

# GOD'S REVIVALIST

May 2022

*and Bible Advocate*

*Moms*

MAKE LIFE BEAUTIFUL





# thinking out loud

## A LITTLE MAGIC

The other morning, I walked into the bathroom and noticed that the shampoo dispenser, which had been quite low, was now refilled. Wow! How did that happen? Also, it wasn't too long ago that I noticed a brand-new tube of toothpaste just innocently sitting on the shelf by my nearly depleted tube. I tell you what, something is going on! It is almost like magic, and it is happening a lot—not just in the bathroom, but in the kitchen, also. Just when I am about to run out of jalapeño and cheddar bratwursts—one of my favorite lunch items—a new package magically appears. The same happens for cans of artichoke hearts, black beans, and diced tomatoes with green chilies—all necessary ingredients for the delicious quinoa that I make.

A similar mystery is at work with my laundry. Each night as I go to bed, I discard items into a hamper across the room. Several days later—poof! They disappear, only to reappear as if by magic, cleaned, folded up, and in their proper places—ready to be worn.

What is going on? I think you know. Paula, my dear wife, has been at work taking care of me behind the scenes. She has had years of experience in taking care of others. Our children were blessed with how well she cared for them. They loved it when she read stories to them. Bedtime rituals were quite involved as she moved from bed to bed, engaging in a bit of personal talk and ending with a song tailored for each sleepy kid.

Paula was an only child, and when her parents began having difficulty taking care of themselves, we moved them into our home. For the next several years, the loving attention Paula had exhibited with the children was reimagined for her elderly parents when they needed it most.

Now the focus of her care is basically me—her husband who struggles with multiple sclerosis. Yes, I know all the occurrences I introduced at the beginning were not really “magic.” However, I do know how appreciative I am that all these little things “just happen.” It is because Paula—a mother, a daughter, and a loving wife—is just that good at making the magic happen. It is loving care.

Take a moment. Think about those in your life who too often go unnoticed as they move through the day taking care of all those little things. Thank them for the blessing that they truly are! —KF ■

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### STAFF

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

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# the president's page



## **DANGERS FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH: “Attending” Services Online**

*by Dr. Rodney S. Loper, President*

**I**n the first two articles of this series, I have mentioned how technology has changed the local church, leadership models, and accountability. In this article, I would like to focus on how technology has changed our worship experience.

### **POSITIVES**

As I have previously stated, I am thankful for the technology that allowed my family and me the opportunity to “attend” church while our world grappled with Covid-19. As my family often accompany me in public relations work, I think they were grateful that they didn’t have to listen to another sermon by their favorite preacher/dad!

I saw the benefits of livestreaming services while I was pastoring Hobe Sound Bible Church. Many people who couldn’t physically attend a church benefited from watching the services online. These shut-ins were able to join in singing the hymns they love and hearing the Word expounded. Personal examples of this were my elderly grandparents, retired from pastoral ministry and unable physically to attend church. They still longed to be with God’s people and a part of the body of Christ through worship. So family members set up a computer and made the process of logging on simple. Now my grandparents are able to participate in corporate worship—to “attend” church. As I have traveled around the United States, I have heard similar accounts of how online church is a real blessing.

Rick lived in an area where attending a local church was not a viable option. It wasn’t that he was disgruntled with his local church or in disagreement with other believers. There simply was no good church within a couple of hours. He



started watching our services on-line. At some point along the way, he contacted me. Together, we began to work through many levels of issues in his life. To make a long story short, Rick began to see the need to be entirely sanctified. Years later, Rick sold his established business and is now serving the Lord on a mission field. Where did this journey begin?—with Hobe Sound Bible Church’s vision to provide church for those who otherwise could not attend.

Ironically enough, I have never met persons attending church on-line who recommend it over in-person church attendance when that is feasible. They still highly value attending a local church, even when their circumstances simply do not allow that to happen.

## DANGERS

The dangers of on-line church aren’t with the church necessarily, but rather with individuals who use this means out of personal convenience instead of circumstantial necessity (often health-related). It is far easier to type a website address into a computer than it is to get dressed, drive the distance to church, and return home. Rather than exerting effort to go to God’s house to worship, some have become consumeristic in their worship. They want what they want, when and how they want it.

This can result in refusing to take the initiative in one’s walk with the Lord, leaving the Christian in a place where needed discipline and maturing are not occurring. And, let’s face it—those who cannot discipline themselves to go to a physical church will likely not make an effort in spiritual matters that require discipline.

Again, I know I am painting with a broad brush here, and there are reasons why folks cannot attend a physical church, but I have also observed the decline of

many local churches in our post-Covid-lockdown world. Many pastors have observed that their attendance numbers have not bounced back completely. Others have noted that while no one has “left” their church, attendees are not as regular as they were in the past. What has happened? Consumerism—we want what is easiest for us.

This can translate directly into a lack of involvement or lack of participation in local church ministries. Simply put, if you are not a regular attender, it is difficult to use you in weekly church events. Church leaders need people to be dedicated to the ministries of their church, but, in an on-line church world, attenders often don’t want to make that level of commitment. It’s too demanding, too controlling, or too time-consuming.

One pastor recently mentioned his concern that parishioners who had not returned to church were isolating themselves from the body of Christ. He said that the church needs them, and they need the church. True! It is difficult to be the local body of Christ when there is no assembly of believers. On-line church can encourage disengagement from the body.

Let me be clear. While I do not believe that on-line church is wrong, I also believe that many Christians are not seriously considering its ramifications. The oft-quoted verse to encourage church attendance admonishes us not to forsake “the assembling of ourselves together...and so much the more, as you see the day approaching” (Heb. 10:25). Friends, we need each other. We need the accountability that worshiping together brings. We need the fellowship that coming together brings. We need corporate worship!

My favorite biblical description of the activities of the local church is found in Acts 2:42: “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” Look at this description from the perspective of an on-line church attender. As I see it, there are at least two core components that are unable to be embraced on-line—fellowship and breaking of bread. We need the accountability that worshiping together brings. We need the fellowship that coming together brings. We need to worship TOGETHER! I need you and you need me! We were never intended to be distant, solo Christians.

## CONCLUSION

What are some things that we can take away from this? First, understand that physical attendance at a local church is essential. Don’t neglect your local church. Get involved!

Second, there are circumstances that make attending church on-line a reasonable choice. Thank God we have the technology available to bring church to folks caught in these circumstances. ■



# Mothers Don't Get Days.

## We Get Moments. *by Melissa Edgington*

I could fill the world with books about the moments I've had as a mother. Seconds exchanged, glimpses of the glories of God found in the faces of the three children that I love most. Moments. Just passing, casual, regular minutes that burrow themselves into my heart. Flashes of life so real that they weigh me down, and they push me forward, and they always, always keep me looking back at what God has done.

Some of the moments that I treasure the most are those of which my children aren't even aware. Secrets that reveal themselves in the middle of a dark night, when an exhausted young mom feels like she is the only person in the world who is still awake. I remember the resentment that I tried to beat back as my guilty heart gazed down at the source of my complete weariness. I wanted to sleep, yet here was this needy little baby, greedily crying out for food at a most inconvenient time. Some nights I would wonder how amazing it must be to be a dad, snoozing happily through all of the turmoil and trouble that a night with a baby sometimes brings. But inevitably I would lift a milk-drunk darling's head to rest on my shoulder, and there I would hear a tiny sigh of contentment, like the still, small voice of God, and I would remember that sleep is overrated.

Don't ask a mother to measure this experience in days. The days are filled with the non-magical. Of unpleasant odors and disobedient children and astounding messes. The days, on the whole, may be overwhelming and disheartening and tear-filled. They may knock a mother to her knees, convince her that she is utterly incapable of raising children. You see, the *days* are the hard part. But it is in the *moments* that a mother finds her strength and her encouragement and her awe. It takes only the most minuscule glimpse of the love of God to gird a mother up and steel her for another day of non-magic. The moments are flashbulbs that light the way for a weary mother's heart: the way a baby will sometimes throw his head back and cackle. The sheer joy in a kindergartner's face when she spots her mama at the end of a school day. The way a fifth grader will occasionally slip his hand inside his mother's. Waking in the morning light to the sound of a precious little voice calling. Love notes in elementary scrawl.

