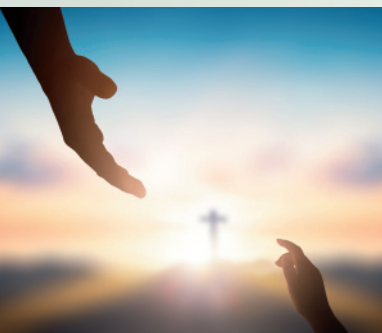


GOD'S REVIVALIST

March 2022

and Bible Advocate





thinking out loud

WHOSOEVER WILL

Something always bothered me about the “crossing-the-deadline” illustrations that some evangelists gave as they moved into the altar-call portions of their sermons. They were quite scary, especially to me as a kid. Many of those evangelists undoubtedly were great and godly men; some were even very close personal friends.

Early in my time as a GBS student (1974), I wrestled with the conflict between those illustrations and how I interpreted the Scripture—especially 2 Peter 3:9, which states that the Lord is “longsuffering” and “not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” In those days, my “go-to” man for help with doctrinal questions was my hero, Dr. Leslie D. Wilcox. I made a trip to his apartment to discuss this matter with him. After looking at the related biblical passages, he noted that we shared the same position—God was indeed not willing for any to perish; He wanted all to come to repentance. That conversation confirmed my early interpretation. I was content.

Here are some lessons from this little account.

Value your own intellect. God has given each of us a brain, and He expects us to use it. So don’t discount your own abilities in “rightly dividing” the Scriptures. God will help you. At the same time, be humble in realizing that you don’t know everything, and that God has placed people in your life who can be of assistance.

Select qualified helpers. Make sure you are enlisting the help of godly people you trust. For me, these included my father, L.D. Wilcox, R.G. Flexon, and J.W. Adcock. These days I confer with Dr. Allan Brown and Dr. Philip Brown.

Realize that some difficulties will remain. You can be grateful for the help you receive from others, but YOU are still the person responsible for the positions YOU adopt. The good news is that the Holy Spirit will be an ever-present Guide through the entire process.

While “crossing the deadline” illustrations are still used in pulpits today, I would suggest that Scripture paints a more optimistic picture. Jesus promised that He would “draw ALL people to himself” (John 12:32) and that He is “longsuffering” and “not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). “Whosoever will” may come and drink the “water of life” (Rev. 22:17b). If you want to be saved, you can be saved. —KF ■

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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.

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PAGE 2 photo: iStock: shuang paul wang

the president's page

DANGERS FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH: Unaccountable Leadership

by Dr. Rodney S. Loper, President

In recent years we have been inundated by the accounts of megachurch pastors and Christian leaders who have been revealed as bullies, narcissists, or sexual assailants. I listened with great interest to a recent podcast on “The Rise and Fall of Mars Hill.” Probably most of you have heard of the Mars Hill Church that was founded and pastored by Mark Driscoll. It grew out of a home Bible study into a multi-site megachurch comprising fifteen campuses in four states, with extensive services, podcasts, and conferences available online. However, problems came to light. In September 2014, the elders of the church investigated “bullying” and “patterns of sinful behavior” by Driscoll. The church developed a “restoration” plan to help the pastor and save the church. The pastor refused the offer and resigned. The network of Mars Hill ministries was dissolved January 1, 2015.

While I listened, I was reminded of other churches and church leaders who had experienced similar situations and results. The main component of each story was that a dynamic leader became “larger than the church itself” and was unaccountable. In fact, evidence from recent ethical and moral failures within the broader evangelical circles suggests a correlation between toxic leadership and a lack of accountability in churches that are leader-focused.

In looking at these recent examples, I recognized that we are not immune to these temptations and failings in our own circle of churches and organizations. Therefore, I wish to address some of these dangers to the local church. Let me add that what is said in this series also applies to our colleges, missionary organizations, and other ministries.

The first danger on which I will focus is unaccountable leadership. I will attempt to highlight a few common characteristics of these leaders and others like them who have failed, and I will offer a warning to leaders and their boards of the dangers of this style of leadership.

CHARACTERISTIC #1:

Leader is becoming larger than the organization.

Quite simply, when leaders have no one in their lives to whom they are accountable, they are unaccountable. When leaders become larger than the organizations they serve, proper boundaries and lines of authority are lost. Those who would normally have oversight may no longer have the power, authority, or even information needed to hold the leader accountable—and the scope must be broader than moral concerns. Ethical, financial, and directional concerns must be included.

One of the recurring themes in the podcast was of a church beginning to serve the pastor rather than the pastor serving the church. Quite often this is a gradual process, with churches and organizations being lulled into believing that if they hold their leaders accountable, they will lose them. Churches and organizations can grow so comfortable with having a pastor or leader who is in the spotlight, in charge, and making most of the decisions, that they are hesitant to address real problems, fearing the church would suffer if they lost their dynamic pastor. They put up with frustrations and convince themselves that the status quo is best for the church. What is actually happening is that the leader has become a law unto himself. This is not healthy for the organization or the leader.

CHARACTERISTIC #2:

Leader unilaterally makes most decisions.

A second indicator of unaccountable leadership is when decision-making tends to be unilaterally made by the leader while allowing little or no discussion from others in the process. In fact, those who question the decisions are often labeled as “difficult,” “problems,” “troublemakers,” or “not being a team player.” These leaders have authority to hire, fire, or spend any amount of money because of their positions. Many times, their decisions are presented to the governing authorities only after the fact and with their spin to make it more palatable to those who might disagree. Unfortunately, spirituality is sometimes judged by how much a person agrees with the leader. Those who disagree might be thought of as a bit carnal or needing to pray more until they come to the “right” decision. This might sound strong, but not too far down this road the

church no longer belongs to the congregation—it becomes the property of the leader.

CHARACTERISTIC #3:

Leader treats others as personal pawns.

Third, people become pawns—tools to be used by the leader. If leaders demand more from their staff (employees or volunteers) than they themselves are willing to do, beware! Folks become expendable—only good for the return that they bring to the leader. When they cease to be valuable, they are often discarded, sometimes along with inuendos calling their character into question. Disagreements can no longer be seen as differences of opinion because the leader’s position is threatened. In a twisted way, the organization begins to serve the leader and his concerns and needs. In effect, the needs and concerns of the pastor trump those of the church. The church becomes his ministry, his church. Spending is geared toward ministry, but in a way that enhances the pastor, his reputation, and his ambitions.

