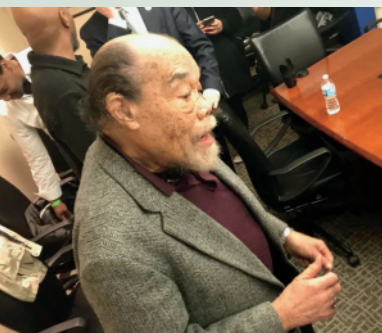


GOD'S REVIVALIST

June, July, August 2022

and Bible Advocate





thinking out loud

YOU NEVER KNOW

"Someone from GBS had better get over to the Mt. Auburn Community Council meeting tonight."

The call came from a concerned member of the council. News had gotten around that GBS was building a skywalk to connect the main campus with the new library that was then under construction. The council was poised to take a stand against the skywalk, as it was perceived that GBS was trying to "close itself off from the public."

Friend and colleague Densel Ball and I went to the meeting. The gathering was bustling with people greeting each other and getting properly seated. Densel and I did not know anyone. The meeting was chaired by Carl Westmoreland, president and prominent community activist (pictured above). When the skywalk came up for discussion, he led the way with his scathing description of how this project showed that, rather than being a real part of the community, GBS was walling itself off. After the meeting was over, I approached the dais and introduced myself to Carl, and we talked a bit.

I came away with a new purpose—to become an active member of the council—largely to counter the perceptions the community had of GBS, as well as to fend off any attempts that would negatively affect our plans.

Thankfully, over the ensuing years, things changed. When I kept showing up at meetings, other members started responding to me differently—more accepting, more friendly. I was elected as a trustee and became a productive member of the council. Perceptions of the school also began to change—so much so that the council trustees passed a resolution to sanction the skywalk project. I was asked to hand-deliver their letter to the City Planning Department. In response, the city readily gave its endorsement for the skywalk.

My point? When you find yourself in an adversarial situation, don't just look for the exit; see what you can accomplish by sticking around. When confronted by an antagonist, set aside points of disagreement and work toward shared goals. For years, Carl and I worked together on various boards and organizations. We became true friends.

Even in your difficulties, God may have some new purpose and new friends for you. You never know! —KF ■

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

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

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COVER PHOTO: Exuberant GBS college graduates toss their caps. Photo by Rachel Pohl, artistic rendering by Kevin Moser.

A man with short brown hair, wearing a dark blue checkered suit, a white shirt, and a red tie with small white dots, stands in a library. He is leaning on a brown leather chair. Behind him are tall wooden bookshelves filled with books. The lighting is warm and focused on him.

the president's page

WHO IS YOUR FIRST LOVE?

Revelation 2:1-8

by Dr. Rodney S. Loper, President

For the last several issues, we have looked at different aspects of the local church and noted specific problems that might be faced: leadership concerns, how livestreaming has affected attendance, and the danger of a local church essentially functioning as a parachurch. It might be helpful for us to look now at what Jesus has to say to the Church. We don't have to wait for a new word from the Lord because we already know what He said to specific churches in the Book of Revelation.

We begin here with the first of seven letters written to seven different churches that existed in Asia Minor in the First Century. Note that there are two lenses through which these letters are frequently viewed. First, they can be viewed **PROPHETICALLY**—these churches represent different stages of the universal Church over the last 2,000 years. Through this lens, for example, the church at Ephesus represents the time period between the Day of Pentecost and 100 AD. This was a time of great expansion for the early Church. It was also a time when some Christians began to lose their zeal and fervency. Secondly, these letters can be viewed **PRACTICALLY**—these letters were sent to real congregations that were actually functioning at the close of the First Century. While they were written to real churches existing in that day, they still speak to every church in existence today.

I have no problem in believing that both of these viewpoints have merit. I would hasten to say that the bottom line for us, though, is that these letters should be viewed **PERSONALLY**—these letters speak to congregations, but we should also be mindful that the Lord has a word for individuals as well. He has something to say to you and to me about our relationship with Him.

The first church that Jesus addresses is the church at Ephesus. As Jesus begins to admonish

this church, He commends them for many things accomplished “for My glory”: works, labors, patience, purity, and perseverance. Anyone attending their services would have been in awe of their work and their calendar of activities and would have concluded that they were a rock-solid congregation. But someone far more important had His eye on this church. While the Lord Jesus had much for which to commend them, there were also problems. You see, the Lord knew what the people around them did not know. The Lord knew that this church was just going through the motions of serving Him. He knew that they did not love Him like they had once loved Him.

So, after commending them for their works, Jesus condemns them for their lack of love for Him. He tells them that there is a real problem in their hearts. Let’s notice the nature of this problem.

IT IS A PERSONAL PROBLEM

“I have somewhat against thee” (Rev. 2:4). The Ephesians probably thought their biggest problems were related to the pagans around them and the persecution the church was facing. But Jesus tells them that they have an even bigger problem. If the Ephesian congregation had been polled, they would have passed a self-assessment with flying colors. The results would have revealed “no problems.” But we are told that the Lord “walks” among them and knows them. Yes, the Lord knows us far better than we know ourselves.

I suspect that if the modern Church took the same poll, the results might look the same. We think that we are all right. The problem with our way of gauging our own state of “rightness” is that we compare ourselves with others. We also have a tendency to compare ourselves with those who are less spiritual and live less holy. We think our biggest problems are an evil society or a government that has abandoned God. The truth is, our biggest problem in the modern Church is that, like the Ephesians, we have offended a Holy God!

IT IS A PASSION PROBLEM

Jesus tells them exactly what they have done to offend Him. Jesus never deals with generalities—that is the devil’s business. When God begins to deal with you, He zeroes right in on the exact problem. In this case He says, “Thou hast left thy first love” (v.4b). Jesus is talking to people who have walked away from their love for Him. The word “first” is related to “rank” or “importance.” The Ephesians still loved their church and its doctrines. They still loved their activities and busy schedules. They just didn’t love Jesus more than the other things. They had pushed Him out and re-

placed Him with other things. They were excellent at “doing,” but they had walked away from “being.”

JESUS GIVES THEM A PLAN OF ACTION

Jesus calls on them to **REMEMBER**—to remember “from whence thou art fallen” (v.5a). They need to remember a time when their love was the most important thing in their lives. They need to remember days of salvation when their love of God was fervent.

He calls on them to **REPENT**. Once they remember what He had done for them, they can see just how far they have fallen and recognize their need of repentance. The word “repent” refers to “a change of mind that leads to a change of action.” They must turn from their wrong and fall in love with Jesus again.

He calls on them to **REPEAT**—to “do the first works” (v.5b). In other words, Jesus calls them to return to the things that were most important.

CONCLUSION

The story is told that the Taj Mahal was built as the final resting place for the wife of the Shah Jahan. The construction started right around the coffin of his beloved wife. He came every day to mourn her and see how the building was progressing. Over the 17 years it took to construct, his obsession with his wife’s death switched to an obsession with the project. As the magnificent building was nearing completion, the Shah and his builder were wandering through the edifice late one evening, and the Shah stumbled over an old wooden box. He chastised the builder for allowing his workers to leave such trash lying about in such a spectacular complex and ordered it removed and thrown out immediately. The wooden box was, of course, the coffin and remains of his dear wife! He was throwing out the very reason for the building’s existence!

Friends, we must never let the fervency of our love for the Lord wane and be replaced by other things. That, addressed here in the letter to the church of Ephesus, is the root of most spiritual issues. We replace *resting in* and *depending on* Christ and Christ alone as our means of salvation with *doing*. “Lord, look what I am doing.” And when that happens, things get out of whack. We seek position over serving, popularity over consistency, praise over steadiness, power over prayer, prominence over simplicity, and our kingdom over His!