When it comes to Mother's Day, every mother knows that there is no such thing. It's just another chance, like all days are, for God to take our breath away with one baby smile. For Him to whisper His love and care for us through the tiniest moments that have nothing to do with breakfast in bed or spa days or gift cards. The real treasures of motherhood are far removed from the picture-perfect poses that flood Instagram. Mothers are much more likely to run smack into a cherished moment during a long, miserable night with a vomiting child than we are at a Mother's Day brunch. And somehow, as God pours out His love *through* us, He also pours His love *on* us through needy, often unreasonable, regularly pitiful children who happen to have a knack for pointing us to the great, precious, unequalled love of the Father, one gracious moment at a time.

What a gift! ■

**Melissa Edgington** is a pastor's wife, a former English teacher, and a stay-at-home mother of three kids. This article is from her website [yourmomhasablog.com](http://yourmomhasablog.com) and is used here with permission.





*What good does it do for us to discipline  
our children for letting their emotions  
get out of control if we are doing the  
very same thing on a daily basis?*



## NO MORE MOMMY MELTDOWNS

*by Leslie Ludy*

**Leslie Ludy** is a bestselling author and speaker. She and her husband Eric have published nineteen books. You can follow Leslie on her website [www.setapartgirl.com](http://www.setapartgirl.com). This article appeared on Kimberly Wagner's blog post "Raising Children of Radical Faith" at [www.TrueWoman.com](http://www.TrueWoman.com). Used with permission.

The last few months have brought about a dramatic change in my motherhood role. After an arduous twenty-nine-month adoption journey, our two precious toddlers finally came home from Haiti to join our family. Suddenly, I find myself the mother of six lively little ones, ranging in age from two to ten.

While there is no question that this has been a beautiful and unforgettable time marked by the supernatural grace of God, I've also had to adapt to some major adjustments. Though I haven't been in "toddler mode" for several years, I now find myself changing pull-ups, supervising bathroom visits, cleaning up spilled smoothies, and working through those irrational toddler meltdowns that always seem to happen at the most inconvenient times.

The other night my husband was on a conference call, and I was putting all the kids to bed on my own. I was happy with how quickly the toddlers settled down. They were quiet and calm when I left their room. But about thirty minutes later I heard a suspicious rustling sound coming from their bedroom. I peeked in the door to find them out of bed, running around the room, their faces completely lacquered with sticky white diaper cream. They had even smeared it up their noses and in their ears. In such moments, I'm really not sure whether to laugh or cry.

Going out in public has become a whole new experience since we became a family of eight. Eric and I pretty much had things down to a science with four kids. We could go out to dinner, take off on family bike rides, and visit friends with minimal incident or drama. Taking six kids out on the town is a bit of a different story. It isn't fun or relaxing—it's work. Trying to keep everyone calm, clean, and behaving properly often causes me to work up a sweat and come home feeling frazzled.

There have been many moments when I've felt stretched beyond my capacity; when I find myself longing for my "old life" and resisting the idea that mothering six children has become my "new normal." In those moments, my emotions threaten to pull me downward, cloud my perspective, and bait me toward self-pity.

But time and time again, I have felt the gentle reminder from God's Spirit to fix my eyes upon Him and not allow my emotions to lead the way. I am continuing to learn that my perspective toward motherhood must always be based upon His truth, not upon how I happen to be feeling in the moment.

### **The Bait of Mommy Meltdowns**

Having a chipper, happy, positive, calm, and peaceful attitude isn't really that difficult when my home and family life is flowing smoothly. But it can feel almost impossible to maintain that kind of joy when I'm running behind schedule, the kids are being hyper and silly, the weather outside is bad, the playroom is a disaster even though I just spent an hour cleaning it yesterday, every pair of my pre-schooler's shoes are mysteriously missing, the toilet has gotten clogged because one of the



kids stuffed it with paper towels, and we somehow have an over-abundance of sippy cups without any lids.

All of these little issues work together to create the perfect scenario for a “mommy meltdown.” The voice of Self-Pity begins to shout suggestions to my soul: “You can’t handle this. Go ahead and get upset, depressed, or angry. You have every reason to feel sorry for yourself right now!”

I’ve begun to realize that, right when that bait is at its strongest, I must choose truth over emotion. Though my feelings may be strong, I must remember that God’s truth and power is even stronger. I do not need to act upon my negative feelings just because they happen to be strong at the moment. Rather, this is the exact moment when I must cry out to God for grace, not only to survive, but actually to triumph through challenging times and difficulties.

Whenever I deliberately choose to tune out my screaming emotions and tune in to the grace of God, I find that I actually can handle the challenges with dignity and strength because I’m building my thoughts and actions upon His truth and leaning on His enabling grace.

### Godly Self-Control

As mothers, we want our little ones to learn the art of self-control. This is why most of us will not just sit there and passively shrug our shoulders when our toddler throws a tantrum or our pre-schooler tries to eat an entire jumbo-sized bag of jelly beans. But we must not forget that God’s command to embrace self-control also applies to us as mothers. And the most important area for most of us is gaining self-control over our emotions.

We will have far greater success in teaching our kids this all-important skill if we are practicing it in our own lives. As it says in Romans 2:21 (ESV), “You who teach others, do you not teach yourself?” Think about it. What good does it do for us to discipline our children for letting their emotions get out of control if we are doing the very same thing on a daily basis?

If you frequently find yourself screaming at your children, getting irritated with your husband, storming around the house, or despondently shrugging your shoulders in defeat as your children fight and bicker, ask God to teach you the art of godly self-control and to give you the strength to choose truth over emotion.

Elisabeth Elliot expressed it beautifully with her statement, “Obedience to God is always possible. It is a deadly error to fall into the notion that when feelings are extremely strong we can do nothing but act on them.”

It’s tempting to believe that we have no choice but to act upon our feelings of frustration or self-pity, but that is the opposite of godly self-control. When we bring “self” under the control of God’s Spirit, choosing the higher path is always possible! So next time you feel a “mommy meltdown” coming on, remember that His grace is sufficient for you to resist that temptation. In His strength, you can choose to bring your “self” under the control of His Spirit—even at the moment when you least feel the power to do so. ■

# Letters

## TO THE EDITOR

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

We just received our March *God’s Revivalist*. You did a lovely job with mom’s obituary [Twila Christner, p.10]. Thank you so much. It was sad to read, but also comforting to know the GBS family cares! We were privileged to attend the GBS band service last night. Also looking forward to the Alumni Choir Reunion in a couple weeks.

HEATHER CHRISTNER STANBERY  
New Philadelphia, OH

Thanks for President Loper’s article about “Dangers for the Local Church: Unaccountable Leadership” in the March *God’s Revivalist*. I appreciated it!

DOUG WISEMAN  
Gratz, PA

I have subscribed to *God’s Revivalist* for a while, but today when I received my April copy is the first time I have ever sat down and read it through from cover to cover. What a blessing!! Thank you for continuing to put out such a blessed magazine!

JANE CLINE  
St. Petersburg, FL

My father, Rev. Freddie Bales, is enjoying the bliss of Heaven in part because of the years he spent at God’s Bible School and College. As he was passing from this life (January 12, 2021), he raised his hands towards Heaven and left this world shouting! As my mother and I, Ida May, now 83, were having a recent conversation, she looked over at me and said; “Dad would have never made it without the godly influence of God’s Bible School!”

PASTOR MARK BALES  
Stout, OH

MAY 2022



07





# KEEPING

# TIME WITH GOD

## The Christian Year, Part 7

# Ascension Day, Pentecost, and Trinity Sunday

*Continuation of a Yearlong Series  
by Larry D. Smith*

### "I SHALL RETURN!"

**T**hese three words—determined, clearcut, and decisive—have become famous in American history. They were uttered in 1942 during World War II by General Douglas MacArthur after he was forced by the Japanese to leave his American military command in the Philippines. The sickening tragedy at Pearl Harbor had occurred only months before, and much of the southwest Pacific area was in imminent peril. Vicious enemy attacks were coming nearer, and the general knew it was time to seek refuge elsewhere. President Franklin D. Roosevelt knew this, too; and fearing that if the gallant and respected MacArthur were captured or killed, the effect would be devastating to the American people, he transferred him elsewhere to safety. Already honored for his courageous service to his country, the general—now in his sixties—wanted to make sure before he left that everybody—friend and foe alike—would know that the struggle was far from over.