CONCLUSION

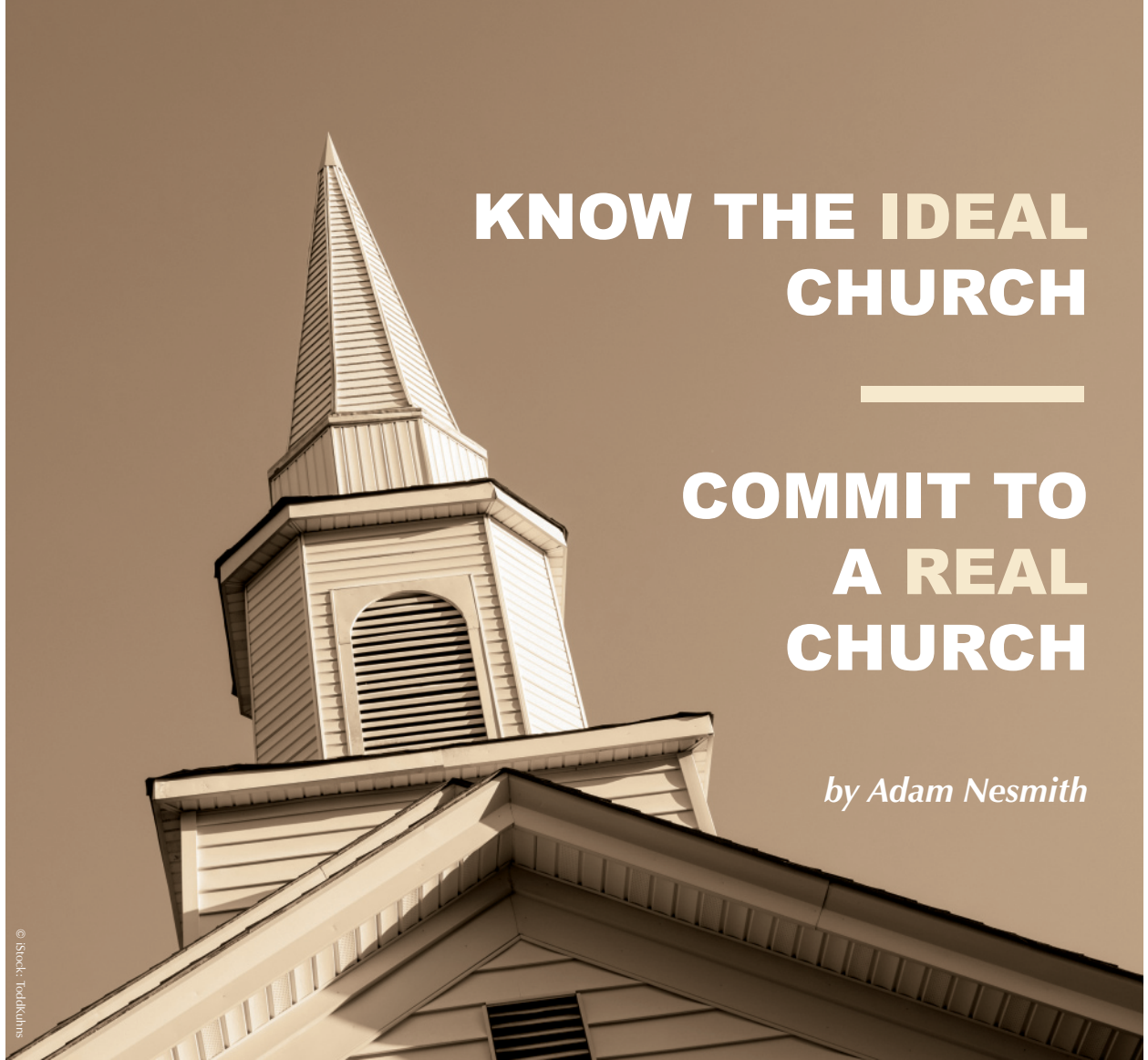
These types of dangers do not just lurk at the local church level. As mentioned earlier, they are also very much present in other organizations, too. It doesn’t take much time at all to call to mind instances where this has happened in our circles. In fact, God’s Bible School and College has had such issues in its past. Read our history, and you will see how leadership issues have brought this storied institution to the brink of closure. No, the danger that I am trying to highlight is not limited to the local church. Organizational leaders and their boards must remain vigilant to ensure that proper accountability is present.

What can be done? The church is a structured organization. Creating an organizational chart for the church can help establish a proper understanding of job descriptions and relationships between individuals and departments. It helps to identify the boundaries between these elements and how they relate to each other. It helps to clarify responsibilities, authority, and proper accountability.

Make sure such a chart is publicly displayed, shared with all, periodically reviewed, and updated as needed. Creating such a document and establishing mechanisms to keep all leaders, including the pastor, functioning properly and accountable is an important process. Make that part of the board’s oversight responsibilities.

Get accountable. Stay accountable! ■

(The next installment in this series will discuss the danger of the local church becoming a parachurch organization.)



KNOW THE IDEAL CHURCH

COMMIT TO A REAL CHURCH

by Adam Nesmith

The doctrine of the Church is one of the most glorious, practical, and discussed doctrines in the New Testament. Simply looking at the metaphors the New Testament authors use to describe the Church gives you a sense of its importance. The Church is the “body of Christ,” the “bride” of Christ, the “household of faith,” a “holy temple in the Lord,” and much more. The ideal church, as laid out in the New Testament, overcomes the gates of hell and overcomes the world through faith in Christ, the Church’s chief Shepherd.

But how do these realities guide you in choosing a particular local church to attend? How do they give you wisdom for deciding if and when to leave a church? After all, the glorious vision of the Church in the New Testament is not lived out in its fullness within every local body. So what should you, as a normal believer, do when you struggle to find the “ideal church?” In this post, I want to lay out three practical steps for applying the doctrine of the Church to your life.

KNOW THE LOCAL CHURCH IDEAL AS LAID OUT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

If you and I really knew and believed the truths about the local church as laid out in Scripture, how many of our problems would be solved? The local church is not merely a Sunday morning service you sit through once a week. If you want to start getting excited about the local church and having a biblical view of its importance, the first step is to study and internalize what the Bible says about the Church.

I would recommend taking a month or two to read through the book of Acts. Pay attention each time Luke mentions the Church, what it does, and how it grows. Acts 2 in particular has one of my favorite passages on the “ideal church.”

And they **devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And **day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes**, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, **praising God and having favor with all the people**. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47, ESV, emphasis added)

Why do I recommend studying the New Testament Church?

You will never make the right decisions about where to go to church, what to look for in a church, or what to value in the church if you don’t first understand the Church as presented in the New Testament.

Everyone can give you different opinions on where you should go to church and what your role should be in that church. But only in Scripture do we have the authoritative record of what God expects of local churches and you as a church member. So remind yourself of the glorious doctrine of the local church as expounded in Scripture.

COMMIT TO A LOCAL CHURCH THAT PARTIALLY LIVES UP TO THAT IDEAL

Once you have a biblical vision of the ideal church, find a local church that approximates that ideal. What do I mean by this? ***You will never find a local church that perfectly exhibits all the desired traits given in the New Testament.*** In fact, local churches in the New Testament time did not even exhibit those traits perfectly (see 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, and the letters to the seven churches in Revelation). So when you are looking for a local church to join, **look for one where you see its members and leadership who are aware and are striving for the New Testament ideal.**

Others have developed countless resources to determine whether a church is healthy or not. But at the end of the day, all the “tests,” “marks,” or “criterion” for a healthy church are simply ways of answering the question **“is this local church aware of and pursuing what the New Testament teaches about the church or not?”** In the end, whatever church you end up joining will have some strong areas and some weak areas. That is expected in a fallen world. As I said, even the first generation of local churches had some areas of strength and other areas where they needed correction.

The key point here is to commit to a local church that partially lives up to the New Testament ideal.

It will do you no good to memorize every passage on the local church if you never actually formally join one.

An analogy is helpful here: you might have an idea of what you want in an ideal spouse, but if you never actually marry a real human being, your ideal will do you no good. And, as every married person discovers, the person you marry will at the best only approximate the ideal spouse you conjured up in your head. **So don’t spend your whole life looking for that “perfect New Testament church.” Commit to the best option God provides for you locally, then move on to the final step.**

WORK TO MAKE THAT LOCAL CHURCH BETTER REFLECT THE IDEAL CHURCH

As soon as you are a member of a local church, you are now partially responsible for ensuring that local collection of believers obeys what Scripture teaches about the ideal church. You, not someone else. As you stay committed to a local body over the years, you will see more and more clearly the ways in which your church falls short of the New Testament teaching. When this inevitably happens, the temptation will be either to complain or to leave to find a different church.

Now, there are certainly situations where you should leave a local church. But in modern America, most reasons people give are neither biblical nor wise. Your default when you notice an issue in your local church should be:

1. Do not complain or sow discord.
2. Seek to understand the problem.
3. Prayerfully seek a way to help fix the issue.

If every church member had a selfless, serving-others-before-myself mentality, a lot of issues in local churches would evaporate. Seek to lead in working to help your local church better reflect the ideal church. Take responsibility. You don't have to be an elder or a deacon or a particularly wise or smart person to make your church more holy and godly.

If you are a local church member, you are part of a body. And every part of the body is sovereignly knitted together by God to serve a purpose.

In conclusion, don't over-complicate the local church. Understand clearly from Scripture what the local church is and should be. Commit to a body in your local area that approximates this ideal church. Then spend your days seeking to help that local body better reflect what the ideal church is in Scripture. Being an average church member is a high calling. So go and serve your local body for the glory of Christ and the edification of the saints. ■

Adam Nesmith serves as a deacon at Cornerstone Bible Church, Xenia, OH, and blogs at theaveragechurchman.com where this article is posted. Used 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.

