

GOD'S REVIVALIST

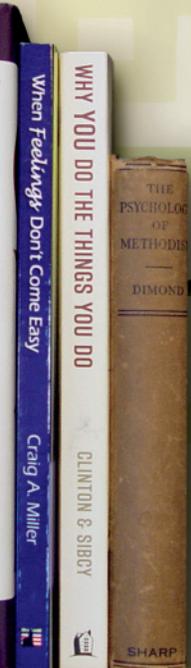
November 2022

Scripture Advocate



25 Years

Richard G. Miles





thinking out loud

MY FRIEND DICK MILES

I have had some great Bible college coworkers over the last 45 years. Some were/are standouts for various reasons, such as that we went to school together during the 1970s, were teaching colleagues, or served on the same administrative team. But all excelled in various aspects of what it means to be a good worker and teammate.

Richard (“Dick”) Miles is on my list of such associates—one of the few at the very top! No, we didn’t attend GBS together. While he was successfully attending GBS, I had dropped out of college and on a whim joined the U.S. Air Force. When he was graduating (spring 1974), I had just finished my four-year tour, was miraculously saved, and enrolled at GBS that fall. So, our student years did not overlap.

When my former GBS classmate Michael Avery was selected as GBS president, he began to assemble an administrative team—Dick was hired in 1997 to be Vice President for Student Affairs. Two years later, I returned to campus to be Vice President for Academic Affairs. This was the beginning of a real friendship. Let me tell you some of the reasons why.

First, I discovered that Dick was a man with real SPIRITUAL DEPTH. You could count on him to do the right thing and for the right reasons. When he spoke, when he took action, it was only after careful and prayerful consideration. He also has what I would call a STABLE PERSONALITY. You did not get wild extremes from him. He was consistent—his words and actions were steady over time. His emotions matched the moments well.

These two characteristics enabled him to make SOUND DECISIONS. I don’t remember a single judgment call Dick made that struck me as “wrong,” and that is saying something because the VPSA has to maintain a balance between the interests of the school and its students. He adequately has to represent the school’s perspective to students and the student’s perspective to the school, especially to the other administrative team members. He seemed to be able to locate the proper balance—the “sweet spot”—between competing points of view.

All of these make Dick a STEADFAST FRIEND, someone you want on your side. He is a friend to both staff and faculty as well as to students. I feel blessed to have Dick as a true friend—a confidant—a buddy that will pray with you through difficult times. Thanks, Dick! —KF

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COVER: Portrait photo of Richard Miles by Shane Muir. Composite by Kevin Moser

the president's page



Honoring

RICHARD MILES

for 25 years of faithful service

by Dr. Rodney S. Loper, President

I first heard rumblings that a principal from Pell City, Alabama, was coming to be the vice president for student affairs at GBS sometime in the spring of 1997. This was of special interest to me because I was selected to be on the dean's staff as a resident assistant in the men's dormitory beginning the following school year. So many questions filled my mind: What was he like? What would be different? Would we like him?

When I finally met him later that year, I was immediately put at ease. I was impressed with his slow, southern drawl and the warmth of his personality. Today, after working closely with him in administration for the past six years, that list has expanded to include adjectives such as Christlike, kind, diligent, trustworthy, and hard-working; and he has become my friend.

Richard Miles has held several positions at GBS. This isn't because we have shuffled him around to keep him out of the way! On the contrary, when we have needed a trustworthy team-builder in a place of servant-leadership, he has been the first choice. The position he holds today is a case in point. When we needed someone to develop and lead the pastoral care of our campus, Richard Miles was the perfect candidate!

Enjoy this look at his journey.

YOUNG RICHARD

A breech birth on Mother's Day, May 11, 1952, brought Richard G. Miles into the world. Born to Bob and Jean Miles of Sharon, Pennsylvania, Richard—or Dick, as he is commonly called—was the third of four boys: Robert (9/20/1948), David (10/20/1950), and James (6/11/1957). Despite the birthing complications, Jean declared Dick to be

photo by Shane Muir

“the best Mother’s Day gift I ever had!” Bob worked as a conductor and brakeman on freight trains for Penn Central Railroad (and some of its mergers). Jean was a stay-at-home mom as long as Dick could remember. However, she previously had been a phone operator.

Dick says he was fairly quiet as a kid “but enjoyed some occasional mischief.” He got along well with others, but claims “it was all their fault” of “those few” with whom he did not! He was “far more interested in outdoor activities than schoolwork and books,” and he liked being with his small circle of friends. “Small” was key because he “was not a party person and didn’t care for large activities.” He enjoyed basketball, football, softball, baseball, riding off-road in jeeps, hiking, and camping—typical boy interests.

When Dick was four or five years old, the family moved to New Castle, Pennsylvania, and he began attending the Neshannock Township Schools. “I made above average grades, but I really was not a good student. I applied myself just enough to prevent suffering my dad’s discipline.” In retrospect, he acknowledges that his academic performance was in direct correlation to whether or not he liked his teacher. “I really liked my 6th grade teacher and had the top grades in the class. That was certainly the last time I achieved that! Too bad I didn’t like more teachers!”

His family didn’t attend church or talk of spiritual things when he was young. However, when Aunt Sally Lawrence invited him to the Arlington Avenue Free Methodist Church in New Castle, Pennsylvania, he

agreed to go along— but “only because I didn’t want to say no to my aunt.” He heard a woman testify about her conversion, and something stirred within him. Dick went to the altar and prayed to be saved. “I began faithfully praying and reading the Bible, and I started attending services there.”

Dick didn’t think the other kids at church were “serious enough about the Sunday school lessons,” so he didn’t enjoy the class with all its distractions. However, he really liked the worship services and the preaching. As Dick became more interested in spiritual things during his upper elementary school years, he prayed fervently for his dad to be saved.

During his teen years, his pastor, Rev. Calvin Sones, and Sunday school teacher, John Sullivan, were instrumental in Dick’s spiritual growth. He had a few ups and downs as he became distracted and “followed my peers rather than Christ.” But one day in the middle of his 11th grade year, he repented and became committed to Christ again. That same night he saw his dad converted!

STUDENT YEARS AT GBS

In 1970, Dick graduated from Neshannock High School. Since his conversion in elementary school, he had a growing awareness that he was to preach and commit to full-time ministry. He was planning to attend a Free Methodist college in Illinois. However, he had a critical conversation one day as he was leaving church. “My pastor, Calvin Sones, asked me where I was going



to college. I told him, and he asked if I had considered God's Bible School. I said, 'Where? Never heard of it.' But I did seriously pray about it and came to the conclusion that God was asking me to attend GBS. So I applied and arrived in Cincinnati as a student, having never visited the campus."

At least initially, campus life "was a different world for me and required personal adjustments." He struggled with some of the culture, which was quite different from what he had experienced growing up. "My dad determined that once we turned 18 we were independent adults. If we continued to live at home, we only had a few (very few) house rules. But when I came to GBS, I experienced a lot of 'house rules.'" He was tempted to leave occasionally, but each of those times he was "rescued," usually by the dean of men, George Vernon. Except for a few times of discouragement, he really liked it at GBS and looked forward to coming back at the end of summer. "It was the first time that I had been around so many like-minded Christians my age. I had good friends here. I respected the faculty." He also recognized that he was beginning to enjoy school more than he had as a child. "The higher I went in my education, the more I enjoyed it, and the more I became a better student."

A college education requires money, so Dick spent his summers working for Nichols Bakery in New Castle, driving a bread truck and making deliveries to stores. During his months in college, he worked as a dorm monitor and later as an assistant dean of men under George Vernon. During this time, he ministered at a new GBS mission on Klotter Street (close to the University of Cincinnati), helped start an Overcomers chapter at the University of Cincinnati, and later pastored South Bend Union Chapel in the Cincinnati suburb of Saylor Park for two years. But the most notable extracurricular activity he was involved in was being president of the unofficial Bachelors' Club. They even purchased an ad spot in the *Hilltop* yearbook. But his single life was soon to change.

THEN THERE WAS BRENDA

Not very long before Dick's birth, and a little over 700 miles to the south, Alvin and Gelene Hodge welcomed a new baby girl to their home in Nixon Chapel, Alabama. They named her Brenda Ann. Brenda had one younger brother, Charles, who was very special to her. She also loved his beagle puppies and would take one of them to bed with her to keep it warm. Brenda was a force to reckon with, and one time, when some of the neighbor boys were harassing her little brother, she threw a rock at them, hitting one of them on the head. Brenda's father worked as a civilian for the U.S. Army and NASA at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. Her mother was a stay-at-home mom.

25 Years

Richard G. Miles



Dick and I have been friends for over 40 years. I had seen firsthand his giftedness in working with young people and his exceptional "one-on-one" counseling and problem-solving skills. That's why, upon my arrival at GBS, I began immediately to bring him onboard. I finally got him there in 1997 as Vice President for Student Affairs. He quickly began to transform student life on the Hilltop to a more student-friendly environment, made significant improvements in counseling services, and built a great safety net for any student who was struggling. Students will forever remember him for his calm, wise, and fair approach to any problem they had. Over the years, his steady hand of leadership has made GBS the premier school for a positive student-life experience. Dick, I am personally grateful for your friendship and for all that you have given to make GBS a remarkable school and her students well-balanced, healthy workers in God's Kingdom.

DR. MICHAEL AVERY
Former GBS President, current Chancellor

Richard Miles is a gracious, caring, friendly brother-in-the-Lord. He deeply cares about the well-being and spiritual development of those to whom he ministers, whether it be a church context or a school context. He has given years of faithful service to Christian education and has not lost his fervor and love for the Lord or for people. Dick is a good preacher and seeks to encourage those to whom he ministers. God bless him as he continues to be salt and light for the Kingdom.

DR. ALLAN P. BROWN
Chair, GBS Ministerial Education Division

My first memories of Dick Miles go way back to our college years in the 1970s. He was always a great guy with a friendly smile and a kind word. What a great privilege to have our paths cross again as colleagues, working at our Alma Mater! Dick is still a great guy, still sharing that friendly smile and those kind words, and always willing to lend a helping hand. I feel honored to be his and Brenda's friend. Blessings on you, Dick, for your selfless service to GBS down through the years!

DR. MARCIA DAVIS
GBS college professor

25 Years

Richard G. Miles



Richard Miles is a man after God's heart. He lives what he preaches and teaches, as I have witnessed it firsthand in working alongside him as a coworker for the last fifteen years. I enjoyed our interactions when he was my immediate supervisor in the Facilities Department for a brief period of time. I have always enjoyed listening to his sermons in chapels. More recently, in his most recent assignment as school pastor, I have sought counsel with him, and he has been a godly source of wisdom.

