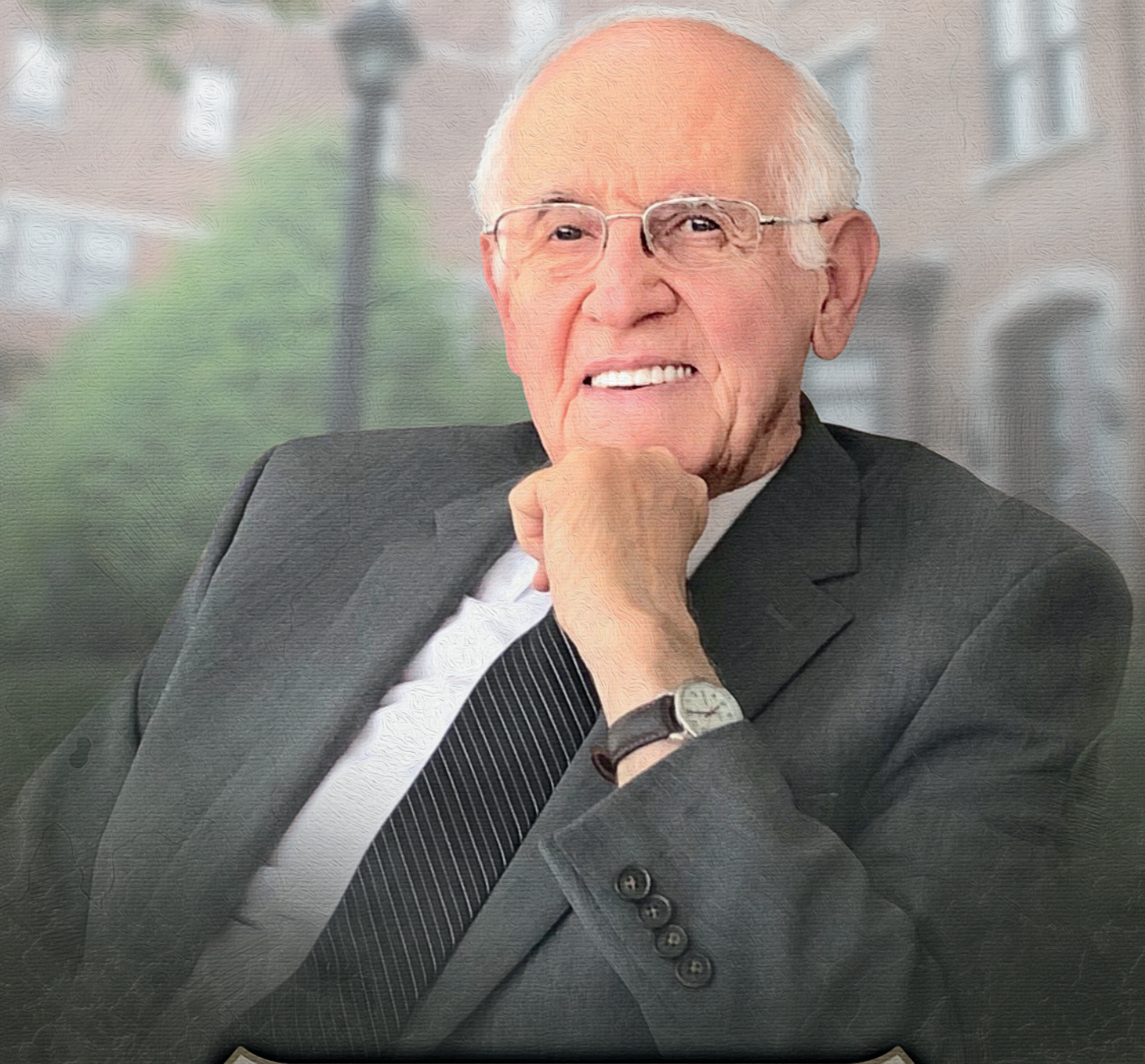


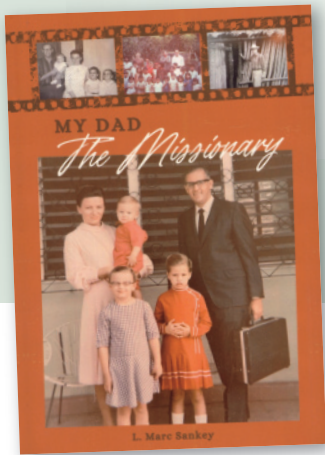
GOD'S REVIVALIST

May 2023

and Bible Advocate



Dr. Leonard Sankey
45 years a GBS trustee



about this issue

GROWING INTO IT

I recently read Marc Sankey's book, *My Dad, The Missionary*. I found it interesting to learn some of the details of Dr. Leonard Sankey's young life, especially how he "grew into" various ministry opportunities over the years.