Your articles about holiness, sanctification, the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and many others are much needed and appreciated!

CAROL A. BROWN
Cincinnati, OH

I enjoy *God's Revivalist* so much. I am so glad to receive it. I look it over quickly at first, and then I read the articles. I am glad for all the news. I am praying for you.
RUBY LOGAN
Greenwood, IN

I appreciate so much the articles on holiness. The emphasis on the crisis of entire sanctification is important. Its relationship to life and service through the anointing of the Holy Spirit is so vital. Richard Hutchinson's series "The Anointing" revealed that.

DAVE L. FRUTH
Amelia, OH

I have never been on your campus or attended there, but my wife and I have heard your choir a number of times in Florida and are very impressed with your students—their love for God and the beauty of Jesus I see in them. We are both graduates of Wesleyan and Free Methodist Universities, but I sure believe in GBS and the champions for Christ you are raising up. I support the college as I can. Keep passing it on to the next generation.

REV. DON FREY
email

I saw that Charleeta Richardson [BA '87] had passed [GR Nov. p.12]—a hard worker for GBS and the missions. The GBS campus and buildings look like they are being well taken care of. I am glad for my six years in Cincinnati (1983-89).

JERRY READLE
Westminster, CO

MARCH 2022

07

KEEPING



TIME WITH GOD

The Christian Year, Part 5

PALM SUNDAY

Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

Continuation of a Yearlong Series by Larry D. Smith

April 10, 2022, PALM SUNDAY

The first day of Holy Week, which continues through April 17.

A QUEEN RIDES INTO HER CAPITAL

Tuesday, June 22, 1897, marked the glorious high point of Great Britain's Diamond Jubilee, celebrating Queen Victoria's sixty years upon the throne. Now at the height of its wealth and power, the British Empire arguably had become the greatest imperial dominion in all history.

Headed by its 78-year-old monarch, who reigned over a fourth of the world's population, its fabled Union Jack fluttered from flagpoles on every continent. Now representatives from everywhere, as it seemed, had descended upon London, not only to honor Queen Victoria, but also to boast the splendor of her far-flung Empire. Historians describe the breathtaking excitement of that warm summer day with bells ringing, crowds cheering, bands playing, soldiers marching, choirs singing, and canons roaring!

Certainly the magnificent procession that coursed through the throngs gathered in the capital city was the most "memorable" and most "important" procession that London had ever witnessed, as one chronicler has noted.¹ Her Majesty, chief focus of it all, was waving at

the frenzied crowds from her open carriage drawn by eight cream-colored horses.

"Hundreds of thousands of people had had no sleep during the night," we are told,² "and at daybreak the streets were crowded. Color was everywhere. Four millions of visitors were said to have been added to London's five millions." When the queen arrived at noon, she found "the streets throbbing with the steady tramp of millions and a bedlam of street songs, horns, trumpets, and cheering."³

At the head of the parade marched smartly-uniformed troops from such distant parts of the Empire as India, Africa, New South Wales, Jamaica, the South Pacific, and Borneo. Following was a glittering cavalcade of royalty and other notables; also in ornate horse-drawn carriages. These included Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria, the prime minister of Austria, German princes, grand-dukes, duchesses, relatives of the queen, ambassadors, and politicians. Slowly this procession moved through the streets as tens of thousands cheered, waved, and applauded. Festivities continued for hours, and at midnight millions were crossing the thoroughfare under the dazzling, newfangled electric lights, as they sang "God

Save The Queen.”⁴ The sovereign of the whole Empire had come riding into her capital in triumph!

THE KING RIDES INTO HIS CAPITAL

Now the followers of Jesus everywhere who observe the cycle of the Christian Year are about to honor Him who is a far greater Sovereign than Queen Victoria. Exuberantly they will join the cheering multitudes who welcomed Him, as He too came riding in triumph into His capital, though that was not nineteenth-century London, but first-century Jerusalem. This grand processional tribute is called the “Triumphal Entry,” and it is commemorated on Palm Sunday, which is the sixth Sunday in Lent and also the Lord’s Day next before Easter Sunday.

Our Lord’s “Triumphal Entry” into ancient Jerusalem, King David’s royal seat, was an event of vast significance, as centuries before God Himself had appointed it, prompting His prophet Zechariah to write: “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem, thy King cometh unto thee. He is just and having salvation; lowly and riding upon an ass and upon a colt, the foal of an ass” (Zech. 9:9).

Moreover, all four of the gospel writers describe what occurred that day. St. Luke, for example, says that after Jesus had finished speaking, “he went before, ascending up to Jerusalem. And it came to pass, when he was come nigh to Bethphage and Bethany at the...Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying, Go ye into the village over against you, in the which at your entering ye shall find a colt tied.... Loose him and bring him hither.... And they brought him to Jesus, and they cast their garments upon the colt, And they set Jesus thereon. And as he went, they spread their clothes in the way. And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, Blessed be the king that cometh in the name of the Lord, peace in heaven, and glory in the highest” (Luke 19:28-38).

Saint John notes these details: The people “took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord” (John 12:13).

So as we worship again in our churches this Palm Sunday, we join those jubilant believers of long ago who waved their palm branches and chanted their victory song, “Blessed be the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

“But does Palm Sunday really mean anything?” a cynic mutters. “Wasn’t this same Jesus

who was so highly honored on Palm Sunday also crucified the following Friday?”

“True enough,” we answer. “But His suffering and death—what Christians call His Passion—offered freely on our behalf was the means of His victory over sin and death and hell. “Jesus won the world through shame,” as Faber sang, “and beckons thee His road” (Frederick Faber, 1849). Remember, too, that one week after His Triumphal Entry, He arose in glory from the dead! Alleluia!

CONCLUSION

Queen Victoria died in 1901, four years after her great Diamond Jubilee; and she lies buried with her beloved husband, Prince Albert, in the beautiful royal mausoleum near Windsor Castle. In death she wanted to bear decisive witness to her faith. Near her coffin is this testimony written in Latin to her husband: “Here, most desired (one), at the last I shall rest with thee; here I shall rise with thee in Christ.” This too is the solid hope of every Christian. We gladly await its fulfillment.

Meanwhile, Lord Jesus Christ, extend Your Triumphal Entry throughout the whole world until every knee has bowed before You and every tongue has confessed that You are Sovereign Lord, not just of an empire, but of all heaven and earth.

Ride on, Ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
O Christ, Your triumphs now begin
O’er captive death and conquered sin. 🏹

—Henry Hart Milman, 1827

(The next installment will focus on Holy Week and Easter.)

Dr. Larry D. Smith served as a GBS instructor and editor of God’s Revivalist from 1995 until his retirement in 2016. He lives in Cincinnati, OH, with his wife, Carol (Wiseman) (’78 BA).

1. Cooper, John, editor. *Queen Victoria: Her Grand Life and Glorious Reign*. C.W. Stanton Company, 1901, p.265.

2. Ibid.

3. Ibid., p.266.

4. Ibid. p.267.

Lord Jesus Christ, extend Your Triumphal Entry throughout the whole world until every knee has bowed before You and every tongue has confessed that You are Sovereign Lord.



NATIONAL PROOFREADING DAY

Every year on March 8th, National Proofreading Day highlights the importance of proofreading our written work. The day also allows those who enjoy proofreading to gently correct others! *God's Revivalist* has an established proofreading protocol that is made possible by a number of people. Let me walk you through that process.

When material is considered for inclusion in *God's Revivalist*, it ob-

viously has already been subjected to some scrutiny. The authors have been careful in the initial, creative stage of writing, and often an article we use has already been published elsewhere. However, there are materials that are created in-house, or those specifically developed for our publication, that may need some additional attention.

During the selection/layout/design phase, Kevin (art director and assistant editor) and I catch some of the errors. However, after the layout is completed and spell-checked by the page layout software, proof copies are distributed to a group of seven proofreaders. At that time, I do my own proofreading and follow up by checking every Scripture reference in the issue for accuracy. President Loper, as executive edi-

tor, is also given a copy to review, and he submits his suggestions and directives.

