unfathomably large request.

This weekend, during worship at our church, we sang, "King of Heaven come down." So often we mouth the words and never think about what we are singing, but for some reason this time, I thought about those words and it struck me: "I'm asking the King of Heaven to come down into our piddly, little building and inhabit our pitiful, weak worship."

After that initial thought, a second one came to mind: "It is a lot to ask, but that doesn't mean it's not right to ask it." Despite all our shortcomings, God desires to come down to us. He loves us and has repeatedly demonstrated that.

Asking the King of Kings to come down to us during our time of worship is an entirely audacious yet completely justified request. I have nothing in me that I should expect Him to listen to my plea, only that He has promised to do so, and He is faithful.

Sure, it is a crazy thing to ask someone to marry you. Yes, it is absolutely insane to ask God to come down to our worship. Yet, both of those are very appropriate requests at the right times. When they are granted, they are granted out of love and a desire for a deeper relationship. Ask big things of God, but understand that the long-term goal of the request, just like marriage, should be to take the next step in your love relationship.

Every day I'm thankful that on November 1, 2000, my then-girlfriend became my fiancée and later my wife. Similarly, every moment I sense His presence, I'm grateful beyond words that my God and my King would stoop down to be with me.

Audacious but justified requests bring amazing and lasting results! ■

Aaron Earls is an author and the editor of Facts & Trends online magazine (factsandtrends.net) where this article first appeared. Used by permission.





to fulfill that Commission effectively, and to spread the gospel through additional opportunities brought on by difficult circumstances.

Steven Hight, current GBS Visiting Professor of Missiology, led a panel discussion of missions leaders Steve



Panel discussion: Tim Keep, Steve Gibson, and Harold Martin.

MISSIONARY CONVENTION

"M28:19 Discipleship" was the theme of the biennial Missionary Convention held October 25-27, 2020. Plenary speaker, Harold Martin, Director of FEA Ministries, challenged the campus community to continue prioritizing the Great Commission, to grow deeper in a personal relationship with God in order

Gibson, Tim Keep, and Harold Martin. The panel addressed campus-submitted questions, such as "What qualifications would you love your incoming missionaries to have?" "How does discipleship look during a global pandemic?" and "How can I be a missionary if I am an introvert?"

Missionaries from various countries also shared video updates, giving the campus glimpses of God's



Featured speaker, Harold Martin, FEA Ministries

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. Earl L. Baker, 92, of Louisville, TN, passed away September 10, 2020, at Blount Memorial Hospital, Maryville, TN. Earl and his wife, Margaret Ruth, attended Friendsville Bible Methodist Church. They were *God's Revivalist* subscribers and God's Bible School donors.

Rev. Baker was preceded in death by his wife of 69 years. He is survived by his son, Gary; daughter, Linda Bragg; eight grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; several nieces; and many life-long friends. A celebration of life service was held at Click Funeral Home Chapel, Farragut, TN, officiated by Revs. Dana Bentz and Walt Hedstrom. Burial followed at Lakeview Cemetery, Lenoir, TN.



Roy E. Gingrich, 87, of Palmyra, PA, passed away September 28, 2020, at his home. Born in 1933 to Roy and Esther (Engle) Gingrich of Hummelstown, PA, he was the husband of Luella M. (Page). On April 17, they celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary.

Roy retired from The Hershey Company where he had worked for over 40 years. For 56 years, he owned and operated Roy's Bicycle Shop in Palmyra. He attended the God's Missionary Church, Lebanon. He especially enjoyed travelling with his wife in their motor home. Roy and Luella loved GBS, subscribed to *God's Revivalist*, and were faithful Sustaining Donors.

Roy is survived by his wife; six sons, John, Roy, Gary, Timothy, Paul, and Bradley; three daughters, Iva Kane, Rebecca Zeigler, and Esther Burcaw; 29 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held at God's Missionary Church, Lebanon, PA, with burial following at Grand View Memorial Park, Annville, PA.



work around the world. Several missionary alumni also participated in a virtual panel discussion about pathways toward missionary service. Although this on-campus event was closed to the general public due to COVID-19, it was live-streamed on GBSC Facebook and GBSC YouTube. Archives of the plenary services, including the panel discussions, can be accessed online at <https://www.gbs.edu/livestream/>.

HARVEST PARTY

Student Government did a great job coordinating this year's annual Harvest Party, held the evening of October 28 at the Justice family farm on the outskirts of Cincinnati. The chilly weather was perfect for playing volleyball on a court inside the barn, visiting horses in their stalls, and sitting around a campfire enjoying chili and nachos, hot chocolate, and s'mores. One eagerly anticipated event was the pumpkin carving contest. Everyone had a great time!

GBS and the William and Janet Justice family have had a long and special relationship. William took some college classes (1974) and both his son and daughter are alumni: ➡



Charles E. Metz, 93, of Portsmouth, OH, died October 2, at the Southern Ohio Medical Center (SOMC) Hospice Center. He was born in 1926 to Albert and Sylvia (Martin) Metz of Cairo, WV. Charles was a very proud Army veteran of World War II. His career after the war was as a dynamite blaster in construction.