In the months ahead, he launched a ferocious and ultimately successful campaign to drive out the enemy and restore

**May 26, 2022, ASCENSION DAY**

*Jesus Christ returns to His Father.*

**June 5, 2022, PENTECOST**

*The Christian Church is born.*

**June 12, 2022, TRINITY SUNDAY**

*God reveals Himself as One in Three Persons.*

American control of the Philippines. Indeed, MacArthur seemed to regard this as a major mission, rallying his countrymen, both soldiers and civilians, to the cause and repeating again and again, "I shall return!" In 1944 he fulfilled his promise, leaving his ship and wading through seawater to the island of Leyte in the Philippines emphatically announcing, "I have returned!" For his "gallantry" and "intrepidity" above

and beyond the call of duty, the U.S. government decorated the general with the coveted Medal of Honor. Later he was also honored to serve as the American representative to receive the Jap-

*Gen. Douglas MacArthur returns to the Philippines*





anese surrender, ending World War II. He had kept his word. Douglas MacArthur had returned!

Our Lord Jesus Christ also came to fulfill a mission—indeed the most significant mission ever entrusted to anyone, for He was sent from Heaven by His Father to save our lost and miserable race from sin, wrath, and perdition. So, as children in Sunday school, we learned what our teachers called the Golden Text of the Bible: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Certainly Jesus did not need to promise His Father that after He had finished this mission He would return to Heaven, for, in the secret councils of the Blessed Trinity, this was an accomplished fact from all eternity. But it is also true that before He left us to assume His heavenly ministry of mediation on our behalf, He promised us, “I shall return!” It is in light of this certainty, then, that we pursue our journey to home and Heaven.

All this underscores the importance of the Christian Year, the Church’s ancient liturgical calendar. It keeps us close to Jesus! If we follow its movement of commemorations, fasts, and festivals, carefully reading the Scriptures appointed by the lectionary (the schedule of Bible passages correlated to the appropriate day on the Church calendar), adding persistent prayer, and sometimes the words of an appropriate hymn, you will discover the footprints of Our Lord Jesus as He pursued His earthly pilgrimage. In Advent, we prepare for His coming—first, “in great humility” to a cattle shed in Bethlehem, second, in awesome majesty on the Last Day to judge the living and the dead. During the twelve days of Christmas, we celebrate the wonder of His Incarnation, “conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,” and given the blessed name of Jesus.

In the season of the Epiphany, we ponder His “manifestations” of Himself, first to Jewish parents and to Jewish shepherds, and then to “wise men from the East,” who are remembered as the “first fruits of the Gentiles.” In recollection we witness His baptism, His appearance in the temple at the age of twelve, His wonderful miracles, and His Transfiguration before His Passion. We are awestruck by His ministry of mercy to the sick, the sinful, and the suffering. Then, during the 40 days of Lent, while we submit to certain holy disciplines, we prepare ourselves to commemorate His death and resurrection. After this, our hearts follow Him as He victoriously ascends into Heaven. Then we hasten to the “Upper Room” with His first disciples to await the gift of the Holy Spirit Whom He has promised to send them.


## ASCENSION DAY

In the Western Church, we observe Ascension Day on the fortieth day after Easter Sunday, which also places it between the sixth and seventh Sundays of the season of Easter—also called Eastertide. To offer greater congregational participation in services celebrating the Ascension, the festival may be commemorated on the Lord’s Day which follows. Certainly it is an integral part of our joyous proclamation of Jesus’ Easter triumph.

Ascension Day calls us to celebrate the glorious return of Our Savior into Heaven while His disciples watched, after He had completed His earthly ministry and post-resurrection appearances. In Heaven He is exalted to the right hand of God the Father, where He exercises all power and authority on our behalf, serving as the Mediator between God and man. We sinners would be terrified in the presence of an almighty and holy God without a mediator—One Who is our divinely-appointed representative and intermediary Who pleads for us, reconciling us to God and transacting “the whole affair of our salvation,” as Dr. Adam Clarke observes.<sup>1</sup> Charles Wesley also cheers our hearts with his description of Jesus’ heavenly ministry: “He ever lives above for me to intercede, His all-redeeming love, His precious blood to plead; His blood atones for all our race, and sprinkles now the throne of grace.”

In other words, Jesus ascended to Heaven on our behalf, even as He had once descended to earth on our behalf, so that we might have eternal life in both this world and in the world to come. So, in the words of the old English prayer book, we pray: “Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, that like as we do believe, Thy only-begotten Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we also in heart and mind may ascend thither, and with Him continually dwell, Who reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, world without end. Amen.”

As the divinely-appointed mediator between God and man, Jesus exercises three “offices” or functions which fulfill the Old Testament types of PROPHET,



Jesus ascended  
to Heaven on  
our behalf, even as  
He once descended  
to earth on our behalf.

© Stock: Karam

PRIEST, and KING. These offices He began to discharge while He was here on earth, and He will continue to discharge them until He returns to judge the world in righteousness. As our PROPHET, He is our lawgiver proclaiming both what God commands and what God forbids—in other words, He sets forth both the LAW and the GOSPEL. As our PRIEST, He pleads our cause before the throne of infinite justice, presenting Himself as the sacrificial Lamb upon Whom the Lord has laid the iniquity of us all. He continually intercedes for His dear ones, while at the same time He blesses us with the heavenly benediction. As our KING, He orders the course of history to His glory, rewarding righteousness and punishing evil. In this world it often seems that His judgments are delayed, but He shall rectify all things at His coming. If we are to be faithful stewards of the gospel, as the old Methodist Discipline urges, we should preach Christ “in all His offices”—prophet, priest, and king!

## PENTECOST

Gladly we join other Christians of “like precious faith” who celebrate Pentecost Sunday, that splendid

So we rejoice in the power and purpose of Pentecost. For it was on that first Pentecost Sunday twenty centuries ago that the glorified Redeemer fulfilled His promise to send “another Comforter,” Who would sanctify, empower, and transform His eager and expectant disciples. Waiting in reverent prayer and yearning faith, “all in one accord in one place,” they suddenly heard “a sound from heaven as a rushing mighty wind”; and to their further amazement they saw “cloven tongues like as a fire” resting on “each of them.” Then, as St. Luke records, “they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

In the Old Testament, the activity of the Holy Spirit is often mentioned, but the full and final revelation of Him and His perfections came at Pentecost. This was the opening of a new and climactic fullness of grace in which He came to abide as the Godhead’s executive and representative, reproving “the world of sin, and of righteousness and of judgment,” and guiding the faithful “into all truth.” On this day Peter declared, “This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel. And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.” Now that day had arrived, and

the promise of the Father had been fulfilled; and for Christians, each Pentecost thereafter would be the anniversary of the Spirit’s inaugural day.

Pentecost is also revered as the birthday of the Christian Church. Not long before His Passion, Jesus had declared, “Upon this rock I will build My Church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.” He was that Rock, of course, for the Church’s Founder was also its Foundation. As believers have taught through the ages, it was on that first Pentecost that He sent the Spirit actually to mold His gathered friends into His ecclesia, the Holy Universal Church, which is His “called out” community of faithful ones. Here the Spirit—nourishing, sustaining, and protecting—will remain as Jesus’ agent and “other self” until the consummating glory. Thus

the sound of the “rushing mighty wind” at Pentecost signified His power to fortify His people for the great mission they were about to undertake. The leaping flames symbolized His purity and power to sanctify them from disabling evil, and the “other tongues” represented His purpose to make them His witnesses to every corner of the earth.

So on this Pentecost Sunday, we offer this prayer: “Send, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, Thy Holy Spirit into our hearts, that He may direct and rule us ac-



It was on that first Pentecost Sunday twenty centuries ago that the glorified Redeemer fulfilled His promise to send “another Comforter.”

“day of days” which ushered in the new “dispensation of the Spirit” that ultimately was to engulf and renew the ancient world. Following the chronology of the New Testament, we commemorate this great festival fifty days after Easter and ten days after Ascension Day.