The copies (nine at this point) are all returned to the office, and Kevin corrects all errors found by the proofreaders and editors. The next step is the final "read-through"—Kevin and I read the entire issue out loud to each other and make final



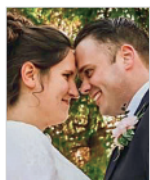
Proofreaders L-R: Sonja Vernon, Rachel Pohl, Dustin Muir, Valorie Quesenberry, Daryl Muir, Janet Albertson, Denise Mitchell

corrections. It is also at this point that Kevin's special expertise shines—I call him the "comma king," as he makes a final decision (based on proofreader recommen-

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.

WEDDINGS



Esther Byer (BA '15) to Jeremy Hopkins, November 19, at Erlanger Baptist Church, Erlanger, KY, with Revs. Joel Byer and Gary Hopkins officiating. Jeremy teaches English and education at Union Bible College, Westfield, IN, where he is also Christian Service Director. Esther is employed by Twelve Stones Christian Academy. She earned a graduate degree from Trevecca Nazarene University in 2018 and serves as a GBS adjunct professor. The Hopkinse live in Westfield, IN, with plans to go as missionaries to Honduras this year under Hope International Missions.

DEATHS



Twila May (Saine) Christner, 72, passed into the presence of her Lord, October 2, 2021, following a brief illness. A native of Sylvan, KS, Twila was born at home to the farming family of Milford and Verle Saine on May 14, 1949. She and her four siblings enjoyed life on the farm. Twila loved to tell stories of the many capers she got into with her siblings.

When Twila was 11 years of age, her father felt called by God to move his family to Colorado Springs, CO, so that he could enter his children into People's Bible College and Academy. It was there that Twila learned to sew, became a very talented seamstress, and developed her lifelong passion for art. After she moved to Ohio to teach school, she met and married William ("Bill") Christner.

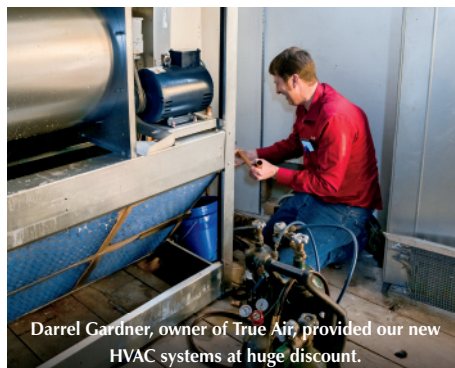
dations, his own knowledge, and our English grammar guidebook) about when and where commas are needed. He also performs a tedious search through the whole document for split infinitives. (Yes, we know that modern trends in grammar allow split infinitives, but we avoid them whenever possible).

You might think that our corrections end there, and ideally they do. However, after the issue is uploaded to our publisher (Country Pines, Shoals, IN), Edward Cook may contact us with additional mistakes he discovers as he prepares the issue for press. If he is unable to correct an error himself, Kevin makes the correction and uploads a new copy.

To err is human, and, of course, our editorial staff and proofreaders are all human! While we do not find and correct every error, we very much appreciate the help of our proofreaders who volunteer each month to make *God's Revivalist* as error-free as possible! —KF

NEW AC FOR THE CHAPEL

Remember the days when the GBS chapel was not air conditioned? Those ancient crank-out windows rarely let in enough of a breeze to make warm days comfortable! Then one of the college classes had a series of ceiling fans installed as their parting senior gift to the school (in the late 1980s). That was a little better. Then in the mid-1990s, a complete renovation of the chapel included two giant AC units that brought in wonderful cool air—a



Darrel Gardner, owner of True Air, provided our new HVAC systems at huge discount.

real blessing, especially during the activities at school year's end.

Generally, commercial HVAC units will last anywhere from 10 to 15 years. We managed to get nearly twice that! But the systems finally failed in 2021. Our crew, led by HVAC-trained Jonathan Valentine, put in a temporary unit this summer until we could locate and install new units.

We had a quote for \$160,000 to replace them, but, thanks to Darrel Gardner, owner of True Air (Greensburg, IN), we saved around ➡



Installation of one of the new HVAC units



For years, Twila worked as a seamstress for BerryFit in Dover, building lifelong friendships. Twila learned the trade of upholstery and taught it to her children. She also baked delicious wedding cakes. For many years, Twila was an art teacher for the New Philadelphia Center for the Arts. She gave private lessons and taught most recently at Starlight School (for developmentally disabled) and a homeschool co-op. She also authored a book sharing hilarious stories from her life. Twila attended Christian Chapel, Zoarville, OH, where her son is pastor.

The Christners have been GBS donors and subscribers to *God's Revivalist*. Twila's daughter and son-in-law attended GBS: Heather (AAS '08) and Eric Stanbery (BA '10).

Twila is survived by her loving husband of 45 years, Bill; son, Rev. Alan Christner; daughter, Heather Stanbery; three grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. A private graveside service officiated by Rev.

Alan Christner was held at Schoenbrunn Meadow Cemetery, New Philadelphia, OH. A celebration of life service has been postponed due to Covid.



Wilson Keys, 94, passed away on Tuesday, November 23, 2021, at Swiss Village in Berne, IN. He was born on April 21, 1927, to Raymond and Mabel Keys. Wilson married Ramona E. Scherb, and together they owned Keys Insurance Agency in Winchester, IN. Wilson's passions were his faith and family. He was a GBS donor and subscriber to *God's Revivalist*. He was an active member of Gideons International, and he took part in many mission trips to Chile and Central America to help build chapels. He also loved fishing and nature.

Wilson was preceded in death by his wife, Ramona, and is survived by his son, Jerry; daughter, Karen (Keys) Hoose; three grandchildren; seven ➡

➡ \$100,000 by replacing the two units at cost. Darrel operates in the Shelbyville, Greensburg, Connersville, and Newcastle areas of Indiana. He also works in the Columbus, OH, area. We encourage you to support such a valuable contributor to GBS!

MIDYEAR STAFF CHANGES

With January starting a new year and a new semester, there are new staffing changes to announce.

Connor Davis, who had been working in the Facilities Department as a student worker, has moved into a full-time position. He had previous



work experience in an auto shop and as a general and commercial contractor. Facilities Director Jeff Moore welcomes him on the GBS maintenance crew.



Scott Loper, who for the past four years has worked in the Facilities Department under Jeff Moore, moved to an office on the second floor of the Standley Administration Building. He now works as a public relations representative—traveling, scheduling services, etc.—under the supervision of Public Relations Director Duane Quesenberry.



Caleb Teed has worked as a 30-hour student worker in the Information Technology Department since his freshman year (2019).

He is now employed in that department on a full-time basis. He will continue his college studies, but with a reduced course-hour load.



Shelley Carey has returned as Music Office Manager, a position she held earlier when she worked in the music division (2014-16) following her graduation (BA '14). Shelley is also working on a graduate degree at GBS.

REVIVALIST FAMILY continued

➡ great-grandchildren; and six great-great grandchildren. A service to celebrate Wilson's life was held at Randolph Friends Church, Pastor Jonathan Edwards officiating. Burial followed in Fountain Park Cemetery, Winchester.

Dorothy (Marsh) Zimmerman, 101?, (HS '36), passed away November 29, 2021. She was the daughter of former GBS President Elmer G. Marsh (see "Archives" p.21). Dorothy personally wanted a measure of anonymity at her passing; therefore, no obituary notice was created and a private family service and burial were held. Her son, Bob, suggested this brief mention of her passing in *God's Revivalist*.



Rev. Ernest B. Plemmons, Sr., 86, of Tipton, IN, was welcomed into heaven in the early morning hours of December 9, 2021, surrounded by his loving family. He was born on July 15, 1935, in Marion, NC, to Howard and Emma (Davis) Plemmons. When he was seven, the family moved to Michigan, and it was there he eventually met Patricia "Evelyn" Welch. Ernest was serving in the Marines when he fell in love with Evelyn and they were wed in 1957. To this union, five children were born.