In a recent time of crisis, while dealing with my daughter's accident, I had an unsaved loved one who was facing death, and I could not get to him to witness. I contacted Mr. Miles to see if there was someone who could visit my cousin. Mr. Miles willingly offered to drive two hours to do this for me. I was so relieved to have someone of his caliber to do this. The most amazing thing happened as my cousin "prayed through" due to this amazing man who was willing to be used by God and help me in what I felt was a hopeless situation. Five days later this cousin passed away.

This little story epitomizes the man Dick is. I am so thankful for his ministry here at the Hilltop and so glad to know the Mileses as friends.

BILL MARSHALL
GBS Facilities Office Manager

Having worked with Dick Miles for 20 years at GBS and in various denominational capacities, I have only the highest regard for his character and ethics. Bro. Miles loves God, loves people, and lives his loves out in all he does. My hearty thanks to Bro. Miles for investing his life in my life and the lives of others. Only Heaven will reveal the extent of his godly influence. I say, "Thank God, Dick Miles came my way!"

DR. PHILIP BROWN
GBS Graduate Program Director, college professor

Richard Miles is not only a man of God, but also a good boss and a real friend. He is always there to help others. I have watched God work through him in every job he has had at GBS. He lives the Christian life under all kinds of circumstances.

FLOYD HYATT
GBS Campus Resource Officer

When Brenda was five years old, the family moved to Glencoe, Alabama, where they attended the Glencoe Bible Methodist Church. As a teenager, Brenda loved to read (in bed) and also enjoyed sewing. Unlike Dick, Brenda says that "school was OK. I made good grades." As a result of those grades, she became valedictorian of Glencoe High School in 1969. After graduation, she was unsure of where to go for college. Her initial plans were to attend Gadsden State Junior College and major in library science, but that changed. "Libby Vess, one of my best friends, was planning to attend GBS and convinced me to go there instead. Ironically, at the last minute Libby decided to go to Hobe Sound Bible College, so I arrived at GBS without her." Like Dick, she had never been on campus before that. In retrospect she says that it soon became apparent that attending GBS "was the thing I was supposed to do." When Dick arrived at GBS in 1970, Brenda had already been there for a year. They got to know each other through their circle of friends. Brenda reports how things progressed: "I was a year older, and, when it was time for the junior-senior banquet, I decided to invite him to go with me as a friend." He already had a girlfriend in Pennsylvania whose junior-senior banquet was the same weekend, so he couldn't go with me. But he asked me out on a date before the banquet. We dated for a year, then got engaged in March 1973, my senior year."

Brenda graduated as GBS valedictorian with a major in English. She and Dick were married two months later in Glencoe, Alabama, on August 4, 1973, by V.O. Agan and Brenda's grandfather, C.W. Hodge.

Dick graduated with a BRE (bachelor of religious education) from GBS in 1974, and the couple moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee, to work at Wesleyan Christian School. Dick taught Bible and other subjects. Notable among those "other" teaching assignments for him was girls' physical education! Brenda taught high school English for four years. The school was operated by the Temple Bible Methodist Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee. The Mileses eventually joined the church. It was Dick's first affiliation with the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches. This would be critical in the next phase of their ministry.

NEXT MINISTRY PHASE – A GROWING FAMILY

On April 2, 1978, six weeks before the end of the school year, the Mileses welcomed their firstborn child, Brent. That July the family moved to Glencoe, Alabama, to pastor the Bible Methodist Church. In 1979, Dick was ordained. Brenda enjoyed being a stay-at-home mom and did not teach for 10 years.

On January 10, 1981, the Miles family welcomed Amy. Dick remembers "how fun it was to be a father. I like to say that kids are a nuisance, but they are the most fun nuisance you can have. Brent was the lively one—al-

ways talking and always active. He was very entertaining. He was fun and social. He enjoyed sports and art and was always up for a mountain bike ride—and still is. He was a hard worker, often working alongside me or for me on the campground where we lived. He mowed with a riding mower when he was so little I had to attach blocks to the peddles for his feet to reach; but he did it well. He was a voracious reader and could outread me when he was VERY young!”

“Amy was the timid one, but she could also entertain in different ways. Though she was a mama’s girl, she is so easy for me to be with and likes to stay connected. She played the piano and competed in and won some piano competitions. Amy enjoys being with family and a few close friends. We share and enjoy our ‘wicked’ sarcasm.”

“They both gave us some very funny stories and very few problems. I say they turned out well in spite of me and my many mistakes. By the time I began serious study on how to have healthy relationships, began conducting parenting seminars, and finally got a handle on this ‘parenting thing,’ they were grown!”

PELL CITY BIBLE METHODIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

During his time as pastor at Glencoe, Dick became the principal of the Bible Methodist Christian School 40 miles away in Pell City, Alabama. In 1988, after ten years at Glencoe, the Miles family moved to Pell City. There Dick continued his tenure as principal, and Brenda taught while also working in the school office.

In 1995, when his friend Michael Avery accepted the presidency of GBS, one of the people he expressed interest in hiring was Dick. When he offered him an administrative position in student affairs, Dick had a strong desire to accept it but decided that it was not a good time to move his family. Two years later, he was offered the position again. Although Brenda didn’t want a major change, she remembers telling Dick she would be willing to move if he felt that it was really what God wanted him to do—“but please don’t ask us to uproot our family if you aren’t sure it is God’s calling.” Believing he had received God’s assurances, and after a 15-year tenure as principal at Pell City, Dick accepted the offer of vice president for student affairs at GBS. He considered it a “dream” position.

BACK AT GOD’S BIBLE SCHOOL

In 1997, the Miles family moved to Cincinnati, where Dick joined both the faculty and administrative teams of God’s Bible School as vice president for student affairs. Son Brent had preceded the rest of the family in their move by enrolling at GBS as a student in the fall of 1996. Dick reports, “I instantly felt a part of the GBS family and learned that we could function well

Mr. Smiles (no, that is not a typo!) has been one of THE MOST influential people in my life! He has shown me what it means to love God and others in a healthy, biblical way, and that forgiveness and restoration are beautiful aspects of life, although both are many times VERY messy and exhausting. He may be quiet by nature, but he has a depth that far outweighs his quietness. Steady, deep, compassionate, and kind are all words that describe him well. Everyone needs a Mr. Smiles in their life!

HEIDI NELSON
GBS BA '15

I first met Mr. Miles before either of us was working at GBS, when my parents were considering joining a ministry where he served. From that brief interaction over a couple of days, through now nearly 20 years of working alongside him here, he has consistently been the absolute model of a Christian gentleman. If anyone ever puts that term in a dictionary, the definition should just be a picture of Richard Miles!

I appreciate many things about Richard Miles. He loves God deeply, and he loves people well. He prioritizes his family, while having an open heart for students and alumni and people he meets in various places. He’s a person of conviction and integrity—he has real strength of character and force of will, but he is unfailingly kind and gentle. He understands that one can be soft spoken and still hold strong beliefs. He seasons his life with good humor and good friendships.

Richard Miles has been a model to me of careful Christian leadership. I want my spirit to be more and more like his!

DR. AARON D. PROFITT
GBS Vice President for Academic Affairs

Mr. Miles is one of the kindest and most loving people I have ever met. He shows the gentleness of Jesus in every encounter. The list of amazing qualities can go on and on. He has impacted not only my life but also my husband’s life in a big way. We admire him and are thankful for the Christian example he has set.

KARA (MOORE) OLSEN
kindergarten teacher, Aldersgate Christian Academy

Richard Miles was my first boss when I came to GBS as a young, terrified, and woefully inexperienced Dean of Women. His patient wisdom, his love for people, and his deep devotion to Jesus marked me forever. He remains a dear friend and mentor to this day as we now work side-by-side as fellow administrators. GBS is blessed to have this man as its Vice President for Spiritual Life. I’ve worked with him up close, and he’s the real deal. Congratulations, Mr. Miles! I appreciate you.

SONJA VERNON
GBS Vice President for Student Affairs

even when we disagreed.” In addition to being on the administrative team, Dick also taught occasional classes in ministerial education as well as psychology and counseling.

Except for the first year at GBS when she filled in as a substitute teacher for two weeks until a new teacher arrived, Brenda has kept busy outside of GBS doing housecleaning for several different people for 24 years. She has also been an active volunteer at GBS, doing various tasks from cleaning dorm rooms in preparation for a new school year, to making curtains for the Oswald Chambers Room and costumes for the annual Christmas programs.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

While Dick was making his mark on GBS campus life, he continued pursuing the professional development that had existed over much of his ministry. Early on he did some graduate work at Pensacola Christian College, Pensacola, Florida. He also began personal study in education and counseling to increase his effectiveness in both school and pastoral work. He began taking classes at Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA, while he was serving as pastor of the Bible Methodist Church in Glencoe, Alabama, and as principal of the Bible Methodist Christian School in Pell City. Therefore, it was no surprise when he began work toward an MA in Counseling from Liberty University. Liberty approved his GBS colleague, Dr. Ken Farmer, as his exam proctor and supervisor for his internship and counseling practicums, and Dick completed his coursework and passed his comprehensive exams in December of 2003.

Over the years, in addition to his administrative duties, Dick continued teaching. The position of campus administrator was added to his portfolio in 2014. Then, in 2019, a new position at GBS was created—vice president for spiritual life. Dick was the first to serve in that capacity and continues today—the right man for the right job at the right time!

OTHER AFFILIATIONS

As mentioned earlier, Richard has had a long affiliation with the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches. In addition to being an ordained minister and pastoring, he has also had excellent stints at Bible Methodist elementary/secondary schools. He has also served on various committees within the connection.

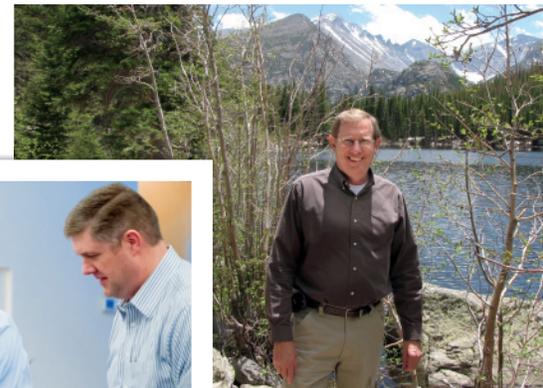
Richard also holds relationship seminars (relationship principles and practices, marriage, parenting, conflict resolution) and provides pastoral counseling to those on campus, as well as to alumni and others not officially associated with GBS. He also preaches occasional revivals and serves as a part-time pastor.