Charles attended Eighth Street Wesleyan Tabernacle in West Portsmouth and was a devoted supporter of Christian colleges and missionary groups. A lifetime subscriber to *God's Revivalist* and substantial donor to God's Bible School and College, he contributed to various special projects on campus. For example, during the comprehensive renovations of the James Wesley Adcock Chapel in 1997, he paid for the carpet and its installation.

Surviving are three brothers, Willard, Glade, and John; and two sisters, Gladys Gray and Dorothy Palm. A funeral service was held at the John 3:16 Church, Slocum Station, OH, with Rev. Fred Bales officiating. American flags and the U.S. Army flag were flown on the avenue in his honor.



Dr. Ignacio Gonzalo Palacios, 63, passed away on Friday, October 9, after battling COVID-19. Dr. Palacios was born in Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico, in 1957. At the age of 10 he immigrated to the U.S., living most of his life in Texas and Florida.

Dr. Palacios earned a BA in Foreign Language from Kansas City College and Bible School, an MA in Teaching English as a Second Language from the University of Texas Pan American, and a PhD in English Rhetoric and Linguistics from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He also served as a Fulbright Scholar, taught at Hobe Sound Bible College for twenty years during three tenures, and began the Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL) department there. One of the founding members of Spanish Bible Institute for Hope International Missions, he served in several related capacities for the missionary organization.

He leaves behind his wife of almost 40 years, Cynthia Palacios; children, John-Mark and Andrew; and a grandson.

➡ Randy (HS '81) and Rhonda (HS '82). Additionally, their grandchildren Travis (HS 2000-02, college 2007-09) and Tosha (HS '02) are alumni as well.

In 1995, when William retired from 30 years of working for Roadway Express, he bought a 94.5-acre farm in Mount Orab, OH. In the late 1990s, GBS began having fall parties at the farm that always included a bonfire and hayrides. Occasionally the GBS inner-city missions would bring



Lining up for chili and nachos

their youth to gatherings at the farm. Randy remembers how unfamiliar these children were with the rural setting. One teenage girl asked permission to go out and lie down in the pasture just to look up at the sky. She had never before witnessed a star-filled sky unobstructed by city lights!

Also in 1995, William purchased an apartment building from GBS which had been sitting empty for some time. He had the building renovated into seven efficiency apartments and named it Tiffany House in memory of his granddaughter, Randy's daughter, Tiffany, who had been tragically killed in a traffic accident at a young age. In 1999,

he sold the property back to GBS, giving the school a very good deal.



Food and fellowship around the bonfire



William and Janet Justice



Randy Justice

REVIVALIST FAMILY continued



Rose Fry, 69, of Frankfort, IN, went to be with the Lord on Sunday, October 11, 2020. She was born July 23, 1951, in Weslaco, TX, to Jesús Martinez and Consuelo (Procel) Castoreno. She married Paul D. Fry on May 12, 1973, in Logansport, IN.

Rose was a 1971 graduate of Frankfort High School and lived most of her life in Clinton County. She was monitor and librarian at Frankfort Covenant Academy, and a bilingual paraprofessional at Kyger Grade School for over 20 years. Rose was a member of the Frankfort Bible Holiness Church and taught Sunday school there. She loved her grandchildren, flowers, and wind chimes, and was known as the family archivist.

Rose is survived by her husband, Paul D. Fry; two daughters, Tami Biddle and Debbie George; two sons, David and Alex; three brothers and six sisters; and 11 grandchildren. Funeral services were held at Frankfort

Bible Holiness Church, officiated by her son, Dr. David Fry, with burial following in Bunnell Cemetery.

Rose's children attended GBS: Dr. David (BA '02), a GBS adjunct professor married to Sarah (Wolf) (BA '00); Alex (2010-13); Tami (1995); and Debbie (2006-10).



Michael Lee Hobbs, 71, of Hobe Sound, FL, suddenly went to be with Jesus on October 15, 2020. Born to Rev. Walter and Ada Hobbs, of Fairborn, OH, he was raised in a pastor's home. He made his own choice to follow Jesus at four years of age, loving and serving Him faithfully throughout his life. He was preceded in death by his first wife, JoAnn (Adams) Hobbs.

Michael attended GBS (1969), pastored churches in Ohio, Missouri, Michigan, West Virginia, Indiana, and Pennsylvania, and was a frequent speaker in camp meetings and revivals, as well as a worship leader and chorister.

It is interesting to note that the current GBS president and spouse, Rodney and Melissa (Arender) Loper, had some of their early dates at the Justice Farm's Harvest Party while they were students. AND, after they were married, they first lived in one of the apartments in the Tiffany House!

When William's son Randy retired from AT&T in 2013, he and his wife Laura (Knight) (BA '79) moved to the farm, joining his parents there. They lease about 70 acres for others to farm, and, of course, they welcome students and staff from GBS for the annual Harvest Party!

