

GOD'S REVIVALIST

October 2022

and Bible Advocate





thinking out loud

BAREFOOT

When I was a kid, there was one day I looked forward to each year. You probably think it was Christmas or the last day of school. No. For the Farmer kids, that day was May 1, the first day we were allowed to play outside shoeless—barefoot summer fun!

I have early memories of running barefoot along the country road at Grandpa Wallace's farm that was covered in "red dog," a byproduct of washing coal in West Virginia. Sulfur balls, slate, and other debris removed during that process were usually dumped into big piles that eventually caught fire by spontaneous combustion and often burned for years. That turned this refuse into a fairly hard, shale-like substance that was an orangish-red. This would be broken into small pieces and used to cover roads. It was the step between dirt and asphalt. During the first part of the summer, my feet had to get used to the sharp edges of the red dog. Fun times.

You are probably smiling at this crazy hillbilly, but wait a minute, my shoe-loving brothers and sisters! Those nicely padded insoles you just placed in your already-comfy shoes can actually negatively affect balance, stability, and foot strength by interfering with the messaging between your feet and your brain. And keeping your feet locked in all that "comfort" can also be a hindrance; in those brief times of release, your feet may be more sensitive and your ankles weaker.

Confession time. I stopped going barefoot during my early teens. But as I reminisced about those barefoot days, it also caused me to think. The pathway of life will occasionally have some "red dog" here and there. Yes, it will not always be "ease and comfort." There will be some sharp difficulties. We will need to make adjustments in order to keep our balance and continue forward. Although God is our ever-present help, in His wisdom, He does not carry us over ALL of life's difficulties. He sometimes lets us struggle through, and it can feel like we are "on our own." But under His watchful eye, we can make it through the difficult patches and emerge on the other side, realizing that, with Him by our side, we are stronger and more confident that we can make it!

I remember my father saying during family prayer time, "Lord, I am not asking that you necessarily make the way easy.... Just make it plain." Amen! —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

SMYRNA—FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH *Revelation 2:8-11*

by Dr. Rodney S. Loper, President

In the recent summer issue, I began a series on what Jesus has to say to the Church, using His seven letters written to seven different churches that existed in Asia Minor in the First Century. In this issue, we look at Smyrna, the second church addressed. Four short verses give us a glimpse into the life and ministry of this church. Before we look at the content of these verses, it might be helpful to understand the location and demographic of Smyrna.

ABOUT SMYRNA

Smyrna was located some 35 miles north of Ephesus. It possessed a safe harbor where ships from all over the world came to buy and sell goods. It was called “The Crown City” because it was surrounded by hills that resembled a crown. When the city chose a motto to be imprinted on their coinage, they chose the phrase “First in Asia in Size and Beauty.”

Smyrna was a planned city. Many cities of that time had simply “sprung up”—something easily discerned by town layout and the course of the streets. Smyrna, on the other hand, was well thought out. It had temples dedicated to the many gods they worshiped: Zeus (god of the sky), Cybele (goddess of fertility and wartime protectress), Asclepius (god of medicine), Apollo (god of the sun and practically everything else as well), and Aphrodite (goddess of sexual love and beauty), among others. While pagan religions dominated the life of Smyrna, there was also a thriving Jewish community there.

In this beautiful, wealthy, pagan city, there existed a Christian community struggling under intense persecution. Think with me about difficulties this group of believers was facing. The church was

not doing well financially. They were being talked about by those in the community. As they were facing persecution and tribulation, some realized they would likely suffer martyrdom. How wonderful it must have been for them to receive a letter from the Lord (Rev. 2:8-11) that was without any criticism, without any condemnation—comforting and encouraging indeed! In essence, Jesus was saying to this downtrodden church that their troubles were not hidden from His sight.

APPLICATION

When we face troubles in this life, we inevitably ask the question, “Where is God in relation to this trouble I am facing? Is He far off? Is He unaware?” Or, “Am I too small and insignificant for Him to take notice of my trouble?” Christ puts these ridiculous thoughts to rest, saying to the faithful at Smyrna, “I know....”

What a comfort it is to know that the eternal Christ, the Alpha and Omega, isn’t a distant, far-away deity who is unconcerned with the plight of His people. Rather, He is Emmanuel (God with us) and immanent (knowable by us).

Some of you may attend a church that by the world’s standards is small, poor, unattractive, and possibly “not doing much.” Take heart! I want you to know that God in heaven knows the truth about you personally. He knows how many sons and daughters from small, struggling churches have entered the ministry because of your influence. He knows how many people have been impacted in myriad ways by your faithfulness over the years.

Your church may not be the biggest one in your denomination. It may not have a large crowd like the big box church across town or a large balance in its check book. While you and your church may be mocked and ridiculed, know this: What Jesus said to the struggling, persecuted, blasphemed, poor church in Smyrna—“I know....”—He also says to you today!

Yes, dear reader, He knows your situation, too! Now is not the time to retreat. Rather, charge forward with God’s help to make a difference in our day. Will we face blasphemy? Scorn? Persecution? Peril? I hope not, but should that day come, I pray that we have enough of Jesus in and on our lives that we are willing to stand for Him like the faithful at Smyrna.

A MARTYR’S EXAMPLE

Every year, every citizen of Smyrna had to burn incense to Caesar. Historians say that in so doing, the citizen would receive a certificate. Imagine this case for the faithful Christians at Smyrna who no doubt would not say Caesar is Lord. It is possible that this require-

ment led to the death of one of Church history’s most famous martyrs, Polycarp. Polycarp worked with John in the churches of Asia Minor. He was the pastor of the church at Smyrna, and he was murdered in 155 A.D. at the age of about 86.

It was the time of the public games. Polycarp had not burned incense to Caesar. The city was crowded; the crowds were excited. Suddenly, the shout went up, “Away with the atheists. Let Polycarp be searched for.”

Many believe that Polycarp could have escaped, but he had had a dream in which he saw the pillow under his head burning with fire, and he afterward told his disciples, “I will be burned alive.”

His whereabouts were betrayed to the persecutors by a little slave girl who caved under torture, and they came to arrest him. Not even the soldier captain wished to see Polycarp die, and on the journey to the city, he pled with Polycarp, “What harm is it to say, ‘Caesar is Lord’ and to offer sacrifice and save your life?” But Polycarp was adamant that only Jesus Christ was Lord.

When He entered the arena, the proconsul gave him the choice of cursing the name of Christ and making sacrifice to Caesar or facing death. He responded with these now famous words: “Eighty-and-six years have I served Him, and He has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my King Who saved me?”

The proconsul threatened him with burning. Polycarp replied, “You threaten me with the fire that burns for a time and is quickly quenched, for you do not know the fire which awaits the wicked in the judgment to come and an everlasting punishment. Why are you waiting? Come do what you will.” He remained unmoved.

So the crowds came flocking with sticks from the workshops and from the baths; and the Jews, although it meant breaking the Sabbath law by carrying such burdens, were foremost in the clamor and in bringing wood for the fire. They prepared to bind him to the stake.

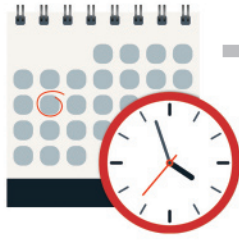
“Leave me as I am,” Polycarp said, “for He who gives me power to endure the fire will grant me to remain in the flames unmoved, even without the security you will give by the binding.” So they left him loosely bound in the flames, and there he died for his Christ.

CONCLUSION

Persecution may come. Satan is out to destroy you. But know this: God is with you! He knows and He sees. He has promised, “Be faithful and I will give you the crown of life”—eternal life in heaven.

Smyrna, the poor little rich church—crushed, persecuted, fragrant, victorious. In the end, its members were imprisoned and martyred. But, seen and known by God, they were triumphant and ultimately found their eternal reward! ■

KEEPING TIME WITH GOD



The Christian Year, Part 8

Reformation Day *and* All Saints Day

*Commemoration of the Protestant
Reformation and Celebration
of All Christian Saints*

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

October 31, 2022, Reformation Day

*Anniversary of the day Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses
to the Wittenberg church door in 1517*

November 1, 2022, All Saints Day

*A time to remember those Believers who have made
their final journey during the previous year*

GLORY TO GOD ON HIGH!

Glory be to God on high, and on earth, peace,
good will towards men. We praise Thee, we
bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee,
we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory, O Lord God,
Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty...."

These majestic phrases form the beginning of the *Gloria in Excelsis Deo*, one of the greatest hymns we have inherited from the ancient Christian Church. Its authorship, as well as its date of origin, is unknown, lost in the dust of the ages. We do know, however, that it was used regularly in divine worship as early as the fourth century A.D.