RICHARD'S REFLECTIONS

In looking back on the 25 years spent at GBS, Richard says, “I like the camaraderie among the staff, faculty, and students. I thoroughly enjoy the pursuit of excellence in its operation and in its education. There are always people available to discuss the hard questions with and to sharpen my thinking. I value the times I am challenged by different views—AND, we have a lot of fun. We enjoy being with one another. The pursuit to grow in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior is real on this campus.”

Richard admits that he has learned much about the value of being a part of the functioning body of Christ while at GBS. “Facilitating healing and teaching others to do so is my main ministry mission. However, I have also thoroughly enjoyed traveling and preaching and meeting so many more of God’s

bottom to top: Mr. Miles prays with the choir before tour; Mr. Miles preaches in chapel; Mr. Miles baptizes a student; Mr. Miles hikes at Vail, Colorado.



people in the U.S. and in other countries. GBS has made that possible. Five or ten years from now, if not in Heaven, I hope still to be ministering by preaching the Word and facilitating healthy relationships through seminars and counseling.”

CONCLUSION

In the intervening years, a daughter-in-law, Rhoda Bell Miles, and a son-in-law, Kyle Weddle, have joined the Miles family. Dick and Brenda have also welcomed seven grandchildren into the fold: Four girls from Brent and Rhoda—Elizabeth (16), Emily (12), Eleanor (9), and Eloise (5); three boys from Amy and Kyle—Cameron (10), Connor (8), and Grayson (6). All seven are students in Aldersgate Christian Academy.

I am thankful that God has allowed our paths to cross as we work in this corner of God’s vineyard. Dick is a delight to work with. His spirit, demeanor, and quiet consistent Christian walk is a model that we all can follow. When I look back down the trail of my life, I can see the impact that Richard Miles and his service to the kingdom have had on my life.

I join in congratulating Richard Miles for his 25 years of service to GBS. May his excellent tenure continue! 📌



left: Mr. Miles hikes with his grandsons.

below: Mr. and Mrs. Miles celebrate Christmas with their grandchildren.



25 Years

Richard G. Miles



I had the privilege of having an office next to Brother Miles for a couple of years. He was a great neighbor with a cheery “Good Morning,” a concern for things others were concerned about, and a willingness to stop and pray as the Spirit led. His heart for God and people is so evident in his chapel sermons. I enjoy his dry humor and wit. He has a pastor’s heart for our campus.

JANET ALBERTSON
GBS Donor Records Manager

Mr. Miles is such an example of compassion for everyone around him and of wisdom in the counsel and advice he gives. I was privileged to work under him when I first started in GBS Student Affairs and learned a great deal from him. Student Affairs is what it is today because of his leadership and mentoring of those who worked under him.

DARYL MUIR
GBS Dean of Men

Throughout my years here at GBS, both as a student and now as an employee, I have been so grateful for the consistent godly example that Mr. Miles brings to campus. His dedication to the campus family is exemplary and second to none. I’ve seen him study and research to know how to help a struggling student, take time to talk to hurting people (who just might be “interrupting” his schedule), and go outside his comfort zone in order to fill a needed role for the institution. I can’t thank him enough for modeling Christ to me, both when I arrived on campus as a mixed-up young adult, and now through his continuing investment by always being ready to pray with us or share a kind word and smile when we see him around campus. We are the better for having him in our lives!

STEPHANIE OWENS
GBS Director of Library Services

Brother Miles is a soft-spoken, gentle leader with a giant heart for people! In every role he has performed at GBS, it has been done with excellence—while also being intentionally “people focused!” My life has been profoundly impacted by his Christ-likeness!

KENT STETLER
GBS Registrar

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.

What a surprise to walk out to my mailbox yesterday evening to find Dr. Mark Bird's picture on the cover of *God's Revivalist* [September]! When I'm asked how I ended up in Bible college, I share the wonderful testimony of how God led my encounter with Mark and Kristin Bird at Children's Hospital. They both helped me along the way as I was searching for what God's purpose was for me during that season of my life. The classes I completed taught me so much. I'm proud to say I learned much of my ministry knowledge from one of the best professors and colleges! That's why I made a promise to God to give back to GBS. I work for BCM Georgia, a ministry which helps people to manage their money and get out of debt, as well as those facing homelessness.

KENYATTA TURNER-BURK
Decatur, GA

I attend the Bible Methodist Church in Franklin, OH. Actually, I am the last charter member. Now, at 93 years of age, I do not get to church often. I have been taking *God's Revivalist* for a long time.

JOSEPH DALTON
Franklin, OH

The recent *God's Revivalist* [June, July, August 2022] was excellent! I especially appreciated the article "The Spiritual Discipline of Shutting Up" (I need to hang that on my wall), as well as "If Anyone Wants to Be First, He Shall Be First." Curtis Going's commencement address was outstanding, with the best point, in my opinion, being "Keep singing!" Joy is incredibly important in the Christian life, and music and singing contribute to that joy.

ANNA LUCAS
email

We really enjoy your periodical and appreciate your stand on holiness.

LARRY AND TAMLA LECKRONE
Norman, IN

25 Years

Richard G. Miles



Richard Miles is a delight to work with on the administrative team here at GBS. He exudes kindness and compassion and is an excellent spiritual leader to the campus family. He is very attentive to the needs of those around him, and if he feels that you are troubled or have a burden you are carrying, he will be the first to come alongside you and pray and offer assistance wherever it is needed.

CHERYL WATTERS

Administrative Assistant to President Loper

When I think of a steady, solid, faithful Christian educator and administrator, I think of Rev. Richard Miles. His dedication to mentoring students caringly and serving Christ consistently has been a hallmark of his years in ministry. I first knew him as the principal of Bible Methodist Christian School, Pell City, AL, where I began my first music teaching assignment in the fall of 1994 after graduation from GBS. My husband and I were blessed to know both Richard and Brenda Miles and their extended family during our time pastoring in the area. Through the years, as we have visited GBS as alumni, and then brought our own children here to become students, and finally now live here ourselves as employees, we continue to count this wonderful couple as our friends. Not only does Richard Miles serve in academic and spiritual roles on campus, but also he ministers on Sundays in the pulpit of a local congregation, continuing the full life of giving to Christ that has marked him through the years. Our family is grateful for the depth and strength Richard Miles brings to GBS and congratulate him on this splendid anniversary of his service.

VALORIE QUESENBERRY
GBS Cashier/financial aid

Brother Miles has exercised faithful, steady leadership over a long period of time, and that consistent witness has marked a multitude of people that he has influenced. I'm grateful to have been one of those people, both as his student and then as an employee serving alongside him on the Hilltop. His godly example and advice spoken with a soft southern accent (despite the fact that he is from Pennsylvania!) have been a blessing over the years.

DR. STEPHEN SMITH
GBS college professor

FAMILY tributes

from BRENDA

Dick and I met at GBS as students. He was the president of the GBS Bachelors' Club. Yes, for real, there was a bachelors' club! They even placed an ad in the yearbook! Evidently, he was not committed to his cause, because they closed the club, and we began dating. We married on August 4, 1973, and lived in Cincinnati for a year until he finished his degree. After living in Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama for 23 years, we loaded our moving van on our 24th anniversary to move back to the Hilltop.

Many times I have heard Dick describe love as the "unselfish commitment to the good of another person," and he has lived that in our home. Dick is a loving, unselfish person who has always put us above himself. He is quick to forgive and offer grace. He is a leader in our home without being domineering or harsh and is always willing to listen to my opinion or ideas. He is gentle, compassionate, and respectful. Some people live two lives—one public and one private. Dick lives one life both in public and private. The person that people see at school, church, or in the neighborhood is the same person that I live with at home. Dick is a good husband, father, and grandfather. I'm blessed to have had him as my husband for 49 years. I'm also grateful to GBS for offering him the opportunity to minister here for the past 25 years. It has been rewarding to him and a positive influence for our family.

from BRENT

I'm proud of Dad for 25 years at God's Bible School—and not just for the last 25 years, but for a lifetime of service in Christian education. There's never been a time that I can remember that Dad wasn't serving in Christian education. There are too many things to say in short space, so I'll just mention a couple that have made an impact on me as I've watched him serve over the years. One is his dedication to doing anything that was needed to support the overall mission of the school. Regardless of his official position, he has always been willing to take on whatever additional roles and responsibilities were needed at the time. The second, and most important, is the immeasurable impact he has made on the lives of so many students. He has often been in a role that meant he was responsible for correcting and handing out punishment, but a consistent phrase that I hear from former students, including those who were often in trouble, is, "I love your dad." Even when disciplining and having hard conversations, he has been able to do it with a kindness and a grace that hasn't damaged relationships, and students still love and respect him. Beyond the interactions as an administrator and a teacher are the countless hours spent listening and counseling and bearing the pain and heartache of so many students. Thank you, Dad, for being willing to invest in so many lives and for the example you've set over the years of grace and kindness and dedication.

from BRENT'S kids

We're happy to have been able to live so close while Papa has been at God's Bible School. This has allowed us to see him at school and to spend lots of time with him. Papa is a kind and caring person. He's also silly, and funny, with a sarcastic sense of humor and a smile that always seems to be on his face. Whether it's helping with school speeches, or taking hikes, or playing games, he's always willing and happy to spend time with us. We love you and thank you for always having time.

from AMY

My dad played many roles in my life while I was growing up. Not only was he my dad, but he was also my pastor, bus driver, principal, teacher, drivers ed instructor, and friend. He loves traveling and always planned great family vacations. He even planned my vacation once after I was already married! As a result of these family vacations, I have been to 45 states! He loves being a dad and Papa and spending time with his family. Everywhere I go, people are always telling me how wonderful my dad is, and I agree with them. I am so thankful for my dad and love him very much.

from AMY'S son CONNOR

My Papa is really nice. I always love it when he takes us on hikes, and I love going to his house.





HLC TEAM VISIT

On September 12 and 13, GBS hosted a 4-member accreditation site-visit team representing the regional Higher Learning Commission (HLC), one of GBS's institutional accrediting agencies. Prior to the site visit, staff and faculty had spent months completing a self-study process and writing about the college's compliance with HLC standards and its ability to carry out its mission. The

site-visit team's job is to validate what we have written and to ensure the college is indeed operating with integrity and quality. Teams comprise higher-education professionals from other HLC-accredited institutions.

Team members spent a day and a half on campus, interviewing dozens of students, employees, and board members. They also reviewed documents and toured campus. We praise God for sending us an excellent, thorough team! Even before we receive their report, we are benefiting from our interaction with them as we identify ways we can improve our effectiveness.

When we do receive the team's report, we will write a response. This infor-

mation then is reviewed by an HLC committee, which makes decisions about reaffirming our accreditation and any follow-up responsibilities we have.

