

GOD'S REVIVALIST

June, July, August 2021

and Bible Advocate



IT'S FAR TOO EASY TO BUY A TIGER

Tim Challies, page 8



thinking out loud

REMEMBERING BOB

I have many cherished memories of my friend, Robert Bickert, who recently passed away (see pp.14, 25). When he arrived on campus in 1986, I quickly learned that he was a person who was easy to like—a great guy. He was excited about the opportunity to share with the students in the classes he taught. And share he did. A lot!

Earlier, I had ditched my electronic typewriter (which had one line of buffer memory) and bought a Texas Instruments TI 99/4A (that had only a cartridge or tape system for storage). However, I soon tired of these limitations and bought a VTech Laser 128—which was a clone of the very popular Apple II. It had a slot for the 5¼ inch floppy disks. Remember those?

I was in computer heaven. I could save all my course materials on disks, which greatly simplified the updating process. I could also write a simple BASIC program that allowed me to enter the grades of a student, and, when I hit ENTER, the computer would instantly display the final grade.

This is where my friend, Bob, comes in. As I mentioned, he was excited about all the material he wanted to share with his classes. I remember him sitting in my apartment and telling me his intended requirements for his students—quizzes, tests, papers, reading reports, memorization, projects, etc. I shook my head and said, “Bob, that is WAY too much. You are going to have to pare it down.” I helped him make some difficult decisions, but each cut seemed to break his heart.

I also remember how amazed he was when I took his grade book, determined the categories of grades and how much each was worth, and created a program in BASIC to process them. He would read the grades in the order they appeared in his gradebook (there still were many), and I would enter them into the little program. When I hit the “enter” button and told him the final grade, he was so happy. So was I, because I enjoyed helping my friend!

I thank God for the privilege of getting to know Bob, or “Bobby B” as I called him. After working on the faculty together, we both left the school’s employ in 1990. We both stayed busy in ministry and both completed doctoral degrees. After returning to GBS to be the Vice President for Academic Affairs, I asked him to come back for a second stint, and he consented. It was a great time. It always was when Bobby B was around! —KF ■

CONTENTS

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2021
Volume 133 No. 5

FEATURES

- Engaging Unbelievers Philosophically** **5**
by Mark Bird
- It's Far Too Easy To Buy A Tiger** **8**
by Tim Challies

DEPARTMENTS

- The President's Page** **3**
- Letters To The Editor** **9**
- News From The Hilltop** **10**
- Revivalist Family** **10**
- Dear Phil: A Biblical Response** **20**
- World Pulse** **21**
- Student Focus** **21**
- Called Unto Holiness** **22**
- Revivalist Pulpit** **23**
- Alumni News** **25**
- Thoughts For The Quiet Hour** **27**

STAFF

- Ken Farmer, *managing editor*
- Kevin Moser, *art director, assistant editor*
- Shane Muir, *assistant graphic designer*

God's Revivalist and Bible Advocate (ISSN 0745-0788) is published monthly except for combined issues in January-February and June-July-August for **\$12.00 per year (\$28.00, Canada; \$60.00, other countries)** by the Revivalist Press of God's Bible School, College and Missionary Training Home, 1810 Young Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202. Periodical postage paid at Cincinnati, Ohio, and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER: send address changes to God's Revivalist and Bible Advocate, 1810 Young Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.**

God's Revivalist and Bible Advocate, the official organ of God's Bible School, is a magazine founded by Martin Wells Knapp in July of 1888. We seek to proclaim the good news of salvation; to stir a revival spirit among Christians; to stimulate Christian growth and responsible Christian living; to present the happenings and interests of God's Bible School.

Please obtain permission before reprinting any articles from *God's Revivalist and Bible Advocate*. **Unsolicited manuscripts are welcomed, but not returned.**

God's Bible School and College seeks to glorify God and to serve His Church by providing higher education centered in Holy Scripture and shaped by Wesleyan conviction, thus preparing faithful servants to proclaim Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness throughout the world.

God's Bible School and College does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, national or ethnic origin, or against otherwise qualified handicapped persons in its admission of students or employment of its faculty and staff.

Contact us by telephone at (513) 721-7944 (Revivalist Press, ext. 1351); by fax at (513) 763-6649; by email at revivalist@pbs.edu. Visit us online at www.gbs.edu or www.godsrevivalist.com.

COVER: ©iStock: GlobalP

the president's page



THE TONGUE

by Rodney Loper, President

People spend one-fifth of their lives talking. A 2014 study showed that, on average, women speak 16,215 words per day, and men speak 15,669 words per day. If all of our words were put into print, at the end of each day we would have enough to fill over 50 pages—each day a little volume. The number of words spoken for an entire year would be over 5.8 million. Enough for a 100-volume set of books, each just shy of 200 pages. Wow! You have to think that among all those words there are bound to be some spoken in anger, carelessness, or haste. Unless... unless you allow the Holy Spirit to help you to be careful of what you say—to control that little muscular organ, the tongue.

In this and two future issues, I want to look at what James 3:1-12 says about the tongue—a small but mighty instrument that can be used for benefit or great harm. Hopefully, what you pick up in this first installment will create a desire to stick with the series and learn what the Bible says about the tongue.

THE TONGUE—VERY SMALL, VERY POWERFUL

The passage uses two analogies to make the explanatory point that small things can have an outsized effect on larger things. In the first, we see that the size of the bit placed in the mouth of a horse can be used to turn the entire body of the mighty steed. Similarly, in the second illustration, we see that the rudder (which is “very small”) can control the direction of ships (which are “so large”), even while being driven by “fierce winds.”

To help us understand the stark contrast in size, let us consider the rudder of the Titanic. It weighed about 105 tons, or about as much as 80 Volkswagens. The rudder was about 59 feet long and 15 feet wide. The size of the rudder seems staggering—but not when you consider that there was over 900 tons of luggage aboard the majestic ship

on its fateful voyage. To give us even better perspective, consider this. Whereas the rudder of the Titanic was 59 feet long, the ship was 883 feet long. Whereas the rudder weighed 105 tons, the ship had a gross weight of 46,239 tons.

Even though the rudder was a mere two-tenths of 1% of the ship's overall weight, it alone was the part of the vessel that determined what direction the ship traveled. Not only does the rudder steer the ship, it does so through the harshest of conditions, through stiff and unbendable winds. Even though the rudder is the tool by which the ship is steered, it responds according to "wherever the pilot desires."

THE TONGUE NEEDS TO BE CONTROLLED

The Greek word for "inclination" or "desire," as translated in the NKJV (James 3:4), can also mean "impulse." The word used here is found in only one other verse in the New Testament, and it speaks of the impulsive and aggressive behavior of a mob (Acts 14:5). Therefore, we can conclude that the course of any ship is not set by the strength or severity of the winds, but by the aggressive and impulsive pressure of the pilot. Again, James' point is clear. He who controls the rudder controls the entire ship, regardless of its size. While the natural force of the winds and the waves matter, they are not determinative. The pilot turns the wheel, that pressure moves the rudder, and the rudder—the small and often unseen appendage at the back of the ship and under the waterline—determines the vessel's direction.

In verse five, we see the point of these two illustrations. "So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things." There has been no doubt that James has been dealing with issues of the tongue in the first four verses, yet verse five is the first time the word "tongue" is mentioned in the chapter. However, the first half of verse five introduces the point being made and allows us to make some very good applications from the previous illustrations.

If the bit of a bridle could speak, it would likely boast of how easily it moves an animal so magnificent and powerful as the horse. But it can't. If a rudder could speak, it would likely boast of how easily it moves so magnificent and powerful a machine as a large ship on the high seas. But it can't. Such is not the case with the tongue. The desires of man apply impulsive pressure to the tongue. The tongue then turns the whole body whichever way the desires of man would have it go. But, unlike the bridle and the rudder, it does indeed boast. "It boasts of great things."

SPEAKING NOT IN PRIDE, BUT IN THE SPIRIT

The tongue, left unchecked, left unbridled, has the potential to inflict catastrophic damages. If we want to

limit the harm it can do as it is steered by our sinful natures, then we must resist the all-too-natural desire to boast. We must resist the sinful desire to tear others down with our words. A tongue that is out of control can destroy churches, families, marriages, and personal relationships.

But a tongue that is under control is one that speaks with humility, not boasting. It will be one that speaks of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).

Listen to what Paul wrote to the Gentiles after listing the fruit of the Spirit. He said, "Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another" (Gal. 5:24-26 NASB).

CONCLUSION

If we are ever to gain control of the tongue, we must allow the Holy Spirit to have direct control of our speech. However, this is often easier said than done because, if we're honest with ourselves, we have all said things we shouldn't say.

- When we speak our minds and say just a bit too much
- When our anger gets the best of us and we spout off with our mouths
- When we know a juicy tidbit of info and just have to share it

What causes people to speak out of turn? Some might say NATURE: "This is just the way I am, just brutally honest as I speak." Others might say NURTURE: "You don't know about the bad environment I grew up in and the bad examples that were around me."

While these do have an effect, earnest-hearted Christians have their old nature transformed by the grace of God; and although some grew up in bad environments and had poor examples as models, as Christians they have a better Model.

But some just seem to have a NEGATIVE SPIRIT and see nothing good in the world, and they want to share that fact with every person whom they encounter. Always having and sharing the negative is a symptom of a deeper problem, "for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matt. 12:34).

No matter what the problem or issue, Christ is the One Who can help. With His power and strength, there is nothing about which He cannot help us to keep our mouths shut. God wants us to control our tongue so that our speech is God-pleasing. The good news? He is our ever-present help. ■

(to be continued)

Engaging Unbelievers

Philosophically

by Mark Bird

I have discovered that it is often useful to prepare people for the gospel by asking them some key philosophical questions. One reason I do this is to help people recognize that truth is exclusive. In our post-modern culture, people think that we all create our own truth, so why would it matter with what religion we identify? Universities claim to teach young people to think, but most teach relativism and thus undermine even the most basic distinction between truth and falsehood. So I frequently help an unbeliever understand the concepts of truth, knowledge, and the law of non-contradiction.