The greatest need of the Church today is for us to fall in love with Jesus once again. Remember, our lack of love for Him requires repentance and a return to the things that are most important—things that matter.

Are you ready to “remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works”? ■



— Called Unto Holiness —

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

HOW TO RECEIVE THE BLESSING

by Samuel Logan Brengle

God never raises a crop of potatoes or a field of wheat or a bushel of oats without man's help. He takes men into partnership with Him in such matters. He furnishes the sunshine and the air, the rain and the dew, the day and the night, the fruitful seasons, the busy, burrowing little earthworms and insects which keep the lungs of the earth open so that it can breathe, and He gives life to the seed, so that it may grow. Man must prepare the ground, plant the seed, keep down the weeds, and gather in the harvest. Men sometimes think that they are doing it all, but they are quite mistaken in this.... And so it is in matters that concern our souls. God and man must work together, both to save and to sanctify. God never saves a sinner without that sinner's help, and usually the help of some other folks as well.... But... the sinner must hear the truth for himself, must repent, must confess his sins and give them up, and must ask God for pardon, and believe, before he can be saved. And for a sinner to expect salvation without doing this would be as big a piece of folly as for a farmer to expect a crop of potatoes without having planted them. And so, to get the priceless gift of the Holy Spirit—a clean heart—we must work together with God....

1. We must see our need of the blessing, and to see this need, we must be clearly justified. No sinner has his spiritual eyes open to see the need of a clean heart. He is blind to these things.... The first thing, then, is to be well saved, and so fully in the light of God's smile that we can see our need of cleansing.

2. We must not try to hide the need, but frankly confess it.... Do you know that your heart is clean? Are all the roots of bitterness gone?.... Remember that holiness has to do with the heart, and...if your heart is not clean, do not be afraid or ashamed to say so, but frankly tell your Heavenly Father the whole truth about the matter.

3. The next thing is to believe that the blessing is for you.... Satan will surely do all he can to discourage you, and make you doubt the possibility of holiness for yourself. He will tell you that it is for other people, but not for you.... Satan may tell you that you have failed so often that God will not now give you the blessing.... Satan may tell you that if you do get the blessing, people will not believe that you have it.... To get the blessing, you must resist the devil, and believe that it is for you.

4. You must believe that it is for you now. It is astonishing how sinners wish to put off the time of salvation, and it is even more astonishing how saved people put off seeking a clean heart until some other time.... Nothing grieves the Holy Spirit and hardens the heart like this delay of unbelief.

5. The next thing to do is to come to Jesus for the blessing, with a true heart, holding back nothing, but giving your all to Him for time and eternity, that He may give His all to you. At this point there must be no hypocrisy, no double-dealing, no half-heartedness, no holding back part of the price. The Lord offers us the biggest blessing this side of Heaven. He offers us perfect cleansing from sin, perfect victory over the devil, and the Holy Spirit to dwell in our clean hearts to teach and guide and comfort us; but in exchange He asks us to give Him our little all.... It is no little blessing, but an overflowing one that the Lord means to give you.... My brother, my sister, you can have the blessing just now, if you thus meet the conditions. "Faith, mighty faith, the promise sees. And looks to God alone; Laughs at impossibilities, And cries: It shall be done!" ■

Samuel Logan Brengle (1860-1936) was a commissioner in the Salvation Army and a leading author, teacher, and preacher of the doctrine of holiness. This excerpt is adapted from chapter three of The Way of Holiness (Salvationist Publishing and Supplies, 1951).



If Anyone Wants to Be **FIRST**, He Shall Be **FIRST**?

by Steve Gallagher

Jesus
said it all

in Mark 9:35:
“If anyone
wants to be
first, he shall be
LAST of all
and SERVANT
of all.”

The title above expresses the unspoken mantra that drives much of our Church world. The mindset is that God’s elite are those who accomplish big and visible results. This often leaves “ordinary believers” feeling as though their lives don’t really matter.

The truth is that this man-centered, superstar-driven mentality is “from the world.” We have our iconic celebrities, talented musicians, gifted writers, ingratiating media personalities just like the world does. The unspoken inference is that the important people in God’s Kingdom are those who have achieved fame and fortune. Not only does this “success-is-everything” mentality create a system that is ripe for slick-talking, ear-tickling charlatans, but it also leaves laypeople feeling as if their efforts to please the Lord don’t mean much.

My personal opinion is that many of the accomplishments of famous Christian leaders that seem so huge from a worldly perspective are overrated. I have been around enough famous Christians to realize that they are just people,

and from God’s perspective, they aren’t much different from you and me.

One day each of us will stand before Jesus Christ where our lives will be examined. Our thoughts, motives, attitudes, words, deeds, and



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.

Enclosed is payment for *God's Revivalist* renewal for three years. I pray that God would continue to bless your efforts to produce such a powerful, needed voice in today's world.

THOMAS SLAVENS
Laurel, DE

I have enjoyed corresponding with and donating to GBS since the passing of my mother, Lenos P. Parry. She had a good education at GBS. I am now 87 and residing in an assisted living facility. I enjoy a loving relationship with my two daughters and one son—my only survivors. I send my love and God's richest blessings to everyone at GBS.

PHYLLIS ORMAN
Indianapolis, IN

Your ministry is prayed for fervently by our ministry. And I promise you, the hope of America is not in the next election. The hope of America is in the gospel of Jesus Christ, and people standing for the Word of God, just as you are being trained to do. I love your *God's Revivalist* magazine. I get hundreds of things sent to me every month. But I read *God's Revivalist* meticulously because it has so touched my heart and life. I always read President Loper's page. And, please, please, stand tall!

ATTORNEY DAVID GIBBS
Founder, Christian Law Association
(transcribed from the opening comments of his
GBS chapel message, May 11, 2022)

Be encouraged and keep up the great work.
Always a great job on *God's Revivalist*!

VIOLA DURR
GBS alumna, former faculty, current trustee
Franklin, OH

everything else pertaining to the way we lived our lives will come under the all-knowing, all-seeing eye of the One who did it perfectly. I can assure you that Jesus Christ is not impressed with best-selling books or popular radio programs. He will be looking at the motives that drive people's actions. In short, He will reward those who truly loved and served other people.

The disturbing reality is that talent has a lot more to do with advancement in the American Church than does godly character. In fact, some of its biggest stars are the most prideful and self-centered people in the Church. I say that because outward success tends to foster pride and selfishness in the best of folks. Fame has ruined more men of God than we can imagine. I know because it could have easily ruined me.

Within the first couple of years of ministry, I had shared my testimony before millions of viewers on The Oprah Winfrey Show and other national media programs. Where does a young minister go from that heady beginning? I'll tell you where: down!

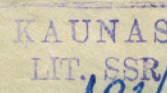
Let me make my point through a small incident that occurred recently when I found myself seated next to an elderly lady on a one-hour flight. I resisted my natural tendency to bury myself in a book and, instead, "got out of myself" and engaged her in conversation. She lit up when I began to ask her about her children. By the time we reached our destination—which was a layover for both of us—I had the whole "scoop" on her family. When we deboarded, I helped her find the gate for her next flight. With tears streaming down her cheeks, she hugged me and thanked me. Why? Simply because I took the time and made the effort to show her that I cared.

How does that insignificant incident compare to me sharing my testimony before millions of viewers? The truth is that when I appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show, I was still very much full of myself and it has taken twenty-five years of being disciplined and humbled by God and being taught what the important issues are in His kingdom to get me to the point where I would take a genuine interest in a lonely old lady.