Accreditation work with all of our agencies—HLC, the Association for Biblical Higher Education's Commission on Accreditation, and the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation—has been used by God to develop us to fulfill our mission better as we seek to glorify Him and to serve His Church! —*VP for Academic Affairs Dr. Aaron D. Profitt*



The GBS / HLC Steering Committee and Self-Study Chairs L-R: David Hartkopf, Sonja Vernon, Stephen Smith, Kent Steller, Aaron Profitt, Matt Hallam, Richard Miles

REVIVALIST FAMILY

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

BIRTH



To **Katelyn (Shaffer) (2019-21) and Scott Loper (HS '19, 2019-current)**, a daughter, **Charlotte Marie**, born September 21, 2022, at The Christ Hospital, Cincinnati, OH. Except for an 8-month stint with GBS Public Relations, Scott has been employed as a member of the GBS facilities/grounds crew for four years. Katelyn is a stay-at-home mom. The Lopers live on campus. The birth of Charlotte adds "first-time grandpa" to the responsibilities of GBS President, Dr. Rodney Loper!

WEDDINGS



Rachel Langstaff (BA '17) to Nathan Gingrich, May 28, at the Wallenstein Bible Chapel, Wallenstein, Ontario, Canada, with Rev. Joseph Krohn (BA '07) officiating. The couple now reside in Millbank, Ontario. Rachel works as an accounting assistant at the Wallenstein Feed Mill, and Nathan works as a feed truck driver for the Jones Feed Mill.



Ruth Anthony to Anthony Paulus (2018-current), July 1, 2022, at God's Missionary Church, Beavertown, PA, with Rev. Solomon Shaffer and Dr. Rodney Loper officiating. The couple live in GBS campus housing while Anthony finishes his

TALENT NIGHT

A large and enthusiastic crowd came out on the evening of Friday, September 16, to support the many participants of Talent Night. Featured contributions included solving a Rubik's cube, singing, playing instruments, and acting.

A fun addition to the show was having participants, prior to their performance, choose a "twist" under which they would be forced to perform. These handicaps included performing while balancing

on one leg, performing while standing in a bucket of ice, performing after eating hot sauce, performing with a piece of ice in one's mouth, and many others!

During the talent show, people from the crowd also competed for gift cards. We had a hot sauce competition, a speed art competition, and a try-not-to-laugh competition. The enrollment office provided popcorn and snow cones for everyone to enjoy while they watched the show! A great night was had by all!

—*GBS Enrollment Team*



Jillaina Dotson, Zachery Pilmore, and Cassie England perform VeggieTales theme song.



Masa Hamada performs a trumpet duet.

FALL PICNIC

The Fall Picnic was held Tuesday, August 30, at Lincoln Ridge Park in the beautiful, rolling hills of Independence, KY, just south of the Cincinnati area. After a threat of rain, students and staff were thrilled with perfect picnic weather! Picnic goers enjoyed playing disc golf, softball, and other games, as well as hiking the park's trails and wading in the creek. A picnic feast prepared by Mrs. Byer and her kitchen crew awaited the ➡

BA in ministerial education. Both Anthony and Ruth are employed by the school, Anthony as a full-time facilities/maintenance technician, and Ruth as a K-2 physical education and general music teacher in Aldersgate Christian Academy.

DEATHS



Allen Eugene Rice, 76, of Cumberland, MD, passed away Sunday, Feb. 27, 2022, at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Western Maryland Health System. Born in Cumberland, MD, February 18, 1946, Allen was the son of the late Charles and Eva Mable (Mallow) Rice.

Allen graduated from Everett High School in 1964. He served in the U.S. Army National Guard for

six years. Allen worked at Southern States as an inventory specialist for 31 years. He also worked at Rocky Gap State Park, Flintstone, MD, for three years. He was a lifelong member of Mountain Top Holiness Church, Flintstone.

At age 13, Allen started singing in the church choir. At 16, he started singing in the Mountain Top quartet, and then in a mixed quartet, The Gospel Aires. Allen went on to sing in The Gospel Sounds trio for over 30 years. Allen also led the singing at his church for over 40 years. He was a GBS donor and *God's Revivalist* subscriber.

Allen is survived by his wife, Deena Rice, whom he met at a Gaithers concert. Allen and Deena were married in 1973 and spent 48 years singing together. He is also survived by his brothers, Willis and Earl, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. A funeral ➡



Several international students share lunch together.



Bethany Derbidge tags Jeremy Sayu out at first base.

➡ hungry guests, and Mr. Floyd Hyatt once again fearlessly led a group of Student Affairs staff in grilling hamburgers and hot dogs. It was a wonderful day of fun and fellowship in the beautiful outdoors.
—VP for Student Affairs Sonja Vernon

FALL REVIVAL

The fall revival opened Thursday evening, September 8, and ran through Sunday evening. President Loper began the series of services with prayer. Vice President for Student Affairs Sonja Vernon prefaced her special song by saying, “I was thinking about the fact many of us here have grown up knowing that Jesus loves us. We’ve grown up knowing that he died for us, and, honestly, we’re not quite as amazed by that as we might be.” As she sang “This love is mine, I cannot comprehend it! / This love re-

vealed through Christ, my Lord divine,” God’s presence was evident.

Guest speaker for these services was Rev. Paul Gray, of Palestine, IL. He recounted that his first visit to campus was 62 years ago when Harold Schmul had asked his parents to sing at the Interchurch Holiness Convention, which was then held on the GBS campus.

Rev. Gray read John 17:1-17 with special emphasis on verse 17:



Rev. Paul Gray

REVIVALIST FAMILY continued

➡ service was held at the Adams Family Funeral Home, Cumberland, MD, with Pastor Reuben Rinker officiating. Interment followed at Prosperity United Methodist Church Cemetery, in Flintstone, with military honors provided by Post 13 American Legion Honor Guard.



Kathleen Eversmeyer, 93, of Troy, MO, passed away on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at Lincoln County Nursing and Rehab. She was born on May 3, 1929, to John and Henrietta (Sievert) Graf of Troy. She grew up on the family farm. For spending money she sold eggs laid by the farm’s chickens. She later met Florence W. Eversmeyer, and they were married on July 16, 1960, in Elsberry, MO. They spent more than 40 years together until his death in 2001. The Eversmeyers were GBS donors and *God’s Revivalist* subscribers.

Kathleen worked for 54 years at Schloemann Dry Cleaner’s in Troy. Kathleen enjoyed cooking and gar-

dening, and she cherished the memories of singing with her husband. Through the years, Kathleen played the piano at church, tent revivals, and local nursing homes. She continued to play the piano while a resident at Lincoln County Nursing and Rehab, to the delight of many.

Kathleen was preceded in death by her husband, Florence. She is survived by her brother, Florence Graf, as well as other relatives and friends. A funeral service was held at McCoy-Blossom Funeral Home, Troy, MO, officiated by Rev. Kevin Weinand. Interment followed in the Troy City Cemetery.



Irene Maurer, 98, of Bedford, IN, passed away on Thursday, September 22, 2022, at Stonebridge Health Campus.

A “Distinguished Alumna” of GBS and a missionary for more than 60 years with Evangelistic Faith Missions, she served in Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Bolivia. For more details, see “Alumni News” on page 24. ■



The Hallam Family sings.



Prayer time around the altar

“Sanctify them through thy truth: Thy word is truth.” He began by asking the question, “What is holiness?” Simply put, Holiness is CHRIST-LIKE-NESS. The cry of our hearts during these revival services should be, “God, we want to be more like you.” Holiness is not really an IT, it is HIM! It is in Him that we find peace, purity, and power. Holiness is a goal for all Christians, but it is an attainable goal. It is comforting to know that when God commands us to be holy, He also provides the means for our becoming what He has commanded us to be. SANCTIFICATION is the process by which you become Christ-like through your own “personal Pentecost.”

There are three things that happen in a personal Pentecost. First, your will is yielded, and yielding your will brings PEACE. Second, your heart is cleansed. When you have yielded your will to Him, He has promised this cleansing. This gives PURITY. Third, your soul is filled with the Holy Spirit. That gives POWER. The good news is that be-

lieving in holiness and asking God to sanctify your heart and to give you a personal Pentecost is not a difficult thing to do. The biggest step is yielding your will to God.

Sanctification begins at conversion, and the crisis of entire sanctification is followed by a lifelong growth in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. Gray closed by asking the congregation if Christ’s prayer in John 17:17 had been answered in their lives. As the congregation sang, “I Want to be Holy Like You,” people moved toward the altar.

All the sermons may be viewed on the GBS Facebook page by date. We are very thankful for the ministry of Rev. Gray and the moving of God on hearts surrendering to Him.

OPEN-AIR CAMPAIGN

The open-air campaign, September 26-29, began with an inspiring message by Brian Harmon, the U.S. Field Director of the Open Air Campaigners. Brian emphasized our responsibility as ambassadors of Christ, encouraging us to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s leading as we take the initiative to share our faith. Five important steps in the process are: (1) Go where people are. (2) Start the conversation. (3) Ask key questions. (4) Listen. (5) Communicate truth to the person.

Monday afternoon and evening were filled with training activities. Eight stu-

dents learned how to use the sketch board to preach/teach gospel messages in the open air. These students, who later presented their messages in public, were Rebecca Himelick, Katelyn Welch, Parker Brown, Diana Sobie, Dominic Gattone, Austin Hart, Eron Miriye, and Simon Silas.

During the noon hour on Tuesday, Parker was able to preach his message “To Whom Do You Turn?” on the campus of the University of Cincinnati. “I anticipated that sharing the gospel on a secular campus would be met with hostility,” he says, “but what I found was quite



A GBS team prepares to engage in public witness with Open Air Campaigners.



Parker Brown shares the message “To Whom Do You Turn?”





Jayshaun Williams presents a gospel message to children.



surprising. After my presentation, I had a couple conversations with students that had never heard the gospel before. One in particular was an Indian student who had never heard of Jesus. He allowed me the opportunity to walk him through the gospel and he was very receptive to it.”

On Tuesday, the campaign went to parks in downtown Cincinnati for kids’ meetings. The second meeting involved the teens and children that attend Main St. Chapel, pastored by Dr. Matt Hallam, who is also GBS Vice President for Enrollment Services. At different parks, both Katelyn and Rebecca presented the kids’ message featuring the story of Jesus and Peter walking on the water. “I felt empty beforehand,” says Rebecca, “but when I got up there, I was able to talk to the kids with a clear head, energy, and joy.”