Pentecost, along with Christmas and Easter, is considered a major Christian festival and should be commemorated with excitement by us of Wesleyan heritage who have especially emphasized the person and work of the Holy Spirit.



cording to Thy will. Defend and comfort us in all our afflictions. Keep us from all error, and lead us into all truth, through Jesus Christ Our Lord, Who with Thee and the same Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth, one God, world without end, Amen."

## TRINITY SUNDAY

Since the first Sunday in Advent, we have followed the rhythm of the Christian Year, as it is observed by Christians in the Western Church. (The liturgical calendar in the Eastern Church is somewhat different). As we have thus "kept time with God," we have focused on pivotal events in the life of the Lord Jesus. We then celebrated His ascension into Heaven from which He sent the Holy Spirit to His disciples in Pentecostal splendor. Now to conclude the first or festival part of the Christian Year, in which most of the major church celebrations are held, we shall observe Trinity Sunday, which is kept on the first Sunday after Pentecost. On this great day we shall ponder the awesome and majestic mystery of the Triune God and offer Him our devout worship, "Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity." This is foundational Christian doctrine, as Dr. Mark Bird explains:<sup>2</sup>

"There is but one living and true God...", as our classical Article of Religion declares. "And in unity of this Godhead there are three persons of one substance, power, and eternity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost."

This is the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, and it is basic for all orthodox Christians everywhere. Granted, some argue that the Trinity isn't all that important. But it is clearly taught in the Bible and deeply rooted in Church tradition. Most importantly, the Bible teaches that there is only one God (Deut. 6:4), but also that there are three distinct Persons, each of whom is God (Gal. 1:1; John 1:1; Acts 5:3-4; Mark 1:10-11). God Himself has revealed that He is one in His nature but three in His persons.

This is why Trinitarian teaching is central to the Church's ancient and universal creeds. So the Athanasian Creed (AD 500) affirms: "And the [universal] faith is this: That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; neither confounding the persons nor dividing the substance.... The Father is...neither created nor begotten. The Son is of the Father alone; not made nor created, but begotten. The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son...proceeding." "One God in Trinity and

Trinity in Unity"—this is the faith of Christians throughout the centuries.

As the creeds affirm, within the Godhead, the three divine Persons are distinguished by the way they relate to one another. These personal relationships involve communication, self-giving love, equality, and order/structure. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit give themselves continually to each other. We reflect this so-

Human community  
is based on community  
within the Godhead.  
We reflect the social  
nature of God when  
we live in self-  
sacrificial love  
for one another  
and for God.



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cial nature of God when we, as persons made in the image of God, live in self-sacrificial love for one another and for God. Human community is based on community within the Godhead.

Moreover, the doctrine of the Trinity also has implications for worship. The Father and Son live in wonderful communion with each other, and because of the Son's atoning work, the Spirit is able to help us to participate in that fervent love-relationship. As Trinitarians, we are to pray to the Father, in the Spirit, through the Son. We also pray to the Father, to the Son, and to the Spirit, for each is God, and all must be equally adored. This Trinity Sunday we gladly repeat the words of Charles Wesley: "Eternal, undivided Lord, Co-equal One and Three, On Thee all faith, all hope be placed; All love be paid to Thee!" ■

*(The next installment in the October issue will focus on Reformation Sunday and All Saints Day.)*

**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. Adam Clarke, *Commentary on the Bible*, comments on I Timothy 2:5-6.  
2. Mark Bird, "The Holy Trinity," *God's Revivalist*, September 2006.





## DONATIONS FOR UKRAINIANS

The campus family participated in assembling items to be donated



Preparing to deliver donations for Ukrainians to Matthew 25 Ministries.

to refugees from Ukraine. Those making donations enjoyed the process.

Denise Mitchell (BA '84) remarked, "Several of my sisters wanted to help, too, so they sent money, and my husband Gary (BRE '84) and I had the privilege of shopping for things to donate. The cashier wanted to know why we were buying all these items. I told her that my son attends a Christian school, and we are trying to teach our young people to live and give like Jesus would. By the time we were through talking, she was almost in tears."

Lyle Witt, Chair of the Professional Studies Division, commented, "What a blessing to live and work among such caring, generous faculty, staff, and students! My car was nearly full with the donations that were delivered today."

## ORCHESTRA TOURS NORTHEAST

On March 10-13, at the beginning of the college spring break, the Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble (SWSE) was blessed to hold



The SWSE ministers at God's Missionary Church, Lebanon, PA.

# 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.

## BIRTH



To **Jananne (Glick) and Kent Stetler** (BA '15), a son, **Crew Stephen**, born March 5, 2022, at The Christ Hospital, Cincinnati, OH. Kent has been employed at GBS since 2013, first in student recruitment, and since 2017 as registrar. Jananne worked for GBS in 2019 until the birth of her first child. Crew takes his middle name from Kent's father, Stephen Stetler (BRE '82, BA '83). Crew is welcomed by his big brother, Kaden (2).

## DEATHS



**Richard P. Sentz**, 94, of Messiah Village, Mechanicsburg, PA, went to be with his Lord and Savior November 27, 2021, at the UPMC West Shore Hospital. He was born in Lancaster County to Seth and Esther (Brehm) Sentz and was the husband of Ruth (Lyttle) Sentz, who passed away March 4, 2016. Richard retired from Warfel Construction of Lancaster, having enjoyed his work very much. When he moved to Messiah Village, he spent long hours in the woodworking shop building many beautiful pieces of furniture. Richard was a GBS donor and a *God's Revivalist* subscriber.



five services in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. Conducted by David Hartkopf, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, and assisted by music faculty accompanist Jessica Smith, the orchestra presented spirited symphonic renditions of gospel music interspersed with vocal selections and substantive student testimonies to God's work in their lives. Public Relations Director Rev. Duane Quesenberry represented the institution well and planned and guided the tour masterfully. Experienced bus driver Paul Gingrich safely navigated the group to each of its venues. The tour was marked by a supernatural sense of unity, and great connections

were made with pastors, alumni, and GBS constituents. We are grateful to God for His blessings and delighted to be back on the road serving His Kingdom! —*Dr. Jana Pop, Chair, GBS Division of Music*



### NEW STUDENT RECRUITER

Daniel Brandon has joined the Enrollment Services team as a student recruiter. He came to GBS in 2016, following in the footsteps of his parents who are both GBS graduates: David (BRE '88) and Marlina (Taylor) (BA '86) Brandon. Previously he traveled for four years as an accompanist for GBS public relations groups and worked at the Creation Museum for two years. He currently pastors in Goshen, OH. Daniel plans to graduate this

month with degrees in church music and ministerial education.

### TRANSITION IN THE OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE

We are pleased to announce Beth Stetler as our next VP for Finance. She is an alumna (BA '85) deeply rooted in GBS legacy and represents an intersection of the Sankey/Stetler families. Although we will give a more complete introduction in an



upcoming issue, we thought it would be good to let you know this news as soon as possible so you can be praying for Beth as

she transitions to this new role and makes the move from southern Texas to Cincinnati. Current VP for Finance David Frederick would also appreciate prayer as he trains her and transitions out of this position. We welcome Beth to the campus team! 🙏



The SWSE vocal ensemble members worship as they sing.



Surviving Richard is a chosen daughter, Nancy Mooney; one brother, David Sentz; one sister, Naomi Hofstetter; three grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren. A funeral service was held in the Cocklin Funeral Home, Dillsburg, PA, with a graveside service at the Cross Roads Cemetery, Mount Joy, PA.



**Ruth (Rexford) Muir Ewing**, 105, of Indiana, PA, died January 5, 2022, at Crystal Waters Personal Care Home, Rayne Township. Born in Spartansburg, PA, December 19, 1916, she was a daughter of Clyde and Lina (Brightman) Rexford.

Ruth was a homemaker who loved spending time with her family. She also enjoyed crocheting and reading.