Ernest pastored in Indiana, Tennessee, Illinois, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Ohio for 53 years and trav-

eled in evangelistic work for two years. His passion was pastoring and winning souls for Jesus. He thrived on pastoral visitation and considered his outside employment as a journeyman meat cutter to be his mission field. He started cutting meat in a meat market called Tom and Jerry's in Taylor, MI, when he was 16 years old; similar work continued in meat departments of several chains, such as Farmer Jack, Food City, etc.

In the last few years, due to initial stages of memory loss, he moved to Tipton, IN, to be with family. It was a joy for him to live with his daughter, Kathie Manns, and her family during this period, and he attended the Pilgrim Holiness Church, Noblesville, IN.

Ernest is survived by his wife Evelyn; two daughters, Cheryl Watters and Kathie Manns; two sons, Ernest and Paul "Dan"; a brother, Kenneth; 20 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Due to the Covid outbreak, funeral services were held privately and broadcast by live-stream. Burial followed in Summit Lawn Cemetery, Westfield, IN.

Several of Ernest's family have attended and worked at God's Bible School. His daughter Cheryl Watters is the executive assistant to the president and human resource director, employed in these roles since August 2011. His grandson, Jason Watters, graduated

DAVID HARTKOPF RECEIVES SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Music faculty member and dean of undergraduate studies, David Hartkopf was recently recognized for exceptional work in his Doctor of



David Hartkopf leads chapel worship.

Worship Studies degree at the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies, Jacksonville, FL.

For his excellent coursework, especially in the final course prior to independent thesis work, David was honored as a recipient of The Gerald and Doris Borchert Prize for Worship Research in January. While his research has ranged over various topics, David has especially focused on Wesleyan worship history and practice.

CASLYN EDWARDS COMPLETES GRADUATE DEGREE

Dean of Women Caslyn Edwards graduated from Southeastern University, Lakeland, FL, on De-



Caslyn Edwards displays her master's degree.

cember 10, 2021, with a Master of Education in Exceptional Student Education and a Graduate Certificate in Dyslexia.

Caslyn served as a resident assistant on the Student Affairs staff at GBS for three years. After graduation ➡

from GBS in 2020, and Jason's wife Karalynne (1999-2000) is currently employed as the campus receptionist. His grandson Ryan Watters (BA '11) was a member of the Student Affairs staff while a student and remained as the Dean of Men and Student Affairs Director until 2018. Ryan is currently an adjunct for the college and is a counselor in the campus Counseling Center. Both of Ernest's sons and a daughter attended GBS, Ernest, Jr. (1985-87; 1995-96), Kathie (Manns) (1985-86), and Dan (HS '87; 1987-89); and four great-grandchildren are currently enrolled in Aldersgate Christian Academy.



Charles L. Schoonover, 89, of Morenci, MI, passed away December 23, 2021, at Lenawee Medical Care Facility, surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Morenci on May 17, 1932, to the late James and Iva Belle (Turner)

Schoonover. Charles attended and graduated from Chesterfield High School. He married Martha Watters in 1957, and she preceded him in death in 1988. He then married Evelyn Smith in 1995, and she preceded him in death in 2004.

Charles enjoyed helping his dad work on the family farm in Chesterfield Township. He also worked at

Morenci Rubber Factory for at least 34 years. He loved to do woodworking and building replicas of farm tractors. He loved the outdoors and enjoyed mowing yards and removing snow for people. Charles was a longtime member of the Morenci Church of the Nazarene, where he served as Sunday school teacher for 49 years, as well as treasurer and janitor for several years.

Charles is survived by his sons, David and Kevin; step-daughters, Angela Smith and Sondra Duby; 11 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; sister, Sarah Miller; brothers, Moody and Modie; and several nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held at the Morenci Church of the Nazarene, Pastor Dusty Pauken, officiating. Interment followed in Oak Grove Cemetery, Morenci.



Cheryl Lynn (Blankenship) Gillespie (BA '90), 53, of Bland, VA, went to be with the Lord on December 30, 2021. She was born on February 15, 1968, in Jacksonville, FL, the daughter of Jack and Donna Jones Blankenship. Cheryl earned a BA in education from GBS in 1990 and married Harold Gillespie in 1993.

Cheryl was an active member of Bland Bible Methodist Church where she was a Sunday school ➡

➡ (BA '17), she taught for one year in Aldersgate Christian Academy before returning to Student Affairs in 2018 to accept the position of dean of women. She is married to Tyler Edwards (BA '21), who is employed by Easley Surveying and pastors two churches in Northern Kentucky.

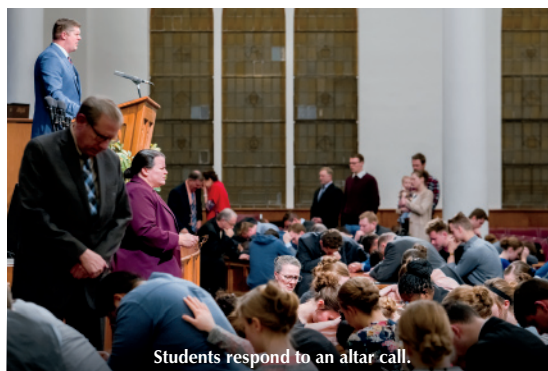
HUTCHISON PREACHES GBS WINTER REVIVAL JAN 13-16

From the start of the opening service Thursday night, January 13, it was evident that revival was underway. The speaker was Rev. Rick Hutchison, an alumnus (BRE '77) who



Rev. Rick Hutchison

also served on the staff as house-keeping supervisor (1976), dean of men (1976-1977), and a second stint as dean of men and public relations representative (1980-1981). After approximately 30 years in the pastoral ministry, he founded Barnabas Ministries (2002), an international ministry organization dedicated to advancing God's kingdom through evangelism, missionary assistance, and helping believers fulfill their calling in Christ. Rick and his wife Joan (Hooker) (BA '81) live near Lenoir City, TN. They have two married sons, Richard (BA '98) and Jonathan (1995-97).



Students respond to an altar call.

Rev. Hutchison's first message from Acts 27 was "Good News on a Sinking Ship." Apostle Paul was finally getting his opportunity to go to Rome, but not the way he had planned—he was going as a prisoner in chains. As a seasoned traveler, he had warned the ship's crew against traveling on the Mediterranean Sea at that time of year, but they didn't listen. The result? Shipwreck!

Storms are a fact of life—a phone call, a letter, a conversation with a doctor. Storms come to everybody. However, we can face the storm with God. And don't get too hung up about the ship! God doesn't need the ship! Whatever storms may come, they can teach us things about praying, trusting, yielding, and putting ourselves in God's care.

We thank God for the help he gave the campus family during these services. They are all available for viewing on Facebook posts from January 13 to 16. Take a look. ■

REVIVALIST FAMILY

continued

➡ teacher, pianist, and secretary. She taught piano and home schooled her children. She took pride in her home and her family.

Left to cherish her memory are her husband of 28 years, Harold A. Gillespie; son, Aaron; daughter, Amber; parents, Jack and Donna Blankenship; brother and sister-in-law, the Rev. Bob (BRE '86) and Karen (Dye) (BA '86) Blankenship; and seven special nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held at A. Vest and Sons Funeral Home Chapel, White Gate, with her brother, the Rev. Bob Blankenship officiating. Burial followed in Grandview Memory Gardens, Bluefield, VA.

Laura Fern Poe, 98, of Gravette, AR, passed away January 1, 2022, at Ozarks Community Hospital with



her granddaughter, Laura, by her side. She was born November 22, 1923, in Nevada, MO, to Irvin Elisha and Clara (Graves) Heathman. She was a member of the Church of God Holiness, Gravette, AR.

Fern was preceded in death by her husband of 70 years, Rev. Winfield Poe. She is survived by her sons, T.F. and James; four grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held at the Church of God Holiness, Gravette, AR, with Pastor Joe Partain officiating. Burial followed at Hillcrest Cemetery, Gravette.