I believe this is where God is taking all of His people. Jesus said it all in Mark 9:35 (NASB): "If anyone wants to be first, he shall be *LAST OF ALL AND SERVANT OF ALL*" (emphasis mine). What this tells me is that the way to make a splash in God's Kingdom is not to do something big and flashy, but to love and serve other people in your daily life. That's the way to be first in God's kingdom. ■

Steve Gallagher is the founder and president of Pure Life Ministries. He has dedicated his life to helping men find freedom from sexual sin and leading Christians into the abundant life in God that comes through deep repentance. This article is from PureLifeMinistries.org and is used here with permission.

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2022



The Spiritual Discipline of **SHUTTING UP**



by Craig Thompson

The practice of spiritual disciplines will aid you in your walk with Jesus and in your walk with others. The more time you spend in Bible reading and prayer, for instance, the more likely you are to be growing in godliness. There are lists of spiritual disciplines and books written about spiritual disciplines. Lists include such disciplines as Bible intake, prayer, fasting, evangelism, worship, meditation, simplicity, silence, and solitude.

One discipline that is conspicuously absent from most lists, but which I find to be incredibly beneficial in my sanctification and in my relationships with others, is the spiritual discipline of shutting my mouth. You may practice silence and solitude, but that isn't the same thing as the discipline of shutting up.

Silence and solitude is the discipline you practice before the Lord. But, the discipline of shutting your mouth is practiced in the presence of others.

Biblically, this discipline is proposed in several passages of Scripture (ESV):

- **James 1:19** — *“Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.”*
- **James 1:26** — *“If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person’s religion is worthless.”*
- **Proverbs 1:8-9** — *“Hear, my son, your father’s instruction and forsake not your mother’s teaching, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.”*
- **Proverbs 10:19** — *“When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.”*

There should be time in your life where you practice extended periods of silence and solitude before the Lord. But, there should also be times when you shut your mouth in the presence of others. Be quick to listen. Be patient in listening. Sometimes, when people are saying things that may not be exactly accurate, you will even have to be long-suffering in your listening. But, it may not be helpful to speak.

Your speaking to a fool could be as throwing pearls before swine. Further, if you choose to speak into a subject about which you are ill-informed, you may show yourself to be the fool.

Truthfully, we often speak because we want to be seen as important, or wise, or learned.

Ask yourself regularly, “Why are my words necessary in this moment?” If your words are necessary and beneficial, then by all means, speak. But, if your words are not necessary, it is often best just to listen—to be content not to be the center of a conversation or controversy.

I recently enjoyed a meal with some really ridiculous conversation. As the conversation shifted into a subject about which I am relatively well-informed, it became obvious that one of the people at the table had no idea what she was talking about. She wasn't hurting anyone. In fact, I suspect that everyone else at the table knew that she was incorrect.

All sorts of words bubbled up inside me. I had corrections, arguments, rebuttals. However, my words were not necessary. No one was being harmed by these words. My

© iStock: Eumaispoutnicka

corrections would have served to embarrass her, and for no good reason other than to prove that I knew more about the subject.

I have a paper sign taped to the back of my office door that says, "Never miss a good opportunity to shut up." I thought about my sign during that meal. This was a good opportunity to shut up. National security was not on the line. No one was challenging the authenticity of the gospel.

My grandma always filled her ice cube trays with hot water instead of cold water. Is it true that hot water freezes into ice cubes faster than cold water? Maybe, but probably not. Why did she put hot water instead of cold water? I suspect it had nothing to do with the temperature of the water, but rather with the fact that she was right-handed. She typically held the ice tray with her right hand and turned on the water with her left, thus the hot water was more convenient than the cold water.

Does it matter? NO. The lore in my family is that my grandma did it on purpose. She is dead. I can't ask her why she did it. If my aunt tells me why she did it and I have another theory, does it really matter?

People sometimes offer me some really outlandish stories. Do they always need to be corrected? Are there times when the most grace-filled and loving thing I can do is simply to be quiet?

We can't always be quiet. If my dinner conversation from a few weeks ago had been about the gospel or about how to parent children biblically, I may have had to interject a few words of correction. But, nothing of long-term importance was being discussed.

When possible, try to practice biblical wisdom in the use of your words. "Whoever restrains his lips is prudent."

According to James, without a bridled tongue, your religion is worthless. We don't put bridles on horses just to keep them from bucking. The bridle controls the horse at a trot and a gallop and everything else in between. Likewise, the bridled tongue is not only to keep you from spouting off angry outbursts. The bridled tongue knows when to speak and when to be quiet.

The practice of spiritual disciplines will help you to grow in godliness. As you practice the more common disciplines in your life, do not neglect to practice the discipline of shutting up every opportunity you get. The more you close your mouth, the more cognizant you will become of your own pride and desire to be heard. The more you close your mouth, the more you will listen to others.

Who knows, as you say fewer words, the ones you do utter may grow in value and application. Just by listening to others more patiently, you may develop richer, wiser, and more beautiful words that can impact your world. ■

Craig Thompson pastors the Malvern Hill Baptist Church, in Camden, SC. This article was first published on his website, CraigThompson.org, and is used here with permission.

Leaving a Legacy

- Express your values through your legacy
- Multiply giving to children, church, and charities
- Save children thousands in taxes
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JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2022



HILLTOP IVORIES

On the evening of April 12, the GBS Division of Music hosted the



Mike Yancey and daughter, Brooklynn, perform.

annual Hilltop Ivories concert on campus in the Adcock Memorial Chapel. This annual piano ensemble event is a favorite, bringing pianists together to collaborate in a

variety of musical styles. Performers included pre-college students, college majors and non-majors, staff, faculty, campus family, alumni, and friends. The division is grateful to the generosity of music patrons who help to underwrite events like these on campus.

VIP DAYS

GBS hosted two VIP Days this year for prospective students. The first was a lock-in on April 7 in conjunction with the annual InterChurch Holiness Convention in Gatlinburg,



Participants in Hilltop Ivories

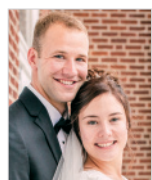
TN. The event was held at Rocky Top Sports Complex. Over 200 prospective students attended and enjoyed eighteen courts of fun activities, including basketball, volleyball, dodgeball, gaga ball, nine-square, hockey, and jousting! Students were able to talk with college representatives about their questions and even experience campus via 360° videos.

The second VIP Day was held April 21-22 on our main campus in Cincinnati. Over 120 prospective students attended. The event included plenty of fun with nerf wars, basketball and volleyball tournaments, street hockey, camp-

REVIVALIST FAMILY

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

WEDDING



Caroline Crater (HS '18, college 2018-21) to Ryan Craig (AA '21), October 15, 2021, at Latonia Baptist Church, Covington, KY, with the Revs. Michael Avery and David Hartkopf officiating. Caroline and Ryan both work for Clemens Home Solutions, Muncie, IN, and live in Muncie. Caroline's parents are longtime GBS staff/faculty: Tim (BA '89) and Tanya (Cheatham) (BA '89) Crater. Ryan's parents are both GBS alumni: Steve (BA '91) and Ronna (Hughes) (BA '94).

DEATHS



Jo Ann Katzenbach, 89, of Union, OH, entered Heaven's gates on Thursday, January 20, 2022. She was born in Greenville, OH, to Eli and Ethel (Campbell) O'Dell. Jo graduated from Roosevelt High School in Dayton and attended God's Bible School (1953). She was an ordained minister with an emphasis on children. In 1955 she married Rev. Robert Katzenbach. During her lifetime, Jo attended First Grace Brethren Church of Dayton/Vandalia, Phillipsburg Missionary Church of Brookville, and Community Grace Brethren of West Milton, all in Ohio. She retired from her favorite job at Danny's Carpets. Jo was a GBS donor and a subscriber to *God's Revivalist*.