Named after the opening words of its Latin text, it is sometimes called "the Angelic Hymn," because those same opening words were sung by the angels who announced the birth of Our Lord Jesus to those startled shepherds "keeping watch over their flocks by night."

Since the *Gloria*—this is the shortened form of its name—begins in heaven above, it also serves as a splendid pattern for us in the Church below. For as Christian worship should be in all times and places, this centuries-old paean of praise is thoroughly theocentric—centered in God, not man—exalting the glorious Majesty of the heavens, who reveals Himself as One in essence or being, but Three in persons, "Unity in Trinity; Trinity in Unity."

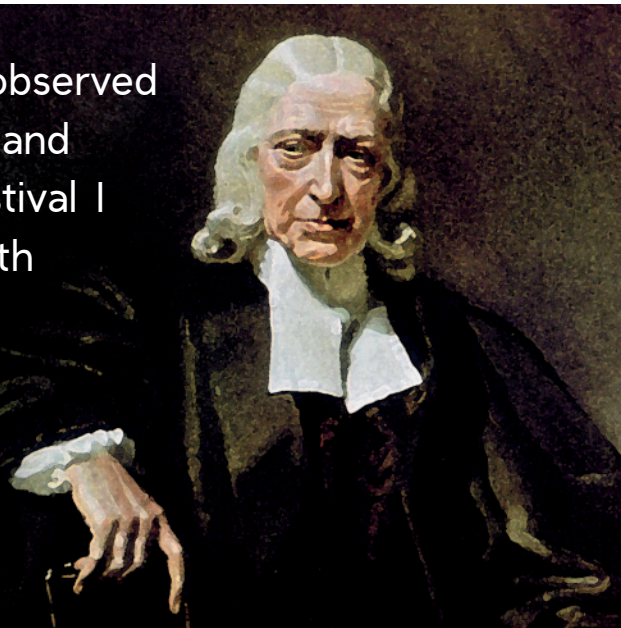
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Glory, then, to Almighty God the Father our Creator! Glory to Almighty God the Son our Savior! Glory to Almighty God the Holy Spirit our Sanctifier! For at our altars, as our historic communion ritual declares, we join “angels and archangels and all the company of Heaven” to worship Him enthroned in splendor, saying, “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts! Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory!” Yes, God Himself must be the supreme object of the Church’s worship, as well as the focus of every other facet of its corporate life—God and God alone!

This is why the continuing cycle of the Christian Year, the historic liturgical calendar of Christianity, is so valuable. It points us continually away from this world and its passing show, to heaven and its sublime priorities, focusing always on Him who is enthroned in glory there, and commemorating His mighty acts in Jesus Christ His Son. That is why we refer to the Christian Year as “Keeping Time with God.” For if we earnestly, faithfully, and prayerfully follow its cycle of festivals and fasts, always within the faithful context of the appointed means of grace, we will be immersed year after year in what God has done to glorify Himself and to secure our salvation.

Advent and Christmas, for example, grip us with the truth of His coming to us in Jesus the God-man.

John Wesley observed All Saints Day and called it “a festival I truly love.” With him we give God praise for transforming sinners into saints.



Epiphany speaks of His revelation of Himself to the whole world—Jew and Gentile alike. Holy Week and Good Friday vividly remind us of God’s mercy in delivering up His Son to die upon the cross to rescue us from sin and death. Easter and Pentecost set before us the risen Lord commanding us to take His Gospel to the most remote parts of the earth. Now having considered these great seasons and commemorations, we turn to a few remaining special days on the Church calendar which may enrich our Christian lives. They all celebrate

what God has done magnificently in the noble lives and through the faithful witness of His people.

REFORMATION DAY

It was on this date, October 31, the eve of All Saints Day, in the year 1517, that a young Roman Catholic monk named Martin Luther marched up the steps to the castle church in Wittenberg, Germany. There he raised a hammer and nailed an official-looking document written in Latin to the massive doors before him. Those hammer blows echoed not only from the walls of that quaint old city, but ultimately they were to sound around the world. For the document that Luther nailed to the church doors was the famous “Ninety-Five Theses,” generally regarded as the beginning of the vast spiritual awakening we call the Protestant Reformation.

Luther had issued a vigorous protest against the sinful abuses of the medieval Church—a protest that not only was to shake the religious establishment, but that also was to change the whole course of European history. In His great mercy, and in answer to the prayers of thousands of earnest saints, God raised up powerful leaders to guide this movement of grace—leaders such as Luther,

Melanchthon, Zwingli, Calvin, and Cranmer, among others. They and their followers, often at the cost of great suffering, used every means available, including the newly-invented printing press, to leave us a priceless spiritual legacy. This is why we still call ourselves Protestants.

That is also why we observe Reformation Sunday on the last Sunday of October. For we gladly celebrate that 16th-century spiritual awakening that brought reform and revival to the Church, and swept away the scandalous abuses that for centuries had encrusted its life and worship and perverted its gospel message. Reformation Sunday also provides a splendid opportunity to consider again the four great “solas” that lie at the heart of Protestant Christianity, keeping in mind that sola is a Latin word mean-

ing “alone.” These four are (1) SCRIPTURE ALONE as the absolute authority for all our faith and practice; (2) GRACE ALONE as the free gift of God, the source of our salvation; (3) FAITH ALONE as our necessary response to offered grace; (4) CHRIST ALONE as our atoning sacrifice, mediator, Lord, and Savior.

Remember, too, that Reformation Sunday should include the vigorous singing of Martin Luther’s great hymn, “Ein Feste Berg,” which sometimes is called the “Battle Hymn of the Reformation.”

"A mighty fortress is our God, / A bulwark never failing;
/ Our Helper He amid the flood / Of mortal ills prevailing;
/ For still our ancient foe / Doth seek to work us woe; / His
craft and power are great, / And, armed with cruel hate, /
On earth is not his equal. / And though this world, with
devils filled, / Should threaten to undo us, / We will not fear,
for God hath willed / His truth to triumph through us: / Let
goods and kindred go, / This mortal life also; / The body they
may kill: / God's truth abideth Still; / His kingdom is forever.

ALL SAINTS DAY

This commemoration, observed annually on November 1, invites us to ponder the lives of all the saints, living and dead, who have so winsomely lived the "Jesus life" before us, setting a holy pattern of "heroic virtue," which we must not only admire, but also follow. All Saints Day apparently grew out of the practice of the ancient Church to remember its martyrs with thanksgiving to God Who had strengthened them to bear faithful witness to His name, even in the midst of cruel hostility and even martyrdom. Granted, all of us are "called to be saints" (Romans 1:7), but in every age certain believers have seemed to rise above the rest of us, humbly inspiring us to follow them even as they have followed Christ.

To summarize the reasons we observe All Saints Day, then, we note that this great festival (1) celebrates the heroic lives and courage of the saints; (2) it points us to a holy model we should aspire to emulate. In a sense, the saints are living proof that Christianity really can be lived in spite of vicious temptation and raging sin; (3) it connects us to all the pages of Christian history, reminding us that we are not isolated spiritual orphans but rather fellow-heirs with vast multitudes of our brothers and sisters in Christ scattered through all times and places; (4) it reaffirms our place in Christ's one, holy, universal, and apostolic Church, thus assuring us that we are not merely a ragtag remnant of lop-sided sectarians. It is within this "sweet communion" of saints that we hope to live out our lives in Christ on earth, and then continue them forever in heaven.

John Wesley observed All Saints Day and called it "a festival I truly love." With him, and with thousands of other Christians throughout the centuries, we give God praise for His grace revealed so gloriously in flesh and blood, transforming sinners into saints. "For all the saints, who from their labors rest; / Who Thee by faith before the world confessed, / Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. / Alleluia! Alleluia! / From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, / Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host, / Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, / Alleluia! Alleluia!" ■

(The last installment will focus on Christ the King Sunday.)

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).

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For Those Who Thirst

by Andrea Sanborn

My husband brought a beautiful birdbath home a few weeks ago, to my great delight. We have long had a feast of seed waiting for the neighborhood birds, but they have so far shown little interest. Perhaps a birdbath will draw them, I thought. Surely they would enjoy the clean, clear water! But no. They avoid the birdbath as surely as they avoid the bird feeders.

"You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink," the old saying goes. I hope that at some point the birds will discover that my birdbath is preferable to the muddy spot below the garden and come refresh themselves in it.

As a child, I dutifully followed the breadcrumbs laid out on the path for me, leading toward success and prosperity. And then one day, my life took a sharp turn onto a new trail when I caught the scent of living water. My soul found rest at its sweet source, its flow washing me clean, quenching my gnawing thirst.

It was by the waters of Strawberry Creek that He met me, with a taste of the supply to come. I felt His smile as I splashed around in the shallows of easy belief like I splashed in that creek, while He gently drew me into places where heaven's current pulled me deeper into the adventure of trust.