Sometimes I'll begin a discussion by asking a person how he would answer the "three great philosophical questions of life," which deal with origin, purpose, and destiny. Starting with philosophical questions is a lot of fun, too. I enjoy helping people think through these is-

ssues, and this approach acts as a great launching pad into discussions about Christ and Christianity.

THE GREAT QUESTIONS OF LIFE

Recently, I walked into a frozen yogurt shop and ordered a bowl of their most delicious flavor, which is black raspberry. While waiting for the order, I asked the server, whom I'll call Tara, if she'd ever taken a philosophy course in college. She said she enrolled but then withdrew because she couldn't understand it, though she was interested in the subject. I told her that I taught philosophy and wondered how she would answer the three great philosophical questions of life (Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going?). Tara said, "Well, my science teacher said that we evolved, and I don't know why I'm here." So we talked a bit about evolution and the need for a First Cause before I picked up my yogurt and went my way.

WHAT IS TRUTH?

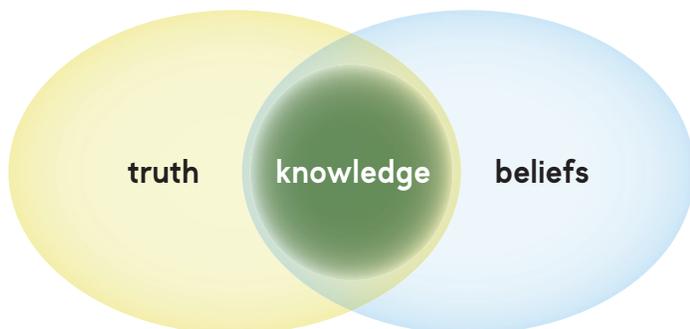
A couple days later, I took my daughters into the same store, and Tara was there again. I smiled and said, “Tara, I have another philosophical question for you.” She seemed glad to see me and asked what the new question was. I asked, “How would you define truth?” She said, “Truth is what you believe.” Glancing out the window, I responded with an illustration. “If I said that it was raining outside this store right now, would that be a true or false claim?” She said it would be false. “Why?” I asked. She responded, “Because it is not actually raining out there right now.” I said, “Right. A claim is true only if it corresponds to reality. It must match the way things really are in order to be true. Truth is an idea or statement that corresponds to reality. Just believing something doesn’t make it true.”

I continued, “If truth must correspond to reality to be true, then is truth something that we create or something we discover?” She suggested, “Something we discover?” “Yes,” I said, “truth exists outside ourselves; it is objective. It is not something we make up, but something we find.” I encouraged her to become a seeker of the truth, since there are real and objective answers to life’s great philosophical questions, and it is in our best interest to discover those answers.

Before I left the store, she asked me if I could give the next questions to her ahead of time so she could be more prepared. She wrote them down.

TRUE BELIEF

When I came back a few days later, she was ready with an answer to my first question: What is knowledge? She said that knowledge is things that we learn. Trying to



help her focus her definition, I drew a diagram that looked like the one above.

I explained that there are some things we might believe that aren’t true. There are many things that are true

that we don’t yet believe. There are many things that are true that we **do** believe. Knowledge is contained in the overlap between our beliefs and the truth. Knowledge is the truth that we believe, or true belief (technically, **justified** true belief). If we don’t believe the truth, it is not knowledge for us, since we don’t “know” it.



If we want the overlap between truth and belief to be greater, we need to discover more things that are true (that match reality). The most important truths to discover are those that relate to the great questions of life.

THE ANSWER TO THE BIG QUESTIONS

The second question I had Tara write down earlier was, “What is the basic message of the Bible?” the answer for which can also be the answer to the three “great questions.” Once Tara shared her thoughts on the Bible, I summed it up by drawing an illustration that shows how God created us (origin) to have a relationship with Him (purpose), but we broke that relationship by our sin. This caused a gulf between us and God, but Christ bridged the gap through His death and resurrection. If we turn from our sin and trust Him for salvation, we can go to Heaven instead of Hell (destiny).

A few weekends later I had a follow-up conversation with Tara. She remembered how to define truth properly (she said the rain illustration had helped a lot), and she gave a good answer about the purpose for our existence!

SOCRATIC METHOD

At a mall, I had another engaging encounter with a guy I’ll call Scott, who was running a tablet repair kiosk. The conversation went something like this: I asked, “How’s business?” Scott said, “Slow. Real slow. This mall isn’t what it used to be.”

Since he wasn't busy, I chatted with him for a while about his repair business, and then we talked about our respective college experiences. "One of my favorite courses to teach is philosophy," I said.

"Really? Philosophy is deep." He seemed intrigued, so I began to ask him some philosophical questions. How would you define truth? How would you define knowledge? After a few minutes talking about the nature of truth and knowledge, I asked him how he would answer the three great philosophical questions of life.

Scott quickly showed himself to be an agnostic who believed in naturalistic evolution. He struggled with the second and third questions and finally gave up. "How would you answer these questions?" he asked. In this case, I decided to use the Socratic method to help him come to his own conclusions that would point him in the direction of Christianity.

ORIGINS

I asked Scott, "Could something come from nothing?" He said, "No." Then I said, "If something cannot come from nothing, and if anything now exists, then something must have always existed. Right?" He agreed. I asked, "Do you agree with the vast majority of scientists who say that the universe had a beginning?" He said, "Yes." "So if the universe had a beginning, and could not have come from nothing, then something existed beforehand that was responsible for bringing the universe into existence, right?" "Yes." "What would this Being need to be like to

bring about the universe? Wouldn't It have to be very powerful and intelligent?"

Once he accepted that, I asked, "Wouldn't you think that if this eternal, all-powerful Being put us here, that He would want to let us know why? Especially since we have the capacity to think about these questions, and we have the desire to know the answers?" This reasoning made sense to Scott, and I proceeded: "If He did reveal Himself to us, then how do you think He did?"

LAW OF NON-CONTRADICTION

We talked about different options out there, like the Koran or the Bible. I told him that there are many religions with revelation claims, but that they could not all be true. Why not? Because they contradict each other. According to the law of non-contradiction, something cannot both be true and not true at the same time and in the same sense. Religions often make opposite claims. For example, Christianity says that Jesus is God's Son, whereas Islam says that God cannot have a son. But Jesus either is the Son of God or he is not. If He is, then Islam could not be true. If he isn't, then Christianity could not be true. There are fundamental differences in these religions. The various religions could logically all be false, but they could not all be true.

PROOF FOR THE BIBLE

I suggested to Scott that the proof for the resurrection of Jesus makes the Bible the best option as a revelation from God. I told him, "If Jesus actually rose from the dead, the ramifications of that are huge! It would mean that He is Who He said He was (God the Son), that He is the only way to God, as He claimed to be, and that the Bible is God's Word, as He said it was!"

At this point, Scott asked, "So are you a Christian?" I said, "Yes." He then said, "Well, doesn't that make you biased?" I said, "I think I can be more objective about deciding what religion is true because of the value I place on truth as correspondence to reality. As an honest truth-seeker, I'm a Christian because I have good reasons to be." So you see that for him it was helpful that I had earlier defended proper definitions of truth and knowledge.

Scott and I talked for just a bit more after that. As I often do when I get to this part of the conversation, I encouraged him to investigate the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus. We parted on friendly terms, and I was once again reminded of the vast numbers of unbelievers who are open to an evangelistic approach of listening and engaging on a philosophical level. This easy-going approach using guiding questions can lead to many opportunities to share the good news of Jesus. ■

Dr. Mark Bird has been a GBS professor since 1997, teaching philosophy, theology, apologetics, evangelism, and other courses. He, his wife, and three daughters live in Alexandria, KY. Photos on pages five and six are courtesy of Mark Bird.



© Stock: Eberhard150050

IT'S FAR TOO EASY TO BUY A **TIGER**

by Tim Challies



A comedian jokes, rightly I'm sure, that it's far too easy to buy a tiger. "It is not an all-day thing," he says. "It's like an hour—I'll be right back with our tiger."

We do hear about people who welcome big cats into their homes, and we all have a pretty good idea of how such stories are likely to end. While we would be surprised to hear of a man being killed by his pet hamster or pet budgie, we are not at all surprised to hear of a man being mauled by his pet tiger. Why are we not surprised? Precisely because it's a tiger!

There are a couple of problems with embracing tigers as pets. The first is that people welcome them into their homes when they are just little cubs. They are tiny, helpless, dependent, adorable. Who hasn't at one time or another had heartstrings tugged by the pitiful mewing and playful pouncing of a baby tiger?

The second is that tigers are undomesticated. They have not, over the course of many successive generations, been bred away from ferocity and toward docility. Though they may share ancestry with the common tabby, the family

tree diverged far in the distant past. The best of them are just a few generations removed from the rain forests, from their natural setting where to survive they must be, in the words of the poet, “red in tooth and claw.”

Welcoming a tiger into the home serves as an apt metaphor for welcoming a sin into one’s heart. The sins we permit to enter the doors of our lives are often very small. They are as far removed from sin in its full form as a day-old tiger is from its fully-grown father. Yet sins grow up just like tigers grow up. They gain size, they gain strength, they gain ferocity. Just as it does not take long for a 20-pound cub to grow into a 400-pound adult, it does not take long for a wandering eye to grow into adultery, for a grumbling heart to grow into theft, for an angry spirit to grow into murder. As a tiger cub is a ferocious predator in the making, what appears to be a mere peccadillo is, in seed form, a disqualifying, home-wrecking, life-altering act of depravity.