VIP Day ministry team prepares to leave campus for open-air ministry in downtown Cincinnati.

multiple interactive workshops centering on healthcare, ministry, photography, and personality and career assessment. The goal of these activities was to help prospective students uncover God's calling in their lives in order to become who He created them to be.

The day ended with a worship service featuring the choir and SWSE followed by fun outdoor activities and refreshments for everyone to enjoy.

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP

The neighborhood outreach ministry at GBS was started by a small group of students in the spring semester of this year. This ministry goes door to door in the neighborhood around GBS. We as Christians are wanting to share the love of Christ and the wonderful hope of the gospel with those



Eron Miriye and Daniel Beatty



Prospective and current students join in a game of Nine Square.

fires, music, smores, coffee trips, and more! The VIP students were also able to participate in the College Choir, the Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble (SWSE), and



Daniel Beatty and Randy Mercado display their cleanup power tools of choice.

closest to us. God loves everyone, and we as the body of Christ did not want our neighbors to be so close to people who know the truth but never hear it for themselves. So ➡



Jo was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Katzenbach Sr., and son, Robert Katzenbach Jr. She is survived by her daughter, Deborah Phipps; three grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and numerous other relatives and friends. A celebration of life gathering was held at a later date. Jo's body was laid to rest beside her beloved husband in Abbottsville Cemetery, Abbottsville, OH.



Robert Eugene Thompson Jr., 71, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on March 19, 2022, at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, St. Louis, MO, after a sudden heart attack. He was born May 14, 1950, in Fort Scott, KS, to Robert and Mary (Poe) Thompson. His father was a pastor, so the family moved frequently. Bob began his education in California, went on to attend

Fort Scott Bible School (Fort Scott, KS), and received his high school diploma at Mt. Zion Bible School (Ava, MO). He earned his ThB at Kansas City College and Bible School (now Kansas Christian College), Overland Park, KS. He then taught school at Mt. Zion Bible School and Venture Bible College in Jamaica. Later he became principal of Rocky Mountain Christian School, Littleton, CO, where he met Cinda Ramey. In 1978, Bob and Cinda were united in marriage. They pastored for 43 years, including as missionary pastors in the Cayman Islands for 25 years. At the time of his death, Bob had been pastoring the Mt. Zion Church of God (Holiness) in Ava for more than 10 years.

Bob enjoyed music and people. He loved teasing everyone. He and Cinda led tours to Israel, and Bob traveled extensively for the Prison Fellowship International. ➡

➡ we go out and meet our neighbors, we pray with them, and we also collect their prayer requests and pray weekly for them. Saturday, May 7th, in keeping with seeking to show Christ's love in a practical way, we went around the neighborhood collecting trash and helping those who responded positively when we asked if they needed any help with their lawn care. Please pray that God would multiply our genuine service for the glory of His name and growth of His kingdom. —**Eron Miriye**

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The GBS choir and orchestra teamed up with Aldersgate Christian Academy's high school choir to minister in an annual National Day of Prayer service on the steps of the courthouse in downtown Cincinnati on Thursday, May 5.

Due to two weather cancellations (2018 and 2019) and two COVID cancellations (2020 and 2021), this service opportunity was the first for most of our current students. The orchestra performed renditions of the National Anthem and "God Bless America" and joined with the combined choirs to perform "Wonderful, Merciful Savior" and "Jesus Never Fails." As the choir was singing "Jesus Never Fails," a lady commented to a GBS staff member, "you can clearly tell they believe what they're singing." We are grateful to have had the privilege of taking the gospel to the streets—may His Word never return unto Him void! —**Dr. Jana S. Pop, Chair, Division of Music**



The combined choirs and orchestra make music in front of the Hamilton County Court House.



President Loper prays on the courthouse steps.

REVIVALIST FAMILY continued

➡ Bob was a member of the Ava Ministerial Alliance and conducted a weekly radio broadcast, "Moments with the Master," on KKOZ. He had a passion for preaching and sharing the gospel. He was a GBS donor and a *God's Revivalist* subscriber.

Bob is survived by his wife, Cinda; brother, Rev. Ken Thompson; sister Glenna Thompson; many nieces and nephews; and a host of family, friends, and "adopted" children, including Bryan Bowie, Marie George, Delia Powery, Egbert Jackson, Zenia Woods, and Joy Anson, with whom he and Cinda developed close relationships over the years, especially during their ministry in the Cayman Islands. Bob is also survived by ten godchildren.

Funeral services were held in Mt. Zion Auditorium, Ava, MO, Rev. Ken Thompson officiating. Burial followed in the Mt. Zion Cemetery.

Hope Eavey, 86, of Fort Wayne, IN, passed away Sunday, March 20, 2022, surrounded by family at her home. She was born in Groesbeck, TX, to Paul and Michaela Ramos.



Hope worked more than 30 years for State Farm Insurance and was a faithful member of Wesleyan Redeemer Church. She was married to Rev. John Eavey and enjoyed caring for her church family. Most of all she loved spending time with her children and grandchildren. Hope was a GBS donor and a subscriber to *God's Revivalist*. The Eaveys were frequent visitors to GBS. Several of Hope's relatives are associated with GBS: son, Michael (2003-09); granddaughter, Paige Eavey (2008-22, intermittently); granddaughter, Emily Pinkston (BA '12); and daughter-in-law, Amy Eavey (current adjunct professor).

Hope is survived by her husband of 68 years, Rev. John M. Eavey; daughter, Teresa Jo Smith; son, Michael; 18 grandchildren; 39 great-grandchildren; and three sisters, Mary Heller, Jessie Aguliar, Virginia Baldwin. Funeral services were held at Wesleyan Redeemer Church, Ft. Wayne, IN. Burial followed at Covington Memorial Gardens, Ft. Wayne.

NEWEST GBS FAMILY MEMBER!

Ozzie recently joined GBS as the official campus dog and has been bringing joy and smiles to students and staff since the moment of his arrival.



val. This breed of small dog, Coton de Tuléar, is named for its cotton-like coat and the city Tuléar in Madagascar. The breed is thought to have originated from a group of dogs that swam across the Malagasy Channel following a shipwreck. The student body voted to name him after famous GBS faculty member Oswald Chambers. Ozzie absolutely LOVES people, and they love him. He has been a little ray of sunshine on campus.

CONGRATULATIONS, DR. HALLAM!

Vice President for Enrollment Services Matt Hallam completed his PhD in Intercultural Studies from Evangel University, Springfield, MO, on May 5, 2022. His dissertation topic was "Missional Identity Development in Urban Christians." This interest can be traced back to his



years as a GBS student (BA '06) when he became involved in Teen Power, a ministry of Main Street Chapel. After his graduation from GBS, he and his wife believed that God wanted them to continue ➡



S. Denise Shaffer, 63, of York, PA, passed away unexpectedly in her sleep the morning of April 29, 2022. She was born to Robert and Janice Jones on March 29, 1959, in Salisbury, MD. She graduated from Parkside High School and later from Penn View Bible Institute.

On June 8, 1985, she was married to Nathan Shaffer. They pastored in the God's Missionary Church denomination. Denise's world revolved around her family, especially her five grandchildren. She was a woman of compassion, conviction, character, dignity, and diligence.

Denise is survived by her husband, Nathan; son, Solomon; daughter, Susanna Blowers; five grandchildren; father, Robert; brother, Michael Jones; sisters, Debbie Ziegler and Dianne Smith; and mother-in-law, Ruth. Funeral services were held at God's Missionary Church, Beavertown, PA, with burial following in the church cemetery. ■

A vertical advertisement for the Christian Worldview Scholarship. It features a portrait of a young woman with glasses and a blue shirt. The text "CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW SCHOLARSHIP" is prominently displayed in white and yellow. Below it, the text "Attend a year on campus—with tuition on us! Learn more at GBS.EDU/CWS" is shown in white.