It was in the waters of baptism that I claimed my place, my belonging in the heart of God, ducking under the ocean's swell to declare it on the brink of adulthood.

In my Bible, I find a rushing torrent, sometimes refreshing, sometimes stinging as I come to terms with a God who doesn't always behave like I think He should. It is there that He challenges my simplistic assumptions, calls me into the rapids where I must learn to swim in their flow—where I find rigor and strength in the knowledge that I am not the arbiter of truth but rather, the discoverer of it.

***"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare."* —Isaiah 55:1-2a**

One hot, dusty day Jesus sat down by a well owned by the outcasts of His time. It was to a woman there, weighed down with a long and unsavory story, that He made the most radical offer in history: living water. To her who was wracked with spiritual thirst, He came—

not to the power brokers or smugly sufficient. No, it was to her, the least and cast down, as was His habit. And she drank. Gulped it down with an honest thirst, eyes brightening as her dried-up soul soaked it in, nourishing the neglected corners of her spirit, satisfying the silent ache. And she, now filled and overflowing, ran to tell.

“Jesus answered, ‘Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.’” —John 4:13-14

What do you thirst for? Hope? Meaning? Where have you been left scraping the dry ground of futility, longing for a healing rain?

Perhaps you are like Hagar, a slave rejected and alone in the desert of hopeless circumstances. God came to her, met her by a spring in that parched land, bringing encouragement and comfort. “You are the God who sees me,” she marveled, wiping the cool drops from her chin.

“On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, ‘Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.’ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.” — John 7:37-39

There was a rock at the end of the road where I often sat as a young woman, perched on the edge of our mountain. It was there that I poured out my heart, my tears, and my wonder under the welcoming gaze of heaven. I used to watch the summer storms come up the valley, the air becoming heavy with the scent of sage and life, the cooling breeze moving up the mountain pass to the end of Deerfoot Lane where I waited for the rain, waited for life to find me, fill me, carry me into hope.

That life has carried me all the way to here, where I set out the birdbath, offering refreshment in the woodland. Not unlike the friendship He extended to me, back by Strawberry Creek and at the end of Deerfoot Lane. Not unlike the precious Book lying open on my lap. Not unlike the Water of Life I offered my children, back when they drank it down freely and with joy. I fill the birdbath like Hagar’s spring, ready for the thirsty wanderer. For one who, like me, will be captivated by the scent of water.

“The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come!’ Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.” —Revelation 22:17

Andrea Sanborn is an author and blogger who writes about the beauty of faith and the God who loves beyond reason. This post from her blog andreasanborn.com is used with permission. All Scripture is from the NIV.

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.

I’m sending a check to your wonderful college in memory of my husband, Clifford Brown [see Sept. GR p.12]. He attended GBS in the early 60s. We both loved and supported it.

BETTY ANN BROWN
Reidsville, NC

Just a quick note to tell you how very captivating is the summer issue cover photo. Jenny and I would like to contribute the funds so that each graduate appearing in the photo can receive a framed copy.

Please pass along our thanks to your team for such an original and outstanding photo/cover. The entire issue was informative, enlightening, and encouraging. And Sonja Vernon continues to pack so much sweetness and encouragement into her jar of goodness [Thoughts for the Quiet Hour]!

JOE EMERT
North Stonington, CT



Editor’s note: Joe and Jenny Emert provided a matted and framed copy of the summer cover to each graduate pictured.

OCTOBER 2022





GBS NAMED TOP WORKPLACE— 12 YEARS IN A ROW!

In June 2022, GBS was listed as one of Cincinnati's top workplaces. GBS has received this recognition for 12 consecutive years—every year the school has participated! GBS did not participate in 2010, the inaugural year of the award; but making the list 12 years in a row is quite a feat! For comparison, only three organizations have been listed all 13 years the Cincinnati Enquirer has offered the program. Also worthy of note is that GBS is the only

college or university among this year's top workplaces.

The program uses anonymous employee surveys to rate and rank organizations. GBS administrators have long seen people as the school's greatest resource. Employees' dedicated work throughout the pandemic provides only one recent example of their dedication and excellence. The Administrative Committee is grateful to God for the superb group of staff and faculty He has provided! —Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Aaron D. Proffitt

NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS!

We had a great time welcoming new and returning students to campus! Incoming freshmen arrived on August 16 for move-in day. Several area churches and many



from the GBS campus family welcomed the students with snow cones, drinks, and help unloading their vehicles. New Student Orientation started the next day.



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.

BIRTHS



To **RaeLyn (Wood) (BA '13) and Joshua Williams (BA '13)**, a daughter, **Ruth Eleeze**, born June 4, 2022, at St. Luke's in Boise, ID. Joshua was a resident assistant at GBS while studying for his degree. He now is an associate pastor and youth minister at Emmett Community Bible Church, and RaeLyn is a 3rd grade public school teacher. The Williamses live in Emmett, ID.

To **Bethany (Probst) (2013-17) and Mark Dill (2013-21)**, a son, **Eugene Augustus**, born at home in DeRidder,



LA, on July 6, 2022, and welcomed by older brother, Emmitt (3). Mark and Bethany assist in the Southwest Bible Methodist Conference. Mark serves as secretary on the Youth Committee. He also works at Summit Electric Supply, Sulfur, LA, and Bethany is a stay-at-home mom. The Dills live in DeRidder.

DEATHS



Leslie W. Ashcraft, 96, of Xenia, OH, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on March 12, 2022. He was born on September 21, 1925, in Nelsonville, OH, to Leslie Sr. and Celia (Hawk) Ashcraft. Leslie served in the Army in WWII from



volleyball tournament, a walk on the Purple People Bridge from Cincinnati to Newport, a stop at Graeter's Ice Cream, and other activities! By the week's end, all necessary information had been dispensed, various surveys completed, and class schedules finalized. The 2022-23 academic year had started!

Sunday Morning. In the opening convocation of the 123rd school year on Sunday, August 21, Mike Yancey, Director of Development, presented scholarships (see pp.14-15). He stated that he had been privileged to travel literally from sea to shining sea visiting supporters of this school. Many of them

their gratitude for this experience by giving liberally to God's Bible School. Their prayer is that current students would also find direction for their lives. He confirmed that it was "Because of their generosity, I stand here today to offer many of you their love and support by way of scholarships."

In addition to the Divisional Scholarships and recurring endowed scholarships, one new scholarship was presented (see p.13) and four one-time scholarships were awarded (see p.13). The total amount of endowed and one-time scholarships was \$144,800. Wingrove Taylor ➡



Students were able to register and get acquainted with the campus and local community. Activities included campus tours, campus-wide Capture the Flag, a ride on the bus, a speed

are up in years and look back to a time when they, also, walked the chapel aisles, lived in the dorms, and got established spiritually. These supporters have chosen to express



1943-46 before pastoring for several years. He then worked for the U.S. government and retired from Newark Air Force Station, Heath, OH, in 1987. He loved playing his steel guitar and singing his favorite hymns. He was devoted to God, family, and church.

Leslie was preceded in death by his loving wife, Vera. He is survived by daughters, Joyce "Joy Marie" Cox and Linda McDufford; 12 grandchildren; and 28 great-grandchildren. A funeral service was held at Dayton Avenue Baptist, Xenia, OH, Pastor John Young officiating. Burial followed at Valley View Memorial Gardens in Xenia.

Rebecca "Becky" Sue (Cowan) Thornton, 71, of Sophia, NC, passed away August 10, 2022, at her home. Becky was born January 22, 1951, in Wood County, WV, to Orval and Estelene (Ruddlesden)



Cowan. While attending GBS (1968-70), Becky met and married fellow student Tom Thornton (HS '66; 1966-71).

Becky was a faithful member of Trinity Holiness Church in Sophia for many years and loved her church family dearly. Becky worked at High Point Furniture (High Point, NC) for twenty-one years. She enjoyed reading, collecting recipes, and cooking. Her greatest joy in life was the time spent with her family. She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend to many.

Surviving is her loving husband of 52 years, Thomas "Tom" Thornton, Sr.; son, Thomas "Tom" Jr.; daughter, Cindy Gandee; sister, Patricia Ellison; two brothers, Tim and Marvin; and two grandsons. A funeral service was held at Trinity Holiness Church in Sophia with Revs. ➡

➡ Legacy Awards were also distributed, bringing the grand total to \$181,800.00, a 6.8% increase over last year's \$170,150.

After the presentation of scholarships, President Loper took his sermon text from John 4:27-42 and spoke on the fields being "white already to harvest." He encouraged the congregation not to sit around waiting for something to happen, but to lift up their eyes and see that the time for harvest is now! God has an awesome plan for you today!

Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well shows us that the harvest can be one person. In this case it was one who, according to society, was an outcast. But she believed, returned to town, and shared the gospel. As a result, many of the Samaritans believed.