She was a dedicated Christian and member of the Titusville Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Ruth was preceded in death by her first husband, Kenneth Muir, and her second husband, Charles Ewing. She is survived by her daughter, Beverly (Muir) Johnston; sons, Troy, Arden, Larry, and Lowell; nine grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and 11 great-great grandchildren. Ruth was the last surviving member of her immediate family. Funeral services were held at Titusville Wesleyan Methodist Church, officiated by Pastor Ben Blowers. Burial followed at Covenant Cemetery, Titusville.

Ruth was a *God's Revivalist* subscriber. Although she never attended GBS, a number of her family have, and some have been employed or are currently on staff ➡

➡ at the school. Her son Troy attended (1958). Both of Troy's children are graduates, Crystal (Whitham) (BA '86) and Daryl (BRE '86), who has worked in student affairs since 2012. Daryl's wife, Marilyn (Fish) attended (1984-88) and has worked as music office manager (2012-15) and yearbook editor/designer (2016-present). All of Daryl and Marilyn's children are alumni: Shane (BA '09), graphic designer (2011-present), and his wife, Renee (Langworthy) (BA '14); Brennan (BA '10), maintenance (2010-13), and his wife Ivon (Garcia) (BA '11); Dustin (BA '12), sound engineer (2016-21) and access/safety coordinator (2021-present), and his wife Kendra (Smith) (BA '11), music office manager (2011-12) and adjunct professor (2016-present); Ashley (BA, AAS '16) and her husband Nathan Fall (2013-15). It is reported that when Ruth Ewing received each issue of *God's Revivalist*, she looked diligently for every instance of the name "Muir."



**Lewis (Lew) Myers**, 86, passed away January 17, 2022. He was born March 7, 1936, to Roy and Martha Myers of Salineville, OH. Lew grew up on a farm and learned to work hard, driving a tractor by age nine. He graduated from Carrollton High School in 1954. For three years, a friend at work invited him to church every week, and when Lew finally went, he gave his life to Christ. While attending God's Bible School, he met Erlene Shuttlesworth (HS '54), whose parents had come to GBS originally to enroll in the Christian Workers Course. Her father, Wayne Shuttlesworth, ran the bookstore and the printing press for several years. Lew and Erlene were married in Cincinnati on June 14, 1958. Their "elaborate" wedding cost a grand total of \$100, and they settled in campus housing. They were blessed with three daughters: Martha (1959), Vicki (1961), and Marilee (1970).

After his graduation from GBS (ThB '61), Lew and Erlene pastored in Prairie City, SD, and Williston, ND. In 1968 they moved to Alaska just nine years after Alaska became a state. In 1970, they started Far North Missionary Fellowship with three other couples.

Lew completed his pilot's certification while working at the University of Alaska, and Erlene continued her education, finishing her college degree in 1971. The fellowship work involved many different ministries, including flying people and supplies to and from villages. Lew retired in 1992 but continued to help his son-in-law build houses. In later years, Lew and Erlene wintered in the south but continued summering in North Pole, AK. They moved to Arizona in 2017, after 49 years in Alaska.

Lew was preceded in death by his daughter, Vicki Wilson, and grandson, Jason, and is survived by his wife, Erlene; two daughters, Martha Miller, and Marilee Cornforth; ten grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; sister, Wilda Webb; and brother Dale. A celebration of life

service was held outdoors in Gilbert, AZ, in a farm setting, officiated by Lew's brother-in-law, Bob Shuttlesworth.



**Donald Robert Baughey, Jr.**, 90, of Adrian, MI, died on Monday, February 14, 2022, at home under the care of Hospice of Lenawee with his family by his side. Don was born April 18, 1931, in Adrian, to Donald and Ethel (Divens) Baughey, Sr.

In 1950, Donald married Dorcas Mae Shepherd, and they were blessed with 70 wonderful years together before her death on November 15, 2020. Don was a talented businessman who worked at American Chain and Cable for over 30 years before retiring and working full-time in his growing construction business. As the owner of Don Baughey and Sons Construction, he built over 400 homes in the Lenawee County area. For many years, Don and Dorcas were the owners and operators of Superior Dry Cleaners and co-owners of Super Laundry Mat in Adrian, which was located in the strip mall that Don also co-owned.

Don grew up in the Pilgrim Evangelistic Church pastored by his father, Rev. Donald R. Baughey, Sr. He worked alongside his father in preparing many radio broadcasts over the years and lived his faith every day in how he treated others and the example he set for his family. Don was a GBS donor and a subscriber to *God's Revivalist*.

Don is survived by two sons, Jack and Gary; two daughters, Brenda Wright and Dawn Lowe; 17 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; 8 great-great-grandchildren; and sisters, Joann Rupert and Mary Watters. Funeral services were held at Wagley Funeral Home with Pastor James Eckart officiating. Burial followed at Lenawee Hills Memorial Park.



**Kathleen Faye Rummel Churchill**, 79, of Easley, SC, passed away February 24, 2022. She was born in Sagamore, PA, to Ralph and Mildred (Harkleroad) Rummel. Kathleen was a homemaker, bookkeeper for Churchill Construction, and member of

Easley Bible Methodist Church. She had previously served the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Indiana, PA, as church treasurer and district treasurer. She was also a founding member of Marriage Matters Retreat, and the founder of Women of Worth, Indiana Chapter.

Surviving Kathleen are her husband, Paul M. Churchill; a son, Stephen; three daughters, Lisa Hendrix, Leslie Wallace, and Erica Fairchild; three sisters, Ruth Dotson, Eunice Stearns, and Susan Stearns; nine grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at Easley Bible Methodist Church, Revs. Jonathan Slagenweit and R.G. Hutchison officiating. Another service was held at the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Indiana, PA. Burial followed in Washington Church Cemetery, Home, PA.





**Lank Junior Sechrest**, 89, of Thomasville, NC, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Monday, March 14, 2022. He was born on November 12, 1932, in Davidson County, NC, to William Archie and Vera Frances (Henly) Sechrest.

He owned and operated Lank of Lexington Furniture, Lexington, NC.

On February 11, 1951, Lank married Audrey Jane Hedrick. In 1955, he accepted Christ at Free Pilgrim Church and attended the Community House Church, also referred to as the Tater House. In 1957, he became one of the founding members of Heath Church, where he served as a board member, Sunday school teacher and superintendent, and song leader. Lank most recently was a member of Archdale Pilgrim Holiness Church.

He believed in Christian education and gave his time and resources in supporting it. He was an early president and board chairman of Carolina Christian Academy, as well as a board member of Salisbury Christian School. Lank also served as a long-term GBS trustee (1979-2000) and several of his children attended the school: Cheryl Miller (1975), Kay Ackerson (1984-89), and Patricia Neville (1985-87). He donated a large amount of furniture for the GBS dorms and allowed GBS employees to order furniture at below-cost rates with free delivery. (The *GR* editor continues to enjoy a Lank of Lexington loveseat acquired in the 1980s that he and his family consider to be a family heirloom!) Lank's other interests included gardening and working in his yard and orchard. He remained a lifelong GBS supporter and a *God's Revivalist* subscriber.

Lank was preceded in death by his wife, Audrey (2020). He is survived by his three daughters, Cheryl Miller, Kay Ackerson, and Patricia Neville; two sons, Richard and Wesley; one brother, Odell; two sisters, Dare Tyler and Sharon Mason; 15 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren. A funeral service was held at Heath Church in Lexington with Revs. Dan Downing, Edward Lecates, and Derald Hunt officiating. Interment followed in the church cemetery.



**Joyce Erline Pence**, 88, passed away March 21, 2022, in Rush, CO. She was born April 4, 1933, to Jerry and May Goodman of Cincinnati, OH, where she grew up in the GBS neighborhood. She began playing piano in third grade and pipe organ in eighth grade.

Joyce attended Bible school in Salem, OH, where she played piano, violin, and sousaphone. In 1950, Joyce moved to Colorado Springs, CO, with her sister Carol and her mother May. After finishing high school in 1951, she enrolled in college. In 1953, Don Pence, a childhood friend, came back into her life. After they

married in 1955, Joyce went back to college to become a nurse.