And then there is the problem of domestication. The sins we permit into our lives appear to be harmless when we first usher them in, and we are easily convinced that we can contain them. No one welcomes a tiger into their home thinking that it will someday devour them. No, they are certain they can subdue its strength, coddle it into forgoing its ferocity, love it into docility. And in much the same way, a sinful heart is convinced it can look at those not-quite-pornographic pictures without being drawn into the full thing, that it can be emotionally attached to another person without eventually committing adultery, that it can dabble in gambling without going all-in. The sinful heart, like the owner of the tiger, thinks it can contain the ferocity, that it can be the one who masters its strength, who subjugates its power, who persuades it to go only so far but no farther.

I wonder if the man who has welcomed a tiger into his home is truly surprised in that brief moment between seeing it pounce and feeling its teeth close around his neck. He brought it in, he raised it up, he saw it get big and strong and powerful. He saw its claws form and its teeth grow. He knew its craving for death, for blood, for meat. It should have been no surprise that one day it turned on him, for while he may have been its owner, he was certainly never its master.

And just so, we are never the masters of any sin. We introduce them to our lives on their terms, not on ours. Once we have welcomed them in, it is just a matter of time before they grow big enough to turn on us, big enough to kill us, big enough to do what sins always do. ■

Tim Challies is an elder at Grace Fellowship Church in Toronto, Ontario. He is a prolific blogger and the author of several books. This article was posted online at www.challies.com and is used here with permission.



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.

My family has been blessed by your ministry since back in the 1950s. My sister, Rev. Maggie Sosby, passed December 24 at the age of 93 [see p.10]. She always kept in touch with GBS. She and my sister Virgie Ann attended some functions at the school over the years. I pray that the ministry will prosper and many souls find hope and peace.

R.E. WINKLE
Greenville, OH

I was just looking through the new issue of *God’s Revivalist*. The article selections were good, especially the ones on the school’s history. The artwork was great! I just wanted to let you know I appreciated it!

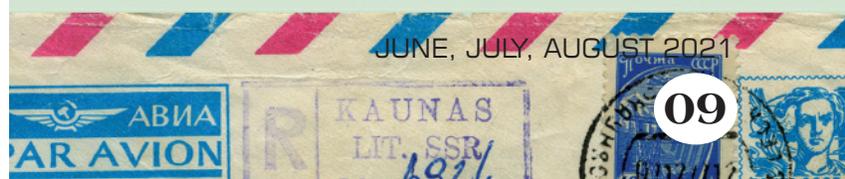
LARRY D. SMITH
(former editor, *God’s Revivalist*)
Cincinnati, OH

We really enjoy the magazine! Both of our children are currently attending the college and are growing so much in their faith. We are extremely grateful for the people God is using there!

BETH WILLIAMS
Marshfield, MO

Last week I was looking through my personal library. When I picked up a volume, out fell a piece of paper. It was from years ago when former President Bence Miller had asked me to spearhead a special issue of *God’s Revivalist* on “Christian Education.” After that issue was completed, the president called me into his office and, in a little ceremony, gave me a “lifetime subscription.” Through the years, I had wondered what became of that notice. And today—here it is! So, *God’s Revivalist* has kept coming all of the years. Keep up your fine work (ministry) as editor. I enjoy everything you write.

TOM ELLIS
(former GBS professor and academic dean)
Salem, OH





ALUMNI RECEPTION AT IHC

Interchurch Holiness Convention moved its annual gathering from Dayton, OH, to the Gatlinburg Convention Center, Gatlinburg, TN, due to COVID-19 restrictions. The gathering took place April 13-15. As in the past, GBS held an alumni reception during the convention on April 14.

The alumni in attendance packed the ballroom, set with thirty-five tables draped with black tablecloths, decorated with paper lantern globes, gold table-runners, coral spray roses, mixed greenery, and lit

with flickering votive-cup candles. As the guests enjoyed a chicken dinner catered by Holston's Kitchen, the lighting was dimmed, and a black and white vignette movie, set in a 1930s theme, highlighted the historic GBS Thanksgiving Day feasts held for Cincinnati's poor.

Music from school groups "Assurance" and "Redemption" blessed the ears and hearts of both the young and the old. President Rodney Loper addressed the crowd through a prerecorded video projected larger-than-life on the wall. He described the wonderful involvement of the alumni in saving the school from closing in the 1950s. He then went on to describe the great part they continue to play in helping God's work go forward on the Mount of Blessings.



Following the presentation, guests were given an opportunity to sign up as sustaining donors. As the banquet came to a close, guests exited the room, and the many who

REVIVALIST FAMILY

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

WEDDING



Janet Burton to Dale Stratton, May 1, at Bethel Holiness Church, Columbus, IN, with Revs. Carson Scarbrough and James Southerland officiating. Janet was on staff at GBS, working as Aldersgate Distance Education Program Coordinator from 2014 to 2017, and later as administrative assistant for Constituent Relations from 2018 to 2019. Dale is the associate pastor of the Pilgrim Bible Church, Ottawa, KS. The Strattons will be living in Ottawa.

BIRTH



To **Heidi (Dewhurst) (2015-16) and Jordan Sankey (AA '18)**, a son, **Mason Lewis**, born March 17, 2021, at Bethesda North Hospital, Cincinnati, OH. Jordan is a driver for Uber. Heidi attends the Galen College of Nursing, Cincinnati, OH. The Sankeys live in Cincinnati.

DEATHS

Maggie Lou (Winkle) Sosby, 93, wife of the late Edgar Sosby, passed away December 24, 2020, at Edgemont Healthcare Nursing Home, Cynthiana, KY. Born July 30, 1927, in Harrison County, KY, to Garnett



Assurance rehearses for the Alumni Reception



GBS Alumni Reception

made financial contributions received a coffee cup along with a special bag of coffee beans roasted exclusively for GBS, both labeled "1810." Many compliments were

received upon the setting and presentation, and the call for more donors was successful.

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS EXPERIENCE GBS

The 2021 VIP Days allowed prospective students to experience GBS as never before! Instead of a single event, the Enrollment Office hosted four separate VIP Days during the month of April. These events were attended by over 300 guests and included Virtual VIP Day, a Gatlinburg Lock-in, and two VIP Days held on the GBS main campus.

Each of the events was designed to give prospective students a taste of what life at GBS is like. Even guests who did not come to campus had the opportunity to explore the campus virtually; meet students, staff, and faculty; and have a great time in the process.



VIP Day guests explore the Cincinnati riverfront.

STAFF AND FACULTY YEAR-END MEETING

The end-of-year staff and faculty meeting was held May 13. It was a time for looking back over the previous school year as well as toward the next. Fifteen moves are scheduled to happen this summer. These include inter-campus moves as well as personnel changes, which will be highlighted in an upcoming issue of *God's Revivalist*. A bucket of welcome cards to be signed by staff and faculty were circulated at the beginning of the meeting, and money ➡



and Bessie Lou Winkle, she was a longtime minister in the Church of the Nazarene and a member of the Wesleyan Tabernacle Association. Maggie greatly enjoyed reading her Bible and writing letters to her friends. She was a GBS donor and a *God's Revivalist* subscriber.

Surviving Maggie are a brother, Robert; a sister, Virgie Ann Crouch; and a host of nieces and nephews. Services were held at Drake-Whaley-McCarty Funeral Home, Cynthiana, KY, with burial following in Battle Grove Cemetery.

Rev. Robert G. "Bob" Leach, 76, of Madison, IN, passed away January 2, 2021. He was born on May 4, 1944, in Trimble County, KY, to the late Elmo and Lela F. (Morgan) Leach. He grew up in Trimble County, attended



Madison High School, and later received his GED from Trimble County High School.

Bob married Janis Rae King at the Milton Baptist Church in Milton, KY, in 1962. He worked for several years at Williamson Heater Company in Madison. He was ordained in 1970 by the Midwest Pilgrim Holiness Church. This led to a life of faith throughout 45 years of service to his church and community, including as a sexton and grounds keeper of the Springdale Cemetery, conference treasurer for the Pilgrim Holiness Conference (12 years), and volunteer and chaplain at King's Daughters' Hospital, Madison, IN.

Bob worked at Rexnord-Chain Belt (Envirex/US Filter) for 35 years, retiring in 1999. Since that time, he was the co-owner and co-operator of Ohio Valley ➡

➡ toward welcome baskets for each new employee was collected.

Service gifts were awarded to the following employees: for 5 years (pen/pencil set)—Karen Albertson, Rodney Loper, Dustin Muir, Kendra Muir, Stephen Nelson, Rachel Pohl,



Martha Miller, 40 years



Marcia Davis, 30 years

Jonathan Valentine; for 10 years (personalized clock)—Shane Muir, Stephanie Owens, Cheryl Watters; for 15 years (leather binder)—Tim Makcen; for 25 years (portrait on the cover of upcoming *God's Revivalist* and feature article)—Allan Brown; for 30 years (crystal globe)—Marcia Davis; for 40 years (personalized crystal vase with roses)—Martha Miller; for 45 years (Key to the Hilltop)—Floyd Hyatt.



Floyd Hyatt receives Key to the Hilltop for 45 years of service.

Various administrators gave updates concerning recent developments and ongoing projects under their jurisdiction. Announcements pertaining to end-of-year ac-

tivities were given and dismissal prayer was offered.

MUSIC DIVISION ENDS YEAR WITH CONCERTS

The Music Division ended the spring semester with several presentations in the Adcock Memorial Chapel.

On Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 7:00 pm, the College Choir, directed by Mr. Tim Crater and accompanied by Mrs. Martha Miller (piano) and Ms. Jessica Smith (organ), performed a collection of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, featuring inspirational selections by various American composers. Featured vocals included student soloists Lane Webb and Ashley Kamplain, as well as a selected duet, trio, quartet, and string ensemble. Some of the College Choir's gospel repertoire was featured towards the end of the concert.

REVIVALIST FAMILY

continued

➡ Excavating, first with his late wife, Janis, and later with his son, Steve. Bob enjoyed fishing, especially on trips with his sons and brother.