TALENT NIGHT

The campus family was excited as Ms. V (Sonja Vernon, Vice President for Student Affairs) stood on the platform and opened Talent Night 2020. What they experienced was a wide range of talent from both students and staff, including musical

performances, comedic productions, parodies, and even some tricks.

All were enjoyed, but a few stood out. For example, you might have thought Lily Rectenwald was going to sing "Tell Your Heart to Beat Again." She did, but she did so using American Sign Language! When Bryan Witt sat down at the piano and played "The Storm," you may have been surprised to learn that it was one of his original compositions. Daniel Shirk took the stage to solve various scrambled Rubick's cubes of different

sizes in just seconds. He even solved one using only one hand!

Of course there was humor. Jeff Glick, Cameron Going, and Logan Sankey sang "2021, Don't Be Late!" a somewhat modified version of the famous, old Chipmunk Song. Ms. V had the final number, singing an original parody she had written about college guys and girls.

After the event, the fun migrated to The Commons for refreshments. It was indeed a night of talent enjoyed by all! ■



Logan, Cameron, and Jeff sing.



Bryan Witt performs an original composition.



After marrying Daryl (Bradbury) in 2009, Michael joined Hope International Missions. He and his wife pastored a mission church in the Turks and Caicos Islands and ministered in Haiti as field administrators, overseeing an orphanage, school, and several churches, as well as teaching seminars for church leaders. For the past three years, Michael also worked as Assistant Housing Director for FEA Ministries in Hobe Sound.

Michael is survived by his wife, Daryl; sons, Daniel and Nathaniel; daughter, Esther Straight; stepdaughter, Rose Grandin; and 15 grandchildren. A Celebration of Life service was held at Hobe Sound Bible Church.



Audrey Jane (Hedrick) Sechrest, 85, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Friday, October 16, 2020, at the Hinkle Hospice House, Lexington, NC. She was born in 1935 to Hamet Hedrick, Sr. and Sue (Lohr) Hedrick of Elizabethtown, NC.

Audrey was married on February 11, 1951, to Lank J. Sechrest. She was a member of Archdale Pilgrim Holiness Church and a homemaker most of her life. She loved raising her children and watching her grandchildren and great-grandchildren grow.

Survivors include her husband, Lank; three daughters, Cheryl Miller, Kay Sechrest, and Patricia Neville; two sons, Richard and Wesley; two sisters, Nancy Beck and Judith Conrad; one brother, Benny Hedrick; 15 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held at Heath Church, Lexington, NC, with Revs. Dan Downing, Dan Parker, Edward Lecates, and Derald Hunt officiating. Interment followed in the church cemetery.

A number of Audrey's children and their spouses attended God's Bible School and College, and her husband served as a trustee on the GBS board from 1979 to 2000. ■

CAMPUS IMPROVE

NEW GYM FLOOR—PLUS AC

For some time we have explored resurfacing the concrete gym floor. Although we had originally considered wood, the final decision was to go with “pulastic” and a professional company here in Cincinnati that had experience in installing this state-of-the-art floor technology for gyms and recreational facilities.

After the floor was prepared (1), it was covered with a rubber cushion upon which several coats of liquid were applied (2) and left to solidify. Then new core drillings were made to align with the volleyball poles. Finally, the playing lines for both volleyball and basketball were redrawn. The gym now has a durable, waterproof surface (3) which is a bit “softer” on aging staff knees than the previous bare concrete surface.

The entire cost was approximately \$50,000. We are grateful for a generous donor who designated funds specifically for this project.

Additionally, we installed air conditioning in the gym. The original price tag for this was around \$120,000; but, thanks to a great bargain and a “donation in kind” by both the seller of the 30-ton AC unit and the mechanical company that installed it (4), the job was completed for only \$25,000 cash due. This was the last large area of campus to be air conditioned (5).



DNSTRUC

GOD'S REVIVALIST and BIBL

NSTRUCTION



526 CHANNING MULTI-FAMILY UNIT

The remodeling of this three-unit, multi-family house (6) lasted 12 months and was a huge undertaking. COVID-19 and financial restraints also played into the drawn-out time frame. When we purchased the building, it had been vacant for years and needed a lot of repairs (7).

On the exterior, we fixed the leaking roof and installed new siding, doors/lighting, and new front and back porches. Inside we installed new plumbing, drywall, some new electrical wiring, flooring, interior doors, and lighting. Each of the three apartments had completely new kitchens and bathrooms installed, and all interior walls were primed and painted. It is now fully occupied and serving the GBS family well.



NEW ENTRY DOOR FOR THE COMMONS

The Commons is where students meet, check their mail, grab refreshments, play games, study, or sit on the patio for quiet reflection. The entry door had been showing signs of deterioration and was in need of replacement. When staff members Floyd Hyatt and Brad Bishop tackled the job, they discovered that the old framing had rotted away. (It had been constructed during the very first school year, 1900-01.) After reframing the entrance area (8), they installed a new fiberglass door (9).