Don and Joyce traveled to Alaska and South Dakota several times to assist missionaries. They lived in the Colorado Springs, CO, area until 1988, then they moved to Rush. Joyce enjoyed oil and watercolor painting, quilting, lapidary, and making pictures from wildflowers and seashells. Her artistic ability was amazing, and she continued her artwork and quilting right up until the end. She attended Kendrick Bible Church where she played piano and chimes as long as her health permitted.

Joyce was predeceased by her husband Donald (2018); and her sister Carol Goodman. A graveside service was held at the Kendrick Cemetery, El Paso County, CO.



**Pamela Ann Farnsworth**, 71, of

Bolivar, OH, went to heaven Friday, March 25, 2022, from her home while surrounded by her family following a long battle with brain cancer. She was born in 1951 to Robert and Martha (Meese)

Eckhardt of Dover, OH. She married Robert L. Farnsworth on November 21, 1970.

Pamela retired from Huntington National Bank in Bolivar in 2006. Her life revolved around her family. She also enjoyed participating in craft shows. She was a GBS donor and subscriber to *God's Revivalist*.

Pamela is survived by her husband, Robert L. Farnsworth; two daughters, Beth Wade and Heather Hilles; son, Jason; eight grandchildren; two sisters, Amy Bertle and Sue Cunningham; and a brother, Robert Eckhardt. Funeral services were held at the Lebold-Smith Funeral Home in Bolivar, Pastor Lisa Elliott officiating. Burial followed in Fort Laurens Cemetery.



**Raymond Reed Zeigler I**, 79, of

Tyrone, PA, died Friday, March 25, 2022, at his residence. He was born to Sherwood H. "Woody" and Elizabeth Mae "Libby" (Gummo) Zeigler of Tyrone.

Raymond enrolled at GBS in 1960, where he earned a ThB (1963) and met Mary Rebecca Neff (HS '63), whom he married on November 30, 1963. He taught Bible school classes, including at Penn View Bible Institute, where he and his wife also served as social deans. He spent 50 years in ministry and pastored various churches until 1999. He retired in 2011 from Jostens, State College, PA, after 11 years of service. He was a member of God's Missionary Church, Alexandria, PA.

Raymond is survived by his wife, Mary; four sons, Raymond Reed II, John, Benjamin, and Reuben; daughter, Regina Pinkerton; 19 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and three sisters, Susan Johnstone, Sharon Evans, and Rebecca Thomas. Funeral services were held at the Alexandria God's Missionary Church, with his son, Rev. Ben Zeigler, officiating. ■



# the WORLD to WIN

[ A FOCUS ON MISSIONS ]

## Gospel Outposts in a Hostile Land

by Stephen Gibson

Strolling around inside the church was a man in a galabiya, a long, loose garment not seen in Western churches. More startling was the machine gun slung from his shoulder. He was assigned to guard the church as a Muslim policeman working for a Muslim government trying to protect Christian citizens from violent radicals who view them as traitors.

A census shows that Egypt is 90% Muslim. Within the other 10%, most professed Christians identify with the Coptic Orthodox Church. The country is officially Muslim, and the Muslim call to prayer is played over loudspeakers in public areas five times daily.

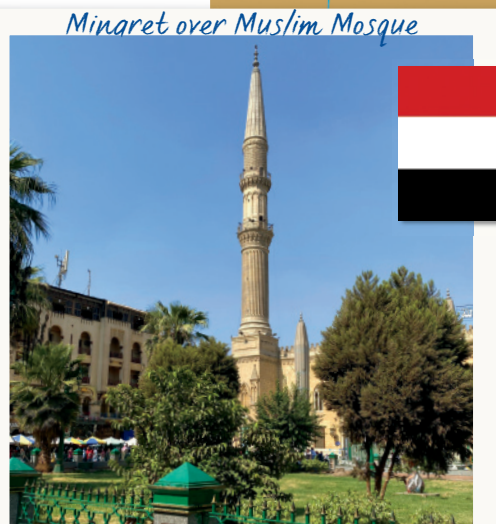
Religion is noted on birth certificates, marriage certificates, and national identification cards, enabling discrimination and indicating that a person's religion is not expected to change. The desire of Christians to convert others is considered outrageous, and evangelism is illegal. Even in private religious schools, Muslim students must be kept separate when the Christian children are taught from the Bible.

Can you imagine a Christian being worried that someone might become a Christian?

Many Egyptian pastors become nervous if a Muslim shows interest in Christianity, because relatives of a converted Muslim may accuse the Christians of the crime of evangelism. Christians in Egypt struggle with the dilemma of a gospel that must be shared and a population for which evangelism is forbidden. They know that sharing the gospel with their lost neighbors will result in a backlash against themselves and their fellow believers.

Evangelical Christians are free to evangelize among the Coptic communities, because in Muslim eyes, conversion from Coptic to evangelical is still within Christianity. Many churches evangelize Copts and avoid Muslims. The Coptic leaders oppose them bitterly.

Special opportunities come along. One pastor shared that when he went to pray with someone demon possessed, his Muslim taxi driver observed, then asked to bring





his sister who seemed to have the same problem. She was delivered and continued reading the Bible afterward.

Funerals provide opportunity because there are three days of visits from neighbors and friends that include Muslims, and the pastor can preach to the crowd. One pastor received requests afterward to pray in the homes of Muslims.

People who study missions today often scorn the “compounds” of previous generations. Missionaries established a guarded property. Local people saw them as a foreign religion. Converts were ostracized by their families and sometimes joined the compound. A Christian town developed in some cases.

In contrast to the compound approach, today we assume that missionaries should live among the people. We assume that converts will stay with their families and employment and be lights in their communities. Groups of converts and inquirers may meet in homes, a format conducive to rapid growth. This approach is ideal where there is religious freedom.

However, Egypt is different because the population is almost united by one religion opposed to Christianity. A Muslim who converts is violently opposed by family and friends and cannot go on with normal life. He may have to move into a Christian environment to have a home, to be employed, and even to stay alive. A real Christian community is necessary in that environment.

In Egypt, churches can practice their faith freely within their buildings. There they preach without restriction and are not blamed for influencing Muslims who enter. This has led to a strategy of outreach through church planting. They begin by making contacts in an area and holding illegal Bible studies, but work toward



*A Busy Street in Cairo*

getting a church building. Building permits usually take years because of resistance from both Muslims and Copts. Ministry is risky until a building is secured. A church with a building is literally an outpost for the gospel.

Some churches impact Muslims through community ministries. A church offers literacy classes that serve mostly Muslims, and sometimes at the end of the course the students are weeping because they bonded with the Christians. Another church started a ministry with addicts who were congregating on a vacant lot behind the church. A church teaches sewing to give women income. A church is opening a clinic. A church has a kindergarten. Such services of the church change Muslim attitudes toward Christianity.

For Americans who want to have a spiritual impact in Egypt, the options do not include going in with the title of missionary to evangelize openly. But professionals can work in Egypt and have the chance to share their faith with people who have had little contact with Christians. Others can contribute for the purchase of church buildings. Most of all, people should pray that God will intervene in national and individual situations in a way that will open the way for the gospel. ■

*A Congregation in Egypt*

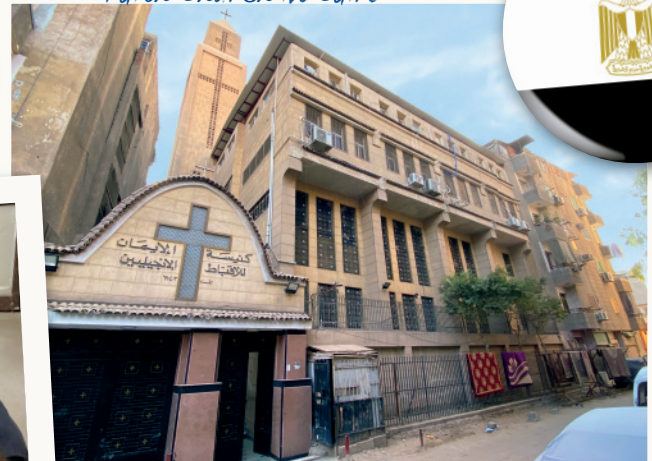


*Egyptian Pastor and Family*



**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.

*Faith Church in Cairo*





## Dear Phil

"This verse not only [forbids] self-exaltation in teaching divine things but rejects the authority of the religious teachers of Jesus' day....Among those who follow Jesus, a brotherly relationship is required....Jesus was not justifying that particularly perverse pride that cloaks itself in discourtesy....The risen Christ is as displeased with those in His Church who demand unquestioning submission to themselves and their opinions and confuse a reputation for showy piety with godly surrender...as he ever was with any Pharisee."