**CHRISTIAN
WORLDVIEW
SCHOLARSHIP**

Attend a year on campus—with tuition on us!
Learn more at [GBS.EDU/CWS](https://www.gbs.edu/cws)



The Hallam Family

➡ working in urban ministry. He did so for several years and began concurrently working as evening manager for Indiana Wesleyan University (IWU) at their West Chester campus in the Cincinnati area. He earned an MA in Ministry from IWU in 2011 and began his doctoral work at Evangel University. His 13 years of work with IWU brought promotions, eventually to Associate Vice President of Enrollment, which necessitated a move to the main campus in Marion, IN. In January 2019, President Rodney Loper contacted Matt about employment at GBS, and Matt accepted.

The entire Hallam family attended the commencement exercises at Evangel. The campus family invites the Revivalist family to join in congratulating Dr. Matt Hallam!

STAFF AND FACULTY YEAR-END MEETING

The end-of-year staff and faculty meeting on May 11 was a time for looking back over the previous school year as well as looking forward to the next. Moves scheduled during the summer were announced. These include inter-campus moves as well as personnel changes, which will be highlighted in an upcoming issue of *God's Revivalist*. A bucket of welcome cards to be signed by staff and faculty were circulated at the beginning of the meeting, and

money toward welcome baskets for new employees was collected.

Service gifts were awarded to various employees. For 5 years (pen/pencil set): Eli Albring, Caslyn Edwards, Charity Frazier, Sarah McBryant, Kara Olson; for 10 years (personalized clock): Daryl Muir, Stephen Smith; for 16 years (leather binder):

Charlotte Frederick (She should have been acknowledged for 15 years of service last year but was inadvertently left out due to a miscalculation of full-time and part-time status); for 20 years (\$100): Philip Brown; for 25 years (portrait on the cover of upcoming *God's Revivalist* and feature article): Mark Bird, Richard Miles.

Various administrators gave updates concerning recent developments and ongoing projects under their jurisdiction. Announcements pertaining to end-of-year activities were given and dismissal prayer was offered.

MUSIC DIVISION ENDS YEAR WITH CONCERTS

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

Annual Choir Concert

On Wednesday, May 11, 2021, at 7:00 pm, the College Choir, directed by Mr. Tim Crater and accompanied by Mrs. Martha Miller (piano) and Ms. Jessica Smith (organ), performed "A Choral Celebration of Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs." The selections



College Choir Spring Concert



Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble Spring Concert

were written and arranged by a variety of composers, including Carol Cymbala, Michael John Trotta, and Jay Rouse, and all were well-received by the audience. Mid-concert, Mr. Crater publicly thanked the choir members for a “marvelous year” of “embracing the grace of God.” The choir’s nine graduating seniors were called to the front and were applauded for their years of service. Accompanist Mrs. Martha Miller was honored for giving more than four decades of service to the school (see photo and text in “College Commencement,” p.18). Mr. Crater dedicated the choir’s performance of “Will the Circle be Unbroken” to her.

Former choir members were invited to the platform to join in singing “The Storm is Passing Over.” Vice President for Spiritual Life Richard Miles offered the closing prayer.

An Evening with SWSE

On Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at 7:00 pm, the Division of Music presented “An Evening with the Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble,” an entertaining program of concert music. The performance featured a 46-piece orchestra directed by Mr. David Hartkopf and accompanied on piano by Ms. Jessica Smith. Several guest musicians from Aldersgate Christian Academy, Heartland Christian School, and Stone City Christian Academy including their teacher,

Mrs. Ronna (Hughes) Craig (BA ‘94), joined the SWSE for the evening, in addition to alumni Rob Ryan (BA ‘99) and Hollie (Kessen) Hosier (BA ‘17). The SWSE enjoyed the opportunity to conclude their school year with this fun music.

Dr. Jana Pop, Chair of the Division of Music, expresses deep appreciation for the generosity of individuals who have contributed to the Annual Fund, thus enabling the presentation of guest clinicians throughout the year, as well as scholarships for upperclassmen to attend professional workshops and events. Persons who are interested in making contributions for the coming year should contact Dr. Jana Pop at jpop@gbs.edu or 513.763.6547.

SPRING PICNIC

The Spring Picnic was held Thursday, May 19, at Lincoln Ridge Park in the beautiful, rolling hills of Independence, KY, just south of the Cincinnati area. Students and staff enjoyed playing disc golf, softball, 9-square, and assorted other games. Many enjoyed the

hiking trails along a stream that flows through the park and is the source of innumerable fossils that several students retrieved. Mr. Floyd Hyatt led a crew of Student Affairs staff in grilling hamburgers and hot dogs for large groups of hungry picnickers.



College senior Erica Biggers performs a vocal solo accompanied by the SWSE.



CANDLELIGHT PRAYER MEETING AND BAPTISMAL SERVICE

On Wednesday evening, May 18, the Senior Candlelight Prayer Meeting and Baptismal Service took place. This annual event, usually held outside on the South Lawn, was moved into the chapel due to inclement weather. This did not dampen the wonderful time of singing and testimonies, however. The service honored the graduating college seniors and marked the beginning of Commissioning Weekend. Several students were also baptized in a portable baptistry. The service culminated in a candle-lighting ceremony, as the attendees holding small candles, passed the flame from candle to candle until the chapel was lit by the many tiny, dancing lights, each representing those who leave campus to minister in various parts of the world.



President Loper baptizes college student Minha (David) Kim.



Candle-lighting Ceremony

COMMISSIONING WEEKEND

Rev. Curtis Going (BA '05) of Harker's Island, NC, was guest speaker for the year-end series of services. He began his opening remarks on Thursday evening, May 19, with the observation that it is impossible to come on this campus without having a flood of memories, and that he owes a debt of gratitude to this institution and many people, some sitting before him that evening, who had had a direct impact on his life and ministry.

He shared with the congregation that as he had prayed for this series of services, he felt his heart and mind drawn to the

book of Hebrews—particularly to that portion of the book that deals with the grand theme of faith.

The first sermon focused on Cain and Abel (Gen. 4:1-16) and the disparate treatment received as they made their offerings to God: two brothers, two offerings, two attitudes, and two results. Cain is remembered in history as a self-reliant, faithless, murderous villain. But all these thousands of years later, we're still talking about Abel and his offering of faith.

Rev. Going noted that a Bible college campus is a wonderful place to grow spiritually, to enjoy the fellowship and accountability of a Christian community, to get involved in ministry, and to worship. But it is also a place where it is easy



Rev. Curtis Going



Prayer around the altar

to get so caught up in the busyness of all the activities and responsibilities that students may forget the real reasons they are here. It is possible that worship and service and offerings to God may become an outward, perfunctory performance. It is easy to put on an impressive façade that hides the real you and moves you from trust in God to trust in yourself and your own abilities and what *you* can do. Are you worshipping God from a posture of *self-reliance*, or from a heart of humble, obedient *faith*?

The Friday evening sermon took a look at the various points in the life of Abraham: Faith in the moving truck, in the waiting room, and in the funeral home (Heb. 11:8-12, 17-19). Of particular interest was the second point, as all have experienced periods of waiting in their lives. We may never understand God's reasons on this side of

eternity for sitting us down in the waiting room, but it is there that God develops and grows and matures us.

The Saturday evening service focused on the faith of Moses (Heb. 11:23-27). Like him, we should choose “rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season” (v.25). Whatever our “sufferings of this present time,” they “are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Rom. 8:18).