CONSTRUCTION! CONSTRUCTION!

1832 JOSEPHINE WALL WORK

It came to our attention that the back wall of the 1832 Josephine Street residence was in need of repair. The original foundation was crumbling, and water had been seeping through the 140-year-old wall. The old mortar joints were dug out, replaced with new mortar, and resealed. The entire wall was covered with stucco, then primed and painted (10) (11). This wall should be good for many more years to come.

We were extremely thankful for the help of the men's public relations singing groups whom we had working over the summer when they were not on the road. In total we had around 300 hours in this project alone (12).

REPLACING THE CHAPEL CARPET

The carpet in the chapel was showing wear and tear after more than 20 years of foot traffic. Two companies were contracted for the job: Loth Furniture took up the rows of chapel chairs, moved them out of the way, and then reinstalled them over the new carpet; Diversified Flooring removed the old carpet and installed commercial high-grade carpet squares (13) (14), allowing replacement of individual squares should they be



CONSTRUCTION!

ON! CO



stained/damaged. The project took three weeks and cost \$40,000. We are very grateful for the donor who paid for this entire project!

LADIES' BATHROOM RENOVATION

In July, the restroom on the second floor of the Women's Residence Hall was demolished (15). After stripping the area down to the studs (16), the crew replaced the plumbing, showers, faucets, toilets, and sinks. New stainless steel bath partitions (donated by Fifth Third Bank) were installed. Tile was laid on both the walls and the floor and new fixtures installed throughout. The end product was aesthetically pleasing (17).

This means that the large bathrooms on three of the four floors of this building have been completely remodeled. This leaves only the bathroom on the first floor to be renovated—which is the focus of this appeal. ■



OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

Without your loyal assistance, we couldn't accomplish these projects. The "Revivalist Family" is made up of faithful GBS supporters who have stood beside us and made it possible for us to move forward for over a century. Our purpose hasn't changed, and our mission is clear—training students to do the work of ministry.

We want to give you an opportunity to help us accomplish another project on our to-do list. We have one more restroom to remodel in the ladies' dorm. The cost for this renovation is \$20,000. It will receive the same treatment as described earlier for the second-floor bathroom.

Ten donations each of \$1,000, \$500, \$250, and \$100 will bring us close to reaching our goal! Will you consider helping us with this project? Gifts of any amount would be so much appreciated and go a long way toward meeting the needs that are facing us at this time.

Maybe you would consider giving a significant year-end gift that not only would help GBS, but also could benefit you at tax time.

To make a donation by check, send it to 1810 Young Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202. To donate by credit card or give online, visit www.gbs.edu/givenow; or you may call the school at 1-800-486-4637 and ask for the Donor Office.

Thank you for standing with us!

President Rodney Loper

GOD'S BIBLE SCHOOL
& COLLEGE

DECEMBER 2020

Dear Phil

DISMISSING THE “OLD” TESTAMENT

“Where do we get the belief that the Old Testament is ‘old’? Why do people quickly state, ‘That’s Old Testament,’ and dismiss what it says? Correct me if I’m wrong, but the early New Testament church read and studied scripture...which would have been the Old Testament, right?” —Tom

Dear Tom,

The language of “old” covenant comes from Hebrews 8. The Hebrew writer quotes Jeremiah 31:31-34—the classic passage in which God promises to make a new covenant with His people—and then says, “When He said, ‘A new covenant,’ He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear” (Heb. 8:13). The key here is that the “old” covenant isn’t the same thing as the Old Testament. More on that later.

There are at least five common reasons people say “that’s Old Testament”: (1) they have been wrongly taught that the Old Testament only applies to us if the New Testament repeats it, (2) they don’t notice the ways the New Testament writers interpreted and applied texts from the Old Testament to New Covenant believers, (3) they don’t know the difference between Torah, law, and covenant/testament, (4) they take Romans 6:14 “you are not under law, but under grace” out of context and apply it to the whole Old Testament, and (5) they misunderstand the meaning of the word “fulfill” in

Matthew 5:17. When all five are true, that adds up to a lot of misunderstanding!

First, search the New Testament from Matthew to Revelation, and you will not find a single verse that says anything like the idea that the Old Testament only applies to us if the New Testament repeats it. You will find just the opposite: “All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, in order that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16-17). “For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction” (Rom. 15:4). “Now these things [in Exodus and Numbers]... were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come” (1 Cor. 10:11). “But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does” (James 1:25). And that’s not all (see Rom. 3:31; 7:7, 12, 14, 16; 1 Tim. 1:8; Heb. 3:7-13)!