When I am in a church context, I say to people, "When I am teaching at the college, I am 'Dr. Phil' or 'Dr. Brown' because it is an academic setting. But when I gather with the body of Christ in church, I am 'Bro. Phil' or 'Bro. Brown' or just 'Phil.' Neither my status as an ordained elder nor the PhD degree I earned with long, hard work, elevate me above any of my brothers and sisters in Christ." Scripture is clear that those who labor in the Word and doctrine are worthy of double honor (1 Tim. 5:17-18). However, that honor is an expression of gratitude for their service, not a conferral of superiority, status, or value with respect to other believers. Peter is clear that those who are his fellow elders and under-shepherds are to care for the flock, not as lords, but as servants (1 Pet. 5:1-5).

Here's the bottom line: Since we all have one Father, we are family in Christ. Within His Church, Christ prohibits the use of honorary titles that imply their bearers are superior to other believers.

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.

## CALL NO MAN YOUR FATHER

***I'm stuck on Matthew 23:8-10. Jesus says, "Do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers. Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. Do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, that is, Christ" (NASB). Are we really not supposed to refer to people as teacher, doctor, or boss? —Curtis***

Dear Curtis,

Jesus says some challenging words! Craig Blomberg in the *New American Commentary* on Matthew 23:5-10 was helpful to me. He notes that the NT uses the categories of 'teacher' and 'father' in reference to believers:

"People are properly called teachers in Acts 13:1; 1 Tim. 2:7; and Heb. 5:12. Paul will even refer to a spiritual gift that enables some people to be so identified (Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor. 12:28-29; cf. James 3:1). It remains appropriate to call a biological parent one's father, and even one's spiritual parent may be addressed with this term (1 Cor. 4:15; cf. also 1 John 2:13; Acts 22:1). So the point of Matthew 23:8-12 must be that such titles are not to be used to confer privilege or status."

Blomberg's interpretation (vv.5-7) fits the preceding context well:

"But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries and lengthen the tassels of their garments. They love the place of honor at banquets and

the chief seats in the synagogues, and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called Rabbi by men."

Jesus exposes the scribes' and Pharisees' love of honor and lists the ways they seek it and love receiving it.

In addition to what Blomberg said above, I would note that the categories of apostles (Acts 6:6), elders (Acts 11:30), overseers and deacons (Phil. 1:1) were used throughout the NT as particular offices, along with evangelist, pastor, and prophet (Eph. 4:11; Acts 21:8). So, it would seem that the use of an office, e.g., "pastor" as a means of identifying the persons who serve in that office, would be both appropriate and sanctioned by the Spirit.

On the other hand, The Reverend, The Right Reverend, His Holiness, His Eminence, My Lord, and other such honorifics find no support in the NT and, I would argue, are examples of the kind of thing Jesus was rebuking in this passage.

D.A. Carson comments in the *Expositor's Bible Commentary*:





## LESSONS FROM A GODLY MOTHER

by Jack Hooker

*Scripture: "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, a beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also." —2 Timothy 1:1-5 (NKJV)*

### INTRODUCTION

The Bible gives us portraits of godly mothers. Jochebed built an ark for Moses and saved his life. Mary stood by Jesus as He was crucified. Paul recognized that the faith of Timothy was the product of the investment made by his mother and grandmother. Far greater than financial investments are the spiritual investments in our children.

I recognize that sometimes Mother's Day can be painful. Perhaps some of you have not had the best mother in the world. In fact, your mother's influence and treatment may have been destructive. Your mother may have died, and each Mother's Day you grieve at the loss. Some of you may have lost a child who died way too soon. My mother shared on occasion the deep hurt of going into the hospital to give birth to my sister but leaving the hospital empty handed. Some of you are feeling the pain of a wayward child. Your daily prayer request is for their salvation. Some of you wish you could be a mother. And,

some of you are single mothers with all the challenges of raising your children on your own.

I want to highlight the biblical investments godly mothers are making in their families on a daily basis. They are investments my mother made in me that had a profound influence on my life. I realize these investments are contrary to the secular culture that is so prevalent today. Our culture has embraced personal happiness as its greatest value. The dangers of divorce, acceptance of sexual immorality, and a romance with self-fulfillment have taken its toll on the family. While family units break down around us, the Bible lifts up the family and exalts the place of mothers. Motherhood is not an easy job. Actually, it is a ministry of teaching, praying, and preparing our children to follow Jesus. My mother was a teacher in public education for thirty-four years; but it was the lessons she taught at home that were her greatest achievements. Some of those lessons were:

### 1. The Importance of God's House

My earliest memories were of going to church. I never heard my mother say, "I'm too tired; we are not going today," or, "you don't have to go; it is up to you." Over the years I tried various excuses: "My tummy hurts," or "I have a test tomorrow," or "Do I have to go?"—but to no avail. My mother taught me that church really matters! I was blessed to grow up attending a church where Christ was preeminent, where the Bible was preached, where the moving of the Holy Spirit was welcomed, and where the leaders of the church modeled holiness of heart and life—and I continue to be blessed to attend such a church today. Worship really matters!

I remember a few times my mother would have us children search the house to find enough change to buy a few gallons of gasoline so we could drive to church. We always found enough to get there and back. She left me a valuable legacy that God's house was a top priority.

### 2. The Power of God's Grace

Although faith is not genetically inherited, it can be made attractive when others model God's grace. Four scholars were discussing the merits of various translations of the Bible. After being quiet for a moment, the fourth scholar admitted: "I have personally preferred my mother's translation." When the other scholars started laughing, he said, "Yes, she translated the Scriptures. My mom translated each page of the Bible into life. It is the most convincing translation I have ever read."

A godly mother values her children's souls more than their bodies or their clothes. She values her chil-

dren's eternal life more than their accomplishments in this life. She sees the importance of her children's relationship with Jesus more than their popularity in the world. Her priority is her children's standing before God more than their social status. She values her children's spirituality more than their intellectual, musical, or athletic accomplishments. A godly mother models grace by a godly lifestyle. She shows the power of grace when she is tested by opposition or trials. She proves God's grace by showing forgiveness to those who do wrong. A godly mother creates an environment of faith in her home that is fertile ground for God's grace to flow.

### 3. The Provision of God's Hand

I had the wonderful privilege to observe firsthand a mother who prayed and a God who provided. For example, one day, when I was just a young boy, my mother knew we were very low on food, but she did not tell us children. Later that day a man from the church knocked on our door with a stringer of fish. He said, "The Lord spoke to me and said you needed these fish." That is one of many instances when mother prayed, and God heard and answered. What a lesson for me when, in my adult life, I prayed for God's provision! It is a lesson that made a powerful impact on my life.

### 4. The Reality of God's Love

Love does not mean giving our children everything they want or allowing them to do everything they want to do. In fact, sometimes love is "tough love" that requires discipline and corrections. Love is shown in a mother's care for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of her family. A godly mother models the love of Christ, which is demonstrated in understanding, forgiving, and caring. Never in my life did I ever doubt that my mother loved me. In turn, I never doubted that Jesus loves me. What a tremendous life lesson!

### CONCLUSION

Six hundred college students were asked to write down the most beautiful word in the English language. Four hundred twenty-two of them wrote the word "mother." May God bless our mothers who are investing in the spiritual lives of their children. 🙏

**Jack Hooker** (BRE '74) has pastored for 41 years and is currently pastoring the Village Park Bible Methodist Church, Westfield, IN. For 18 years, Jack has served on the GBS Board of Trustees. He previously served as GBS Vice President for Advancement for seven years and served two terms as National Alumni President. Jack has been married to his wife Jane (CWC '73) since 1974. They have two daughters, both GBS graduates, and five grandchildren.