Wednesday at noon, the team went to Northern Kentucky University. Dominic and Silas preached. Other GBS students, as part of the crowd, engaged with NKU students as well. Bethany Derbidge, one such

GBS student, reports, “I noticed a student sitting at a table working on some homework across campus, and I felt a strong impression to go over there and talk to her. After introducing myself, and then going through the ‘Good person test’ with her, I asked if she ever thought about life after death before. She said yes and then revealed that she was working on a paper for her psychology class that was supposed to be answering the question ‘What comes after death? Is there a life after death?’ If that wasn’t a God-directed conversation, I don’t know what is! I asked her if she was open to learning more about Christianity, and she said yes! She talked to me about how she has been very lonely most of her life and how it would be nice to know that there is a God who loves her and is guiding her step by step here on earth. After some more discussion, she downloaded the YouVersion Bible app, and I prayed with her. She also gave me her phone number and we plan to meet up for lunch to build a friendship!”

Diana Sobie presented the kids’ message Wednesday afternoon. She later testified, “I was hesitant to participate, since I felt unqualified, and I didn’t want to mess up the truth of the gospel or confuse anyone. But I came to the realization that the miracle of God speaking to someone’s heart wouldn’t be because of my own talent or gifts. Ultimately, I am just an instrument in His hand that He can use to touch the lives of those hurt, lost, and alone. The sobering thought of them facing an eternity without God fueled me to set aside my own hesitations. I was awed by how the Lord put the right words in my mouth and helped me to be un-

derstanding and sensitive to those with whom I interacted. I knew that every moment of our ministry was an opportunity for God to pull on a heartstring or awaken a conscience.”

On Thursday, Austin Hart preached a message at NKU, and many conversations about God were generated with the students.

Though there is not space here to mention all their stories, GBS students and OAC staff reported on several other conversations as well as prayer times that they had with various adults and children at the universities and downtown parks.

Simon Silas’s comments sum up a common sentiment about the training and ministry that occurred: “I thank God for the opportunity to be part of the Open Air Campaign. It is an eye opener for me on how to witness effectively to others. It is interesting to know that, in spite of technology and information, most people do not know about Jesus and how to be saved. I am more resolved to intensify my efforts in witnessing now. And the sketch board method is what I intend to take back home to teach my people the skills of effective witnessing.”

GBS HONORS PASTOR THELMA BLOOMFIELD

Recently GBS honored Thelma Bloomfield for 67 years of faithful

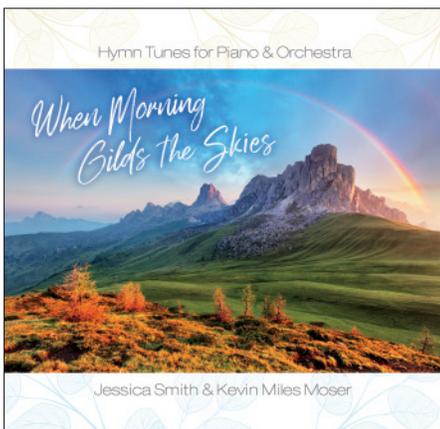


PR Director Duane Quesenberry presents Pastor Thelma Bloomfield with a certificate.

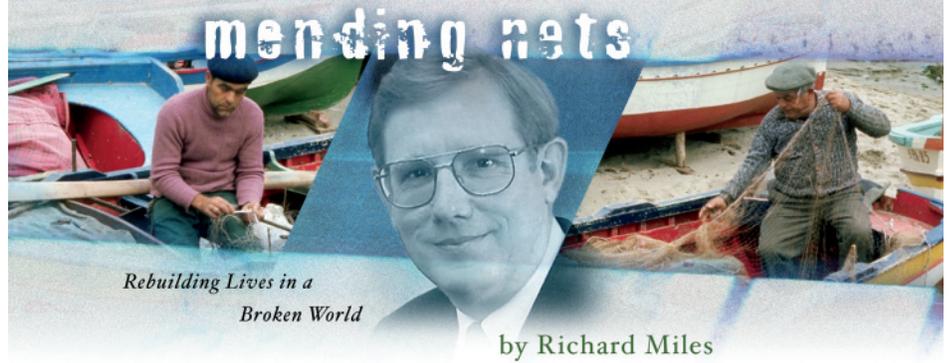
pastoral ministry to the Candy Run Wesleyan Tabernacle, Lucasville, OH. Sister Bloomfield started this church in 1955, and, at 98 years old, she continues to serve as the pastor! Our public relations groups typically begin our yearly travels at the church's annual homecoming.

JESSICA SMITH AND KEVIN MOSER PRODUCE ALL-HYMNS ORCHESTRA RECORDING

Music Division faculty member Jessica Smith and Revivalist Press art director and assistant editor Kevin Moser have collaborated on a major recording project scheduled



for release in December. *When Morning Gilds the Skies* includes 16 tracks of 19 hymn tunes—a whole hour of instrumental music. Featuring piano and orchestra, the arrangements include traditional gospel, classical, Celtic, and other styles. Tunes include all-time favorites as well as lesser-known works. Purchase the CD now during the pre-release sale to enjoy significant savings: \$12 per CD plus a \$2 shipping charge per order. Eventually the project will be available through standard online venues (such as iTunes), but at a higher price. Contact Kevin or Jessica for more information: kmoser@gbs.edu / 513.763.6521; jsmith@gbs.edu / 513.763.6534. ■



TO LOVE IS TO BE VULNERABLE

"I have concluded that I am better off without close friends. Every time I develop a relationship, I am disappointed." —a reader

To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one.... Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket...of your selfishness. But in that coffin—safe, dark, motionless, airless—it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable.... The only place outside Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers of love is Hell."¹

Self-protection may feel safe, for it may secure you from pain and disappointment. But it also cuts you off from experiencing the good in life. Good things only result from a willingness to take a risk. Running from feelings—both positive and negative—will detach you from what God wants you to experience. When my brother was murdered, well-intentioned people wanted my mother to take sedatives. She looked at me, her eyes filled with the pain that only a mother could feel in that moment, and said, "Does God not want me to feel?" After all, she loved her son dearly. Should she not feel or experience her love even in the pain?

Dr. C. Benton Eavey, Christian author and Chair of the Department of Psychology and Education at Wheaton College (1930-42), discussed the importance of emotions in human life:

"Nothing in us so defiles and destroys the beauty and the glory of living as do emotions; nothing so elevates, purifies, enriches, and strengthens life as do emotions. Through our emotions we can have the worst or the best, we can descend to the lowest depths, or we can rise to the highest heights. Every human being has a longing for the overflowing of natural emotion. Without capacity to experience emotions suitable to the situations we meet, we would not be normal. Emotions of the right kind, expressed in the proper way, make life beautiful, full, and rich, rob it of monotony, and contribute much to both the enjoyment and the effectiveness of living."²

Love is not for what we get out of it. Love in its divine form is giving to benefit others (1 John 3:16-17). As we love sacrificially with God's unselfish love, we will become like Christ, help others like Christ, and discover the meaning and satisfaction of living a life of value in Christ. ■

1 Lewis, C.S. *The Four Loves*, Harcourt Brace, 1960, p.169.

2 Eavey, C. Benton. Quoted in *Training Christians to Counsel* by Norman Wright (Harvest House Publishers, 1977, p.12).

"Mending Nets," a regular feature in God's Revivalist from 2003-2005, explored God's readiness to "mend" the breakdowns which so often mar our lives. It was written by Rev. Richard Miles, GBS Vice President for Spiritual Life.

KEEPING



TIME WITH GOD

The Christian Year, Part 9



Celebrating the Consummation

Jesus Is Lord of All

Final Installment of a Yearlong Series

by Larry D. Smith

November 20, 2022, CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

End of the Christian Year cycle emphasizing that Jesus is Lord of all

Vernon Grounds, distinguished theologian and one of the founders of today's evangelical movement, tells of an incident that happened while he was in seminary. Since the seminary had no gymnasium, he and his friends played basketball in a nearby public school. All the while, an elderly janitor—obviously a faithful Christian—would wait patiently until the seminary boys had finished playing, then lock up the building. While waiting he would faithfully read his Bible. "One day my friend asked him what he was reading. The old janitor answered, 'The book of Revelation.' Surprised, the student asked if he understood it. 'Oh, yes,' the old man replied, 'I understand it.' 'And what does it mean?' asked the boy. Quietly the old man responded, 'It means that Jesus is going to win!'" Dr. Grounds concludes: "That is the best commentary I have ever heard on that book. Jesus is going to win!"

Grounds is right, to be sure; for indeed this is the over-arching theme of St. John's mysterious little book, known to English readers as the Revelation and otherwise as the Apocalypse. Under the imagery of sounding trumpets, pouring vials, and galloping horses—all in an

atmosphere of rising smoke and thundering voices—persecuted Christians are assured that "mystery Babylon" and all her diabolical allies will be defeated and destroyed by the militant hosts of heaven led by Christ Himself. Then shall the sufferings of the saints be past, and all the cosmos shall echo with the victory song: "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth!" Alleluia!

Conquering now and still to conquer, Jesus, Thou Ruler of all, / Thrones and their scepters all shall perish, crowns and their splendor shall fall, / Yet shall the armies Thou leadeest, faithful and true to the last, / Find in Thy mansions eternal rest, when their warfare is past. (Fanny Crosby)

So again we assert: "Jesus is going to win!" Whether the final triumph shall come today, tomorrow, or a thousand years from now, it is as certain as God Himself is certain! But if this is the central theme of the book of Revelation—inspired and written in a time when pagan emperors were feeding Christians to hungry lions or leaping flames—it is also the central theme of the whole Bible. From Genesis to Revelation, this message is repeated again and again. However Satan may rage against Christ and His Kingdom, he shall be utterly conquered

and destroyed! “Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it!” “Where sin did abound, grace did much more abound!” “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed. The kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.”

If God’s triumph in Christ is the central theme of the book of Revelation—and, indeed of the entire Bible—it is also the central theme of the Christian Year. Every one of the great festivals and commemorations that anchor the historic Church calendar points to this. Christmas, for instance, joyously celebrates the Incarnation, God becoming man in order to save us from our sin. Holy Week and Good Friday point dramatically to God’s bloody sacrifice in Christ crushing the head of the serpent for us. Easter glorifies the living Lord, who by His death and resurrection has made atonement for our sin and has assured us of eternal life. Pentecost celebrates the birth of the holy Church, the home of the faithful and God’s voice to call the whole world to His obedience.