A successful harvest requires laborers. Our prayer should be, "God, help us to see the harvest field as You see the harvest field. Pick me to be one of Your faithful laborers." We need to gather up the wheat and get it into the barn. While all will not preach or teach, all should gather.

Sunday Evening. In the evening service, Duane Quesenberry, Director of Public Relations, spoke on the topic "What to do when you don't know what to do." He used the account of Samuel hearing the voice of the Lord (1 Sam. 3:1-10). Recalling that many had just turned the tassel at high school graduation and were now facing some uncertainties, he assured them that God has a plan for each one. Even when you might not know what God's

will is for you, when it seems a mystery, God has a plan. However, discerning that plan is at times complicated and elusive.

We normally do not get spoken to by talking donkeys, or find a wet fleece on a dry ground, but we have the Word of God. He then shared six suggestions for learning the process of discerning God's will. (1) Live with confidence from



Duane Quesenberry

REVIVALIST FAMILY continued

➡ Tim Cole and Derald Hunt officiating. Interment followed in the church cemetery.



Herbert Gene Lawson, 91, formerly of Mission, KS, passed away August 21, 2022, at Hermitage Nursing and Rehab, Hermitage, MO. Herbert was born January 31, 1931, in Polk County, MO, to Willis and Ola Lawson. He married Virginia Jones in 1948. Herbert was a pastor for over 60 years with many years of ministry in the inner city of Kansas City, MO. He was a GBS donor and annuitant as well as a subscriber to *God's Revivalist*.

Herbert was preceded in death by his wife of 72 years, Virginia, in 2020. He is survived by two daughters, Judy Carey and Brenda Menefee; son, Mark; sister, Donna Dean; brother, Dan; six grandchildren; twelve great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held at the Amos Family Funeral Home, Shawnee, KS, with burial following at Rock Prairie Cemetery, Halfway, MO.



Thomas L. Redmond, 62, of Waldo, OH, went to be with the Lord on Thursday, September 8, 2022, surrounded by his family. He was born in Marion, OH, to Rockford and Ruth (Massey) Redmond on March 7, 1960, and married his wife, Norene Lannette (Penn), on June 27, 1980. Thomas was a member of the Allegheny Wesleyan Methodist Church, worked as tech support for Frontier Communications for 40 years, and enjoyed camping, boating, riding his motorcycle, and mowing his lawn. He subscribed to *God's Revivalist*.

He is survived by his wife Norene; his sons Nathan, Byron, and Clinton; brothers Dan and Mark; sisters Becky Rhoads and Ann Brewbaker; and three grandchildren: Owen, Felicity, and Griffin Redmond. (Thomas' son Byron is married to Amy [Loper] Redmond, who teaches in Aldersgate Christian Academy at GBS.)

Services were held at Allegheny Wesleyan Methodist Church, Marion, OH, with Rev. Stephen Cassidy officiating. Burial followed at the Mayfield Cemetery in Waldo. ■

God's promises that according to His own timing, He will reveal His will for you. While "I don't know what God's will is for me right now, but I know I am available" might seem a bit suspect, it is a good answer. (2) Position yourself to know God's future will by doing God's present will. There are many Scriptures that proclaim "this is God's will for you." Begin by doing those things. (3) Develop the capacity to discern God's voice by reading God's Word. The Spirit of God will supplement the Word of God with specific applications for you. Remember, God's will never conflicts with God's written Word. You develop a capacity to discern God's voice by becoming familiar with God's Word. (4) Access your spiritual support system in the body of Christ. Start with your parents. They know your strengths and weaknesses. Consult with your pastor. Rest assured that your academic advisor and your professors are an excellent resource. They are committed to your success as you prepare for what God has for you. (5) Never ignore the "peace meter" while navigating God's will for your life. Never be at peace with anything that contradicts God's Word. (6) Rest in God's commitment to your success. It is comforting to know that God has committed Himself to your success in living a life for Him!

The service closed with the congregation standing and singing, "I'll say, 'Yes, Lord, yes,' to Your will and to Your way."

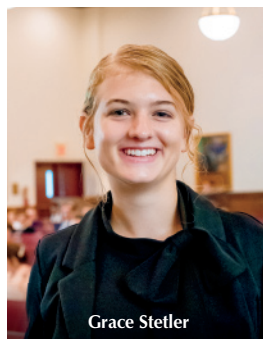
Enrollment. Current fall semester enrollment is 466 undergraduate students (33.5% increase), 24 graduate students (84.6% increase), and 213 K-12 students in Aldersgate Christian Academy. We are grateful to God for exceeding our enrollment goal and are especially thankful that so many students have made the commitment to prepare for God's calling. Pray with us that this will be a great school year as we train the students entrusted to us.

DIVISIONAL AND AWT LEGACY SCHOLARSHIPS

This year's Divisional Scholarships, which are awarded by academic division and based on merit, were given to Kyle Johnstone (Ministerial Education), and Samantha Ryan and Briana Epp (Music).

The A. Wingrove Taylor Legacy Awards, for international students with financial need who have a call to Christian ministry in their native country, were given to Ana Castillon, Victoria Dupte, Mirhet Yirga, Minha (David) Kim, Gabriel Sudati, Lynn Vihasi, Jasiel David Acalco Jimenez, McDelyn Wantaki, Mahatma Alcala Solorzano, Randy Aron Mercado Candia, and Abigail Montero.

NEW ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP



Grace Stetler

Graham Counseling Scholarship. This year we had the honor of presenting the Graham Counseling Scholarship, a new endowed scholarship established by Dr. Andrew Graham specifically for students planning to go into counseling as a career. The Graham Counseling Scholarship is being awarded for the first time to Grace Stetler.

ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS



Christy Graham

This year we had the privilege of awarding several one-time memorial scholarships.

Orndorff Memorial Scholarship. The family of James Orndorff has given a scholarship in his memory for this school year. James was an alumnus, staff member, volunteer, and friend of GBS for many years. The James Orndorff Memorial Scholarship is awarded to Christy Graham.



Emily Albertson

Harold Fourman Memorial Scholarship. Harold Fourman served GBS for nearly three decades with great distinction. He began his service as a trustee, and upon his retirement, he gave the next 20 years as an administrator and internal auditor. His strong financial leadership brought about needed changes and implemented structures and systems that we still use today. Just a couple weeks before his death, he was still assisting our financial office with his internal auditing. The Harold Fourman Memorial Scholarship is provided by GBS in honor of Mr. Fourman's long association as an employee, volunteer, and supporter, and is awarded to Emily Albertson and Madison Paulus.



Madison Paulus

Dr. Mark Eckart Memorial Scholarship. Dr. Mark Eckart was a distinguished and valued colleague in ministry. As a Christian pastor, educator, and church leader, he was one of the best. He served GBS with (p18) ➡



ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

God's Bible School & College
2022-23 Academic Year

Endowed scholarships are investments held in perpetuity, the earnings of which are awarded to deserving students annually. Our goal is to ensure our education remains affordable for students and families, and we are grateful for the generous donors who have helped make that possible by partnering with us to establish the listed scholarships.

Ada Mae Conrad Memorial Scholarship

Joy Fawks, Allison Gardner, Jamie Jenkins

Allan Clarence Strong Scholarship

Tristan Austin, Blake Castle, Maverick Deaton,
Derek Derscheid, Minha (David) Kim,
Zachery Pilmore, Jason Quimzon,
Ethan Rectenwald, Isaac Singleton