Mary Grace Thompson, 93, went to heaven to be with her Lord on January 4, 2022. Mary was born Janu-

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She is survived by her children, Rev. Robert "Bob" Thompson, Jr., Rev. Ken Thompson, and Glenna Thompson; nine grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. Her husband, Bob, Sr., and son, John, preceded her in death. Funeral services were held in the Mt. Zion Auditorium, Ava, MO, and officiated by her two sons. Burial followed in the Mt. Zion Cemetery.



Sue Ann (Rediger) McElwain, 69, passed away on January 8, 2022, after a two-year battle with cancer. She was born in Wauseon, OH, to Richard and Virginia Rediger. She committed her life to Christ as a sixteen-year-old and served Him faithfully. After graduating from Hobe Sound Bible College, Sue taught in several Christian schools: Stanton, AL; Friendsville, TN; and Kirksville, MO. While teaching in Kirksville, Sue earned a master's degree from Truman State University.

Sue and Randall were married in Kirksville in 1985. Three years later, they moved to Hobe Sound, FL, where Sue taught at Hobe Sound Christian Academy from 1988-2014. She also taught English in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, for two years. Although Sue loved teaching, her first love was family.

Sue is survived by her husband Randall; two adult children, son Austin and daughter Stacey Stetler; and brother Jim. Sue's memorial service was held at Hobe Sound Bible Church, Hobe Sound, FL. Her body awaits the Lord's return at Cedar Creek Cemetery, overlooking the Smokies in Greeneville, TN.



Joanna Ruth (Hunting) Howell, 66, of Mount Pleasant Mills, PA, passed away January 9, 2022. She was born November 17, 1955, in Indianapolis, IN, to the late Rev. Joseph and Mabel (Grimes) Hunting. She graduated from Rondout Valley High School in Stone Ridge, NY, in 1973, and Ulster County Community College in 1979 with an associate degree in nursing before becoming a registered nurse. She also graduated from God's Bible School with a BA in 1983. She married David Howell and they had two sons, Matthew and Mark David (the latter preceded her in death). Joanna was a nurse, pastor's wife, Christian school teacher, and full-time homemaker.

Joanna is survived by her husband of 34 years, David Howell; son, Matthew; sister, Faith Wakefield (BA '85); brother, Wesley (ThB '81); and many nieces and nephews. The funeral was held at the Christian Union Church, Mount Pleasant Mills, the Revs. Philip Brenizer and Alan Walter officiating. Burial followed in Fairview Cemetery, Mount Pleasant Mills. ■



ary 1, 1929, in University Park, IA, to Pearl Perry and Myrtle (Brown) Poe. She was the seventh of eight siblings. She grew up in Iowa, started attending Mt. Zion Bible School when she was 15, and received an associates degree in ministry. On June 17, 1948, Mary and Robert Eugene Thompson, Sr., were united in marriage at Burlington, IA. They were blessed with four children.

Mary was a member of the Mt. Zion Church of God (Holiness). She worked alongside her husband Bob in ministry across the country for over 50 years. She enjoyed traveling, church, people, plants, and dominoes. She never knew a stranger; Jesus shined through her. Mary was a GBS donor and *God's Revivalist* subscriber.

Dear Phil

Second, let's look at a proverb about women. Proverbs 14:1 reads, "A wise woman builds her house, But folly with her own hands tears it down." The theological terms here are "wise" and "folly." Proverbs 2:6-7 says, "Yahweh gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding. He stores up sound wisdom for the upright." Folly is the opposite of how Yahweh thinks and acts. Again, I read theologically in conversation with God:

"Yahweh, wisdom comes from You (Prov. 2:6). A wise woman is one who trusts You, knows You, and fears You (Prov. 3:5-7; 31:30). She seeks Your wisdom as hidden treasure (Prov. 2:1-4). I see that Your wisdom is constructive (Prov. 3:19-20). It is creative (Prov. 8:22-30). Lord Jesus, Creator of everything, all the treasures of wisdom are hidden in You (Col. 2:3). Holy Spirit, You are the Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding (Isa. 11:2) Who gladly fills Your children with wisdom and spiritual understanding (Col. 1:9).

"All-Wise God, Wisdom Incarnate, Spirit of Wisdom, I worship You. Three in One and One in Three, Generous Giver of wisdom, I bless You (James 1:5). I rejoice that Your wisdom builds. It doesn't destroy. Grant me more of Your wisdom.

"Thank You for giving my wife wisdom. Please increase it daily that we may build an enduring house for Your name and Your glory. Establish my sons in wisdom. Open their eyes to see You as the fount of all wisdom, as the Master Builder of their lives. He who marries a foolish woman, marries one who will destroy his home. Guard my sons, I pray, from folly and foolish women, even as You have guarded me."

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.

READING PROVERBS THEOLOGICALLY Part 2

Your most recent article talked about reading Proverbs theologically. Would you give an example or two? —Nathan

Dear Nathan,

Thanks for asking. Here are a couple of examples. First, Proverbs 13:25 reads, "A righteous man eats to the satisfaction of his soul, But the stomach of wicked men is empty." Applying the steps I gave in my last article, I see two theological terms: "righteous" and "wicked." These terms provide the starting point for my reflection. When writing down my reflection, I talk to God:

"Father, in this proverb You are connecting righteousness and satisfaction, wickedness and want. If it is true that the righteous are satisfied with food, how much more must it be that You, the Righteous One, are fully satisfied. I bless you as the Righteous One who lacks nothing. Your satisfaction is the fullness out of which You delight to bestow bounty upon me.

"Lord Yahweh, You have designed the world so that the righteous eat to their satisfaction; I do this every day. But I also know that wickedness robs the wicked of their appetite. They sing songs like "Can't Get No Satisfaction." The reason is that satisfaction doesn't come from internal fullness, completed desire, or external sources. One must be right with You, Yahweh, the source

of satisfaction, for appetite or aesthetics to be a context within which satisfaction may exist. Your design allows the poorest and hungriest of your children to live satisfied, and the richest, fullest sinner to find an insatiable black hole of longing which no pleasure can fill, eating them away like a tree rotting from the inside out.

"You are teaching me, Yahweh, that when I'm right with You, I can abide satisfied, whatever the state of my world. When I'm not right with You, there will be no satisfaction. Thank You for making it possible for me to be right, to be a member of Your family, to be united with Yahweh my Righteousness (Jer. 23:6; 1 John 2:2). I bless You for the joy of inner satisfaction. When I find myself craving and lacking, it is probably a sign that I have turned my gaze away from You, the fountain of living waters (Jer. 2:13).

"If I have rightly understood that Your satisfaction is the fullness out of which You delight to bestow bounty upon me, then my satisfaction should be the fullness of which I delight to bestow bounty upon others. Help me to see and seize opportunities to increase my own joy in sharing Your blessings with others."



SCHOOL CHOICE SUPPORT AT ALL-TIME HIGH

RealClear Opinion Research polled more than 1,762 U.S. registered voters, and a majority support school choice: 74% versus 16% opposed, while 10% are unsure. This finding shows up across party lines. This represents a 10% increase from similar polling conducted about 14 months prior. In the first half of 2021, seventeen states had passed legislation to improve, expand, or create new school choice programs.

NAZARENE CHURCH CELEBRATES 100 YEARS IN MIDDLE EAST

The year 2021 marked the 100th anniversary of the Church of the Nazarene in the Middle East, which began in Palestine and Syria in 1921. A recent article in *NCM Magazine* noted that the very first Nazarene churches in the Middle East were comprised of refugees and those living in poverty, and the early ministry of the church consisted of food relief, care for orphans and vulnerable people, and education for children through Nazarene schools. Now, 100 years later, Nazarene churches continue this legacy.

TEMPLE MOUNT

Late last year, the United Nations General Assembly passed the "Jerusalem Resolution" that refers to Judaism's most holy site, the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, where

the first and second Jewish Temples once stood, by only its Muslim name, al-Haram al-Sharif. This is part of the "Palestinian Package," pushed by the Palestinian Authority and the Arab states, and recalls a 2015 U.N. Security Council press statement on Jerusalem, calling for "upholding unchanged the historic status quo at the Haram al Sharif." As many as 129 countries voted in favor of the resolution and 11 voted against it, with 31 abstentions. The U.S. reacted to the passing of the resolution by saying that the omission was of "real and serious concern."