When he enrolled at God's Bible School, he wasn't quite sure what he was supposed to end up doing. However, he was *quite sure* he would *not* be a preacher or a missionary!

He had a notable singing voice, but when first asked to lead congregational music, he was hesitant because he didn't know how to conduct with his hands. After becoming comfortable on the platform as a song leader for campus chapel services and special events, Leonard was asked to lead music for the InterChurch Holiness Convention, which was held at GBS in its early years. As the GBS Alumni Association was being formed, he was invited to lead the music in those meetings. Thus, he "grew into" the role of song leader.

As Leonard was often on the platform, there was an assumption that he must also be a preacher. But when he delivered his first sermon at a youth convention in Cincinnati, he was unable to fill even half of the 15-minute slot he had been given! Shortly thereafter, when another local pastor asked him to speak, Leonard declined with the explanation that he wasn't a preacher. The pastor insisted, "I want you to preach anyway." Leonard "grew into" the preacher role and became a well-respected pastor.

When he and his wife joined a long-term mission outreach in a Central American country without knowing its language or culture, they experienced a very rough first term. Leonard's persistence helped him to "grow into" the role of an exemplary missionary.

Those of us familiar with him today view Dr. Leonard Sankey as a great man of God with great abilities. The ministries that have prospered through his involvement and oversight are many. But those outcomes were only possible because he stayed faithful as God helped him to "grow into" each role needed for the task at hand.

Thank you, Dr. Sankey, for allowing God to help you "grow into" a life dedicated to ministry. Thank you, especially, for 45 years of service on the GBS Board of Trustees! —KF ■

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STAFF

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

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COVER PHOTO: Original photo of Leonard Sankey by Janet Sankey composited with a campus shot by Kevin Moser and given an artistic paint-on-canvas impression.

the president's page



HONORING LEONARD SANKEY

by Dr. Rodney S. Loper, President

My first memories of Leonard Sankey center around the annual InterChurch Holiness Convention that was held in Dayton, Ohio. He was one of the voices of my childhood—at least in that venue. His platform presence was expected and welcomed; it gave IHC a familiar sound.

A GREAT PLATFORM MANAGER

Once I started chairing services, I quickly saw that Leonard Sankey was one of the best platform managers I've ever observed. That is still true today. Who can forget him leading the congregation in "I Don't Care What Church You Belong To," admonishing kids and young people to have basic decorum, and clearing out the exhibit area in a kind but firm manner. But I am especially marked by those times that he paused to take a deep breath almost as if he were testing the winds of the Spirit as he led the assembly in worship. Yes, he is a strong platform manager with a keen sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading.

A GREAT COWORKER

Later, while I was pastoring Hobe Sound Bible Church, Leonard Sankey was invited to conduct the services for the annual Sea Breeze Camp held each year in February. It was in this setting that I was able to observe him from a different angle—a coworker. Several decades separated us, but that never seemed to be a problem for him.

A GREAT BOSS

When I became president of GBS, our roles once more evolved. He was now in a position of

authority over me. Rather than this hurting our relationship, it has actually deepened my respect for him. He is always in order; always kind; always sensitive to the Holy Spirit.