Second, the authors of the NT directly apply OT passages to New

Covenant believers, without caveat or explanation. For example, Ephesians 6:2-3 applies the fifth commandment to believers (Deut. 5:16). Romans 13:8-9 applies commandments 6-10 (Exod. 20:13-17) as well as the command to love others (Lev. 19:18) to believers. In 2 Corinthians 13:1 and 1 Timothy 5:19, Paul requires every testimony to be confirmed by 2 or 3 witnesses on the basis of Deuteronomy 19:15. In 1 Corinthians 9:9 and 1 Timothy 5:18, Paul instructs believers to provide for the material needs of their spiritual teachers on the basis of Deuteronomy 25:4. Paul forbids revenge (Rom. 12:19) on the basis of Deuteronomy 32:35. The author of Hebrews 12:5-6 quotes Proverbs 3:11-12 as a direct admonition to NT believers. Hebrews 13:5 quotes Yahweh’s promise in Deuteronomy 31:6 never to leave or forsake His people. In Ephesians 4:26, “Be angry and sin not” directly applies Psalm 4:4 as instruction to NT believers. Peter uses Leviticus 19:2ff to command NT believers, “Be holy in all your behavior, for it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy’” (1 Pet. 1:15-16). And I could keep going.

So, yes, Tom, you’re correct. The NT church read, studied, preached, and applied the OT to their lives. Fascinatingly, most of the examples I just gave come from OT laws given to Israel in the context of the Mosaic covenant, the very covenant the Hebrew author said was old and becoming obsolete. So, what about the OT is becoming obsolete? I’ll try to explain that along with the relation between Torah, law, and covenant, Romans 6:14 and Matthew 5:17, in future columns.

Blessings,
Philip ■

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



student focus

PARISHIONERS PREFER SHORT SERMONS

LifeWay Research interviewed 1,000 American Protestant pastors and 1,002 American Protestant churchgoers about their preferences when it comes to sermon lengths. The survey reveals that 45% of churchgoers prefer sermons that are 30 minutes or less, 25% say that sermons should last 30-40 minutes, and 12% want their pastor's sermons to be longer than an hour. A slight majority of churchgoers, 55% percent, say they are happy with their pastor's current sermon length.

GROWING NUMBER OF U.S. CHRISTIANS NO LONGER BELIEVE IN MORAL ABSOLUTES

The *American Worldview Inventory 2020*, released in May by George Barna, director of research at the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University, found that 58% of U.S. adults agree with the statement, "Identifying moral truth is up to each individual; there are no moral absolutes that apply to everyone all the time." Surprisingly, 48% of adults self-identified as born-again Christians also agree.

UNDERGROUND CHURCH COMES "ABOVE GROUND"

Iran's underground church has come out in the open to aid Muslim neighbors during COVID-19.

Christians in Muslim-majority Iran are risking arrest to provide food and humanitarian aid to their neighbors struggling without jobs during the coronavirus pandemic.

COURT PROTECTS TAX-CREDITS FOR RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Montana may not bar religious schools from participating in the state's tax-credit scholarship program, a major win for school choice advocates and parents who wish to use their scholarship funds to send their children to religious schools. The case arose when three families sued Montana's Department of Revenue after they were blocked from using scholarship funds for their children's tuition at Stillwater Christian School.

POPE ENDORSES SAME-SEX CIVIL UNIONS

Pope Francis has publicly endorsed same-sex civil unions, contradicting long-standing Church teachings. According to the Pope, "Homosexual people have the right to be in a family. They are children of God. You can't kick someone out of a family, nor make their life miserable for this. What we have to have is a civil union law. That way they are legally covered." A number of bishops have spoken out against this, saying these views "do not correspond to the constant teaching of the Church." ■

When he was a high school junior in Aldersgate Christian Academy, **ERON MIRIYE** felt called to preach while attending VIP Day at GBS in 2017.

Both of his parents attended GBS. His father, Wesley, was from Papua New Guinea, and his mother, Erina, was from Alabama. Eron received most of his education while attending ACA. However, when he was 17, he moved with his family to Papua New Guinea, where his father assisted his native church as deputy mission director. While a high school senior, Eron became president of the religious instruction group at Port Moresby National High School, where he graduated valedictorian of his class.

Eron is excited to be back at GBS. He has grown closer to God and is receiving more specificity concerning God's call on his life. Although he feels at home in these "familiar surroundings," he is eager to return to Papua New Guinea after he completes his ministerial education degree. ■

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.

HOLINESS: A NEW BEGINNING

by T.M. Anderson

As the forming of man from the dust of the earth, breathing into him the breath of life, making him a living soul in the image and likeness of God was the crowning work of God in creation; so also the lifting of a fallen man from the depth of sin, breathing into him the life-giving fullness of the Holy Spirit, sanctifying him wholly, making him the image of God is the crowning act of the new creation of the redeeming Christ....

The question of what follows holiness becomes one of absorbing interest to every person in this experience. The aid of the Holy Ghost is pledged to the sanctified, that by His help they may know what is necessary for them to do and be enabled to perform all things which pertain to their salvation.

The fact of individual responsibility cannot be overemphasized. It runs parallel with every responsibility which God assumes in the preservation of His people. The exhortation to keep ourselves in the love of God is followed by the truth that He is able to keep us from falling and present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. The prayers of a holy people are as necessary to their enrichment and preservation as the intercessions of Jesus. Nothing can take the place of either. To place all responsibility upon Christ is presumption; and to assume all responsibility without Him is conceit. There is a measure of responsibility which God unfailingly takes which is the source of greatest encouragement to all in this holy way. There is a measure of individual responsibility which we must take, apart from which salvation is impossible....