In 2015, Bob was preceded in death by Janis, his wife of 53 years. He is survived by his daughter, Leanne Zeigler; sons, Greg, Steve, and Jeremy; 11 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; brother, Michael Leach; special friend, Carolyn "Dee" Strouse and her family; and several nieces, nephews, and other relatives. Funeral services were conducted at the North Madison Christian Church, Madison, IN, with Revs. Paul Gray and John Zeigler officiating. Burial followed at the Springdale Cemetery in Madison.



Wilma Lou Ledford, 89, of Prosperity, WV, passed from this earth on February 3, 2021. She went peacefully, surrounded by her family that loved and cared for her during her time of sickness. Although she had suffered a heart attack and a stroke on

November 20, 2020, she was still able to tell all of her family she loved them, usually several times a day. Wilma loved Jesus above everything. She loved each of her children like an only child, and the grandbabies even more.

Surviving Wilma are her husband, Pastor Alan Ledford; sons, David, Keith, and Nelson; daughters, Alana Parsons, Kim Ledford, Beverly Reed, Terri Ledford, Sherri Allen, and Lori Sellers; sister, Sylvia Currier; step sister, Anita Emily; and 55 grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren. Funeral services were held at the Rose and Quesenberry Peace Chapel in Beckley, WV, with her son, Pastor Keith Ledford, officiating. Burial followed at Blue Ridge Memorial Gardens Mausoleum, Prosperity, WV.

Reverend Dr. Jack L. Dearth, 82, of Ormond Beach, FL, formerly of Mount Vernon, OH, passed away March 31, 2021. He was born in 1939 in Hardin County, OH, to Jack and Alta Dearth. Jack felt called



College Choir Spring Concert



SWSE Spring Concert (wide separation of instrumentalists due to Covid protocols)

On Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at 7:00 pm, the Division of Music presented "An Evening with the Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble," an entertaining program of concert music. The performance featured a 46-piece orchestra directed by Mr. David Hartkopf. The concert included several alumni and guest performers from Stone City Christian Academy and Heartland Christian School with their

teachers, Mrs. Ronna (Hughes) Craig (BA '94), and Ms. Michelle Probst (BA '17).

Dr. Jana Pop, Chair of the Division of Music, expresses deep appreciation for the generosity of individuals who have contributed to the Annual Fund, thus enabling the presentation of guest clinicians throughout the year, as well as scholarships for upperclassmen to attend professional workshops and events.

Persons who are interested in making contributions for the coming year should contact Dr. Jana Pop at jpop@gbs.edu or 513.763.6547.

SPRING PICNIC

On the morning of May 19, the school bus loaded and, accompanied by many others in private vehicles, headed northwest for Miami Whitewater Forest in Harrison. ➡



into the ministry at age 15. After graduating from Continental High School, he attended GBS from 1959-61. While there, he met his partner in life and ministry, Carol Hazeltine (HS '61). His first pastorate was at the New Lexington, OH, Free Methodist Church. He then continued his education at Roberts Wesleyan College, Rochester, NY, and received an undergraduate degree from GBS (BRE '78) and later his MA and PhD degrees from Ashland Theological Seminary, Ashland, OH. For more than six decades, he pastored many congregations in Ohio, New York, and Michigan. Jack also served as District Superintendent for the Maryland/Virginia Conference of the Free Methodist Church and District Superintendent for the United Methodist Church in Central Ohio.



Jack had a wonderful sense of humor and was a giving and caring soul to his entire community. In addition to being a faithful donor to GBS and a subscriber

to *God's Revivalist*, he was active in many charitable organizations and served in several city government positions, including on the Bangor, MI, City Council and as chaplain of the Bangor Police Department. He and his wife loved to travel, and they visited all 50 states. Upon retirement he enjoyed snowbirding between Ohio and Florida.

Jack is survived by his loving wife Carol Jean; four sons, Jack Jr., Timothy, Stephen, and Phillip; daughter, Dorothy; seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; three brothers, Gary, Dale, and Dennis; two sisters, Carolyn Kindle and Sandra Martin; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family gathered for a short service officiated by Pastor Scott Smith. A memorial service will be held at a later date in Mount Vernon, OH. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate your support of Gods Bible School and College, 1810 Young Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202 (www.gbs.edu/give/give-now/). ➡

➡ One related item of good news made this possible—COVID regulations for outdoor activities had been lifted! Students enjoyed fellowship, a picnic lunch, and a variety of

recreational sports, including softball, volleyball, football, hiking, and boating. It was a time for relaxed interaction and refreshment following semester exams.

OUTDOOR PRAYER MEETING AND BAPTISMAL SERVICE

After returning to campus following the spring picnic on May 19, students, staff, and visiting guests gathered on the south lawn at 8:00 p.m. for a time of singing and testimonies. This annual service honors the graduating college seniors and marks the beginning of Commissioning Weekend. Several students and staff children were also baptized in a portable baptistry. The service culminated in a candle-lighting ceremony, as the attendees, holding small candles, passed the



Prof. Witt (red shirt) joins students in a game of volleyball.



Pres. Loper (red shirt) joins students in a game of football.

REVIVALIST FAMILY continued



Rev. Robert (Bob) Andrew Bickert, 83, entered heaven on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, peacefully passing away at his home in Wilmore, KY. He was born on June 25, 1937, to Carl and Margaret (Wiegman) Bickert in Lansing, MI. Growing up on the family farm helped him to develop a strong work ethic. His family played a big part in his conversion at the age of 10. Three years later, he received the call to be a missionary.

After high school, he earned a BA in History from Asbury College, Wilmore, KY, in 1965, followed by graduate degrees from Asbury Theological Seminary (on the same campus)—Master of Divinity (1968), Master of Theology (1969), and Doctor of Missiology (1996).

While attending Owosso College (1961-62), Bob married fellow student, Karolyn (Kay) Yvonne Reese. Together they had four children. The Bickert family began their missionary journey in the Philippines in 1970. Bob was one of the original members of Metro-Move, a team which created functional churches in large cities. Both he and Kay also taught in Bible colleges in various countries. Bob served two stints at GBS. From 1986 to 1989, he served as a college professor while Kay was the dean of women. He returned in 2004 for two school years.

Robert is survived by his wife Kay Bickert; three sons, Jon, Mark, and Tim; daughter, Sherri Raven; and

nine grandchildren. A celebration of life service was held at the Free Methodist Church, Wilmore, KY, with a number of officiants. Representatives from The Wesleyan Church, Global Partners, and Metro-Move, as well as fellow missionaries and family members, offered tributes. Burial followed at the Wilmore Cemetery, Wilmore, KY. (See also pp.2, 25.)



Larry Ernest Scott, 81, of Stuarts Draft, VA, died April 14, 2021, at Augusta Health, Fishersville, VA. Larry was born September 15, 1939, in Covington, VA, the son of Ernest and Annie (Bartley) Scott. After graduating from Covington High School in 1957, he attended Marion Wesleyan University in Marion, IN. In 1968 he graduated from GBS with a ThB. In 1970 he married Lois Mae Wiley.

Larry was employed as a lab analyst for Procter and Gamble until retiring in 1996. He and Lois made their home in Villa Hills, KY, for forty-five years before retiring to a Christian retirement community in Stuarts Draft, VA, in 2017. They attended a Wesleyan Holiness Church.

Larry is survived by Lois, his wife of 51 years; one sister, Linda Killian; two nephews; one niece; and six great-nieces and -nephews. A funeral service was held at Loving Funeral Home, Covington, VA, Rev. Bill Hartsfield officiating. Interment followed in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Covington.



Luke Murphy submits to water baptism.

flame from candle to candle until the hillside was lit by the many tiny, dancing lights, each representing those who leave campus to minister in various parts of the world.



Candle-lighting Ceremony

GRADUATE BREAKFAST

2021 Graduates of Aldersgate Christian Academy and God's Bible

School and College gathered on Thursday, May 20, in the Martin Dining Room for the annual Graduate Breakfast. They enjoyed a time of fellowship and food. Each graduate was presented with gifts from GBS in honor of their accomplishments. Mr. Tim Makcen, academy principal, congratulated the high school seniors in attendance. Dr. Aaron Proffitt, Vice President for Academic Affairs addressed the college graduates and reviewed their years on the Hilltop. Rev. Jack Hooker and Mrs. Robyn Clemens welcomed the students to the Alumni Association. Rev. Hooker reviewed the history ➡



James Robert Teague, 94, died April 23, 2021, at his home in Greensboro, NC. He was born November 3, 1926, in Guilford County, NC, to Christopher and Partha (Wall) Teague. James proudly served in the United States Navy before returning home to attend and graduate from Guilford College. He was employed as an administrator with the US Postal Service from which he retired. James was a member of Christ Wesleyan United Methodist Church in Greensboro. He and his brother Nelson shared a love of music and together sang in numerous choirs. James was also an accomplished organist. He loved farming, nature, and the glory of all God's creations. James was a donor to GBS and subscribed to *God's Revivalist*.

James is survived by a host of loving cousins and special friends. A celebration of his life was held at Hanes Lineberry N. Elm Chapel, Greensboro, NC. Burial followed with full military honors at Tabernacle United Methodist Church Cemetery in Greensboro.



Anna Ruth Glick, 83, went home to be with her Lord on May 1, 2021. She was born in Lancaster County, PA, on June 20, 1937, to John and Anna (Mummau) Drescher. Ruth met James S. Glick at Roxbury Camp in Pennsylvania. They married April 7, 1956, and lived in northeast Ohio for all of their married lives.

James was a self-employed contractor and carpenter. Ruth was known for her hospitality and cooking. Her home was always open to missionaries, students, friends, and family. She was a contributor to *Taste of Home* magazine. She also loved to travel and sing. Ruth was widely known for her recording with Naomi Downing in 1968 entitled *He's Coming Soon*. The Victory Trio, of which she was a member, released two albums. Ruth also enjoyed taxiing for the Amish. She was a godly, prayerful woman who had a deeply spiritual influence on her children, grandchildren, and many other people.