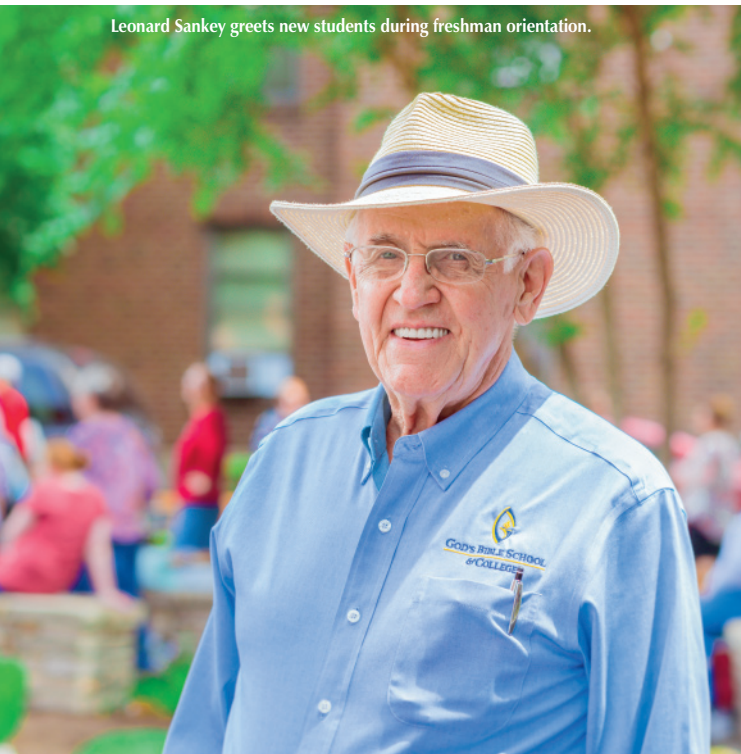
A GREAT ENCOURAGER

He is also an encourager. Over and over again, I have found rather lengthy emails in my inbox from him expressing appreciation or giving thanks. Here is an example of his encouragement. "Mr. President, an impressive and inspiring performance tonight. Thanks to you and the GBS community for putting on a spiritually-oriented program which I am sure was being, is being, used of God among many listeners/viewers." This sweet-spirited man is an example to all of us.

A BITTERSWEET DEPARTURE

As this season of Leonard Sankey's life comes to a close, I am experiencing bittersweet emotions. Bitter because I will miss his direct involvement in my life here at GBS. Bitter because he wouldn't be stepping down if his health were better. But it is sweet, too. Sweet because he has lived so well, cared so deeply, and championed the work of God's Kingdom and the Holiness Movement so passionately. Truly, he is an example worthy to follow. Bro. Sankey—thanks for living so well, leading so carefully, and lending your influence to this institution. 📌

Leonard Sankey greets new students during freshman orientation.



Leonard



Sankey

For the first several years of my life, I looked forward to Brother Sankey staying with our family for the annual, local area IHC. Brother Sankey was always a spiritual giant, a holiness hero, and a genuine friend to me. I became privileged to witness these distinguishing, unwavering characteristics as I have served alongside him on the GBS board. Thank you, Brother Sankey, for the Christlike example you have been to me and countless others!

NATHAN SMITH
GBS Trustee

My wife and I have many blessed memories of the 44 years of friendship we have enjoyed while working together in various avenues of ministry with our friend, Leonard! Perhaps the beginning was in 1979 when EFM asked us to go to Guatemala and hold a revival at Santa Ana, El Salvador, and Leonard was our interpreter. Then in the fall of 1982, I was contacted by Rev. Harold Schmul who asked me to be the music director of the InterChurch Holiness Convention (IHC) held in Dayton, OH. That began an annual trip with Brother Sankey to meet with Brother Schmul to plan out the following year's convention. I felt it such a blessed privilege to spend those times with those men I had always considered my spiritual heroes!

I have a video I recorded at IHC when Brother Schmul preached for the last time at the Dayton convention. As he walked across the platform, he stopped to address Leonard Sankey. As he turned to continue to the pulpit, he slipped out of his suit coat and Leonard reached out and picked it up, like Elisha picking up Elijah's mantle!

Thank you, my friend Leonard, for your spiritual, steady, stable leadership. You have set a wonderful pattern as missionary, pastor, church leader, and personal friend!

PAUL D. GRAY
IHC Music Director / Advisory Member

Our family respects Rev. Leonard Sankey and his life of ministry in God's kingdom. He has been a gracious and kind friend to our family for many years, encouraging us and our growing children with his words and smiles and email messages. Together, he and Sister Sankey have been spiritual mentors for us personally. We are thankful to the Lord for his leadership in the InterChurch Holiness Convention, at our alma mater, and in many other areas of Christian service. We love you, Brother and Sister Sankey. Our lives are rich because we have known you.

DUANE & VALORIE QUESENBERRY
GBS Public Relations Director / Financial Aid Director

Honoring the Life and Legacy of **LEONARD LEWIS SANKEY**



On April 7, 1936, Leonard Lewis Sankey became the fourth of six children born to William Paul “Pete” and Leona Mae Sankey. Bobby and Teddy had been born in 1924 and 1925, but both had died in infancy. After them came David, Leonard, Bill, and Betty.

Pete and Leona became Christians after they were married. They lived in Greenville, Pennsylvania—a little borough along the Shenango River, roughly 80 miles from both Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Cleveland, Ohio. Its population peaked in 1940 at 10,000 people. Several railroads serviced the area, including Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad, where Leonard’s father worked until his retirement. During the Depression, the railroad kept him on their list of employees and gave him credit for those years, even though there was no work. Once WWII began, however, the railroads boomed.