“Tending to the Inner Man” was the Sunday morning theme (Eph. 3:16; 2 Cor. 4:16). Rev. Going stressed the importance of guarding one’s devotional life. Remember, “spiritual disciplines,” or the means of grace, are practical ways that God has given us to set our sails so that we can catch the wind of the Spirit and enable Him to renew the inner man.

Beginning with a prayer by Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Aaron Profitt, the Sunday night service was a real blessing. The chapel is an exciting place to be when the congregation is enthusiastically singing “Arise My Soul Arise” or listening to special music by the College Choir!

President Loper gave special recognition to several people. Head Cook Debby Byer and her cafeteria crew were given a standing ovation by the congregation. Then Dave and Charlotte Frederick joined President Loper on the platform. Vice President for Financial Affairs Dave Frederick has been keeping the school’s finances and associated records in great order for 27 years and will be leaving the school’s employ during the summer; and Charlotte is taking time off from her full-time teaching schedule. The congregation again showed their appreciation for the dedicated service of the Fredericks with a standing ovation.

Rev. Going concluded his series on “Faith” with encouragement



2022 GRADUATES OF GOD’S BIBLE SCHOOL, COLLEGE, AND MISSIONARY TRAINING HOME★

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS

Aaron Bolar
Josiah Bowen
Aidan Carter
Lia Crawley, +
Valedictorian
Bryson Craycraft
Calvin Cross
Timothy Donohue
Karissa Fredericks, +
Salutatorian
Ruth Goremiss +
Xavier Knowles
Breanna Loper
Elizabeth Moore
Yoselyn Perez Ambrocio
Kaley Quesenberry +
Ethan Rectenwald
McDelyn Wantaki +
Brooklyn Webb
John Williams

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

AA IN BIBLE & THEOLOGY
Christopher Paul McCain

AA IN GENERAL BUSINESS

Alyssa Marie Johnson *
Jessica Lynn Stetler
Lauren Elizabeth Thomas ***
Joseph Samuel Tillis II *

AA IN GENERAL STUDIES

Miranda Michelle Alexander
Lauren Grace Bowen
Connor Trenton Davis
Kimberly Rose Derby ***
Derek Duane Derscheid
Brittney Elaine Ewald *
Sarah Brooke Going
Emily Rachel King
Briana Nicole Marshall
Austin Tyler Rizer *
Bethany Joy Snyder *

AAS IN MINISTERIAL EDUCATION
Daniel Allen Brandon

BA IN BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL STUDIES
Curtis Lee Gordon ***
*Joshua Adam Lake, ****
Valedictorian
Trevor Alan Lane *
Austin Marshall Randall
Chandler Jonathan Witter *

BA IN CHURCH & FAMILY MINISTRY
Jonathan Ray Payne ***

BA IN CHURCH MUSIC (Non-Performance Track)
Daniel Allen Brandon

BA IN INTEGRATIVE STUDIES
Melissa Jean Blocher
Brianna Joy Bowen
Hanna E. Lauren Kreml
Clarissa Joy Manley
Joseph Taylor Messner **
Renee Michelle Messner
Danette Melynn Teed *
Audrey Marie Yoder *

BA IN MINISTERIAL EDUCATION
Jeffrey Michael Glick
Cameron David Going
Yaw Adu Gyamfi
*Lane Ross Williams, ****
Salutatorian

BA IN MUSIC EDUCATION (K-12 Non-Performance Track)
TaCarra Erica Biggers

BA IN MUSIC EDUCATION (K-12 Performance Track)
Lydia Joy Yoder

BA IN TEACHER EDUCATION (Elementary)
Karissa Jenae Bird **
Khara Mackenzie Going *

GRADUATE DEGREES

MA IN MINISTRY
Dwight Andrew Crosley

★ pending completion of all course requirements

italics indicates graduates in absentia

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



Dave and Charlotte Frederick receive special recognition.

from Hebrews 12:1-3: "You can win this race!" When looking at the lives of the heroes of the faith in Hebrews 11, you notice that God broke through personal plans to send them to places and lead them to do things that they would not otherwise have gone to or done. Yes, God also has a race for *you* to run, and you can take courage because you have all power in Heaven and earth on your side. The Scripture gives insight into preparing for this race: "Lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus" (Heb. 12:1b-2a). To reach the finish line in victory and accomplish all that God has for us, our belief, obedience, and trust will have to be in good working order, and we must keep our focus on Jesus!

At the close of the service, President Loper invited all graduating seniors and their family members to come to the front for a closing prayer. Administrators, trustees, and their families were called to the platform while audience members were also encouraged to come forward to pray with the seniors—a fitting ending for the year-end services.

Each Commissioning Weekend sermon is available for viewing on the GBS Facebook page. Additionally, Saturday morning's commencement address can be found on page 22.

COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT

Commencement exercises took place Saturday, May 21, at 10:00 a.m. in the Adcock Memorial Chapel. Mrs. Martha Miller, organist, played "Pomp and Circumstance" as school officials and the graduates filed in and took their places on the platform. Robert England, Jr., GBS board chair, gave the invocation. David Hartkopf led the congregation in singing Thomas Chisholm and William Runyon's "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." Rev. Mark Stetler of Pell City, AL, delivered the invocation. Angie Davis of Frankfort, IN, read the Scripture lesson (Proverbs 3:13-26). "What Grace Is Mine" was sung by TaCarra Erica Biggers and Clarissa Manley, accompanied by Lydia Yoder (viola), and Jessica Smith (piano).

Dr. Rodney Loper introduced the guest speaker, alumnus Rev. Curtis Going (BA '05), of Harkers Island, NC. He had walked across this platform 17 years earlier as a college graduate, and he wondered aloud what he would say to his 21-year-old self as he received his diploma. His commencement address (see page 22) permitted us to listen in on those thoughts.

After the address, the graduates received their diplomas and special awards were given. Joshua Lake was recognized as valedictorian *in absentia* and Lane Williams was honored as salutarian. The GBS academic division chairs presented the following undergraduate student awards: **Division of Ministerial Education** (Dr. Allan Brown, Chair): *Zondervan Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Study of Biblical Greek*, Dominic Gattone; *Zondervan Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Study of Biblical Hebrew*, Lane Williams; *Oswald Chambers Ministerial Leadership Award*, Chandler Witter. **Division of Professional Studies** (Lyle Witt, Chair): *Educated Christian*



Martha Miller receives two teaching awards.



Lane Williams, 2022 College Salutarian



Jonathathan Payne was one of two recipients of the Oscar Johnson Award.

Award, Daniel Brandon; Oscar Johnson Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Service, Taylor Messner and Jonathan Payne; Student Teaching Award, Khara Going. Division of Music (Dr. Jana Pop, Chair): *Servant Leadership Award, Daniel Brandon. R.G. Flexon Library* (Stephanie Owens, Head Librarian): *Research Award, Joey Tillis.*

Dwight Crosley, recipient of the MA in Ministry degree, was introduced by Dr. Philip Brown, Graduate Program Director. Crosley was hooded by Dr. Stephen Smith.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Aaron Profitt made a special



Dr. Stephen Smith hoods Dwight Crosley upon completion of his master's degree.

presentation of the *Excellence in Teaching Award* to Martha Miller. Her husband, David Miller, escorted her to the platform to receive this honor. Dr. Profitt noted that the Greater Cincinnati Consortium of Colleges and Universities, of which GBS is a member, will acknowledge this award at its fall meeting. Martha was also presented with another GBS award: "*Distinguished Professor of Collaborative Piano.*"

President Loper conferred the degrees on the graduating class of 2022, and Jeff Messner of Leeds, AL, offered the benediction.

ACADEMY GRADUATION

Aldersgate Christian Academy held its graduation ceremony at 7:00 p.m., May 27, in the Adcock Memorial Chapel. After the processional, Mr. Anthony Flores gave the invocation.