During the final weeks of the Christian Year, which also are the weeks following Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, we are called, as always, to use faithfully the means of grace which God has appointed and humbly to obey all of His other commands, gladly “looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith.” Advent Sunday will begin the new cycle of the Christian Year, but there remains one last festival, which many Christians observe on the last Sunday of the old year. This is Christ the King Sunday, which calls us to celebrate Jesus’ triumph as sovereign Lord over all creation, asserting His “kingdom rights” over all the nations of this world now sadly divided by the horrors of sin and its tragic results.

Thus, Christ the King Sunday emphasizes Jesus’ present rule and absolute authority. But even more emphatically, it reminds us of the consummation of all things—that final day, when according to the ancient Nicene Creed, “He shall come again with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.” What battles shall yet confront us, we do not know, but the final triumph is not in doubt. So on the final Sunday of the Christian Year, we join Christians everywhere in renewed allegiance to Our Lord Christ, now and forever “King of Kings and Lord of Lords.” Yes, the old janitor was right. Jesus is going to win!

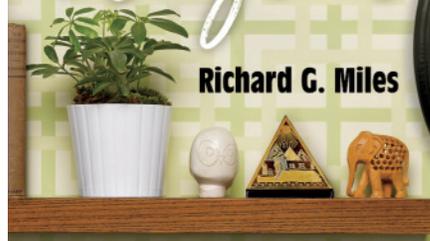
Jesus shall reign where'er the sun / Does his successive Journeys run; / His kingdom spread from shore to shore, / Till moons shall wax and wane no more. / Let every creature rise and bring / His grateful honors to our King; / Angels descend with songs again, / And earth repeat the loud "Amen!" (Isaac Watts) ■

(This concludes the series “Keeping Time with God.”)

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) (BA ’78).

25 Years

Richard G. Miles



When I pause to reflect upon the life and service of my friend and colleague The Reverend Richard Miles, such words as kind, caring, and even Christlike come flooding across my mind, for Dick—as his many friends call him—deserves all of these affirming and admiring terms as well as many others like them. I have known him for over three decades, first as a fellow pastor, and then for many years as an associate at God’s Bible School and College. From the beginning, I found Dick to be a sincere and faithful Christian brother, sincerely pursuing that winsome holiness without which none of us shall ever see the Lord. That still is true, and never once has he disappointed me. His wife Brenda graciously complements his life and ministry. Congratulations to them both for 25 years at GBS.

LARRY D. SMITH
former *God’s Revivalist* editor, college adjunct

Mr. Miles has been a good neighbor to me for many years. He was especially helpful when I was taking care of my aging brother and sister, James and Phyllis. When Phyllis fell and broke her hip, Mr. Miles volunteered to go to the hospital with her so I did not have to leave James home alone. Mr. Miles has even come over to the house to pray for my sick dog!

ANNA ORNDORFF
GBS neighbor, long-time donor,
and alumna (CWC ’58, ThB ’61, BA ’68)

Mr. Miles is one who can be trusted to keep a confidence. He is one of the most even-tempered persons I know. The GBS family has been immeasurably blessed by this humble, spiritual giant. I can’t think of anyone who is closer to what comes to mind by the adjective “Christlike” than Mr. Miles.

KEVIN MOSER
Revivalist Press art director / assistant editor

In the 25 years we’ve worked with Dick, he has been a faithful, steady friend. Not only is he a good listener, but he challenges those around him to do their best and become better Christians. He is truly a difference-maker.

DRS. MARK AND KRISTIN BIRD
GBS professor / adjunct professor

LISTEN

When was the last time you felt truly understood because someone really listened to you? Most of us have spent our lives learning to speak, but have failed to learn how to listen with our hearts and not just with our ears and minds. As a result, we talk too much and listen too little.

Good listening skills are needed in every relationship—marriage, parenting, pastoring, the workplace, in healthcare, and among friends—just to name a few. Every relationship would benefit from a focus on listening, not just with our heads, but also with our hearts. James 1:19 makes this clear: “Let **everyone** (emphasis mine) be quick to hear [be a careful, thoughtful listener], slow to speak [a speaker of carefully chosen words and], slow to anger [patient, reflective, forgiving]” (Amplified Bible). Being “quick to hear” does not mean we listen for a few seconds and then jump into talking. Notice those descriptors: we should listen **carefully** and **thoughtfully**. How can we learn to be careful, thoughtful listeners? What barriers obstruct our way to heart listening? I will suggest three barriers to listening and give some recommendations for improving your own listening skills.

As you read about these barriers to listening well, evaluate your own challenges by asking God to show you areas in your life that need adjustment. Reflect on this question: Do you listen to God and others with the kind of attention you would like to receive?

THREE BARRIERS TO LISTENING

The first barrier to listening well is **AMBIVALENCE**. Do any of the following statements ring true? (1) Listening to someone else is boring. (2) I don't know what to do with the information they are sharing with me. (3) I am distractible and my mind wanders. (4) I can't understand what they are saying because of their accent or their vocabulary. All of these statements imply a lack of interest in the one talking or a lack of interest in overcoming a specific barrier to listening.

INSECURITY is the second barrier to listening. Do any of these statements

GOD'S REVIVALIST and BIBLE ADVOC

by Michelle Witt

fit you? (1) I feel inadequate or struggle with low self-worth. (2) I am fearful of personal conversations, particularly emotional topics, so I talk a lot to keep the conversation on “safe” topics. (3) I don’t like silence. (4) I don’t know how to help them solve their problems.

The third barrier may be the most difficult to admit: **ARROGANCE** or **SELF-IMPORTANCE**. Ask yourself honestly and prayerfully if any of these are creating difficulty in your life: (1) I like the sound of my own voice. (2) My thoughts and opinions are really more useful than those of the one I am listening to. Actually, I like my thoughts and opinions better than theirs. (3) I like to “win” conversations. (4) I like to be right. (5) I know what they are going to say, so I just say it for them. (6) I enjoy arguing and debating. I’d rather do that than quietly listen. (7) I need to stay in control of the conversation. (8) I have a fast moving stream of thoughts that I need to give voice to.

While speaking and sharing your own thoughts have a place, for healthy interpersonal relationships to thrive, one must give time for heart listening. Communication and interpersonal relationships are two-way streets.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Be honest with yourself about the reasons you struggle to listen fully. How would someone who knows you well describe your listening skills? More importantly, what does God say?

Maybe you don’t see any barriers that fit. Ask yourself this final question: Do I listen to others with my head or with my heart? “Head listening” means that the listener understands mentally the words the other person is saying, but does not pick up on the emotional tone or underlying concerns. “Heart listening,” however, strives to understand the meaning behind the words the other is speaking to you and being sensitive to the emotional undertone. Heart listening also involves active listening.

First, **listen actively**. That is the first way to improve your listening skills. Active listening means letting the person who is talking know that you are listening by maintaining eye contact (but not staring), nodding your head, quietly interjecting such responses as “uh huh,” “wow,” “hmmm,” “sure,” and maintaining an open posture to show that you are paying attention. As the listener, you should avoid the use of technology or other distractions while you are listening. Active listening says, “I’m present and I am interested in what you have to say.”

Second, **focus on what the person is saying, not on your response**. It’s tempting to be forming a rebuttal or bit of advice while we are assumed to be listening. Good heart listening does not require us to have any answers or to give an opinion; instead, we should be listening to learn. The purpose of heart listening is to understand the one who is talking—not just the words, but the meaning behind their words and emotions.

View the speaker’s thoughts as more important than your opinion or rebuttal. Remember, you don’t have to have the last word. Have you ever tried to listen to someone without voicing any of your own opinions or thoughts? On occasion such an exercise is worthwhile.

Observe the speaker’s body language and non-verbal behavior. Does their tone match what they are talking about? Do their eyes say something different than their words?

Occasionally **summarize or paraphrase what you have heard** to make sure you, the listener, are understanding correctly. In this context, a “summary” is a short review of what the speaker has been saying *in their own words*, and, at times, this is simply restating the last phrase that was said. A “paraphrase” is a short recap put into your own words, but not adding to or diminishing what was said. This paraphrase can focus on a thought they just expressed or an emotion that they explicitly mentioned or that you implicitly understood. Follow your summary or paraphrase with, “Is that right?” These recaps allow the speaker to correct your understanding, if it’s faulty, or encourage the speaker to continue talking.

Practice silence. Respect the speaker’s talking time by keeping your words to a minimum and even allowing silence to reign. They will often begin speaking again if given time to think. Silence can be positive, though it may make us uncomfortable.

Finally, **ask open-ended questions** occasionally to prompt more information. Open questions invite the speaker to share more information beyond a one-word response. While open-ended questions can enable us to understand the speaker better, the second command that James 1:19 gives us is to be “slow to speak [a speaker of carefully chosen words...]” (Amplified Bible). As we listen, and encourage the one speaking to continue talking, we should carefully choose the words that we voice. For example, sometimes we start by asking a question but allow it to turn into our own “opinion-giving time.” This is not the time for sharing our own thoughts. Ask a short, open question, and then allow the speaker to resume talking.

Although there are more nuances to quality heart listening, these practices will help you become a better listener. Above all, if you strive to be careful and thoughtful in your listening, you will bless those with whom you communicate. ■

Michelle Witt earned a BA in Psychology and an MA in Marriage and Family Therapy from MidAmerica Nazarene University, Olathe, KS. She worked at a counseling center in Olathe for about five years before moving to GBS with her family in 2010. Her husband, Lyle, chairs the GBS Division of Education and Professional Studies. Michelle has been an adjunct for counseling related courses and a listening ear to many.

Dear Phil



THE TRUE GOSPEL FULLY EMBRACES LGBTQ PERSONS?

Walter Brueggemann recently wrote, “The gospel is not to be confused with or identified with the Bible.... The full acceptance and embrace of LGBTQ persons follows as a clear mandate of the gospel in our time. Claims to the contrary are contradictions of the truth of the gospel....” I wish you would respond to this. —David

Dear David,

Walter Brueggemann (1933-) is a well-known progressive OT Hebrew scholar. He has written voluminously (nearly 60 books and hundreds of articles). His theology is neo-orthodox (i.e., uses orthodox words with heterodox meanings). His hermeneutics are post-modern (i.e., truth is relative). At the root of his version of Christianity is the conviction that Scripture is “ragged, disjunctive, and incoherent” (his words). In his view, the Old Testament is incorrigibly self-contradictory, in part because it was written “by many committees” and “because the key character is illusive and irascible in freedom and in sovereignty and in hiddenness, and, I’m embarrassed to say [again, his words], in violence.”

As he says in the article you mention, “The Bible contains all sorts of voices that are inimical to the good news of God’s love, mercy, and justice. Thus, ‘biblicism’ is a dangerous threat to the faith of the church, because it allows into our thinking claims that are contradictory to the news of the gospel. The gospel, unlike the Bible, is unambiguous about God’s deep love for all peoples. And

where the Bible contradicts that news, as in the *texts of rigor*, these texts are to be seen as ‘beyond the pale’ of gospel attentiveness.”