The family regularly attended the tiny Wesleyan Methodist Church at the corner of Church and Clarks-ville Streets. As a little boy, Leonard was marked by the emphasis this congregation placed on foreign mis-

sions. The church’s Young Missionary Workers Band (YMWB) exposed the children to missionaries and missionary work around the world. Evelyn Uber, a layperson in the church, held a YMWB program for children and young people every month for fifty years. As she talked with passion about the work of God around the world, a spark was ignited in a little boy’s heart. Many years later, when he actually received a call to mission work, Leonard gave credit to Evelyn Uber. “She had as much to do with me being a missionary as any other influence in my life.”

Leonard’s parents occasionally sang duets at their church services. Leona played the accordion and sang melody while Pete attempted to sing tenor. It was not uncommon for Leona to be so overcome with joy that she would leave Pete at the pulpit as she ran around the church shouting “glory, glory, glory” with a tiny hanky in her hand. This was the church atmosphere in which Leonard grew up.

BOYHOOD YEARS

As a boy, Leonard had dark curly hair and blue eyes, and he normally

dressed in the simple, utilitarian garb of the day. Clothing and fashion were not priorities for the Sankeys, who practiced simplicity in dress as a matter of the practical outworking of their faith. For church, however, the boys often wore suits to match their father’s.

During the summers, after Leonard and his siblings ate breakfast with their dad, they were free to roam around Greenville, mainly by bicycle. Leonard pedaled all over town. Occasionally, he was allowed to ride his

PHOTOS DESCENDING L-R: Baby Leonard, 1936, 13 days old; The Sankeys, 1937, L-R – Pete, David, Leona, and Leonard; With Grandpa Conlin from Scotland, L-R – Betty, Leonard, and Bill; Mother and children, oldest to youngest – David, Leonard, Bill, and Betty.

bicycle to church on Sunday, though his parents worried that this might be viewed as too worldly.

Under the streetlight on their section of North Mercer Street, neighborhood kids would gather on warm summer nights to play hide and seek and other similar games. Since their father was a railroader, there were always model trains around the house. Leonard especially enjoyed playing with them at Christmas time when toy trains would run beneath the rather scraggly Christmas tree.

Leonard loved to read. His imagination was fueled by books that featured Tom Swift, the Hardy Boys, and Albert Payson Terhune's true accounts of his Collie breeding. The family had a subscription to *National Geographic* as well. The whole family had a schedule for listening to radio programs—a few throughout the week, several on Saturday evening, and Charles Fuller and the *Old Fashioned Revival Hour* on Sunday. It was not uncommon for the Sankeys to take spontaneous trips. Pete would suddenly announce, "Let's go to Niagara Falls," and everyone would jump in the car and go. Another regular family activity was playing dominos. It was a rare evening that did not include ice cream, chocolate syrup, and Spanish peanuts.

As Leonard grew older, Davis Field became a focal point where neighborhood kids gathered for "sandlot" softball and football. Nearby lived the Laposhonskies, who provided half of their garage so Leonard and his friends could have a "club house." Many of Leonard's pleasant memories from his teen years revolved around the "Rec Center" where he played basketball. He and his buddies would often go swimming in the Shenango River; the cold winters allowed them to skate there as well.

The elementary school was only six blocks from the Sankey home. The kids always walked to school and would often meet up with other school children coming from different areas of town. The high school was located just two blocks from home. At noon there was an hour break, during which Leonard would walk home, eat lunch, and walk back to school for the afternoon session.

In 1954, when Leonard was eighteen years old, a visiting minister preached on Jonah running from the call of God. When he gave the altar call that Sunday evening, the Holy Spirit spoke clearly to Leonard, saying, "Tonight is the night for you to stop running from Me." From that moment on, Leonard began running *towards* God. The evangelist also introduced him to God's Bible School. Leonard had never heard of it until that moment.

COLLEGE DAYS AT GOD'S BIBLE SCHOOL

In the fall of 1954, Leonard arrived at God's Bible School, where he was immediately impacted by the steady missions emphasis. One day, Audrey Cady (president's secretary from 1949-1975) and Freda Elliott

Leonard



Sankey

My first memories of Leonard Sankey date back to a camp meeting in Michigan. I was a teenager attending the camp, and he and Janet were missionaries representing Evangelistic Faith Missions. Little did I know at the time that we would later become friends and associates at our beloved alma mater, God's Bible School. Thank you, Bro. Sankey, for your friendship and years of leadership on the GBS Board. May God richly bless you!