Although neither Ruth nor James attended Bible College, many of their children and grandchildren did. Several were associated with GBS: Jerry (BA '83) and Sharon (Glick) Adamczak (1983-84) were students; Dan was a college professor (2001-17) and current adjunct; and granddaughter, Jananne (Glick) Stetler, served as Admissions Counselor (2019). A number of grandchildren attended Aldersgate Christian Academy and the college at GBS.

Surviving are her husband, James; sons, Randy, Jerry, and Dan; daughters, Sharon Adamczak and Rachel Mayle; seventeen grandchildren; fourteen great-grandchildren; and a brother, Luke Drescher. The funeral service was held at East Union Mennonite Church, Orrville, OH, officiated by Dr. Dan Glick and Pastor Rodney McBride. Burial followed at Pleasant View Cemetery, North Lawrence, OH. 🕊

➡ of the Alumni Association and the important role every alumnus plays in the future of GBS. He also presented each graduate with a two-year gift subscription to *God's Revivalist*. President Rodney Loper challenged each of the students to take what GBS has invested in their lives and apply it to the ministries and the people they will be serving. He emphasized the real success of their education will be the difference they make for Christ in the lives of others. GBS is grateful to God for the young men and women graduating this year.

COMMISSIONING WEEKEND

Rev. David Stetler (HS '71, BRE '76) of Mt. Airy, NC, was guest speaker for the year-end series of services. He grew up on the campus of GBS, one of the children of Jewel (Lamb) (HS '49) and Kenneth Stetler (ThB '56, BA '58), and a member of the widely respected Stetler Trio (with his brothers Daniel and Darrell). In 1975 he moved to Thomasville, NC, to take his first ministry assignment at Carolina Christian Academy. For over 40 years he has been in ministry in that region of the country as a pastor, teacher, and Christian school administrator. Needless to say, his experiences, both as a long-term campus resident and throughout his years of ministry, gave the messages color and made the truth pungent.

He began his opening remarks on **Thursday evening**, May 20, with Jesus' Great Commission, noting the appropriateness of this Scripture for a series of services designated as "Commissioning Weekend": "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, 'All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:

and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen'" (Matt. 28:18-20).

He made three observations. First, God has all power, and He will give you what you need in order to do what He calls you to do; second, He wants you to go; and third, He will not forget you. He will always be with you.

The first message was titled "Listening to God." If we are going to be able to help our world, we need to keep a very close relationship with the One who sends us into that world. Relationships are important and involve two vital things: learning to talk to the other person and listening when they talk back. This is also true in our relationship with God. In prayer, we talk to Him, but



Rev. David Stetler at the Piano



Rev. David Stetler at the Pulpit

we must also listen when He talks back to us.

Rev. Stetler suggested that God talks to us through nature, our conscience, His leadership, and His Word. His treatment of these is worth listening to, but he focused on the primacy of "reading the Word." He il-

lustrated this point by remembering a class he had taken under GBS professor J. Wesley Adcock. His classes were typically large as students eagerly enrolled to hear this great teacher. Some classes were so large that they had to be held in the chapel. Such was the case for "Old Testament Major Prophets" with 106 students. They listened, learned, and took his tests. They even cried when he cried. When it came time for the final test, Brother Adcock explained that each student was to respond aloud to the first question when his assistant called the roll: "Did you read the major prophets?"

"Sounds like an easy question, right? The assistant had numbered us, so she began, 'Number 1, have you read these books?' The response came, 'No.' And so it went on. Only occasionally was there sprinkled in a 'Yes.'"

In essence, the students were saying, "We cried when you cried, we took notes, we enjoyed the teaching. We did everything but read the books."

Brother Adcock stopped the count, put his face down on the desk, and wept. When he finally gained his composure, he said, "Students, I have been a failure. I taught you to study books, but I didn't teach you how important it was for you to read them."

The point is that we will hear the voice of God if we read His Word. Read it earnestly. Read it more. Are you in a place where you don't know what to do? Read. Not sure what is Scriptural and what isn't? Read. Confused? Read, read, read.

The sermon **Friday evening** from 1 Corinthians 10:31, "Whatever ye do, do all to the glory of God," focused on how simple it is to live the Christian life. We have to seek for and find God's "line" which helps us differentiate between right and wrong. The good news is that God has given us a conscience.

When we see that something crosses the line and can't be done for God's glory, we must say "No." Living for God is just that simple.

The **Saturday evening** service was unique. During the congregational singing led by Professor Tim Crater, a moving of the Spirit was evident. "King of kings, Lord of lords, Jesus is Lord of all; All my possessions and all my life, Jesus is Lord of all" (William Gaither, 1973). President Loper interrupted the singing, acknowledging that "the Holy God has slipped in amongst us tonight." As the song continued, the altar filled, and many victories were won.

Then Rev. Stetler spoke about "Filling Empty Cups." Many of the people we encounter on a daily basis are empty vessels—cups waiting to be filled. He noted that there are hundreds of houses and multiplied thousands of people within a mile radius of GBS who have no influence from any church. They are empty while we are filled. He encouraged the congregation to get about the business of filling empty cups.

The message on **Sunday morning** dealt with "Weakness: The Other Part of the Fall." Two Scriptures were used: "God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty" (1 Cor. 1:27b) and "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9). All of us face the struggle of our own infirmities and weakness. Even if our hearts are pure, we will still be the recipients of inherited weakness. We should never confuse inherited sin with inherited weakness. Accept who you are. Thank God for His strength that He makes evident through our weakness.

One of the highlights of the **Sunday evening** service was the ministry of the College Choir, directed by Professor Tim Crater, as they blessed the congregation with beautiful arrangements of "Through It All"



Master of Arts in Ministry Degree Recipients

2021 GRADUATES OF GOD'S BIBLE SCHOOL, COLLEGE, AND MISSIONARY TRAINING HOME*

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS

Megan Bird,
Valedictorian +
Caleb Gibson
Rachel Mitchell
Natalie Bowling
Carolyn Keep
Beemnet Adugna +
Joel Gresham
Joshua Brown
Lauren Donohue
Eyob Mengesha,
Salutatorian +
Jenna Snelling
Madelynn Stetler
Austin Rizer +
Sedona Alexander

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

AA IN BIBLE & THEOLOGY
Gregory Neal Hinton
Joshua Jake Stetler

AA IN GENERAL STUDIES
Brooke Linette Johnstone *
Rachel Marie Klotz *
Abigail Brooke Stewart ***
Caleb Daniel Teed
Lauren Elizabeth
Thomas ***
MaKayla Joy Weitbrecht *

AA IN GENERAL BUSINESS
Hannah Erin Vandervort *

AAS IN INTERCULTURAL STUDIES & WORLD MISSIONS
Cearse Rush Rice *

AAS IN MINISTERIAL EDUCATION
Divante JazzFlynn
Edgeston
Samuel Reuben Epp ***

AAS IN MUSIC MINISTRY
Gequahn Damahl
Colebrooke
Ryan Stephen Craig
Luke John Hughes *
Rachel Marie Klotz *
Joshua Jake Stetler

BA IN BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL STUDIES
Nicholas Scott Adams
Donovan John Cavendish,
Salutatorian ***
Dylan Finnell
Cavendish ***
Joseph ZaNawl Mang
Brian Keith
Rauschenberger
Dwight Edwin Welch
Jacob Andrew Williams

BA IN CHURCH & FAMILY MINISTRY
Elizabeth Joy Bigger ***
Brenda Kay Fall

Autumn Suzanne Zeigler,
Valedictorian ***

BA IN INTEGRATIVE STUDIES
Eli Richard Albring
Samuel Allen Cramer
Kaitlyn Marie Gudger *
Gregory Neal Hinton
Ashley Morgan Kamplain
Rachel Marie Klotz *
Peter John Linko
Lily Michelle
Rectenwald **
Timothy Ivan Rife
Allyson Grace Robertson
Anthony Lane Webb

BA IN MINISTERIAL EDUCATION
Tyler Michael Edwards ***
Cale Garrett Manley ***
James Daniel Raisch
Logan Miller Sankey

BA IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION & MUSIC EDUCATION
Luz Maria Jasso Montiel *

BA IN MUSIC EDUCATION (PERFORMANCE TRACK)
Timothy Joseph Long

BA IN TEACHER EDUCATION (EARLY CHILDHOOD)
Ariana Stefani Gattone *
Jonathan Michael Ratcliff *
Kari ReAnn Smith

BA IN TEACHER EDUCATION (ELEMENTARY)
Gabriela Montero
Hernández
Kirsten Renee Manley ***

GRADUATE DEGREES

MA IN MINISTRY
Douglas William Eads
Joshua Clayton Graham
Larry Edwin Major
Christopher Paul McCain

* pending completion of all course requirements

italics indicates graduates in absentia

+ Academic Honors * Cum Laude (3.50-3.79) ** Magna Cum Laude (3.80-3.89) *** Summa Cum Laude (3.90-4.00)



and “He Still Reigns.” Following that, Rev. Stetler played a special on the piano by request of President Loper. His arrangement of “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” was superb.

The final message in the series was “Go With the Banner of Holiness.” Rev. Stetler walked through the first few chapters of Romans and dealt with the fact that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (3:10); but while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (5:8); and through Him we are justified (5:1). Then, in chapter seven, the old nature of sin begins to rear its ugly head, causing a sense of unease. God saves us, but the old nature tries to drag us back. To defeat this, we must maintain victory. We must yield ourselves to God’s control. “Yield not to unrighteousness, but yield to holiness.” Yield to God with the same in-

tensity you once yielded to sin. Yield, and the Holy Spirit cleanses and sanctifies wholly. This sanctifying grace is accessed by faith.