Principal Timothy Makcen gave special recognition to graduating seniors Lia Crawley (valedictorian) and Karissa Fredericks (salutatorian), each of whom gave brief remarks. Five seniors received Academic Honors Diplomas and blue-and-white tasseled cords in recognition of their excellence in academic achievement for having completed honors courses: Lia Crawley, Karissa

Fredricks, Kaley Quesenberry, Ruth Goremiss, and McDelyn Wantaki. The ceremony also honored students graduating from eighth grade: Danielle Allen, Na'im Baker II, Anthony Bates, Sergio Cabrera Hernandez, Sierra Cramer, Robel Dereje, Jireh Flores, Beth Haselden, Emanuel Howard III, Jose Martinez DeLeon, Lena Owliaie (Valedictorian), David Porter V, Emily Robles Villeda, Nasear Sims, Terrance Watson Jr. (Salutatorian), and Derick Xolop.

Principal Makcen presented the (U.S.) President's Education Award. This honor is granted to academically excelling students who rank above the ninetieth percentile of the nation's 2022 graduates, have a 3.5 or higher grade point average, and have scored high in the national standardized achievement tests. Those receiving the Gold President's Award were: (eighth graders) Danielle Allen, Lena Owliaie, Terrence Watson Jr., Derick Xolop; (high school seniors) Josiah Bowen, Lia Crawley, Karissa Fredericks, Ruth Goremiss, Breanna Loper, Elizabeth Moore, Kaley Quesenberry, Ethan Rectenwald, and McDelyn Wantaki. Those receiving the Silver President's Award were: (eighth grader) Jose Martinez DeLeon; (high

school seniors) Xavier Knowles, and John Williams.

A special song, "Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me," was sung by Lia Crawley, Breanna Loper, Kaley Quesenberry, Ethan Rectenwald, and John Williams accompanied by Josiah Bowen, Wyatt Darby, and Mrs. Andrea Ratcliff. Guest speaker, Rusty Woolum, pastor of the Newport City Church of God, gave the commencement address, "Being in the hand of the Shepherd." This followed the familiar story of David slaying Goliath (1 Samuel 17). David got himself five smooth stones from the brook and put them in a shepherd's bag. Rev. Woolum admonished the graduates to stay in the hands of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ. By launching them into their future, Jesus will enable them to slay the "giants" they will encounter. Their giants will not be a threat too big to hit, but a target too big to miss.

Dr. Aaron Profit assisted Principal Makcen in presenting the diplomas. Family and friends took pictures as each graduate turned the tassel. After a final round of applause, Mr. Kenneth Knowles offered the benediction. ■



Dear Phil

A STRAIN BETWEEN TWO TEACHINGS OF JESUS

In 1 Timothy 5:8 Paul says that if we do not provide for our family we are worse than an infidel. Yet in Luke 14:26, Jesus says that if we do not love Him enough to leave our wife and family, etc., we cannot be His disciples. There seems to be a strain between these two teachings. Could you help me better understand this? —Jonathan

Dear Jonathan,

Let's start by getting the context of 1 Timothy 5:8 in view. The topic of this section (5:3-16) is widows—specifically, how the church should honor and care for widows who are “widows indeed” (5:3).

Timothy's first step should be to check whether the widow has children or grandchildren (5:4). If she does, they must take care of her. Why? “They must first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family and to make some return to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight of God.” The principle is that children/grandchildren ought to show gratitude by making some return to their parents/grandparents (5:4b). So, shockingly, this passage isn't about parents caring for children or fathers caring for their families, but about children caring for their parents or grandparents.

As a side note, 1 Timothy 5:4 in the KJV reads, “But if any widow have children or nephews....” A quick look in the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) shows that “nephew” in the 1600s could mean “grandchild.” The

OED offers twelve examples of this use, including “Ye had your newewes, sonnes of your chyldren, maryed.” The Greek word Paul uses (ekgonos) means “the child of one's child,” i.e., a grandchild. I didn't know that “nephew” could mean grandchild until I looked it up for this article! This discovery reinforces my approach to differences between the King James Bible and modern English versions. When the KJV looks like a mistranslation, I assume the KJV word has a meaning I don't know and look it up in the OED.

Timothy's second step is to direct the church to take care of widows who have no family and meet the qualifications he lists. Paul directs Timothy to care only for widows who “have fixed their hope on God, continuing in entreaties and prayers night and day” (5:5), who are above reproach (5:7), are 60 or older, have been faithful to their husband, have a reputation for good works, have brought up children, have helped and served others, and have devoted themselves to every good work (5:9-10). That's quite the list!

What is the nature of this care? It appears to be very basic: food, clothing, shelter (cf. 1 Tim. 6:8). There's no implication of nice food, nice clothes, nice shelter. In fact, Paul says that widows who live luxuriously (NASB: wanton pleasure) are dead (spiritually) even while they live (1 Tim. 5:6) and are not to be added to the church's responsibility.

Now that we have the context clearly in view, let's return to 1 Timothy 5:8. It reads, “But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever” (NASB). On first read, the pronouns “his” and “he” lead me to think this verse is addressing husbands and fathers. That's certainly how I've heard it talked about all my life.

When I looked at the Greek text of this verse, I was surprised to find that there isn't a single masculine pronoun in the verse. A more literal rendering would be, “But if one does not provide for one's own relatives, and especially the members of one's household, one has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”

The pronoun Paul uses, “one,” is generic. Given the context, Paul's point is that children/grandchildren are to care for their widowed mothers or grandmothers. Now, don't get me wrong. The fact that children “make some return” to their parents obviously implies that parents have invested in them. That's assumed.

Regarding Luke 14:26, Jesus' words apply only to cases where obedience and loyalty to Him conflict with loyalty to family. Normally, caring for family is one way we express our love for Jesus.

Blessings,
Phil ■

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



SCOTTISH COURT RULES ON MALE-TO-FEMALE TRANSGENDERS

The Court of Session in Scotland has reversed a decision by the Scottish government to widen the definition in its Gender Representation on Public Boards Scotland Act 2018. That law wanted to include males who call themselves female as “women.” The case was brought by For Women Scotland, who said the previous decision would undermine the sex-based rights of biological females as protected by the Equality Act, finding that the redefinition of women to include biological males conflates and confuses two separate and distinct protected characteristics.

SCHOOL HIDING STUDENTS' GENDER IDENTITIES FROM THEIR PARENTS

During staff development sessions for teachers in the Eau Claire Area School District in Wisconsin, teachers were instructed to hide their students' changing gender identities from parents on the grounds that “parents are not entitled to know.” One of the trainers said that parents who disagree with their kids about gender identity issues are guilty of a form of “abuse.” There are parent groups now in the process of filing suits. Critics of these sessions say that the message is that schools are in control of children, not parents and families.

BIBLE READING AT ALL-TIME LOW

The new data from the American Bible Society's 2022 State of the Bible Survey registered a 10 point decline in the percentage of Bible users among American adults—from 49% in 2021 to 39% in 2022. This means that Bible reading and usage are at an all-time low in the United States. This is in contradiction to the accompanying finding that 49% believe the Bible includes “everything a person needs to know to live a meaningful life.” The good news is that nearly two-thirds of people who seldom or never read the Bible say they are curious about the Bible. Such interest can offer opportunity for ministry.

THE GREAT COMMISSION DISCONNECT

A recent Barna study conducted in partnership with Mission India shows that missions values differ considerably between the pulpit and the pew. Concerning the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18–20), 51% of laity tend to believe missions is a calling for some, while only 25% say it is a mandate for all. On the other hand, 85% of pastors say missions is work in which all Christians participate. There is an opportunity for pastors to shape how congregants interpret missions, because 61% of Christians who can correctly identify the Great Commission also view missions as a mandate. ■



student focus

DARYA (DASHA) SOBIE was born in Ohio, but she moved to Ukraine with her missionary family when she was very young, so she also counts Ukraine as home. When she returned to the U.S. to enroll at GBS, “It was hard leaving my family, friends. But I knew that the Lord was leading me to something new.”