Since he believes there are competing and contradictory views in Scripture, he aligns himself with the parts that fit his understanding of God’s love, mercy, and justice. He dubs these parts “texts of welcome.” As he wrote, “It is impossible to harmonize the mandates to exclusion [of homosexuality] in Leviticus 18:22, 20:13 and Deuteronomy 23:1 with the welcome stance of Isaiah 56, Matthew 11:28-30, Galatians 3:28, and Acts 10.”

Honestly, Brueggemann’s approach is standard, liberal ideology that’s been circulating in liberal seminaries and universities for the last 150 years. As J. Gresham Machen wrote in *Christianity and Liberalism* 100 years ago, liberal Christianity of the sort Brueggemann espouses is neither truly liberal nor Christian. It is another gospel (Gal. 1:6). As such, it falls under God’s curse (Gal. 1:8). The apostle Paul calls men like Brueggemann “savage wolves” (Acts 20:29), and Peter labels such teaching “destructive heresy” (2 Pet. 2:1).

Let me briefly respond to Brueggemann’s misrepresentation of Deuteronomy 23 and Isaiah 56. He correctly notes that whereas Deuteronomy 23:1 excludes eunuchs from the assembly of Yahweh, Isaiah 56:4-5 promises covenantally-faithful eunuchs a memorial in Yahweh’s house. First, note that we don’t know whether the eunuchs in Deuteronomy 23:1 were involuntary or voluntary. If the text has in view the self-mutilation of pagan idolatry, then Isaiah 56 isn’t even talking about the same thing. If involuntary eunuchs are included, it’s vital to note that being a eunuch isn’t immoral or prohibited by Yahweh. Limiting access to “the assembly of Yahweh” due to physical deformity in the old covenant (Deut. 23) and permitting it in the new covenant (Isa. 56) is no more contradictory than changes in food laws between the covenants. Second, note that involuntary eunuchs, such as Daniel, had full access to Yahweh and His grace, regardless of whatever restrictions their physical condition may have entailed vis-à-vis “the assembly of Yahweh.” The limitation of Deuteronomy 23:1 had no bearing on their relationship with Yahweh. Isaiah 56 does not contradict Deuteronomy 23, and it certainly gives no welcome to homosexuality!

If you’re deeply troubled, as I am, by Brueggemann’s malign twisting of Scripture into a cloak for debauchery, you should be even more troubled by evangelicals like Kenton Sparks who insist that we must embrace “critical biblical scholarship”—the very same view of Scripture Brueggemann embraces. Followers of Jesus accept His authority. He says it is fools who fail to believe all that the prophets (from Moses to Malachi) have spoken (Luke 24:25). Let’s not be fools.

Blessings,
Philip

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

pbrown@gbs.edu



student focus

ARIZONA LAW CREATES WIDEST SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM

Arizona Governor Doug Ducey signed a law creating the widest school choice program in the country by opening up students' eligibility for taxpayer-funded scholarships. House Bill 2853 allows all Arizona students in grades K-12 to receive taxpayer-funded vouchers if they choose to leave or are already outside of the public education system. Previously, only a third were eligible for such program funds. This creates the nation's biggest school choice program with participants being eligible for annual vouchers worth up to \$7,000 per student.

BLOCKING FORCED "GENDER TRANSITION" SURGERIES

In 2016, under the revised definitions related to Obamacare, doctors, healthcare providers, and medical insurance providers who received federal funding could not refuse treatment or coverage on the basis of "sex." The Biden administration moved to expand that definition to include "gender," and would therefore specifically cover transgender surgeries, hormone treatments, etc. Abortions were also included in these expanded definitions. A federal appeals court blocked a current administration plan that would coerce doctors to perform gender-transition medical procedures and abortions that violate their conscience or medical

judgment. Understand that this will be a continuing battle. Pray for the religious hospitals and doctors who remain in this fight.

SELF-CENSORSHIP

A recent report, drawn from case studies in France, Germany, Colombia, and Mexico, reveals that secular intolerance has a "chilling effect" on Christians. Out of a fear of being subjected to legal proceedings, or being criminally sanctioned on charges of discrimination, or being subjected to disciplinary proceedings in their workplaces, some Christians are practicing "various forms of self-censorship" as they're finding it difficult to express their faith freely in society.

NYT DECLARES SUPREME COURT "PRO-RELIGION"

The New York Times recently claimed that the current Supreme Court has become the most pro-religion it's been since at least the 1950s, and it appears to include the six most pro-religion justices since at least WWII. Since John Roberts became chief justice in 2005, the court has ruled in favor of religious organizations in orally argued cases 83% of the time—a higher percentage than the previous chief justices, all of whom were appointed by Republican presidents: William Rehnquist, 58% (1986-2005); Warren Burger, 56% (1969-1986); Earl Warren, 46% (1953-1969). ■

DEVON MOORE grew up in Findlay, OH, and began attending the Bible Methodist Church. At the age of 17, he "accepted Jesus as my Savior" and became the first Christian in his family.

While attending a youth camp where President Rodney Loper spoke, Devon accepted his call to preach and decided to attend GBS. His schooling has helped him come out of his comfort zone, share his faith, lead a prayer group, and accept opportunities to preach. He says GBS provides "many opportunities to get involved with ministry, gain experience, and adequately prepare one for ministry." The things he enjoys most at GBS are "being in a spiritual environment" and "the connections and lifelong friendships" he has made.

Devon is pursuing a BA in Bible and Theology. After graduation he hopes to be involved in pastoral ministry and to work on a master's degree in counseling. He has a dream of helping to plant a church. ■

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

ALUMNI

news

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

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA ENDS EARTHLY SOJOURN

Irene Maurer, 98, of Bedford, IN, passed away on Thursday, September 22, 2022, at Stonebridge Health Campus.

A distinguished alumna of GBS and a missionary for more than 60 years with Evangelistic Faith Missions, she served in Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Bolivia.

Born August 23, 1924, in Doutyville, PA, she was the daughter of Joseph and Mary (Schreffler) Maurer and one of nine children.

Both the Maurer and Schreffler ancestors had emigrated to the “New World” from Europe in the mid 18th century, settling in the areas around Shamokin, Pennsylvania. Joseph, a postman, met his future wife while delivering mail on his route. They were married on December 31, 1911, and eventually settled in Doutyville, where most of their children were born. Joseph later became a coal miner. Until Irene’s oldest sister Doris began attending school and had to learn English, the family predominantly spoke Pennsylvania Dutch.

During the Great Depression, the family made good use of their vegetable garden. Apples, cherries,

and black raspberries also grew along the edge of their half-acre field. To make ends meet, Joseph and his children picked and sold huckleberries, and Joseph delivered goods for the E.C. Harley Company. Although their family was the first to own a car in Doutyville, the Maurers never had electricity connected to their house while the children were growing up, even though electricity had come to the village when Irene was a young girl. The first eight years of her formal education were spent in a one-room schoolhouse.

While attending a camp meeting when she was fourteen years old, she went with a small group of ladies into the woods to pray. For the first time she received assurance of salvation and felt “as light as a bird” with her “burden of sin” gone. Sadly, she “lost out” spiritually and “followed the pleasures of the world for a time, but God in his mercy brought me back to Himself.”

She was a stellar student, graduating with honors from Shamokin High School in 1942. In the fall of 1945, she heard a presentation by a missionary at the Pilgrim Holiness Church in Bridgeton, NJ, where she was living at the time while working in a sewing factory. A few days later,

while sitting at her sewing machine, she felt impressed that God was speaking to her: “There are a lot of ladies who can do this work, but what about My work?”

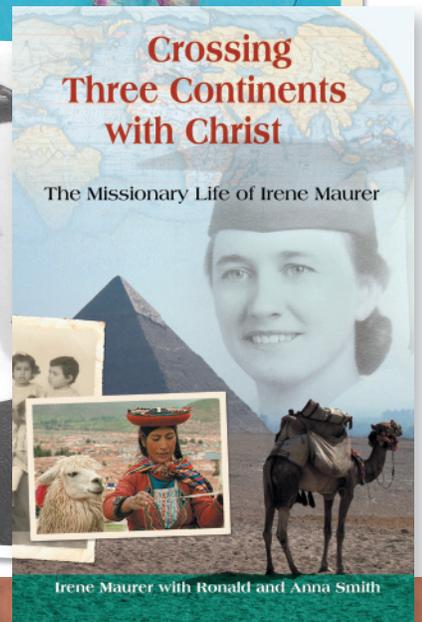
For hands-on training prior to leaving for a foreign field of service, Irene took a job as a “mom” for ten boys ages five to ten at the orphanage in Beulah Heights, KY. She eventually earned certificates/degrees from Intercession City Bible College (Florida); a ThB summa cum laude from God’s Bible School, where years later she received the Distinguished Alumnus Award; a BA in history from the University of Cincinnati; and an MA in education from Xavier University (Cincinnati); all accomplished between mission activities.



high school graduation



GBS college graduation



While a student in Florida at ICBC, Irene dated and became engaged to a fellow classmate, an up-and-coming ministerial student. The wedding rehearsal was two days before the ceremony. On the day before the ceremony, her fiancé informed her that he had changed his mind about going to Egypt as a missionary. Knowing she had a clear call from God to go to Egypt, Irene—broken hearted and no doubt embarrassed—called off the wedding. In her autobiography, *Crossing Three Continents with Christ*, Irene quotes Edith Lillian Young's poem "Disappointment—His Appointment" to express her sentiments. The first of four stanzas is as follows:

Disappointment—His Appointment
 Change one letter, then I see
 That the thwarting of my purpose
 Is God's better choice for me.
 His appointment must be blessing,
 Tho' it may come in disguise,
 For the end from the beginning
 Open to His wisdom lies.

During her time in Egypt, Irene served as a teacher, preacher, and orphanage mom. She escaped Egypt by crossing the Mediterranean on an Italian ship during the Six-Day War in 1967. In Ethiopia, Irene regularly

witnessed guerilla warfare. She escaped by airplane from Addis Ababa during the communist revolution in the 1970s while bombs were exploding throughout the city.

When Irene was already in her fifties, fellow EFM missionary Faith Hemmeter was in desperate need of help with the mission work in Bolivia. Irene volunteered to learn Spanish and go to Bolivia, where she drove treacherous roads in the Andes Mountains, bringing God's word to isolated areas, and helped establish new churches and congregations.

Age eventually forced her retirement, and she lived for many years with Faith Hemmeter at the EFM mission headquarters in Bedford while doing deputation work and continuing a prayer ministry.