DR. MARCIA DAVIS
GBS Faculty

I did not know Bro. Sankey prior to coming to work at GBS, so I have primarily come to know him through his family members (I had some of his grandchildren as students) and through interacting with him on campus. His family clearly loves him deeply, which speaks so well of him as father and grandfather! And in all my interactions with him, I've seen—over and over, no matter the situation—a man of solid godliness; real humility; genuine love for others, no matter who they are; and good humor. Thank you, Bro. Sankey, for your leadership for God's Bible School for so many years!

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

I first met Leonard Sankey by turning the pages of the *Missionary Herald*. My heart was challenged as I read of his ministry in Guatemala and Honduras. Later I heard him speak about missions in churches and camp meetings. In 1994 my family and I moved to Bedford, IN, and he became our pastor. His messages were biblical and practical. His contagious smile and sincere handshake made us feel welcome and caused us to want to return for the next service. He was sensitive to the leadership of the Holy Spirit, which frequently resulted in seekers praying at the altar. His heart often overflowed with praise, which was expressed with an appropriate song or chorus. My life is far better today because I experienced the great love and sincere compassion of Leonard Sankey.

J. STEVAN MANLEY
President, Evangelistic Faith Missions (1994-2012)
Trustee, EFM (1980-2012)

Among the many outstanding characteristics of Rev. Leonard Sankey is his kindness. I have been a recipient of it. Many thanks to him for all the years he has given to GBS!

VIOLA DURR
GBS Trustee



**GOD'S BIBLE SCHOOL
& COLLEGE**



Dear Bro. Sankey,

Congratulations on completing 45 years of service as a member of the Board of Trustees of God's Bible School and College! This is a significant milestone highlighting an outstanding level of commitment, and it is an honor to celebrate your investment in the Kingdom through your contributions to the ministry of GBS.

I'm not sure what must have been going through your mind when you rolled onto the campus of God's Bible School in 1954, but it was no doubt rather overwhelming for a young man from rural Pennsylvania to land on an urban campus and only know one other student. You have certainly been shaped by the individuals that have graced these halls of learning, and I want to take this opportunity to let you know that GBS has been shaped by YOU! Your positive, kind demeanor coupled with your careful, godly behavior have spoken volumes to generations of students who have observed your life over the past 69 years.

Your family has been intricately woven into the fabric of GBS. First, you found the lovely and gracious Janet (Ferguson) here, then all three of your children attended college on the Hill-top (two of them returning to serve as vice presidents on the administrative team). Additionally, several of your grandchildren have graduated from GBS, and now two of your great-grandchildren are privileged to grow up on its historic campus.

It has been the honor of a lifetime for me to serve with you on the GBS board. I must admit that I was a little hesitant to follow you as the board chair knowing that you were going to stay on as a trustee. Clearly, any misgivings I felt initially were completely unfounded as you have been one of the most supportive board members with whom I have had the privilege to work!

I can assure you that it will take a while to get used to having board meetings without your smiling face around the table. I can also assure you that the vacancy you leave—and the sacred history that you have helped to write—will never be filled by anyone else. But you have my solemn pledge that, with God's help, we will do our best to hold high the torch of holy, careful living that you have carried so well these many years! May the God of God's Bible School reward you richly for your gift of influence and investment to His school.

Blessings on you my friend,

Robbie England
Board Chair, God's Bible School and College

1810 Young Street - Cincinnati Ohio 45202
Telephone 513.721.7944 Fax 513.763.6649 www.gbs.edu

MAY 2023

Leonard



Sankey

On behalf of the InterChurch Holiness Convention, we honor the life and continuing ministry of Leonard Sankey, and especially his contribution to our Bible colleges. His many years of involvement with God's Bible School and College have been part of the great legacy that he has given to the holiness people. We deeply appreciate his wisdom, humility, and faithfulness across so many years.

JAMES PLANK
IHC General Secretary

I don't remember a time when I did not know Rev. Leonard Sankey. While I was growing up, he was my parents' friend. When I moved to GBS to take on the role of dean of women in 2000, he became *my* friend. Over the years, he has spoken many words of encouragement into my life, and I have benefited from his kindness. Brother Sankey is one of those rare individuals who continues to grow as he gets older. I believe this is what I appreciate the most about him. I am grateful to call him my friend and wish him many more years of fruitful service in the Kingdom.

SONJA VERNON
GBS Vice President for Student Affairs

Thank God for His anointing on the life of Brother Sankey—a man who touched so many lives. He was faithful to his calling and powerful in his leadership.