Alvin and Gelene Hodge Scholarship

Hannah Taylor

Betty L. Wallace Farmer Memorial Scholarship

Sarah Klotz

C. Helen Mooshian Scholarship

Rebecca Himelick

**Carson W. and Stella Mae Scarbrough
Memorial Scholarship**

Shelly McGinty

Charles & Deborah McWilliams Family Scholarship

Curtis Going, John Manley

Chester C. Elliott and Leliah E. Roberts Scholarship

Josiah England, Simon Silas

Connie A. Tiede Memorial Scholarship

Katelyn Welch

Crawford Family Scholarship

Chelsea Bryant, Norma Buchanan,
Janaye Byers, Karissa Fry

David and Clare Martin Scholarship

Clarissa Williams

Dr. Bence C. Miller Memorial Scholarship

Hannah Williams

Dr. Edward Palm Scholarship

Jayshaun Williams

Dr. J. Louis Emmert Scholarship

Kyle Johnstone, Hannah Ribbey,
Bradley Rowlett, Ryan Wilson

Dr. J. D. Young Memorial Scholarship

Allan Brown III, Stewart Quesenberry

Dr. Leslie Wilcox Scholarship

Kiana Kennedy

Elmer C. Farmer Pastoral Scholarship

Kyle Johnstone

Elwert/Rauhut Memorial Scholarship

Karissa Stence

Ervin and Jane Bohall Scholarship

Kyle Johnstone

Ethel Belle Baughey Scholarship

John Williams

Evelyn Ware Scholarship

Cason Miller

Far North Missionary Fellowship Scholarship

Carl Rogers

Frank Little Jr. Ministerial Scholarship

Channing Martin

Frederick Family Scholarship

Allan Brown III

General GBS Scholarship

Jillaina Dotson

George and Barbara Bass Scholarship

Katherine Matlock

Gertrude Taylor Memorial Scholarship

Kendrick Melton

Glenn and Sharon Black Ministerial Scholarship
Josiah England

Greatland Scholarship
Kayla Fry

Hazel (Trouten) Scheid Memorial Scholarship
Ryan Cravens, Eron Miriye

Hedstrom Memorial Scholarship
Kyle Johnstone

Isaac T. Monce Memorial Scholarship
Daniel Beatty

Jack and Janie Wetherald Memorial Scholarship
Jamie Jenkins

Jim and Dorothy Miller Memorial Scholarship
Kristy Bennett

Jimmy and Maudine Wilcox Scholarship
Blake Castle, Kendrick Melton, Carl Rogers

John Case Jr. Scholarship
Masayoshi Hamada

John O. (Mickey) and Annie E. McGuire Memorial Scholarship
Hannah Williams

Joyce Ann Marshall Memorial Scholarship
Ashley Going

Kenwood Bible Mission Scholarship
Madison Paulus

Leonard and Janet Sankey Scholarship
Kyle Johnstone, John Williams

Leonard and Janet Sankey II Scholarship
Hannah Williams

Louise Rhyne Memorial Scholarship
Masayoshi Hamada, Kaley Quesenberry, Andrew Ritchie, Julianna Rowe

Marjorie Wolfe Bryner Memorial Scholarship
MacKenzie Pratt, Brooklyn Williams

Marvin Jewell Ministerial Scholarship
Samuel Denton

Mary Ann Bell Scholarship
Samantha Ryan

McNeill Memorial Scholarship
Rebecca Bennett

Meredith and Florence Vance Scholarship
Clarissa Burton, Kayla Fry, Josiah Loper, MacKenzie Pratt, Diana Sobie, Bradley Thomas

Merle and Anna Wolf Scholarship
Briana Epp

Merrill and Yvonne Braymer Scholarship
Simon Silas

Messerschmidt Memorial Scholarship
Sarah Klotz

Michael R. Avery Scholarship for Leaders
Alyssa Butler, Derek Derscheid, Katherine Matlock, Darya Sobie

Minnie Ruth Wallbrown Memorial Scholarship
Clarissa Burton, Bethany Derbidge, Mounica Gera, Zachery Pilmore, Bradley Thomas

Mr. and Mrs. K. W. Wong Scholarship
Rachel Albring, Christopher Castle, Nakiah Cox, Elizabeth Moore, Samantha Ryan, Ashlynn Thomas

Myrtle Jessup Ministerial Scholarship
Stewart Quesenberry

N. Keith and Sharon Waggoner Scholarship
Alex Singleton

Nathaniel Joslin Memorial Scholarship
Norma Buchanan

Norma J. Sturgeon Memorial Scholarship
Derek Derscheid, Briana Epp, Minha (David) Kim, Brooklyn Williams

Oral E. and Lucille Cox Memorial Scholarship
Dolores Settle, Chris Stamper

Oscar Johnson Memorial Scholarship
Faith Jordan

Pamela D. Gruver Memorial Music Scholarship
Jennifer DeLeon, Jenna Gordon

Peter B. and Patricia J. Moran Scholarship
Kristy Bennett

Rev. and Mrs. G. W. King Scholarship
Carl Rogers

Rev. and Mrs. William Jackson Scholarship
Alyssa Butler

Rev. Dr. H. E. Schmul Sr. and Lois Schmul Scholarship
Tristan Austin, Maverick Deaton, Douglas Gusler, Bradley Thomas

Rev. Francis A. Taylor Scholarship
Katherine Matlock

Rev. Robert and Bonnie Thompson Scholarship
Joy Fawks, Hannah Williams, John Williams

Rev. Willie and Mamie E. Carroll Bramble Fund
Ryan Cravens

Robertson Scholarship
Kristy Bennett

Ronald M. Sherrill Memorial Scholarship
Hannah Ribbey

Rosemary Arnett Green Scholarship
Maritza Matias

Sherrard Family Scholarship
Faith Cook, Stephanie Finley, Bradley Thomas

South Bend Union Chapel Scholarship
Benjamin Perez

Stanley and Evelyn Kendall Christian School Scholarship
Jacob Messner

The Aubrey Elam Indoor Camp Scholarship
Jacob Messner

The King Family Scholarship
Audrey Rectenwald

Urban Ministry Scholarship
Grace Burkhart

Vaughn Somers Memorial Scholarship
Carl Rogers

Vernon Scholarship
Dominic Gattone, Chris Stamper

W.I. and Lillie DeBoard Memorial Scholarship
Daniel Beatty

Wanda G. Farmer Scholarship for Musicians
Jenna Gordon

Ward Family Legacy Memorial Scholarship
Tyler Loper

Zerbe Scholarship
Kayley Austin

New Scholarship 2022-23

Graham Counseling Scholarship
Gracie Stetler

One-Time Scholarships 2022-23

Amos Tillis Memorial Scholarship
Luke Tichenor

Dr. Mark Eckart Memorial Scholarship
Jenna Walter

Harold Fourman Memorial Scholarship
Emily Albertson, Madison Paulus

James Orndorff Memorial Scholarship
Christy Graham

Robert England Memorial Scholarship
Kayley Austin

Speth Student Fund
Joseph Ryan Matlock

Missions Scholarships 2022-23

Mission Helps Scholarship
Randy Aron Mercado Candia

Evangelistic Faith Missions Robert and Bonnie Thompson Memorial Missionary Scholarship
Randy Aron Mercado Candia

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(513) 763-6565**

Dear Phil

RECONCILING GOD'S REGRET: Part 2

1 Samuel 15 (ESV), has these two statements, "The Glory of Israel will not lie or have regret, for he is not a man, that he should have regret" (15:29) and "And the Lord regretted that he had made Saul king over Israel" (15:35). How should we understand these two statements concerning "regret?" —Ken

Dear Ken,

Here's a quick recap of my last column on this topic: The word *nacham*, translated "relent" (ESV) or "repent" (NKJV) is notoriously difficult to translate and has a wide range of meanings (e.g., comfort, regret, relent, repent). In 1 Samuel 15:29, God says He doesn't lie or *nacham*. In the immediate context, this underscores that God's decree tearing the kingdom from Saul was final. It could not be changed without God lying. And God doesn't lie. So, in 1 Samuel 15:29, *nacham* means to repent or change the mind. Three other texts from Scripture illumine 1 Samuel 15. We considered Exodus 32 previously. There God threatened to destroy Israel but relented when Moses interceded on their behalf. God can and may relent (*nacham*) of threatened disaster.

The second text is Numbers 23, where Balak asks Balaam to curse Israel. Yahweh had already told Balaam that He will not curse His chosen people (Num. 23:5-8). When Balak tries to manipulate God by getting Balaam to ask at different locations, Yahweh says through Ba-

laam, "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" (Num. 23:19). God had chosen Israel. He was in covenant relationship with them. He had said that He would bless them (Num. 22:12). His decision was nonnegotiable. His word was inviolable. No form of intercession or sacrifice could induce God to change his mind (*nacham*) and so be unfaithful to His promises to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Israel (Gen. 12:2-3; cf. Exod. 13:17).

The third text is Genesis 6:6, "It repented (*nacham*) the LORD that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at his heart" (KJV). I believe the fact that *nacham* can mean "to be comforted" (cf. 2 Sam. 13:39) helps us understand its meaning in 1 Samuel. To be comforted is to have a change of feeling/disposition regarding an event and its outcome. For example, Isaac was comforted over his mother's death (Gen. 24:67). His emotional disposition regarding that event and its outcome changed from negative to positive. To regret, on the other hand, is to change from pos-

itive to negative disposition. When God regretted that he made man on the earth, He wasn't wishing he hadn't made man. Rather, he no longer had a positive disposition toward that event and its outcome. He was grieved over the outcome (man's violent wickedness) because He knew it didn't have to be that way. When God regrets something, He takes action to change the outcome. In Genesis 6, He determined to blot man from the earth (Gen. 6:7).