Irene's dedication to the cause of Christ and Evangelistic Faith Missions led her to serve in Egypt for over 20 years, Eritrea and Ethiopia for 8 years, and Bolivia for 17 years. During those years, she became fluent in Arabic and Spanish and could speak Amharic and other Eritrean dialects.

Irene was preceded in death by all eight of her siblings: brothers Victor, Earl, Charles, and Leonard; sisters Gloria Maurer, Doris Schmidt, Helen

Bump, and Lydia (Eva) Moser (who passed away recently at age 100); as well as by nine nieces and nephews. She is survived by two nieces and five nephews, plus many grand- and great-grandnieces and -nephews. Her grandnephew Kevin Moser is art director and assistant editor of *God's Revivalist*, and her grandnephew Meredith Moser is a GBS college adjunct as well as volleyball coach in Aldersgate Christian Academy.

Visitation and funeral services were held on September 28 at Faith Mission Church, Bedford, IN. Officiating and speaking at the service were current and former presidents of Evangelistic Faith Missions, Dr. Stephen Gibson, Rev. Steve Hight, and Rev. J. Stevan Manley. Burial was at the Evangelical Methodist Cemetery, West Perry, PA, on October 5.

Donations may be made in memory of Irene B. Maurer to Evangelistic Faith Missions, P.O. Box 609, Bedford, IN 47421; or Faith Mission Church, 1813 26th St. Bedford, IN 47421. ■

RECENT ALUMNI TOMES

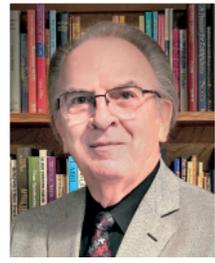
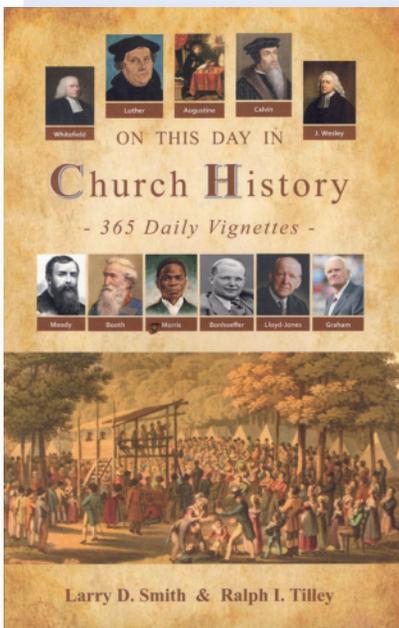
We are happy to learn that GBS alumni are active in publishing books. We are highlighting several.

DR. RALPH I. TILLEY Pastor, Teacher, Author

Ralph is well acquainted with RGBS. His sister, Mary (Tilley) Stetler, graduated from the high school in 1964, and his brother, Gordon, graduated from the Christian Worker's Course in 1959 and earned a ThB in 1962. Ralph followed in his footsteps, graduating from the high school in 1962 and from the college with a ThB in 1965. However, how Ralph reached this point is a story in itself.

"After my godly mother died in 1956, I quit attending church. In August 1961, my brother Gordon,





On This Day in Church History: 365 Daily Vignettes (2021, LITS Books) co-authored by **Ralph Tilley** (HS '62; ThB '65) (top photo) and **Larry D. Smith** (bottom photo). Larry is the former *God's Revivalist* editor (1995-2013). This is the twenty-fifth book LITS Books has published. Other books compiled or edited by Ralph include *Voices of the Early Church Fathers: 365 Daily Readings* and *Light from Heaven: Biblical Studies in Light and Darkness*. These books are available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

who was about to enter his senior year as a ThB student at GBS, was home for the weekend. He invited me to attend church (Wesleyan Methodist) on a Sunday evening to hear our pastor's farewell sermon. Sitting in the back pew, I listened to Rev. Paul Mills (a GBS 1953 CWC graduate and later a trustee of the school) preach. The invitation was given after his sermon; however, no one responded. Then, Brother Mills walked down the center aisle of the church, came to my pew, and, putting his arm around my shoulder, asked me, "Ralph, would you give your heart to Jesus tonight?" I walked down the aisle, knelt at the mahogany-stained altar, and surrendered my heart and life to the Lord Jesus Christ.

"With my brother kneeling next to me, I asked him if I could return to GBS with him that night, and he said I would have to get our father's permission. So, from the church, we drove the few miles to where my father was employed as a night watchman in a manufacturing plant. Dad, who made no Christian profession then, permitted me to go. I then went home, apologized to my stepmother for how I had treated her, packed one suit-

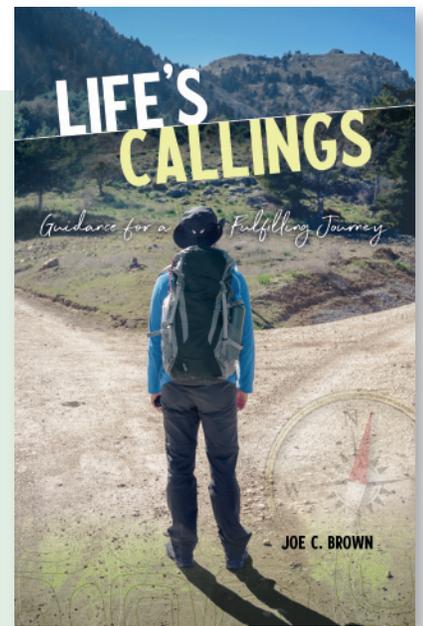


Life's Callings: Guidance for a Fulfilling Journey (2022 Westbow Press) by **Joe C. Brown**.

From 1976-1988, Joe was on the faculty of GBS. As academic dean beginning in 1979, he led the school through initial accreditation. He later served two pastorates, was vice president for academic affairs at Vennard College and Ohio Christian University, and served as director of East Central Extension of Nazarene Bible College. During his tenures directing academic affairs, each institution he served experienced record enrollments.

"The idea for the book was born while I was directing an extension for Nazarene Bible College. I began researching the call to ministry and interviewing students about their callings. This led me to a broader understanding of how our Creator calls us to our work on this earth. The second part of the book focuses on how the Lord communicates His calling to us."

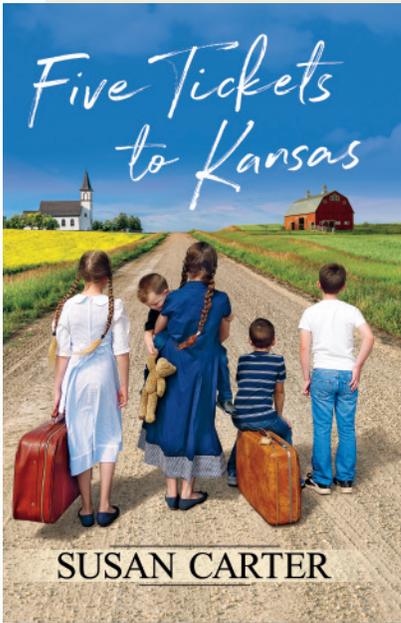
Available in hardback, paperback, and E-book editions through www.westbowpress.com, [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), or [joecraigbrown.com](https://www.joecraigbrown.com).



case, and traveled the 80 miles to Cincinnati. A week later, I enrolled as a senior in the GBS high school; and three years later (1965), I graduated from the ThB program (yes, I squeezed four years into three)."

During his time at GBS, Ralph met his wife-to-be, Emily Voyles, when she was a high school student at GBS. They were married in August 1965 and have two married daughters and three grandchildren. Looking back on this time, Ralph said he viewed his call to go to GBS as "synonymous with God's call to preach and teach."

Following his GBS graduation, he began his pastoral ministry in the Ohio Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. He pastored for 40 years, mostly in non-denominational churches. Through the years, Ralph also taught at Jordan College (Cedar Springs, MI); Indiana Wesleyan University (Louisville, KY, campus); and presently serves as an adjunct faculty member at West



Five Tickets to Kansas (2022 Kaleidoscope) by **Susan Henley Carter** (BA '88).

Born to an impoverished family in Nova Scotia, Canada, Susan's earliest years held

more pain, rejection, and betrayal than most of us face in a lifetime. Yet, as she looks back on those years, she sees God's provision and His hand at work in her life. Now serving as a missionary with her husband, Susan's message of God's faithfulness encourages all to release bitterness, embrace forgiveness, and never give up praying for loved ones who are lost and resistant to the gospel of Christ. If you or someone you know suffers from brokenness and childhood trauma, this book contains the message you need—Jesus can heal every broken place we give Him.

Five Tickets to Kansas is a captivating autobiography available in paperback at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Susan can be contacted at www.SusanCarterAuthor.com.

Africa Theological Seminary (Lagos, Nigeria), where this past August he taught the course "The Spiritual Life of a Minister."

Ralph's educational pursuits included graduating in 1977 with a Master of Arts in Religion from Andrews University (Berrien Springs, MI). In 2007, he graduated on the grounds of Canterbury Cathedral, Canterbury, England, with a Doctor of Religious Studies degree from Trinity Theological Seminary (Newburg, IN).

Ralph retired from pastoral ministry in 2007. Previously he had sensed a call to a writing ministry in 1993. In 1995, he founded Life in the Spirit Ministries (a not-for-profit organization), and published *Life in the Spirit Journal* for 20 years. He also began writing and publishing books in 2011 through the ministry's publishing division, LITS Books. ■



by **Sonja Vernon**

INCOMPREHENSIBLE PEACE

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."
—*Philippians 4:6-7 NASB*

How familiar these words are. We quote them all the time, especially when we are worried or afraid. But I wonder how often the little phrase which describes the peace of God goes past us without a second thought? It is described as peace "which surpasses all comprehension." Yes, our Scripture says, there will be prayer and pleading, but there will also be peace—peace that we will never be able to understand. God's peace doesn't make logical sense. Why should we be at peace when things around us are falling apart? Why should our spirits rest in the face of adversity? There is no easy answer, but somehow in God's beautiful, mysterious way, He meets us where we are. As we bring our needs to Him, He gives us peace. His peace. How wonderful that it is too big for us to comprehend. How glorious that it can only be explained by supernatural intervention. How comforting that our great God cares enough about His children to defy their circumstances and infill them with His incomprehensible peace. As we head into a time of purposeful thanksgiving, let us stop and remember the gift of peace that is ours as we bring our needs before Him. In a world of turmoil, where peace seems like a fantasy, the Prince of Peace is here to still our hearts with His presence. ■

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

T H E
WONDER
A N D T H E
MIRACLE
A
MUSICAL 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
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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