The sanctified are new creations. They are as sinless as was the first creation. They are created in Christ Jesus in the moral likeness of God. They stand at the threshold of limitless possibilities in character building and development.... Holiness is then both an end and a beginning. As the attainment of an end, it means the end of sin in the soul. This has been obtained through the cleansing blood of Christ and wrought in the heart by the fullness of the Holy Ghost.

The sanctified stand at a beginning as the result of cleansing. Much that is purchased for them in the atonement for the enrichment of their holy souls in knowledge, love, and graces lies before them. They have crossed their Jordan, and the land lies before them, a possession to be developed.

The fall of man was twofold in its result. It resulted in a depravation of the nature; and it also resulted in a deprivation of privileges which were his by the rights of creation.

The removal of sin from the nature of man entitles him to all forfeited privileges. Redemption in its full meaning restores the redeemed to the state of holiness, and makes them heirs to an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away.

When Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God," He showed the extent of redemption. To be pure in heart is to be free from depravity. To see God follows as a natural result. To see God means not only to vision Him, but to fellowship with Him, to live with Him, to enjoy Him through all time and eternity, as was the right of the first man before he sinned.

Holiness, therefore, places us at the threshold of all blessedness. It guarantees the resurrection of the body, and eternal triumph over death. It meets the one condition necessary to live in the new order of things which shall be set up when God gives us "new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." It is preparation to receive Him when He comes "to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in all them that believe." It capacitates the sanctified to live eternally with God and be at home in His presence. ■

Tony Marshall ("T.M.") Anderson (1888–1979) was an evangelist and college professor associated with the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Church of the Nazarene. This excerpt is from *After Holiness, What?* Chapter 1, "After Sanctification," Nazarene Publishing House, 1929.



Spanish Flu Hits Cincinnati The Fourth Wave of 1920

"One of our number has slipped away into the glory world. Eugene Cavanaugh, of Missouri, left us January 24 [1920], the fourth student to join the heavenly ranks [since GBS was founded in 1900]. Thus began "Bible School Notes" in the March 4, 1920, issue of *God's Revivalist*.

"An epidemic of scarlet fever, measles, and influenza has been raging all through our city, and...one of our number was exposed.... During the holidays, several became sick [and] were sent to the General Hospital. The report has been out that we had 100 cases and were under general quarantine." But the *God's Revivalist* writer (presumably Bessie Queen Standley), wishing to set the record straight, insisted that GBS had "about 20 cases" of what she diagnosed as scarlet fever, "and only one of the buildings under quarantine.

"All kinds of precautions were taken to prevent the spread of the disease. Every student that had even a cold was visited by a trained nurse (one of our students [who had a missionary call to Africa]), and if the case was the least suspicious, the party was isolated.... These were the days of real heart pressure to trustees, teachers, and workers; but as ever, GOD was our refuge and strength."

She noted that all of those at GBS had come through the sickness well "except Eugene. Beginning with

THE CINCINNATI POST ** BOY GIVES LIFE FOR FAMILY

Dies While Nursing Seven Victims of Influenza.

By United Press.

LEE SUMMIT, MO., Feb. 2.—Medical science shouldered today the burdens borne last week by Homer Rodel, 9, who died after influenza had slain his mother, father and one brother, leaving four brothers and sisters undefended.

Ten days ago Albert Rodel, the father was stricken; next day, the mother; within 48 hours. Morris, 13; Howard, 14; Chester, 7; Ardith, 10, and Carol, 5, fell victims of the malady.

Only Homer remained to care for the family. He cooked and ministered to his patients as best he could for two days.

On Monday, assisted by Homer, his father dressed, staggered out and, by superhuman effort, drove here to call a doctor.

When the overworked physician arrived he found Rodel in the kitchen on a cot.

"Don't stop here," he whispered. "Go in that room. I haven't heard a sound in there for two hours."

The doctor found Mrs. Rodel dead, beside her Chester and Carol, unconscious.

Upstairs he found Homer, who insisted he was all right. "Go down and help mam," he pleaded.

One boy died next morning. The father died on Wednesday and Homer, weakened by his efforts to help the others, died Thursday.

Nurses now are trying to save the lives of the four remaining.

a weak heart, he developed double pneumonia, and although prayer unceasing was offered, it pleased the Lord to take him home.... He was one of those sweet, rare characters that everyone loved; such a general favorite that, as one student expressed it in prayer, 'Lord, Thou hast taken the jewel of the school.'

"A short funeral service was held in the tabernacle. His favorite songs

FLU PATIENTS TO BE GROUPED

All Cases Will Be Sent to General Hospital.

"We are not worried about the influenza situation, but are watching it carefully," said Dr. A. C. Bachmeyer, superintendent of General Hospital, speaking, he said, for heads of six other hospitals, who attended a conference to consider relief measures Wednesday.