JEANNE SCHWARTZ
Missionary, Hope International Missions

For 19 years I have had the privilege to serve with Dr. Leonard Sankey on the Board of Trustees of GBS. For much of his 45-year tenure, he served as chairman. He filled his place at the head of the conference table in the Oswald Chambers Room with distinction and integrity. Dr. Sankey served sometimes as the conscience of the board. He was passionate about staying true to our heritage and our mission. Other adjectives that describe his service are "loyal," "supportive in prayer," and "faithful." He has blessed the greater church world with his preaching, singing, and leadership. He has always been a friend who took an interest in individuals, as well as institutions. May the God that knows our works reward Dr. Sankey with His continued blessings here and His reward when he arrives in his eternal home.

JACK HOOKER
GBS Trustee

(cashier from 1953-1966) came out of the administration building to look for a song leader for opening revival and spotted Leonard. When they asked him to help out, he objected at first, saying he didn't understand how to make all the necessary hand motions. They persisted until he agreed to help. He quickly was recognized for his giftedness on the platform. He had poise and confidence and was exuberant and dynamic. As a result, he was regularly asked to lead singing and organize the music for chapel services and special events. Throughout his student years, he sang in many different groups, including various quartets.

Leonard was quite sure he wasn't cut out to be a preacher, so he had no plans to prepare for pastoral ministry; but because he was now often up front leading the singing and exhorting the congregation, people assumed he was a preacher.

Early on he was asked to speak at a youth service at the Pike Street Pilgrim Holiness Church in Cincinnati. He had been given about fifteen minutes to speak, and he had five points to his sermon. He thought this was surely enough material to carry him through the allotted time, but his message lasted only seven minutes. Mortified and in tears, he was more certain than ever that preaching was not in his future.

Then the pastor of a Brethren in Christ Chapel in the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood of downtown Cincinnati invited Leonard to come and preach for him. Leonard was taken aback. "Bro. Hoover, I am sorry but I am not a preacher." The determined reverend, not to be denied, responded, "Well, I want you to come down and preach anyway." Leonard crafted a sermon focusing on Ephesians 4 and 5 titled "The Five Walks of a Christian." This time his presentation lasted 30 minutes—an improvement!

Since his family was not in the financial condition to help pay the \$500 yearly cost of room, board, and tuition, Leonard was introduced to the student work program. A spot was found for him in the composing room of the Revivalist Press. "Among my jobs was the task of inking the completed linotype work and draw-



TWO PHOTOS AT GBS, JUNE 1956. Above: Leonard with his parents and brother Bill. Right: GBS quartet consisting of (L-R) Glenn Porterfield, Richard Downing, Leonard Sankey, and Ben Brannon.

ing a proof by rolling a heavy cylinder over the freshly-inked metal.... Down the hallway there was an oven where on Saturday mornings it was my responsibility to take all of the used type and melt it down. Further down the hallway was the bindery and list room, and just about at the end of the hall was the infamous elevator which operated on arm power—pulling the thick rope to lift loads from the lower level where the printing presses were.” Thus began his burgeoning love for the work of printing.

A watershed moment happened during the mid-winter school revival of 1959. During the Thursday morning service, Orvan Link, a classmate of Leonard’s, stood up to testify. “The Lord showed me last night that I need to be entirely sanctified, and I need to come to the altar and pray,” he said. At that moment, God spoke to Leonard’s heart and said, “You need it, too.” Leonard’s inner response was, “Lord, if I need it, I’m on my way.” He went to the altar and began to pray. The Holy Spirit began to reveal to him his heart. As he came to the end of his seeking, God spoke to Leonard saying, “Are you willing not to go near another platform ever again?” Leonard replied, “Lord, that’s a minor issue; if I never get on another platform, it’s all right with me.” Leonard points to that surrender as a crucial moment that forever removed any struggle or rebellion against God’s will for his life.

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS

While at GBS, Leonard made three connections that would follow him through the various stages of ministry: InterChurch Holiness Convention (IHC), GBS National Alumni Association, and “the other girl.”

InterChurch Holiness Convention. Throughout the 1950s, conservative holiness groups had increasingly coalesced around the IHC and its two leaders, Harold Schmul and H. Robb French. Their first meeting was held in Salem, Ohio, December 31, 1951. The Convention was moved to the Cincinnati Vine Street Methodist Church, which held the association’s first annual convention in March of 1952. The evening services became too large, and they were moved to GBS in 1953 and 1954. Finally, beginning in 1955, all services were held at GBS. Leonard recalls hauling mattresses up and down dormitory steps in preparation for the many attendees who were soon to arrive and stay overnight.