FDA APPROVES ABORTION PILLS BY MAIL

In December 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration removed the requirement that mifepristone, the abortion-inducing drug, could only be prescribed in clinics, medical offices, and hospitals. This easing now permits women to receive prescriptions for abortion pills through a telehealth provider and have the drug mailed to them. These pills result in a dangerous type of abortion with a risk of complications which can lead to incomplete abortions and therefore run the risk of contracting a life-threatening infection. The effect of this FDA rollback will vary, depending on the state, since a number of states have passed measures limiting access to the pills and have outlawed delivery of them by mail. ■



student focus

MIHRET YIRGA is from Ethiopia. She came to the U.S. in 2018 to complete her final two years of high school at Aldersgate Christian Academy. Because she enjoys science, she intended to follow that interest. However, during the winter revival, God showed her that she needed to surrender her dreams to God.

As a result, in 2020 she began college studies at GBS and is now pursuing both Bible and science classes. Since GBS is part of the GC3 (Greater Cincinnati Collegiate Connection), she can take most of her classes at GBS and supplement them with science classes from The Christ College of Nursing and Health Sciences only blocks from GBS and at GBS tuition rates!

While here, she has learned much about God—"not only knowing about Him, but also getting to know Him personally!" Mihret now feels called to missions and plans to enroll in a Physician's Assistant program after GBS with a goal of working as a medical missionary. ■

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[A FOCUS ON MISSIONS]

The Rusted Iron Curtain

by Stephen Gibson

In 1946, Winston Churchill observed that an “Iron Curtain” had descended across Eastern Europe marking the boundary of Soviet control.

The Bolshevik Revolution had removed the Russian monarchy and brought in communism in 1917. Then the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) was formed in 1922. Over several decades the USSR grew to an enormous size with twenty distinct countries and other territories.

The atheistic, communist government of the USSR suppressed all basic freedoms while claiming to return ownership of production to the working man. The government took the place of God and demanded absolute allegiance. Many thousands died in prison for political views or religious beliefs. Any individual’s rights could be sacrificed for the sake of the state. Ironically, Ukrainians from that era remember a song that contained the words, “There is nowhere on earth where people breathe as freely as we.”

In the absence of the Christian principle of human value, decisions of government were based on expediency. Stalin is remembered as a shrewd and strategic leader who never let scruples interfere with practical concerns, somewhat like Herod the Great. His most ruthless decision was to end Ukrainian private farming by confiscating a year’s crops to cause an estimated six million people to die of starvation.

Visible Christianity was mostly the Russian Orthodox Church, which had been closely connected to the Czarist government and was therefore rejected by the Russian revolution. The Russian Orthodox Church continued to function under severe restrictions. Some evangelical churches were “registered” and also operated under restrictions, but most evangelicals

were “underground” and suffered for their faith. Throughout the Soviet empire a network of persecuted evangelicals formed which still exists to some extent. The best credential a Christian leader could have was a record of prison time and torture.

The Soviet Union disintegrated in the 1990s. Causes may have included poverty and disillusionment, glimpses of the free world, and partial reforms that cracked the Soviet system of total control. One nation after another succeeded in declaring independence, in contrast to the way the Soviet Union had previously crushed rebellions such as the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. Today there are fifteen independent nations that were once members of the USSR.



Russia is still the largest country in the world with 6.6 million square miles of land area. It is ninth in population at 146 million.

The 1990s brought new religious freedom to countries of the former USSR, particularly Russia and Ukraine. Evangelical ministries from the United States and elsewhere put on public crusades, evangelized in schools, and partnered with churches to start ministry programs and build new institutions. Great crowds gathered everywhere to hear the message that had been suppressed. Thousands of people professed conversion. Everything good and bad about American evangelicalism was introduced, though some aspects were resisted by conservative local pastors.

Over time, the enthusiasm ran its course. Many churches still seek American sponsors, but most do not accept foreign teaching and worship styles uncritically. Crowds from the general public no longer gather just because a religious service is announced. To evangelize a neighborhood or start a new church is as difficult there as it is in most other places.

Religion is restricted in various ways in most former Soviet countries. Some of the eastern countries such as

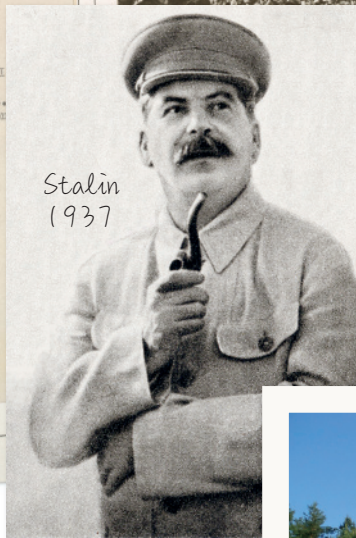
Kazakhstan resist Christianity because the population is mostly Muslim. Others, such as Belarus, suppress evangelicals in the Russian style while paying respect to their Orthodox heritage.

The current trend in Russia is toward more restriction of missionary work. Few foreign missionaries are allowed. Institutes that used to depend on American teachers must find ways to operate with local staff. ■

Dr. Stephen Gibson is president of Evangelistic Faith Missions and Holiness Pilgrim Mission. He has taught at several Bible colleges, served on mission fields, pastored a diverse inner-city church, and written courses for Shepherds Global Classroom. He and his wife Stephanie live in Williams, IN, and are the parents of six children.



*baptism by a
Ukrainian village
pastor*



*Stalin
1937*



BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION. Red Army soldiers and common people march near the Kremlin, Russia, 1917.



a village church in Ukraine



Ukrainian congregation

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GOD'S CLOCK KEEPS PERFECT TIME

The recent passing of Dorothy (Marsh) Zimmerman (see p.12), reminded us that her formative years were spent on the campus of GBS as her parents, Elmer and Anna Marsh, gave their entire adult lives in service to this institution. We thought you might enjoy a glimpse into that era from God's Clock Keeps Perfect Time, by Kevin M. Moser and Larry D. Smith.

Rev. E.G. Marsh was instrumental in helping GBS through some dark days. The decisive impact of his prayers, and those

of a weekly prayer circle who persevered for decades, cannot be underestimated as a major factor in the continuing existence of GBS. —KF

God's clock keeps perfect time!" GBS alumni everywhere still recognize this motto of Elmer G. Marsh, who gave a lifetime to the school, and who served as its president from 1961–1965. His own submission to God's purpose produced a sturdy, gentle piety which still endears his memory to us. "God is a Father," he would point out to his students; and "as sons and daughters of the King, we have full right to claim our relationship." Relationship with God—this was the life of E. G. Marsh—rich, winsome, and unforgettable.

He attended his first GBS camp meeting in 1910 and then enrolled as a student. He had intended to stay

only for a year; but since God's clock indicated otherwise, he remained on the Hilltop for the rest of his life!

Upon graduation in 1912, he became a teacher in the Christian Workers Course; and except for one year's leave of absence, he remained in a GBS classroom until his retirement in 1967. His impact was incalculable. "While Brother Marsh became widely honored throughout the holiness movement, it is the hundreds of students who sat under his teachings who have profited most by his life," commented Florence Carlson, editor of *God's Revivalist* at the time of his death in 1972. "Through them he has lived and relived the truths of the gospel so precious to his own heart."

At the time of GBS's brush with financial catastrophe, he assumed a crucial role. "For it was E. G. Marsh



THE 1913 GBS GRADUATES AND FACULTY. The 16 graduates are seated with the faculty standing behind them. Elmer Marsh had graduated the previous year, and this photo was taken at the end of his first year on the faculty. He is standing at the far left. (Interesting note: Second from right in the front row is Alfred Richard Taylor, of Saint Kitts, British West Indies. His son, A. Wingrove Taylor, and two of his granddaughters later attended GBS. Wingrove became a long-term denominational leader in The Wesleyan Church and a GBS trustee for 44 years.

who, when the clouds of despair were hanging lowest, took on himself very large portions of the responsibility that had been laid down by others who left the campus at the beginning of the dark years of the great indebtedness," as former president Dr. Samuel E. Deets declared. "He traveled tens of thousands of miles, week in and week out, in his never-ceasing efforts to maintain rapport between God's Bible School and its creditors. Buf-feted on every side, it cannot be remembered that he ever succumbed to bitterness or self-pity."