All services, including Commencement, are viewable on the GBS Facebook page.

COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT

College commencement took place Saturday, May 22, at 10:00 a.m. in the Adcock Memorial Chapel. President Rodney Loper conducted the service, and Mrs. Martha Miller was the organist.

David Gattone of Annville, PA, delivered the invocation, and Gabriel Montero Mendoza and Olivia Hernández Cruz, via prerecorded video from Querétaro, México, read the Scripture lesson (Philippians 2:5-16). Special music, “Jesus Christ, My

Living Hope,” was sung and accompanied by graduates Ryan Craig, Samuel Cramer, Tyler Edwards, Samuel Epp, Ashley Kamplain, Rachel Klotz, Tim Long, Cale Manley, Kirsten Manley, Allyson Robertson, Lane Webb, and Autumn Zeigler.

Rev. David Stetler gave the commencement address, sharing from 2 Corinthians 6:3-4, “Giving no offense in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses.” He encouraged the graduates to be “Spirit-filled ministers.” God is our sufficiency. That is the secret of ministry.

Autumn Zeigler was recognized as valedictorian, and Donovan Cavendish as salutatorian.

The GBS academic division chairs presented the following un-



Professor Tim Crater leads the congregation in a hymn at the opening of Commencement 2021.



Autumn (Quesenberry) Zeigler, valedictorian
Donovan Cavendish, salutatorian

dergraduate student awards:

Division of Ministerial Education

(Dr. Allan Brown, Chair): *Zondervan Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Study of Biblical Greek*, Kyle Johnstone; *Zondervan Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Study of Biblical Hebrew*, Tyler Edwards; *Oswald Chambers Ministerial Leadership Award*, Tyler Edwards; **Division of Professional Studies** (Lyle Witt, Chair): *Educated Christian Award*, Kirsten Manley; *Oscar Johnson Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Service*, Kaitlyn Gudger; *Student Teaching Award*, Kirsten Manley; *Charles Cowman Missions Leadership Award*, Rachel Klotz; **Division of Music** (Dr. Jana

Pop, Chair): *Servant Leadership Award*, Luz Jasso.

Dr. Philip Brown, Graduate Program Director, called the four recipients of the MA in Ministry to the front and read remarks from each as they were hooded.

President Loper conferred the degrees on the graduating class of 2021, and Mitch Smith of Galax, VA, offered the benediction.

ACADEMY GRADUATION

Aldersgate Christian Academy held its graduation ceremony at 7:00 p.m., May 28, in the Adcock Memorial Chapel, where Principal Timothy Makcen and GBS Vice Pres-

ident for Academic Affairs Aaron Profitt presented high school graduates with diplomas. Special recognition was offered to Megan Bird, valedictorian, and Eyob Mengesha, salutatorian. Four graduates received Academic Honors Diplomas and blue-and-white tasseled cords in recognition of their excellence in academic achievement for having completed honors courses: Megan Bird, Beemnet Adugna, Eyob Mengesha, and Austin Rizer.

The ceremony also honored students graduating from eighth grade: Brice Alexander, William Berduo Matias, Juliana Bueno (valedictorian), Michelle Chapman Shumpert, Breigh Gilkeson, Aniya Harlan (salutatorian), Marcus Murray, Jr., Sydnee Oxner, Avery Reimann, Brayden Rizer, August Speed, Brooklynn Yancey.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen and Mary Klotz, who are scheduled to leave for Papua New Guinea later this year, were honored for 16 years of service (*Hilltop 2020*, the GBS yearbook, was dedicated to them), and Rev. Steve Gresham, pastor of Auburn Bible Methodist Church, husband of ACA teacher Melissa Gresham, and father of high school graduate Joel Gresham, gave the address. 📌



Aldersgate Christian Academy High School Graduates

Dear Phil

DISMISSING THE "OLD" TESTAMENT: part 4

Didn't Jesus fulfill the Old Testament? If Jesus fulfilled it, how does that not mean that the OT is done, finished, or "over with"? —Tom

Dear Tom,

Jesus says, "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:17-19).

First, notice that Jesus did not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. The word "abolish" means "to end the effect or validity of something, *put an end to*" (BDAG). 4 Maccabees (a 1st century Jewish philosophical treatise traditionally ascribed to Josephus) illustrates well what it would mean to "abolish" the law.

In chapter 4, the author of 4 Maccabees writes about the Syrian tyrant, Antiochus Epiphanes, who "issued a decree that if any [Jew] were found observing the ancestral law they should die. When he had not been able in any way to **abolish** the people's observance of the law by his

decrees, but saw that all his threats and punishments were being disregarded...he tried through torture to compel everyone in the nation to eat defiling foods and to renounce Judaism" (4 Macc. 4:23-26).

If the OT were abolished, it would no longer be followed, obeyed, or be useful in any way. Since Jesus states outright, "I did not come to abolish the law or the prophets," He must not have abolished them.

Second, notice in Matthew 5:18 that Jesus says not the slightest element of the law will pass away until all is "accomplished" or "happens." We can say without question that everything in the Hebrew Scripture has not been fulfilled. There are scores of unfulfilled prophecies about Jesus' second coming, the new heavens and earth, the abolishment of death, and so on. So, just on the basis of Matthew 5:18 we should conclude that the OT has not passed away.

Third, in Matthew 5:19 Jesus condemns any breaking or annulling of the least commandment. Instead, He says the one who does the commandments and teaches others to do them will be great in the kingdom of heaven. Doing and teaching the least of the commandments is what Jesus directs.

So then, what does Jesus mean when He says He came to "fulfill" the law? Here's the heart of the answer: "Every Old Testament text must be viewed in light of Jesus' person and ministry and the changes introduced by the new covenant He inaugurated" (Blomberg, *New American Commentary*, 104). The word "fulfilled" is like a diamond. It has many facets. Depending on which facet the light hits, its color changes. "Fulfill" means different things depending on the aspect of the law and prophets we're considering: command, narrative, promise, prediction, or type.

Jesus fulfills the **commands** of Scripture by keeping them. Jesus perfectly kept the law to fulfill all righteousness (Matt. 3:15). Jesus fulfills the **narratives** of the law by being their ultimate point. All the OT stories are the "back story" that leads to Jesus. Jesus fulfills OT **promises** by being the means by which God keeps His promises. As Paul says, "All the promises of God are 'Yes' in Jesus" (2 Cor. 1:20). That means that we receive everything God has promised us only through Jesus. Jesus fulfills OT prophetic **predictions** by being, saying, or doing what was predicted. Jesus fulfills OT **types** by being the ultimate reality which they temporarily represented. The OT sacrifices, priesthood, and kingship are examples of types or shadows that Jesus Himself now fulfills (Col. 2:17).

Given the context of Matthew 5:21-48 where Jesus teaches the fuller meaning of the law, it seems that Jesus also fulfills the law and prophets **by showing their full and true significance**. That's my best understanding of what it means that Jesus fulfilled the law and the prophets.

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.

pbrown@gbs.edu



student focus

SEX ASSIGNMENT AT BIRTH

While reporting on recent state laws enacted to protect women's sports from men, CNN said that much of the legislation "restricts athletes' participation in public school sports to the gender that matches the sex that athletes were assigned at birth. But it's not possible to know a person's gender identity at birth, and there is no consensus criteria for assigning sex at birth." Evolutionary biologist Colin Wright tweeted his disagreement: "Observing genitalia is the consensus criteria for determining one's sex at birth. It is inaccurate only about 0.018% of the time. That's approximately the same likelihood that a coin will land on its edge when flipped."

ACTRESS ASSESSED PENALTY FOR CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

Seyi Omooba was under contract in the United Kingdom to play the lead role in *The Color Purple*. Her performance was described by reviewers as "jaw-droppingly good," with "ferocious gospel vocals." However, she was fired when a four-year-old Facebook post in which she affirmed the biblical view of homosexuality came to light. Omooba sued for discrimination, but an employment tribunal ruled her complaint was unjustified and ordered her to pay the full legal costs incurred by her opponents—estimated to be about \$480,000.

UPTICK IN SCHOOL CHOICE

A consequence of the pandemic is that multiple state legislatures are collectively undertaking one of the biggest expansions of school choice in history. This is after public schools and teachers unions could not or would not adequately meet the needs of students during the pandemic.

The Educational Freedom Institute reports that an unprecedented 29 states have already introduced similar measures this year that will create or expand vouchers, tax credit scholarships, and education savings accounts. According to EdChoice, more than 20 of those states have introduced education savings account options specifically, thus affording families opportunities previously unavailable to them in their public schools.

CHRISTIAN CLUB CAN REQUIRE LEADERS TO BE CHRISTIANS

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship was de-registered as a club by Wayne State University due to the club's supposed discrimination against non-Christians—although club membership was open to all, club officers were required to be Christians. Not being recognized as a club meant InterVarsity could not enjoy certain campus benefits enjoyed by other clubs. InterVarsity filed a lawsuit. A federal court ruled in April to protect InterVarsity's student club status. ■

MELANIE HILLING, from Jackson, MI, the oldest of four siblings, grew up in church and was saved when she was seven. She attended a Christian school for three years and was home-schooled after that.

Her grandmother (Sue Webb) and parents (Chris and Esther [Wentworth] Hilling) attended GBS. So, when considering which college to attend, "GBS just seemed right." God has helped her become "more mature, more confident, less shy, and more God-focused."

She has made "lots of great friends" among her classmates, and she has enjoyed getting to know the staff and faculty, especially in Aldersgate Christian Academy, where she says she loves "working with 'my kids.'"

Melanie is on schedule to receive a BA in Early Childhood Education next year. In addition to positively influencing the lives of children as an elementary classroom teacher, she also wants to be involved in church ministry. ■

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.