I grew up knowing Brother Sankey first and foremost as the leader of the InterChurch Holiness Convention. To me as a little girl, he was the face of IHC. During my college and adult years, I have had more opportunities to interact with him and his wife outside of IHC gatherings, which has been just delightful! Brother Sankey has always treated me with extreme kindness and warmth. Every time he sees me, no matter where it may be, I’m greeted with a warm and genuine smile that indicates I’m truly seen. I think that is one of his best qualities—making people feel seen, noticed, and loved. Thank you, Brother Sankey, for influencing my life as a girl, and now an adult, and for blessing so many people with your love and serving heart.

ASHLEY QUESENBERRY
GBS School Nurse

I’m so grateful for Brother Sankey’s steadfast character and leadership that span generations at GBS. His wisdom and gentle guidance have been greatly valued over the years. God bless you, Brother Sankey, for your faithful service in His Kingdom!

ROBERT RYAN
GBS Trustee

I met Leonard Sankey many years ago when he would come to Littleton, CO, for regional IHC services. He was someone that I looked up to and appreciated as a holiness statesman and preacher. Every time we saw him, he would remember our names. I was pleased that he always made our children feel noticed. He was always warm and friendly. After we had children enrolled at GBS, we made trips to Cincinnati for camp meetings and commissioning weekends. I got to meet Janet Sankey, too, and loved her immediately.

We moved to Kentucky in 2016, and it wasn’t long afterwards that the Sankeys retired here, too. Thus, we have been able to worship together at Burlington Bible Church. It was great when he led the singing, and his Sunday school classes were full of good stuff. We knew he had been preparing all week to stimulate our hearts with God’s truth.

I am so thankful to have gotten to know the Sankeys personally. They always have something to say in conversation or testimony that motivates me to grow in Christlikeness. I thank God for the positive, godly influence they have had on my life and our family.

JANET ALBERTSON
GBS Administrative Assistant for Development Office

May God continue to bless Bro. Sankey for the blessing he has been to me at GBS and to a number of my family members whom he pastored over the years in Bedford, IN.

KEVIN MOSER
Assistant Editor / Art Director, Revivalist Press

“My Brother—Companion in Labor—Fellow Soldier”

A tribute to Dr. Leonard Sankey

Paul used the rather effusive words of my title to describe Epaphroditus, his envoy to the Philippian Church. I choose these same words to describe my brother, companion in labor, and fellow soldier, Dr. Leonard Sankey.

Multiplied thousands of people on several continents and in many countries of the world have good reason to thank God for Leonard Sankey. As a missionary, pastor, educator, and church leader, he was one of the best. He possessed a gifted mind, a natural courtesy, a gift for communication, extraordinary people skills, and a genuine love for people. I was blessed by these gifts and value them highly, but what I value most was the fellowship we shared as Christian *Brothers*. I can still see him walk through the door of my office and hear him say, “Michael, how are you my friend?” And his answer to that same question from me was always, “If I was any better, I couldn’t stand it!” Then, with the door closed, we were able to share in true “heart-to-heart” conversation. In those moments he was no longer a “larger-than-life figure” on a large stage somewhere, but simply a man who shared with me his journey, his struggles, and his remarkable wisdom. It was in those conversations that I was given a true glimpse into the heart and mind of this truly great man. It was from those talks that I learned to love and respect him deeply.

Brother Sankey was my *Companion in Labor*. For over two decades we worked together at GBS and in the IHC. He served as the chairman of the board for all my time as president except my last year. As chairman, he led the board with professionalism and grace—and always with a passionate love for GBS. He opened each meeting with a calm, cheery welcome and maintained that same spirit through the best of meetings and through the most difficult of meetings. I never heard him lift his voice in anger to another trustee or at any time speak down to or ill of another member of the board—or of anyone, for that matter. He was a steady hand at the helm. He had the ability to listen to critics of the school without ever letting the critic use him to reach the board or me. In an academic institution of higher learning, you have powerful thinkers and strong opinions—a setting where those opinions could create tension or even cause division. However, he never let it happen. He was always clear in his viewpoint but remained remarkably charitable and accepting of those who saw it differently.