She reports that GBS has been a “wonderful experience”—the classes, the sense of community. “I have built friendships for life. I have found out a lot about myself and how I handle situations and pressure.”

Concerning the many great GBS teachers and employees, Dasha says, “You can tell they truly care about you.” The ministry opportunities at times have pushed her out of her comfort zone, but that has enabled her to grow and to share the gospel message better.

Dasha is working toward a BA in early elementary education with an expected graduation in 2024. “The Lord knows what will happen—and His plans are best!” ■

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:

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2022 Commencement Address

by Curtis Going, Harkers Island, NC



It is an honor to share with you in this celebration of academic achievement. However, somebody told me that unless my address to you is exceptionally good or exceptionally awful, you likely won't remember anything I say by the time you leave this auditorium with your diploma. Since I'm not sure I'll reach the level of "exceptionally good," and I'm trying studiously not to be "exceptionally awful," I think you'll be pleased to know that I'm aiming for "exceptionally brief."

Seminary president and evangelical Christian thinker Dr. Albert Mohler compared America's secular, higher education system to factory assembly lines in the United States as the nation responded to the fateful attack on December 7, 1941. You've likely seen pictures of factories with those assembly lines, the functioning gears of all the mechanical machinery, and then the finished product leaving the factory. Automobiles—polished and prepared to do exactly what they're supposed to do. Airplanes with their wings brightly painted and their powerful engines ready for action. Other equipment more or less looking like each other. Plane after plane. Tank after tank. Jeep after jeep. Mohler says that much of higher education follows that model. Graduation for them is when the doors of the "factory" open, and graduate after graduate comes off the assembly line. With the announcement of majors and the presentation of diplomas, everybody can figure out what this one and what that one is supposed to do in life. Careers are all ahead.

The mission of GBS is markedly different from that of most of America's educational assembly lines—here you have received a distinctly Christian education. And while you have received academically something that is of the highest caliber, the greatest work that is accomplished here is spiritual. Your professors have attempted not only to instruct your head but also to shape and mold your heart. You have not been prepared simply to follow a career. You've been equipped to fulfill a mission. This morning the 2022 graduates officially join a long line of alumni who have left the halls of this institution to go into the har-

vest fields of churches, mission fields, classrooms, offices, homes, and many places of business bearing the good news of the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The rich history and godly heritage of this institution are yours. You are now a part of the story. It is up to you to make those eternal purposes the passion of your life.

However, in order to accomplish the mission, you must always remember that your life is not your own. I am often reminded of this when I look at the mantle clock that sits in my office—given to me as a graduation gift from my parents 17 years ago today when I walked across this platform and received my diploma. The clock is inscribed with the words King David spoke to God in Psalms 31:15: "My times are in thy hand." It is hard for me to believe that clock has ticked away the passing of 17 years since I left the Hilltop, and it got me to thinking. If I could somehow travel back in time and stand next to my 21-year-old self as I received my diploma, what would I whisper in my ear? What would I want myself to know that was absolutely indispensable? I think there would be five very simple admonitions, and I'll let you listen in to what I would whisper to myself.

The first thing I would say is, **"Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength."** After all, Jesus said this is the most important commandment in all of Scripture. Love God completely. Serve Him selflessly. Live for Him intentionally. Guard your heart carefully.

And then I would say, **"Love your neighbor as yourself."** Jesus said that this is the second greatest commandment. It's not profound, just a statement of the obvious, but I have learned that people will be people wherever there are people to be found. People may bless you or they may hurt you. They may build you up or they may tear you down. But your job is not to look for ways to be served by other people. Your job is to find ways to be a servant to others. You have been called to follow the example of Jesus: to love and to forgive and to make disciples.

The third thing that I would say to myself is extremely practical: **"Be flexible."** During my four years at GBS, I

served as Dr. Allan Brown's personal assistant. I remember him sometimes saying, "Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not break." Those words have served me well in marriage, in church business meetings, in board meetings, and many other facets of life. Don't ever be flexible with truth! But do be flexible with people and with circumstances. Be flexible in the times of disappointment and in the face of unfulfilled expectations. Be flexible.

The fourth thing I would say is, **"Keep singing."** Someday, if the Lord tarries His coming and your home going, you will be older. Whether you age with grace, or whether you become a crotchety old man or a cranky old woman, will largely be determined by the approach you take to life today. Many of the circumstances you face will be entirely beyond your control. But, with the Holy Spirit's help, what is within your control is how you choose to respond to those circumstances.

Several years ago, my wife and I were in the company of two elderly missionaries. After retiring from many years of faithful service on mission fields around the world, these two precious ladies shared a home together. When you saw them, their countenances just absolutely radiated the beauty of holiness. There was an obvious joy, a ready smile, and a genuine interest in others. As we sometimes ministered to older people who struggle with discouragement, we asked them, "What is the secret of your joy?" After a thoughtful pause, one of the ladies responded, "Well, we sing all the time. Sometimes, when we're just sitting, sometimes when we're cooking, sometimes when we're cleaning. One of us will just break into a hymn or a gospel song and the other will join and we'll sing together. We keep our focus on God and His goodness by singing throughout our daily routine." The joy those ladies had cultivated and maintained was contagious. I am convinced that if you want to be that kind of person when you're old, then you'll need to become that kind of person while you're young. Maintain a heart of worship and an attitude of gratitude. Keep the song of God's presence alive in your heart. Keep singing!

And then the fifth thing I would whisper, **"Always remember that it is all about God's glory."** God's glory is what is most important to Him, and so it should be what is most important to you. Greater than any success or accomplishment measured by the world's rubrics is that the testimony and faithfulness of your life in response to the abundant grace of God would really and truly redound to God's glory and honor. Paul wrote to young Timothy (1 Tim. 1:17): "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen."

God bless you and God bless God's Bible School! ■

Curtis Going has been in pastoral ministry since his GBS graduation in 2005. He currently is pastor of Grace Holiness Church at Harker's Island, NC, and also is managing editor of the Convention Herald, the publication of the InterChurch Holiness Convention.



by Sonja Vernon

GOD'S DELIGHT

"Let those who delight in my righteousness shout for joy and be glad and say evermore, 'Great is the LORD, who delights in the welfare of his servant!'"

—Psalm 35:27 ESV

Do you believe that God is good at His very essence, that He exudes joyful goodness as a byproduct of His nature? Or do you suspect that He is obligated to be good because He is God, and envisioning Him as joyful feels like a stretch? Do you believe that His purpose for His created ones is to see them ultimately thrive and flourish? Or do you fear that He is honestly a bit bothered by you, that you are a chore to Him? Our verse today affords us a beautiful glimpse into the heart of a God who "delights in the welfare of his servant."

Unfortunately, we often define "good" too narrowly. A competent parent knows that bringing good to a child may mean discipline to teach healthy practices and correct harmful behaviors; regular rest to allow minds and bodies to reset; possible pain when treating disease or rescuing from harm; frequent laughter as both a conduit and result of joy. And sometimes good simply means the parent's presence that calms fears and brings security. All of these things (and more) are necessary for the ultimate thriving and flourishing of the child. If broken humanity knows this, how much more our all-wise God, the One who lovingly watches over those He first created and then redeemed through the blood of His Son! He knows that the only path to complete fulfillment is in relationship with Him, the source of all good. Trust His heart and His hand today. He delights in your welfare. ■

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



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