MIRACLE OF THE HOLY GHOST

by Daniel Steele

The chief topic of encouragement, comfort, and hope is the Paraclete whom the risen Lord will bestow. His works will be more wonderful than the physical miracles of Jesus Christ (John 14:12-17)....

It is worthy of note that this doing greater works...is not the exclusive prerogative of the apostles, but it belongs to everyone, however humble, who believes on Christ....

This brings us to "the miracles of the Holy Ghost," which in the Old Testament are physical.... But the promise under discussion does not relate to miracles in the realm of matter, but rather to those in the province of mind, in the re-creation of the human soul, called figuratively birth from above, or the new birth, the resurrection of a dead soul, the new creation. This spiritual miracle is greater than any physical miracle wrought by Christ before He burst asunder the gates of death by His inherent power to take again the life which He had laid down, for the following reasons:

1. Physical miracles were temporal in their effects.

Those raised from sickness died of disease in a few years. The multitudes fed by miracle hungered again in a few hours. The eyes into which Jesus by a word let in the light were soon darkened again by the shadows of the tomb. The tongue of the dumb loosened by the Son of Man was soon silenced by the touch of death.

But miracles wrought in the transfiguration of the soul are enduring unto eternal life... Jesus healed the body for time, the Spirit heals the soul for eternity.

2. The results of spiritual miracles are far more valuable.

Mind is far superior to matter.... For this reason Christ Himself did not place a primary emphasis on physical wonders as His credentials, and they are scarcely so much as referred to in the apostolic writings....

Paul magnifies those spiritual marvels which God wrought by the Holy Spirit in the regeneration of souls.

In his estimation "the shining in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" was a greater act than the Fiat lux which illumined the first day of creation (2 Cor. 4:6).

3. To transform a spirit from death to life, from sin to holiness, requires a higher power than any change wrought in matter.

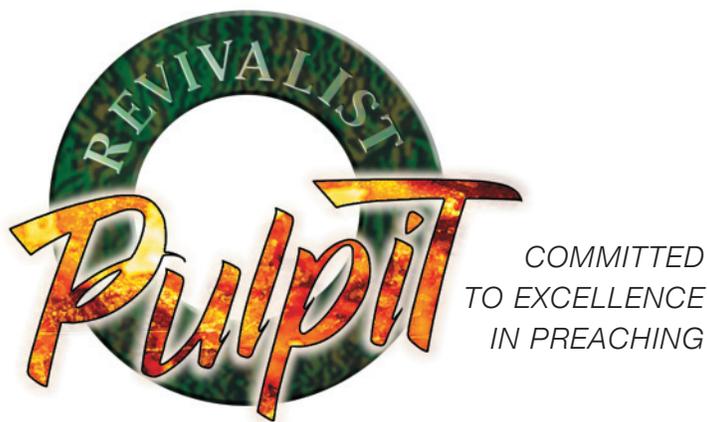
Spirit is a self-determining personality which may successfully withstand omnipotence.... God can transform inert matter as He may will, but He is powerless to regenerate a stubborn human will; but in the presence of a consenting will He displays to the astonished universe "the exceeding greatness of His power to usward who believe."

Regeneration, crowned with the entire sanctification of a soul once dead in sin, loving what God hates and hating what God loves, is the supreme miracle of the Holy Ghost vividly portrayed by Paul: "Fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, shall inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor. 6:9-10).

What a rogues' gallery is this! As vile a gang of criminals as ever broke jail. What can the Holy Spirit do with these but to abandon them forever? But, hold! Let us read further: "And such were some of you; but ye washed yourselves, but ye were sanctified, but ye were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by THE SPIRIT of our God."

The Paraclete has transformed them all into a company of saints bearing the image of Christ and candidates for promotion to thrones beside the archangels. Bad men have been transformed into good men standing in the same shoes. ■

Daniel Steele (1824-1914) was a college professor, Methodist Episcopal clergyman, and leader in the 19th century Holiness Movement. This selection is from Chapter 13 of The Gospel of the Comforter (The Christian Witness Company, 1897).



PEACE FOR OUR TIME

by Jonathan Slagenweit

Scripture: Galatians 5:22-23; John 14:26-29

Introduction

Tuesday—September 11, 2001. I will never forget that morning. I was sitting in homiletics class when the professor's secretary interrupted the lecture to inform us that a plane had hit one of the World Trade Center towers in New York City. Not long after that, she came back to tell us that another plane had hit the second tower. A fellow student immediately said, "That's restricted air space, that's not an accident." Coming out of class, it seemed the whole building was in an uproar. There were reports of a bombing at the State Department Building and other attacks in progress. Here I was, a freshman some 1,100 miles from home and the world seemed to be coming to an end. That was the beginning of what was to become a long war against terrorism. Since then, we have seen some of the most shocking images of evil as our world has exploded with violence. And the question lingers...peace on earth, where?

Then we look around and see the mass shootings and suicides; we see news reports on mental illnesses and the turmoil in the souls of many people, and we are reminded that there is no peace...or so it seems.

Yet Paul writes to the Galatians that the fruit of the Spirit is love, and one of its expressions is peace. So what peace are we to pursue? What peace is it that we should see being produced in our lives if we have been born of the Spirit and are walking in the Spirit?

We are going to look at one particular passage found in John's Gospel, but I hope to present a total biblical perspective of what peace it is that we should see being produced in our lives.

I. Pieces of Peace

Throughout Scripture, "peace" is spoken of in many different ways. Each represents a piece and, together, they give us a full picture of what this word means. In the Old Testament, the most common word used for peace is the Hebrew word "shalom." It had a wide range of connotations (wholeness, health, security, well-being, and salvation) and could apply to an equally wide range of contexts. For instance, peace can refer to:

The state of the individual. "And the work of righteousness will be peace, and the service of righteousness, quietness and confidence forever" (Isa. 32:17). When we do what is right, it brings peace—a quiet confidence that what we have done is right.

The relationship of man to man. "And Joshua made peace with them and made a covenant with them, to let them live; and the leaders of the congregation swore an oath to them" (Josh. 9:15).

Relationships between nations, especially characterized by an absence of conflict. "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May they prosper who love you. May peace be within your walls, And prosperity within your palaces" (Psa. 122:6-7).

The relationship of God and man. "I will hear what God the LORD will say; For He will speak peace to His people, to His godly ones; But may they not turn back to foolishness" (Psa. 85:8).

In the New Testament, the common Greek word for peace is *eirene*. It carries with it all the connotations of shalom, but also includes the concept of rest. Notice that the presence of shalom, or peace, is grounded in God's covenant relationship with His people. Isaiah tells us, "'But My favor will not be removed from you, Nor will My covenant of peace be shaken,' Says the LORD who has compassion on you" (Isa. 54:10).

God's peace is rooted in His commitment to us, and our commitment to Him. Israel had no peace when they walked away from their covenant relationship with their God. And so it is with us. When we forsake the commands of God and His covenant relationship, we forfeit His peace in our hearts.

It is in the New Testament that we find the fulfillment of God's intent for peace. Peace, at its core, is complete harmony with God. It is when man is at peace with God, and nature is at peace with God as well. This will not be completely fulfilled until the return of Christ and His final kingdom is established.

So, these are glimpses, pieces of the puzzle, if you will, of what Scripture identifies as peace. But how does that pertain to us?

II. The Peace of God

In our second text (John 14:26-27), Jesus is speaking to His disciples shortly before He is to be crucified, and He leaves them an interesting gift: “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and remind you of all that I said to you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor fearful.” Jesus is telling His disciples that after His departure, the Holy Spirit will come and teach us all things and remind us of the promises of Christ.

Then Christ says something very particular, “Peace I leave with you....” Stop and think about this for a moment. Can you recall the early years after Christ’s death and resurrection? Were they marked by peace? Peter and John were imprisoned and beaten for preaching in Jesus’ name (Acts 5:18). Stephen was stoned (Acts 7). The early Christians were fed to the lions and used as instruments in the gladiatorial games. Their bodies were tarred and burned to light the gardens of Nero for his wild midnight parties. And Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you....”

But let’s finish that verse, “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.” Jesus makes very clear that the peace He is leaving is not the peace of this world.

The concept of peace for most people is the absence of all turmoil and conflict—a state of pure tranquility. But that’s not the biblical view of peace. Biblical peace is the presence of the Living Peace that indwells the heart of a believer. For Jesus goes on to say, “My peace I give to you.” Let’s try to break that down. What does Jesus’ peace look like?

In this verse, He says, “Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” The heart is the seat of our being, the command center of our lives. That is one place no one can get to but us. Jesus offers us a peace that no one can take away.

The peace that Jesus offers is a peace no terrorist can expunge, no spouse can destroy, no child or parent can rob you of, and the world cannot offer it! It is exclusive peace only found in Jesus.

Christ has become our peace. Through Him we have been reconciled unto God. The enmity between our Holy Creator and us has been done away with, and now we are called to peace in the ministry of reconciliation (Eph. 2:14-16).

III. Real Peace for Our Time

Now let’s bring this down to our level. Let’s apply this to our lives today. Let’s talk about the real peace

for OUR time. J. Henry Thayer, professor at Harvard in the late 1800s, once said that peace is “a conception distinctly peculiar to Christianity, the tranquil state of the soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is.”¹

So, if you are producing fruit consistent with a love for God and love for others, it should show in your peace with God and your fellow man. It should mean that the peace of God is ruling in your heart (Col. 3:15). In other words, peace should be the umpire that dictates whether you’re safe or out. Remember, if the peace of God is not ruling in your heart, don’t try to fluff up the fruit—cultivate the root.

Not only should you be experiencing peace between yourself and God, but also you should be experiencing peace between yourself and others. Let me be clear, this doesn’t mean there will be no conflict, but a rest in your soul that God is in control, even during conflict.