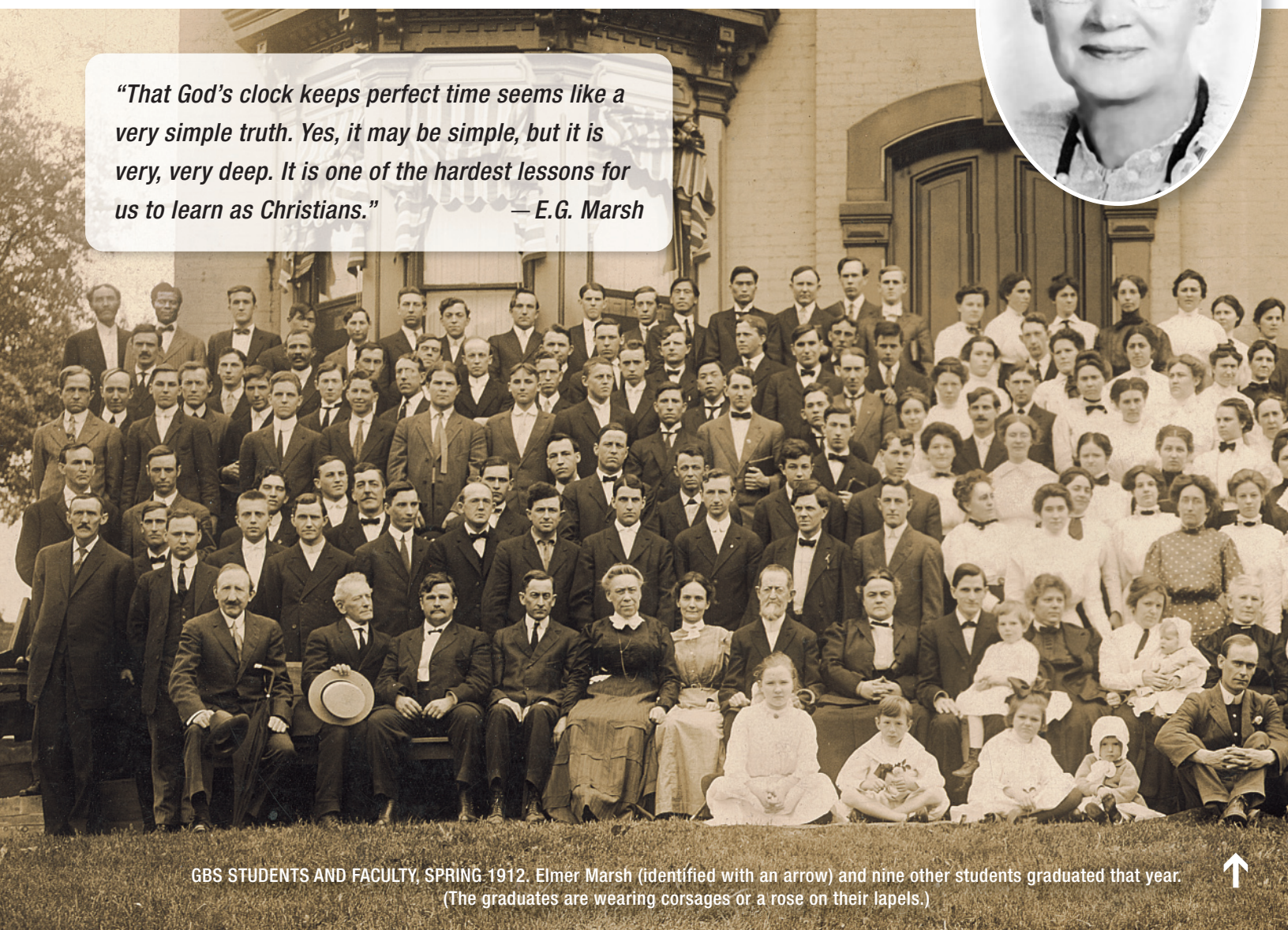
Already into his eighties, he became the fourth president of GBS in the summer of 1961. "Part of his work was successfully dealing with investors; part of it was gaining and maintaining the confidence of the court-appointed trustees of the school," recalls Kenneth Stetler. "He was a stabilizing force among the faculty because of his prayer life and simple faith that God would supply all our needs." Undoubtedly it was the force of Marsh's personal character—quiet, devout, and self-composed—that was his greatest contribution. At his retirement he

was made "president emeritus," and this title he carried until his death.

"His godly admonitions and his many examples of love and humility will never be erased from the memories of those who fellowshiped with him as friend and teacher," added Miss Carlson. This was all because his life was set by God's clock; and as he said so often, that clock keeps perfect time! 🕒



"That God's clock keeps perfect time seems like a very simple truth. Yes, it may be simple, but it is very, very deep. It is one of the hardest lessons for us to learn as Christians."
— E.G. Marsh



GBS STUDENTS AND FACULTY, SPRING 1912. Elmer Marsh (identified with an arrow) and nine other students graduated that year. (The graduates are wearing corsages or a rose on their lapels.)



insets below: Anna Marsh, wife of President Elmer G. Marsh and a helper in the Revivalist Press, died October 14, 1962, at age 84. The Sunday “prayer circle” (L-R: Alice “Mom” White, Nettie Peabody, Anna Marsh, Elmer Marsh), which had met weekly for more than thirty years to intercede for the continuance and recovery of God’s Bible School, was finally broken.



by Sonja Vernon

GO AND EAT

“Then Eli answered, ‘Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him.’ And she said, ‘Let your servant find favor in your eyes.’ Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.”

—1 Samuel 1:17-18 ESV

The story of Hannah is a familiar one. Year after year her family goes to Shiloh. Year after year she lives with Peninah’s provocation and unkindness. Year after year her husband is unable to understand the depth of her grief (“Am I not more to you than ten sons?”). Year after year she is unable to eat because of her pain. Finally, her desperation takes her to the temple where she is misunderstood by the priest. But when she explains her plight and Eli sends her away with a blessing, Hannah does something important. She believes God has heard her prayer and acts on that faith. She gets up, leaves the temple, enjoys a good meal, and is no longer sad. When did you or I last act on our faith when it looked like nothing had changed? When did we last “go our way and eat”? This is not to advocate easy-believism or living in denial. God’s answers to our prayers don’t always coincide with our desires. But if God is good, trustworthy, always loving, and never unkind, we can trust that anything He allows or brings our way will be redeemed for our good. Nothing will be wasted. We can rest in those truths. Will you join me as we bring our requests before God and then live in a way that shows we believe He will answer? He hears us. He is good. Let’s go and eat! ■

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

SWSE SPRING TOUR 2022

Thursday, March 10, 2022 | 7:30 PM
Salem Bible Methodist Church
1647 North Ellsworth St., Salem, OH 44460
Pastor David Crosley
(812) 675-1549

Friday, March 11, 2022 | 7:00 PM
Lebanon God's Missionary Church
2127 Hill St., Lebanon, PA
Pastor Alan Walter
(717) 273-3690

Saturday, March 12, 2022
TO BE ANNOUNCED

Sunday, March 13, 2022 | 10:30 AM
Montgomery Brethren in Christ Church
6727 Montgomery Church Rd.
Mercersburg, PA
Pastor Japheth Nell
(717) 597-1962

Sunday, March 13, 2022 | 6:30 PM
Mountaintop Holiness Church
Held at Flintstone Fire Hall
21701 Flintstone Drive, Flintstone, MD
Pastor Reuben Rinker
(336) 689-3181 or (240) 362-7622

For Updates On Tour Information, Go To www.gbs.edu/news-events/musictours/

Symphonic Wind & String Ensemble

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