The same line of reasoning applies to 1 Samuel 15:11, 35. When God made Saul king, He intended to establish Saul's kingdom over Israel forever (1 Sam. 13:13). But, because Saul disobeyed and didn't humble himself, God's disposition toward making Saul king changed. Whereas He had been pleased, He was now displeased; again, because it didn't have to turn out as it did. As a result, God took action to change the outcome and took the kingdom from Saul. Given this understanding, I think it best to read 1 Samuel 15:29 as God will not "repent" or "change his mind" and to read 1 Samuel 15:11, 35 as God "regretted" or "felt sorry."

The final issue at stake here is how God can be immutable and experience change of any kind. A variety of answers are possible. John Frame's answer commends itself to me. He identifies four things about God that never change: His essential attributes, His decretive will, His covenant faithfulness, and the truth of His revelation. On the other hand, God does respond to change in His interpersonal relationships (cf. Ezek. 18:21-32). God interacts with us on the basis of our choices. If we change, His disposition toward us changes.

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.



student focus

DECLINE IN RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

According to a Lifeway Research survey, 54% of respondents said that religious liberty is on the decline and 59% said religious tolerance was also falling. An interesting corollary to the perceived decrease in religious tolerance was the finding that 32% of the respondents felt that Christians in the U.S. simply “complain too much about how they are treated.”

MIXED MESSAGES FROM THE MENNONITE CHURCH USA

Earlier this year, the Mennonite Church USA passed a resolution by 55.7% of the vote acknowledging that they had committed “violence against LGBTQ people” but were now committed to LGBTQ. A separate resolution, passing with a vote of nearly 83%, repealed a guideline that previously barred pastors from officiating at same-sex marriages. However, the denomination’s official doctrinal statement still affirms that God designed marriage to be between one man and one woman.

COURT SAYS MAINE PARENTS CAN USE STATE FUNDS TO SEND KIDS TO RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS

In June 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 6-3 that Maine cannot prohibit parents from using a state tuition program to send their children to religious private schools. Chief Justice John Roberts wrote the majority opinion saying that the

court has “repeatedly held that a State violates the Free Exercise Clause when it excludes religious observers from otherwise available public benefits.”

SUNDAY WORK GOES TO USSC

Gerald Groff began working for the U.S. Postal Service in 2012. In 2015, the post office partnered with Amazon and required mail carriers to deliver packages on Sundays. However, Groff was granted a religious exemption—he agreed to cover other shifts during the week and on Saturdays in exchange for not having to work on Sundays. However, when he transferred to another USPS location, his exemption was discontinued. Because he refused to work Sundays, Groff received disciplinary actions. These increased until he finally resigned from his position and sued the post office for discrimination.

Eventually, a three-judge panel for the U.S. 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in a 2-1 decision that the USPS could force Groff to work on Sundays.

An appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court was filed by First Liberty Institute, the Church State Council, the Independence Law Center, and Baker Botts LLP on behalf of Groff. Randall Wenger of the Independence Law Center stated, “Observing the Sabbath day is critical to many faiths.... No one should be forced to violate the Sabbath to hold a job.”

KYLE JOHNSTONE grew up in a Christian home in Dundee, OH, which gave him a thirst for God and a good spiritual grounding. His enjoyment of videography has led him to make promotional videos for churches, youth camps/conventions, and a missionary in Honduras.

After visiting the campus several times, Kyle felt God leading him to GBS. He “really enjoyed the campus atmosphere and the sense of family.” Since becoming a student, he has been impressed with the “quality of education” that he is receiving. The teachers “genuinely care about the subject matter and their students.”

Kyle has “a passion to help others be able to understand the Bible.” He expects to graduate in spring 2023 with a BA in Pastoral Ministry. “God will lead me in the right direction when the time is right,” he says. “I hope to combine my love for videography with my desire to help people grow in their relationship with God and to grow the kingdom of God.”

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

➡(p13) distinction for thirteen years in various capacities: vice president for student affairs, college faculty member, divisional chair, and public relations representative. It is our earnest hope that someone will take up his mantle of prayer, pastoral concern, fine Christian leadership, and character into the next generation. The Dr. Mark Eckart Memorial Scholarship is provided by GBS and is awarded to Jenna Walter.



Jenna Walter



Ryan Matlock

Speth Student Fund. The Speth Student Fund is provided by the Gordon family and awarded to Ryan Matlock.

Two of last year's one-time scholarships have been continued for this year. The **Robert England, Sr. Memorial Scholarship** has been continued by the family of Robert England, Sr., and Kayley Austin has been chosen as the recipient. The **Amos Tillis Memorial Scholarship** has been continued by the family of Amos Tillis, and Luke Tichenor has been chosen as the recipient.

We are thankful for the many alumni and friends of the school whose selflessness, generosity, and vision make these scholarships possible. The college and its students are indebted to their loyal support, faithful partnership, and giving for the Kingdom. If you are interested in creating a scholarship, contact the Development Office at 513.763.6565.

NEW EMPLOYEES 2022

General Staff



Kelsey Burley, student recruiter, from Eldorado Springs, MO, worked at a daycare for four years before coming to GBS in 2020. At GBS, she served as secretary for public relations as well as a part-time nanny. A number of her family have attended GBS, including parents, Mark (1995-97) and Jana (England) (BA '98) Burley, as well as an older sister, Khara (Burley) Going (BA '22).



Melissa Crosley, Assistant Dean of Women and student accounts assistant in the Office of Finance. In 2018, Melissa earned a BA in Integrative Studies (business) from GBS. She worked as a resident assistant during her last three years of college at GBS. Since then, she worked as a secretary/personal assistant in an insurance agency. Melissa is from Salem, OH. Both her parents attended GBS: David (BRE '87) and Tamarah (Huber) (BA '87) Crosley. Additionally, after starting a highly successful ACE school in the Cayman Islands, the Crosleys returned to GBS and started the Aldersgate Christian Academy. David is now a GBS trustee. Melissa's brother Dwight is also an alumnus (BA '16, MA '22).



Brooke Johnstone, assistant cook, from Dundee, OH, recently finished her degree from GBS (AA '22). Previous work experience includes summer camp, warehouse, and office work, and she was a resident assistant in the GBS Women's Dormitory for two years.

Katrina Rehfeldt, Resource Room coordinator, graduated from high school at Mt. Zion Bible School in 1992 and attended Hobe Sound Bible College



in 1993. She is married to Phil Rehfeldt. She has homeschooled her children for 14 years and has held part-time jobs as a secretary and in

elder care. Although she did not attend GBS, she has had cousins who did, as well as a brother and sister who are currently here: Anthony Arender (Business Manager) and Melissa (Arender) Loper (President Loper's wife). The family moved here from Westfield, IN. Her husband Phil and daughter Kristin also are working at GBS. The Rehfeldts' other children are Drew (23) (GBS 2017-18), Marissa Forsee (21), and Ty (15).



Kristin Rehfeldt, kitchen assistant, received her high school diploma from Union Bible Academy (Westfield, IN) in 2022. She has had experience in housecleaning, babysitting, cake baking / decorating, and at Carter's (retail sales).



Maria Robledo, Human Resources consultant. Maria came to GBS in 2007. As the daughter of Steve (BRE '82, BA '83) and Beth (Sankey) (BA '85) Stetler, she was well acquainted with campus and earned two degrees in 2012: a BA in Secondary English Education and an AA in General Business. During those student years, she proved herself to be a valuable employee. After graduation, she moved into full-time positions as Advancement assistant (2012-17), Director of HR (2016), Director of Institutional Advancement (2016-17), and adjunct faculty (2018-20). During this time, she was also working on an MA in Human Resources at the University of Cincinnati, which she completed in 2015. In 2017, she left GBS but continued to do adjunct teaching. She started her own business, MediaSense Solutions, for graphic design and web de-

velopment. In 2019 she married Bryan Robledo. They are currently pastoring in Federal Way, WA. Maria is working for GBS remotely from that location. Her parents have also worked at GBS in various capacities. Her father was a college adjunct up until his passing in 2021, and her mother is currently Vice President for Finance. Her brother Kent (BA '15) is the college registrar.



Chris Stamper, courier, is a current student from Independence, KY, working on a BA in Ministerial Education. As the school's courier, he makes various pick-ups and drop-offs. Chris has many connections to GBS. His grandfather, Marvin Stamper (HS '56; 1956-58) was GBS Business Manager from 1982 to 1986. Various other relatives attended GBS: father, Tim Stamper (HS '86); uncle, David Stamper (HS '87; 1988); and brother, Walter Stamper, (2017-18).



Chandler Witter, Graduate Program administrative assistant from Noblesville, IN, earned a BA in Biblical and Theological Studies in 2022 and is currently working on an MA in Biblical Studies at GBS. While an undergraduate student, he worked at Chick-fil-A (2016-20) and then as the personal assistant to the Ministerial Education Division chair (2020-22). His father, Jonathan Witter, is a current GBS trustee.