Willie Krischke wrote, “In fact, sometimes, pursuing real peace—Jesus-peace—means engaging in conflict. In my marriage, with my kids, in my ministry on campus, and at church, it’s easier and simpler to sweep tension under the rug and hope it will just dissipate on its own instead of engaging it in hopes of reconciliation and better understanding. Engaging it means breaking down the walls and facing the hostility for the sake of reconciliation, because there is no peace without reconciliation.”²

Conclusion

Do you feel frazzled and stressed by life and relationships? Know that you can experience the peace of God that passes all understanding.

Is there a cloud that hangs over your head in relationship to your faith in Christ? Let me encourage you to go to the Prince of Peace. He will grant you a pardon and the war in your soul can finally come to an end.

Is there a severed relationship that has you all tied up in knots? Let me encourage you to step out and pursue the peace and holiness “without which no man shall see the Lord” (Heb. 12:14). ■

Jonathan Slagenweit pastors the Bible Methodist Church, Easley, SC. He and his wife Tonya have four boys. All Scripture is from the New American Standard Version.

1. Thayer, Joseph Henry. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, s.v. “EIRENE” #1515.

2. Krischke, Willie. “The Fruit of the Spirit: Peace.” accessed at <https://intervarsity.org/blog/fruit-spirit-peace>.



BOB BICKERT:
Dedicated To Spreading the Gospel

My friend and former GBS colleague, Bob Bickert, always impressed me by how his life was very focused on spreading the gospel—whether through Bible college classrooms here or overseas, practicums, conventions, or through one-on-one interactions. Bringing more people into God’s kingdom was his overarching goal. You can read my earlier personal comments (p.2) and his obituary (p.14), but I would like to give you a closer look into his life. —KF

Robert (Bob) Andrew Bickert was born on June 25, 1937, to Carl and Margaret (Wiegman) Bickert in Lansing, MI. Born into a farming family, Bob had a deep

love for gardening and all things outdoors. Waking early to milk cows and working late to finish chores, he developed a strenuous work ethic that continued his entire life.

Bob’s extended family was a huge presence in his childhood and instrumental in his coming to faith in Jesus. As far back as he could remember, he was afraid of dying. At age 10, while his Grandmother Wiegman was staying with them, Bob asked her how a person could become a Christian. She replied, “Bob, confess your sins to God, tell Him you are sorry, ask Him to forgive you. Ask Jesus to come into your heart. Then stop doing what you know is wrong and start doing what you know is right.”

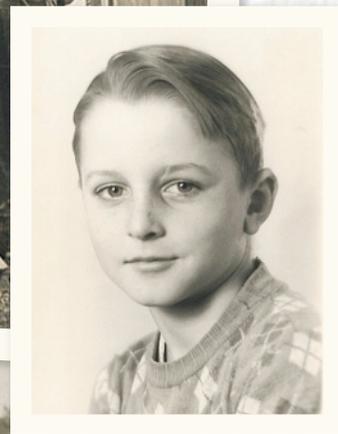
One night when he could not sleep, he thought about his grandmother’s words. He got out of bed, knelt down beside it, and prayed, “I am a sinner. I have disobeyed my parents. I have stolen things. I have lied. I am sorry. Please forgive me. I want to stop doing what I know is wrong and not pleasing to you. Jesus, please come into my life.” Bob paused, waited, and then said, “I know you have heard me

because I know you know everything, and you know I am serious. I believe you have forgiven me. I believe you have come into my heart. Amen!” As he climbed back into bed, Bob felt a burst of warmth inside. That awful fear of dying was gone! “I felt certain that if I died right then, I would go to heaven.” Then he laid his head on the pillow and fell asleep. The very next day, he discovered a new desire to do what was right.

In 1950, at age 13, Bob felt called to be a missionary. His life verse became Proverbs 3:5-6: “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”



fishing with Grandpa



*photos from
 Bob's boyhood*



photos courtesy of Sherri Bickert Raven



Bob and Kay



fishing with grandkids

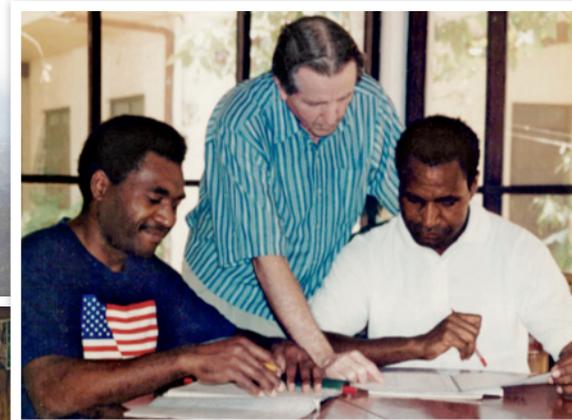
This verse was repeatedly tested and consistently found to be true in Bob's life, with so many of his steps requiring leaps of faith. From Asbury College in 1956, he moved to Owosso College in Michigan in 1961. While at Owosso College, he met Karolyn (Kay) Yvonne Reese. They married on September 1, 1962. One month later, they moved back to Wilmore.

In 1964, Bob graduated from Asbury College with a bachelor's degree in history. Then he enrolled at Asbury Theological Seminary, where he completed a Master of Divinity in 1968. He continued his studies over the next year, earning a Master of Theology in 1969.

In March of 1969, Bob and Kay traveled to Coleman, Michigan, where Bob joined the Coleman Wesleyan

Church on a Sunday morning. That very afternoon, he was ordained, fulfilling the last needed requirement for their visa to the Philippines.

Just a year later, in early March 1970, Bob and Kay, along with their two young sons, Jon and Mark, boarded a cargo ship in San Francisco, heading across the sea in obedience to God's call to serve as Wesleyan World Missions (now Global Partners) missionaries to the Philippines. As was the case wherever Bob went, he found the opportunity to witness. In fact, on the trip over to the Philippines, Bob led the captain of the boat to faith in Christ. Unbeknownst to them, their third child, Sherri, was on the way. Their fourth child, Tim, joined the family in April 1972. Bob and Kay served in the Philippines from 1970 to 1977.



left to right: With graduates at Grace Mountain Academy, Philippines; teaching a class in Asia; a house-church baptism in Cambodia; helping Papua New Guinea students master Greek.

After returning to the United States in 1977, Bob began traveling around the world with a new Wesleyan urban church planting initiative, Metro-Move. The first Metro-Move seminar was in Freetown, Sierra Leone, in 1978. Bob was skillful at this urban model of launching house churches.

In one of the tributes given at Bob's funeral, Colin Whittaker spoke of a time when they were both involved in Metro-Baguio in the Philippines. An incident he observed was a perfect example of how Bob was a conduit for the love of God. During an afternoon service, Bob said to Colin, "Let's go grab a Coke." They had heard the guest speaker speak six times in the last six days, so Bob thought it would be okay to step out and take a break.

They walked up the street until they found a vendor. While buying the soft drinks, two little Muslim girls came up to them begging for money. They were very young, possibly six years old, and couldn't speak or understand much English. Bob began talking to them. He crouched down and put his arm around them and looked them straight in the eye. He began sharing with them about Jesus and asked them if they were hungry. Fortunately, in the Philippines there is always a food vendor a few feet away. Bob asked them if they needed new slippers, as they were barefoot. Slippers were being sold only 10 feet away. Ten minutes later, their stomachs were full and new slippers were on their feet. Bob crouched down on his knees, hugging those little girls, praying out loud that God would work a miracle in their lives. The nearby food vendor was watching and weeping. This all happened in a short break to go get a Coke.

It didn't matter who it was or where it was, Bob Bickert felt the pain of those in need of Jesus and interceded to his heavenly Father on their behalf. Bob loved everyone like they were incredibly valuable.

From 1986 to 1989, Bob served as a professor at GBS before returning to Asbury Theological Seminary to earn a Doctor of Missiology degree in 1996.

When the children were grown and married, Bob and Kay returned to the Philippines. They began a 24-year run as missionaries, teachers, pastors, and mentors to the Filipino people they loved. While there, Bob taught periodically at Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary in Manila and made trips to other Asian countries as well.

When periodically in the States, Bob and Kay were ambassadors for Hope for Children with World Hope. Bob arrived home from what would be his final trip to the Philippines in January of 2020. Even then, at the onset of his terminal illness, he was fully determined to return to the mission field. Ministry was his focus up until the very end. ■



by Sonja Vernon

WAIT

"And the Philistines mustered to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen and troops like the sand on the seashore in multitude.... When the men of Israel saw that they were in trouble...the people hid themselves in caves and in holes and in rocks and in tombs and in cisterns, and some Hebrews crossed the fords of the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead." —1 Samuel 13:5-7a ESV

King Saul is at Gilgal staring at a sea of Philistine troops, and his small army is in meltdown, running away and hiding. There is some hope. Samuel is coming to make sacrifices. Saul waits. Samuel's arrival time comes and goes, and Saul watches his army disappear. The stress and fear become almost unbearable. The weight of responsibility lies heavily on his shoulders. He finally decides to conduct the sacrifices himself, expressly disobeying God's law. Surely God would understand in light of the situation! But just as Saul finishes, Samuel arrives and rebukes him. Saul responds defensively. Doesn't Samuel understand how bad things are? He was late. Saul had no choice. He had to "force himself" to sacrifice so they could ask for God's favor (v.12). But Samuel accepts no excuses. Saul had blatantly disobeyed, and there would be serious consequences.

What about us? What do we do when faced with overwhelming stress, with unwinnable wars? Do we wait and trust? Do we remember that God's laws are not dependent on our circumstances? Or do we try to salvage the chaos around us by bending the rules for the "right" reasons? Take heart, weary soldier. Stay strong. Wait. Trust. Obey. Help is on the way. ■

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



GOD'S BIBLE SCHOOL & COLLEGE
HOMECOMING

REMEMBERING
THE 70s

OCTOBER
2021

OCTOBER 8-9, 2021 | [GBS.EDU/HOMECOMING](https://gbs.edu/homecoming)