It was decided to concentrate all flu cases at General Hospital. Non-influenza patients will be shifted to Christ, Deaconess, Seton, Jewish, Good Samaritan and Bethesda Hospitals, if necessary, as was done last year.

Dr. Bachmeyer said there are about 100 flu cases in four wards at General Hospital. Of cases admitted Tuesday, four died.

The Associated Charities reported it found a ragpicker, his wife and six children ill of flu in a two-room home along the Ohio River.

Thirty new cases of influenza were reported to the Board of Health Wednesday. Four deaths, two of pneumonia and two of influenza, were recorded.

ELEVEN HAVE FLU

Children Too Ill to Attend Funeral of Mother.

WINCHESTER, KY.: The 11 children of Mrs. Martha Christopher were too ill to attend her funeral here, the entire family being stricken with the flu.

Neighbors are helping the father nurse the children.

were sung. Ten young men, with Sisters Peabody and Luke, spoke of his character...[and] Bro. M.G. Standley spoke briefly and beautifully."

* * * *

The unusually deadly 1918 flu pandemic, also known as Spanish flu, lasted from February 1918 to April 1920, infecting 500 million people (a third of the world's population) in four waves. With a death toll esti-

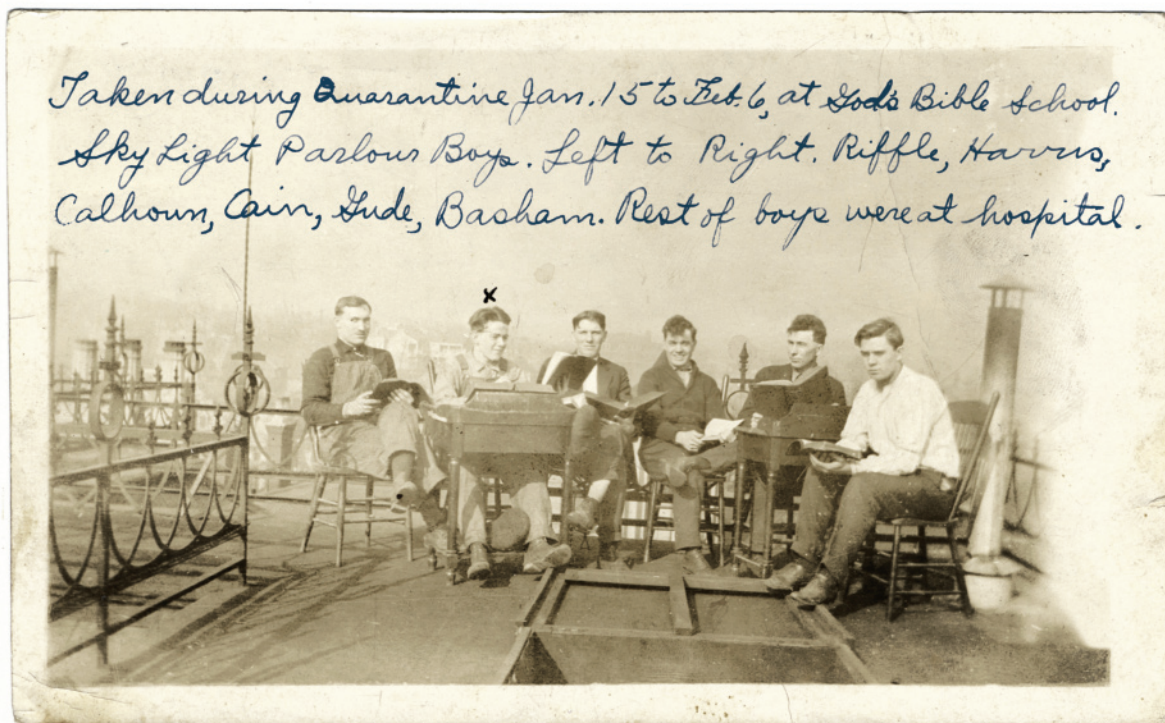
mated to have been between 17 million and 50 million (or even twice that high), it was one of the deadliest pandemics in human history.*

The first cases were documented in France, Germany, Great Britain, and the U.S. (Fort Riley, Kansas; and New York City). These early reports were censored and minimized to maintain morale during World War I. However, newspapers were free to report the pandemic's effects in Spain, a neutral country where King Alfonso XIII was gravely ill from the virus. These uncensored stories created a false impression that the disease had originated in Spain, and the misnomer "Spanish flu" became the common designation.*

While flu outbreaks usually disproportionately kill infants and the aged, the Spanish flu pandemic was different in that the mortality rate was highest among young adults. As U.S. troops deployed in Europe, they carried the Spanish flu with them. With immune systems weakened by malnourishment, stresses of combat, and chemical attacks, soldiers especially became increasingly susceptible to the virus. Modern transportation systems and increased travel also made it easier for civilians to spread the disease. Government censorship and denials increased the risks as large populations were ill-prepared to handle the outbreaks.*

* * * *

Dwight E. Harris, from Hinton, West Virginia, arrived at GBS in the fall of 1919 and was a student during the fourth wave of the pandemic. His daughter, Naomi Okes of Nimitz, West Virginia, recently provided the Revivalist Office with various memorabilia, including letters



and photographs Dwight had sent to his mother, Lulu P. Harris, before and during his GBS quarantine.