Lori Yoder, Digital Media coordinator from Beavertown, PA, completed an AA in General Studies at GBS in 2020. She is currently working on an AA in Applied Science at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College. Lori has worked for a newspaper designing ads and collecting payments; for Office Pride, a cleaning service utilized

by GBS; and as a GBS photographer. She also has her own business, Canon Shots Photography, which specializes in weddings, families, couples, and seniors.

Maintenance / Facilities



Ryan Craig, maintenance technician / grounds. After graduating from Stone City Christian Academy (Bedford, IN), Ryan graduated from GBS with an AAS in Music Ministry in 2021 and married Caroline Crater (HS '18, 2018-current). He worked as a senior crew leader at Clemens Home Solutions, Muncie, IN, where he installed gutters/soffit. Several of Ryan's family are GBS alumni: siblings, Scott (BA '18) and Rachel (BA '19); parents, Steve (BA '91) and Ronna (Hughes) (BA '94) Craig; and grandparents, Ted (BA '58) and Shirley (Smith) (BA '58) Hughes.



Derek D. Derscheid, security guard from Evart, MI, enrolled at GBS in 2020. He had previously worked three years as a direct care specialist at an institution specializing in the care of male adolescents ages 7-18. He graduated with an AA in 2022 and will continue pursuing his BA in Integrative Studies with a focus on business.



Justin Matlock, assistant to the head of security. Prior to attending GBS, Justin was employed by a construction firm for two years before working for Manchester Tanks as a welder for a year. In 2018 he enrolled at GBS and is scheduled to graduate in 2023. While a student, he began working with the GBS facilities crew. Justin's cousin, Jared Matlock, attends GBS (2019-present), as does his youngest brother, Ryan Matlock, who is a fresh-

man this year. Justin recently married current GBS student Katherine Arthur.



Anthony Paulus, maintenance technician from Spring Grove, PA, worked for his father and grandfather doing handyman work and basic remodeling. Then, he worked with a framing crew a year during high school, helping to remodel entire homes from start to finish. He came to GBS in 2017, and currently is in his fifth year of study toward a BA in Ministerial Education. Several in Anthony's family have attended GBS: his father, Jeff Paulus, attended for a year in 1992; his older brother Jeffrey graduated in 2018 from the Ministerial Division; his twin brother Austin attended 2018-2021. Anthony's wife Ruth teaches in the academy.



Phillip Rehfeldt, maintenance technician, worked for 19 years at Kraft Foods in Springfield, MO, training managers. He also served as the Maintenance Director at Union Bible College, Westfield, IN, for four years, where he also earned a BA in Missions (1994). Phillip and his wife Katrina (Arender) have four children: Drew (23), Marissa (21), Kristin (17), and Ty (15).

College Instructional Staff



Clarissa Manley, First-Year Experience Coordinator, is from Dayton, OH. She just completed a BA in Integrative Studies at GBS in 2022. During her student years, she held various student work positions in the Division of Educational and Professional Studies, Aldersgate Christian Academy, and as the GBS receptionist. For the last three years, she has traveled in public relations small musical groups. Clarissa's great-grandmother, Marjorie (Olin)

Downes Burton, attended GBS in the 1940s, as did Karissa's brother and sister-in-law Cale (BA '20) and Kirsten (Stroup) (BA '21) Manley. Her father, John Manley, is a GBS trustee and a student in the GBS graduate program.



Stephen Oliver, professor, Ministerial Education faculty. Dr. Oliver received his ThB from Bible Missionary Institute, Rock Island, IL, and an MA and PhD in New Testament Interpretation from Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC. He has served in a variety of ministry positions, including assistant pastor, family pastor, teaching pastor, and lead pastor in Iowa, Michigan, North Carolina, and Missouri. He has taught Bible and theology courses for GBS ADEP (distance education); Carolina Graduate School of Divinity, Greensboro, NC; and Laurel University, High Point, NC. He is a regular attendee and presenter at Aldersgate Forum. He serves on the board of Carolina Christian Youth Camp and is Education and Outreach Director for the Southwest Conference of the Bible Methodist Church. He and his wife Angie have three children: Cameron (19), a college sophomore at GBS; Adrianna (16); and William (13).

Aldersgate Christian Academy

Karissa Bird, 4th grade teacher, completed her BA in Education at GBS in 2022 (with 160 credits!) Her prior



work includes substitute teaching at Campbell County Schools, teaching art at Summit Christian Academy, tutoring, and managing a restaurant. Both parents have worked at GBS her entire life: Dr. Mark Bird, college professor; and Dr. Kristin Bird, adjunct professor. Karissa's two sisters also attend GBS: Megan in the college and Karina in the academy.



Sarah Cook, instructional assistant from Shelbyville, IN, received two degrees from GBS: AA in Missions for Nurses in 2001 and BA in Intercultural Studies and World Missions in 2017. Her husband Ronald is also an alumnus (BA '00). They have three children: Faith Ann (18), a college freshman at GBS; Charity Ruth (16); and Hope Christiana (14). Sarah previously worked on a Navajo reservation and at several schools, including Bible Methodist Christian School, Pell City, AL, and Shelbyville Christian Academy, Shelbyville, IN.



Ruth Paulus, elementary music and physical education teacher, received her BA in Music Education from Penn View Bible Institute, Penns Creek, PA. In July, she married Anthony Paulus, a GBS senior ministerial education major. Ruth has taught private violin lessons since 2017 and recently organized and taught a small string ensemble. She has traveled twice to Japan with a string ensemble.



Crystal Wolf, educational support coordinator, graduated from GBS with a BA in Children's Ministry in 2000 and from Converse University, SC, with an MA in Teaching (K-8). She worked previously at ACA as a 7th grade teacher (2000-09) and as a GBS college adjunct (2003-06). She also worked at Community Services YMCA as tutor coordinator for six years. Crystal is married to Garen Wolf II (HS '98). They have three children: Olivia (9), Elena (8), and Weston (5).

Assuming New Responsibilities

Janet Albertson, donor relations manager for the Development Office, now also directs phone calls at the receptionist desk in the mornings. **Kara Watters**, who had previously held the position of morning receptionist, has moved to the Finance Department. **Dustin Muir**, who has been working with Floyd Hyatt in Access and Safety, will move to the coordinator position as **Floyd Hyatt** becomes the campus resource officer / greeter. **Rebecca Pohl**, who last year worked as Institutional Research Coordinator and ADEP Financial Aid Associate, is now Assistant Registrar and Institutional Research Coordinator. ■

THE WONDER AND THE MIRACLE

Christmas Drama

PRESENTED BY

God's Bible School & College AND
Aldersgate Christian Academy

Dec. 9 AT 7:30 PM

Dec. 11 AT 6:00 PM

Adcock Chapel

GBSC CAMPUS
FREE TICKETS REQUIRED
PRESHOW MUSIC BEGINS
1 HOUR BEFORE PROGRAM
FREE CHILDCARE AND
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

Dec. 10 AT 5:30 PM

The Answers Center

THE ARK ENCOUNTER
NO TICKETS REQUIRED
DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM
FREE ADMISSION TO PARK
AT 4:00 PM
FREE PARKING

GBS.EDU/CHRISTMAS



GBS alumni are encouraged to submit updates on their lives and current ministries. —KF

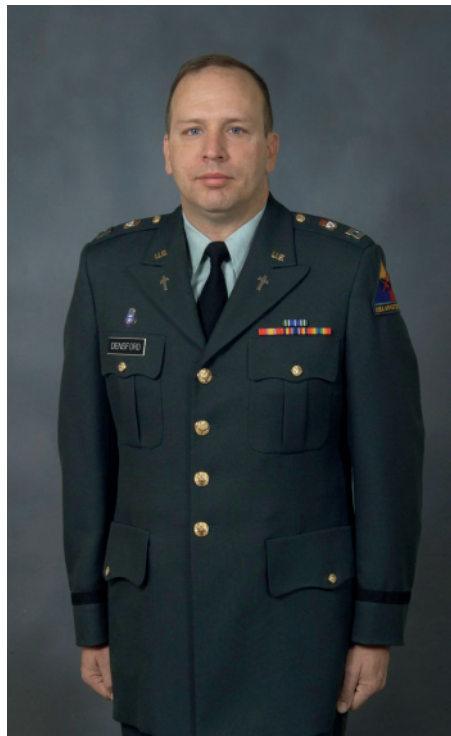
CHAPLAIN DARYL DENSFORD

My call to “full-time” ministry came at a very young age—about twelve years old—at my church’s summer camp. However, publicly accepting that call did not happen until years later while under the pastorate of Morris Chalfant at the Cincinnati-Norwood Church of the Nazarene. Soon after publicly testifying to God’s call on my life, a church member strongly urged me to get right into school at God’s Bible School. As Rev. Chalfant began to mentor me, he took me with him to services and special events at GBS, whetting my appetite even more. It did not take me long to complete the application process, and, before I knew it, I was on the campus of GBS beginning my preparation for ministry.