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## MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN A PRIORITY FOR EVANGELICALS

A Pew Research Center survey found that only 34% of U.S. adults believe society is better off if “people make marriage and having children a priority,” while 64% believe society is “just as well off if people have priorities other than marriage and children.” Evangelicals were the only group to say that marriage and children should be a priority, led by white evangelicals (56%). The poll also revealed a significant political divide: Republicans (50%) are twice as likely as Democrats (22%) to say society is better off prioritizing marriage and child-rearing. The survey was released around the time Pope Francis criticized couples who choose to have pets instead of children.

## ONE-IN-SEVEN CHRISTIANS FACED PERSECUTION IN 2021

According to the 2022 World Watch List prepared by Open Doors, more Christians were detained or killed for their faith and more churches were attacked or closed than the year before. In the past year, 360 million Christians, or one-in-seven believers around the world, suffered significant persecution for their faith. Every day in 2021, an average of more than 16 believers were killed for following Jesus. With close to 6,000 total martyrs, 2021 saw a 24% increase in Christians killed for the faith. Since

1992, when Open Doors began this tracking, North Korea has been ranked the worst persecutor of Christians. However, Afghanistan topped this World Watch List.

## MOST OPEN TO SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS

An Evangelism Explosion study conducted by Lifeway Research found Americans are widely receptive to spiritual conversations in a variety of settings. Fifty-one per cent of Americans say they’re curious as to why some people are so devoted to their faith, including 60% of the religiously unaffiliated. This curiosity creates an opportunity for ministry. However, as a sad corollary, most participants in the study say they rarely have conversations about faith with their Christian friends because those friends “are not bringing it up.”

## GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH LAUNCHES

A 17-member body of theologically conservative Methodist clergy and laity, known as the Transitional Leadership Council, recently announced the Global Methodist Church will officially launch on May 1, 2022. After having worked for years to renew and reform The United Methodist Church, theological conservatives and other UM groups in late 2019 hammered out an amicable and orderly plan to divide the UM denomination. ■



## student focus

**JOSEPH (JOEY) TILLIS** grew up in a Christian home in rural Southeastern Ohio. His parents and paternal grandparents attended and met at GBS, so it was natural for him to attend GBS for a year “to work on building a spiritual foundation” before transferring to another institution to study journalism. But God had other plans. At GBS, Joey developed “greater skill and boldness in evangelism, a greater heart for people in general, and greater competency in handling a variety of responsibilities.” He decided to stay at GBS and get an AA in General Business.

The ministry opportunities he has had through the Prayer Station and Open-Air Campaign gave him real-world experience in sharing the gospel, honed his social skills, and helped him to impact people’s lives in a positive way. After graduation this month, Joey plans to enter the workforce, launch a news blog, and continue to take advantage of various ministry opportunities. ■

*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](http://www.gbs.edu/givenow)**





## INTERCHURCH HOLINESS CONVENTION

### Gatlinburg Gathering

For the second year in a row, the Interchurch Holiness Convention was held in Gatlinburg, TN, on April 5-7, 2022, at the Gatlinburg Convention Center. God's Bible School and College was well represented at this annual event. Members of the GBS administration in attendance included President Rodney Loper, VP for Spiritual Life Richard Miles, VP for Student Affairs Sonja Vernon, VP for Enrollment Services Matt Hallam, Campus Administrator Jeff Moore, Director of Public Relations Duane Quesenberry, and Director of Advancement Mike Yancey.

As usual, GBS ran a booth in the convention center to acquaint the attendees with all of the academic offerings from the college. It was great to interact with students at the attractive display. GBS was also well represented during the services. Faculty member Dr. Stephen Smith presented the Thursday morning Bible study. Other alumni ministered during the convention in song and God's Word. The College Choir, under the direction of Tim Crater, sang in the Wednesday evening service. The Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble, under the direction of David Hartkopf, provided the offertory. Other GBS events during the convention included the Alumni Reception on Wednesday afternoon and the VIP event for prospective students following the final service. Each was well attended.

On Thursday, IHC General Secretary Jim Plank felt led of the Lord to take up a special offering to assist the represented Bible colleges with their expenses for lodging, meals, and travel. Over \$28,000 was given by the convention attendees. That amounted to more than \$5,000 for GBS! What a generous contribution as the IHC gave back to the colleges! We thank God for traveling mercies and for His blessing on the convention, especially on all the GBS representatives and groups in attendance. 📖

—Jack Hooker (BRE '74), Chair, Alumni Affairs Committee

### Alumni Reception

The theme for the Alumni Reception was, "Ye are the Light of the World," reflecting the GBS heritage of reaching out around the world with the Good News. The room was beautifully decorated, thanks to the excellent work of Regina Yancey, Kim Gilbertson, and additional help from alumni, including Meagan Valentine (BA '17).

As the long line of people entered the room, they were welcomed with hors d'oeuvres. Former President Dr. Michael Avery prayed prior to the meal. What a joy it was to see the record crowd in that great room as they shook hands, embraced, and laughed, doubtless catching up with the happenings of friends and family.

The program included songs by Adoration and Devotion, our two PR groups, who treated us to beautiful harmonies and sweet and lively melodies which



GBS choir and instrumentalists present music at IHC.



Adoration, the college mixed trio, sings.



A record crowd attends the alumni reception.



glorified Christ and reminded us of our precious Christian heritage and privileges. President Loper delivered an update for the school. This included our increasing real estate holdings, which provide income from rentals. He also spoke of our heritage, giving one example of the ten young men who joined the Cowmans' "Great Village Campaign" to reach every home in Japan with the gospel, and how that effort was financed by a businessman from California. He concluded with a challenge to continue to keep God's Bible School close to our hearts.

Please pray for our school. GBS is still an incubator for young people to get spiritually and educationally established, and to find companions for life. This is still the place where pastors, missionaries, teachers, and business people are molded to go out and touch a lost and dying world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

If you are a business owner, you are welcome to contact me for an opportunity to support GBS while advertising your business at this reception next year when we look forward to an even bigger crowd and are planning accordingly. ■

—Michael Yancey, Jr., Director of Development

### Alumni Reflections



IHC has been a place of reunion and reconnecting for GBS Alumni for generations. My first acquaintance with GBS students was as a high school senior at an IHC in Huntington, WV, in 1974. I looked forward to returning to IHC with fellow students during my years on the Hilltop. As a graduate, I've looked forward to IHC as a means for fellowship with alumni in a unifying, edifying, and refreshing time together ever since. When the GBS alumni receptions began while the IHC was held in Dayton, OH, it became even more exciting to come and hear the good things happening at our alma mater and renew the fellowship of former classmates and friends. This year, the alumni gathering in Gatlinburg appeared to be the largest ever. Cathy and I came home with lots of pictures, warm memories, and new stories from lifelong friends made during our years as students at GBS.

Almost 50 years of coming to IHC have passed quickly, and though many things have changed, our reunions with those whose lives, like ours, were forever focused and prepared for service in God's Kingdom at GBS are the warm memories we cherish! We wouldn't miss it! ■

—John (BRE '78) and Cathy (Horrall) Parker (BRE '78)



by Sonja Vernon

### WHOSE GLORY?

*"But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astonished at the majesty of God."*

—Luke 9:42b-43a ESV

The disciples were out of their depth. People were looking for Jesus, but He was away on the mountain with Peter, James, and John. A desperate man appeared with his son who was possessed by an evil spirit that caused him to convulse, foam at the mouth, and fall into the fire and the water. Could they not help his suffering child? The disciples tried, but the demon refused to obey. Then Jesus showed up. The disciples felt the sting of their failure as they watched the spirit release its hold on the boy at the word of Jesus. The seizing body was still and whole. Light overcame darkness. Peace overcame chaos. The watching crowd was "astonished at the majesty of God." Still today, that small phrase encapsulates what it's all about. Jesus did miracles to bring glory to His Father. He wasn't out to make a name for Himself, to become the next religious powerbroker. Instead, His ministry consistently pointed to an all-powerful God and a Kingdom not of this world.

I wonder if our powerlessness today is linked to divided hearts? Are we solely focused on the glory of God and the building of His kingdom, or do we crave the recognition that comes with spiritual success? God grant that our actions as Christ-followers empowered by the Holy Spirit will cause onlookers to be "astonished at the majesty of God"! ■

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





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THE 90s**

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