In one such letter, dated October 16, 1919, Dwight wrote, "I was vaccinated about two weeks ago.... The health officers required all of the school to be vaccinated, except those who had been vaccinated in the last seven years.... About half or more of the school were vaccinated,

Flu Masks Wanted **

Cincinnati Chapter, Red Cross, issued an appeal Tuesday to everybody in Cincinnati who can sew to assist in making 5000 influenza masks to be distributed to large army posts as needed. Volunteers will work from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. daily, until the quota is filled. Apply at fifth floor, Denton Building. Seventh and Race streets.

and you ought to have seen them during the last week holding their arms.... Some of them were so sick [from the vaccination] that they were in bed for some time."

Among the many people he met while at Bible school, one stood out vividly in his recollections. "Dr. Godbey was nearing the close of his earthly career while I was a student.... Apparently he ate only one meal a day—the noon meal in the school dining room." According to Harris, most of the mealtime was devoted to Godbey's lectures. On

Sunday afternoons, Godbey conducted a 45-minute service beginning at 1:15 in the old wooden tabernacle. "He read from the Greek New Testament, translating it into English" as he went. "Once a year in the spring he had a haircut, which he gave to himself." When on campus, he lived in a room in the boys' dormitory above the tabernacle. He died in that room later in 1920.

"When I first arrived at GBS...I was assigned a room on the top floor of Annex 2, just across Young Street [1803] from the Administration Building. There were seven other boys, and we had four double bunk beds in the large room which we named 'Skylight Parlor.'" On hot nights they would open a trap door and sleep outside on the roof.

One photo Dwight Harris sent home to his mother shows himself and five roommates sitting on the annex roof. According to the handwritten note, it was "taken during quarantine Jan. 15 to Feb. 6." Along with the names of those in the photo, it mentioned that the rest of the boys were at the hospital.

In a letter to his mother during that time, he wrote, "Poor Bro. Shell! His roommate took sick and now he is quarantined...so I guess he will not get to bring our meals to us anymore for a while....There are quite a number, ...quarantined after we were, [who] are now free, but we are expecting to be out of here Friday night."

In the February 11, 1920, edition of *The Cincinnati Post*, a "Health Appeal" for isolation read as follows: "Dr. William H. Peters, health commissioner, issued an appeal Wednesday to all citizens to 'do their bit' in combatting influenza. He urged sanitary isolation of sufferers. 'As long as persons who have coughs, colds and grip insist on crowding street cars and visiting theaters, we shall have influenza,' Peters said. 'The well citizen is entitled to protection and persons who are ill should give it to him.' Fifty-two new cases of influenza were reported to the Board of Health Wednesday. Three influenza deaths and five of pneumonia were reported."

On February 13, *The Cincinnati Post* announced "Influenza Is On Decrease: Peak of Epidemic Passed, Says Health Service." The article went on to report, "The excess mortality rate due to influenza for 1919-20 is only about 50 per cent of what it was for the corresponding period in 1918, it is estimated."

By April, two years and two months after it had commenced, the Spanish flu pandemic came to an end, and GBS campus life returned to normal. —KM ■

* "Spanish flu," Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_flu.

** All newspaper clippings are from *The Cincinnati Post*: February 2, 1920, p11; February 3, 1920, p1; February 4, 1920, p6; February 24, 1920, p20.



A SEASON OF LOVE

by Sonja Vernon

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

—2 Corinthians 9:15

Vernon Christmases were and are full of love and tradition. When I was very young, it involved packing my family and my uncle's family into a borrowed van and driving all night to see the Alabama relatives. I remember being bundled into my jammies and lying on a pallet made up for the kids in the back of the van. "The kids" consisted of three little boys and me. I always sought the coveted spot next to one of my cousins. He was the one who read science fiction and would tell me stories that made me deliciously afraid. Along with promises of impending planetary demise, he told me many "true" stories about UFO sightings and other unexplained phenomena. You can see why he was the best pallet partner ever. When we finally arrived in Alabama, holidays were loud, funny, and full of food and love. They also involved an inordinate amount of fireworks, swinging, climbing, and returning to the house covered in scrapes, bruises, and happiness. As I've grown, the traditions have changed, but the food, the humor, and the love remain. Christmas is all about love. It's the chance to show people in our world how much they mean to us. It's a beautiful opportunity to find out that giving is way more fun than getting. Getting is great! But giving outclasses it every time. Christmas is a time to remember that we were loved lavishly when God gave the best gift He could possibly give, and when we have been loved like that, the only response is to love lavishly in return. "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." Let's share it this Christmas! ■

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