I was just a few years out of high school and found the curriculum at GBS to be challenging but manageable. As expected, the studies and homework were a chore, but the professors had a way of emphasizing the eternal value of what we were learning. They were not just facts to remember, but the story of God’s interaction with the world and my life. Many times during classroom

instruction, God would move the professors and He would speak through them. I remember a particular missions class with Merton Rundell where God began to solidify and refine my call to ministry as more than just a job I was called to do; I increasingly became aware that it was participation in God’s redemptive work in the world. In another class with Robert England, Sr., God drew me closer to Him and further away from the trappings of this world which can cause us to lose our focus on things eternal.

There was no need for the school to require chapel attendance for me as I began to thirst for God’s presence that I felt at



nearly every service. On many occasions, the Spirit moved and answered prayers just recently prayed or further drew me into His presence, purifying and empowering me for service. Sermons and songs, while part of the program, were more often vehicles of God’s mercy and grace to the men and women preparing to serve Him. These chapel services helped form

my view of worship and my need to prepare but rely on the Holy Spirit for results.

I only attended GBS for two years, 1984-85, but the impact it has had on my ministry is immeasurable. I built on the foundation GBS laid, continuing my studies at Nazarene Bible College (NBC) where I was able to complete the course of study for ordination in the Church of the Nazarene.

After graduating from NBC, I pastored two Nazarene churches in upstate New York: Rome and Clifton Springs. GBS continued to influence my ministry there by providing sermon outlines through *God’s Revivalist*, which helped me improve my sermon development as a new pastor.

A few years into my pastorates in Upstate New York, I encountered a chaplain recruiter at our district assembly who talked to me about considering army chaplaincy. In the late 1980s I had been an enlisted soldier in the Army, serving as a chaplain assistant, so I knew about the ministry chaplains provided and had even contemplated the possibility of becoming a chaplain. Then on September 11, 2001, terrorists attacked the World Trade Center just a few hundred miles from my home. This impacted me greatly as I watched the military engage in the largest combat operations since the war in Vietnam. I felt a burden for those soldiers going into harm’s way, a burden that they needed God to go with them in a tangible way, in the hearts and hands of chaplains. God was at work again, refining my call as I thought and prayed about what the recruiter shared with me concerning the ministry of chaplains.

While at Clifton Springs, I earned a master of arts in theological studies from Northeastern Seminary at Roberts Wesleyan College, which met the minimum educational requirements to enter the Army as a chaplain. In January of

2004, I received a commission in the United States Army and reported to the Chaplain School at Fort Jackson, SC, to prepare for the next chapter in my life as a military chaplain.

Entering the Army during an ongoing war brings with it many thoughts and anxieties about facing death and living life. I knew that wherever soldiers went, God also needed to go; and, in the military, God is often represented by chaplains. Chaplains go where soldiers go, they get their boots dirty and face the same dangers. Chaplains are on the frontlines with the soldiers they serve, bringing God to soldiers and soldiers to God.

In my nearly twenty years as a chaplain, I have served in Kentucky, South Carolina, Missouri, Alaska, Alabama, and beyond the borders of the United States in Germany, Korea, and Qatar, as well as on deployment to both Afghanistan and Iraq. In all these places, I have not gone alone; I have been supported by the prayers of God's people, equipped by the schools I have attended, endorsed by the denomination in which I serve, empowered by the Spirit who dwells within me, and encouraged by the lives I see changed by God's miraculous presence. So many times I have seen fear in the faces of soldiers as we hunkered down during an enemy attack or rushed to the aid of the fallen after the bombs fell silent, but those fears are always overshadowed by the joy I have seen when sharing the gospel message with a soldier who is searching for meaning, or the craving for the

elements as I have shared communion with soldiers about to go "outside the wire," unsure of what they will encounter...or if they will return alive.

Being a chaplain in the Army is not always living in harm's way, though. During my time as a chaplain, I have also been assigned as a chaplain resource manager, providing oversight for the funds used for ministry; deputy garrison chaplain, coordinating ministry to soldiers and families, and training for chaplains and their assistants; ethics instructor, helping officers develop a moral compass to guide them to make ethical decisions in garrison and on the battlefield; and as a congregation pastor for a variety of worship services, providing for the religious needs of soldiers and their families.

I have also been able to continue my education in the Army. To be an ethics instructor, the Army sent me back to school to earn another master's degree with an emphasis in ethics. I was then able to use those credits to take a few more courses and earn a master of divinity (MDiv) from Northeastern Seminary. Then as a chaplain, I received a scholarship to earn a doctor of ministry (DMin) in military chaplaincy from Wesley Theological Seminary in D.C.

I have been married to Holly for 35 years and have four grown children and one still at home. I cannot overstate the importance the support of a godly wife has on military service. Many times, Holly had to take care of everything—house, lawn, animals, bills, children—



ABOVE: Chaplain (Major General) Thomas Solhjem, the Army Chief of Chaplains, presents the Ancient Order of Martin of Tours to Chaplain (Major) Daryl Densford, May 17, 2022, at Fort Rucker, AL. The Order of Martin of Tours is awarded for demonstrating the highest standards of integrity and moral character, displaying an outstanding degree of professional competence, selflessly serving soldiers and families, and contributing to the promotion of the Army chaplaincy.

ABOVE RIGHT: The Densford Family.



LOWER RIGHT: Chaplain (First Lieutenant) Daryl Densford delivers a sermon during a chapel service while attending the Chaplain Officer Basic Course at Fort Jackson, SC, Spring 2004.

NEXT PAGE, TWO PHOTOS: Chaplain (Captain) Densford on a Humanitarian Assistance Mission, Afghanistan, January 2007.



while I was deployed or away for training. But God was also present on the home front, helping and sending help when needed.

Currently, I am an ethics instructor again, this time at the Army's aviation school at Fort Rucker, Alabama; but I will be retiring in February 2023. After retirement, I hope to be able to use the vast experiences the Army has given me, combined with the education I received before entering the Army and after, to help prepare ministers to serve better in parish ministry or in a chaplaincy setting. As the world continues to encroach into all aspects of society, including the military, we need more holiness ministers to take the good news of full salvation to people who are facing the struggles with which sin straddles them. We need people who are willing to go into danger to demonstrate the love of God and His power to change lives. We need God-called, Spirit-filled men and women to answer the call to go wherever God may need them. If God would allow it, I would love to be part of the journey for some of those He calls and leads into chaplaincy ministry. ■

Daryl Densford attended GBS (1984-85) and pastored ten years before becoming a military chaplain in January 2004. He currently serves as a chaplain at Fort Rucker, AL, where he is an ethics instructor at the Army's Aviation School. He and his wife Holly have five children.



by Sonja Vernon

BRINGING JOY TO THE FATHER

"You have said, 'Seek my face.' My heart says to you, 'Your face, Lord, do I seek.'" —Psalm 27:8 ESV

A few months ago, my life was blessed by the addition of a small ball of fluff possessed of an extroverted personality, a high-pitched bark, and a penchant for naps. This little black, white, and brown dog has stolen my heart (along with those of the GBS student body), and he's also teaching me lessons about my relationship with my Heavenly Father. Training a puppy is not for the faint of heart, but there is nothing more rewarding than seeing him listen and obey. When I call him and he comes running at the sound of my voice, I nearly burst with pride. When he falls asleep on my lap or snuggles closer for an extra pat, I would do anything for him. I am filled with joy when he chooses me and obeys me, not because he has to, but because he wants to. I have to believe that we bring God pleasure when we purposefully choose Him as well. He calls us to seek Him, and surely we sense His joy when we do so. Another version of our Scripture says, "My heart has heard you say, 'Come and talk with me.' And my heart responds, 'Lord, I am coming.'" My prayer today—and I hope you will join me—is that God will increase my sensitivity to His voice. I want to hear His slightest whisper and respond quickly and happily, "Lord, I am coming. I will seek you today!" If an ornery puppy can bring a smile when he obeys, how much more a sincere child who seeks the presence of the Heavenly Father? ■

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

MISSIONARY CONVENTION

OCTOBER 23-25, 2022

THEME - From Everywhere To Everyone

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23

6:30PM Opening Service

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24

9AM & 10AM Workshops

11AM Morning Service

7PM Evening Service

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25

9AM & 10AM Workshops

11AM Closing Service



RG Hutchison

Plenary Speaker

WORKSHOP SPEAKERS

(additional speakers to be announced)

Tim Keep	Daniel Melton
Jose Cancio	Rex McDowell
Steve Gibson	Benjamin Smith
Harold Martin	Tonweya Sherman