As a *Fellow Soldier*, I was honored to hang his picture on the Alumni Wall of Fame and bestow upon him the doctor of divinity degree (*honoris causa*) during our Centenary Celebration. His service to the Kingdom of God ranks him with the GBS all-time greats! He has served the King of Heaven in almost every capacity there is within the Christian tradition. He has not flinched in the battle nor failed in his duty. An old ballad sung often at West Point says it thus: “Old soldiers never die, they just fade away.” Leonard Sankey has done his duty as God has given him the light to see that duty. So I, along with thousands of alumni and friends of GBS, give him my deepest respect and offer to him the most sincere salute that could ever be given a fellow soldier.



Dr. Michael Avery, Chancellor,
God’s Bible School & College



Years before this, Harold Schmul had attended a service where he had first noticed the 14-year-old Leonard. The Lord had revealed to Harold that he would be working with this boy in the future. So Harold had been watching Leonard through the years. When Harold came to GBS for the 1955 IHC, he saw Leonard and said, "Sankey, go get dressed, I want you to lead singing in the first service." This began Leonard's connection to the IHC. Since that time, the only years that he was not directly involved with the IHC were during his service on the mission field.

Alumni Association. GBS was in dire financial distress in the 1950s, and the Court of Common Pleas of Hamilton County had placed the school in a public charitable trust under the jurisdiction of a three-member, court-appointed board. They played a decisive role in saving the school from bankruptcy and closure. The alumni deeply loyal to GBS rallied valiantly to its support. Leading the ensuing campaign to save the school was the Rev. Lloyd R. Day, who had served as principal of the campus high school beginning in 1938 and was appointed by the trustees as acting president in 1950. President Day encouraged the formal creation of the school's Alumni Association. It joined with the shrunken constituency to help keep the school afloat.

In 1954, when Leonard arrived on campus, this organization was gaining some traction. Leonard was asked to lead the singing for the Alumni Association meetings, which were then being held several blocks up Young Street at Taft Elementary School. In addition to leading the congregational songs, he would sing specials as a soloist or in groups. In that way he became well known to the alumni.

The "Other Girl." During Leonard's senior year in college, a humorous incident happened. He had asked a girl on a date, and they had gone out together. When they came back to campus, he dropped her off at the girls' dorm. As she stepped inside, the first person she saw was another student, Janet Ferguson, who asked, "So what did you think about your date with Leonard Sankey?" The girl replied, "Oh, I could definitely go for him; but he doesn't have a call to missions."

Because Janet was in high school and Leonard in college, their paths had not crossed very often. However, that was about to change. Miss Dorothy Lawson, the dean of women, called Leonard up one night and told him there was a female student working at The Christ Hospital who needed someone to pick her up after work that evening so that she wouldn't have to walk back to campus after dark. Leonard agreed to drive the short distance, and Miss Lawson arranged to have another girl go with him so they wouldn't have to return to campus as a couple. That "other girl" was Janet. During the brief trip to and from The Christ Hospital, an interest was sparked, which prompted Leonard to ask Janet to accompany him to the all-school picnic for their first date.

This created quite a stir on campus; people were concerned that he was too old for her and she was too

Leonard



Sankey

When this Pennsylvania man and his wife, Pam, joined the ministry of Leonard and Janet Sankey in southern Indiana in 1982, it bridged the gap of intervening years since my father had been the Pennsylvania-born-teenage-Leonard's pastor. For the next 19 years, we were honored to serve alongside this faithful pastor, who, for the past 40 years has been "Papaw" to our daughters. What a joy to have watched him love his family fiercely, lead the Inter-Church Holiness Convention lovingly, pray for and preach to his parishioners passionately, care for those near and far compassionately, and serve Jesus selflessly. He often quips, "A hundred years from now, we'll never know the difference." Well, friends, because of Leonard Sankey's Christ-centered consistency, a hundred years from now, the world "will know the difference" this man of God has made in countless lives.

R.B. KUHN

IHC Platform Pianist for 38 Years

Meredith and I first met Leonard as freshmen at GBS. A few years rolled by and found us serving under the same mission organization, Evangelistic Faith Missions, but thousands of miles apart: Leonard and Janet in Central America and Meredith and I in Eritrea, East Africa. Later, both Meredith and Leonard worked together from the home office of EFM in Bedford, IN, and our families developed a special friendship. Leonard was like a brother to Meredith, and they worked well together. Our years working, worshiping, and fellowshiping with them were years when many memories were made that remain precious to this day. Leonard was there to offer support at Meredith's passing. Our family treasures the friendship of the Sankeys. Only Heaven will reveal the many souls that have been won to the Lord by Leonard's faithfulness in sharing the gospel and living an exemplary Christian life.

MARTEENA ARMOUR

Former EFM Missionary

Serving with Leonard Sankey is a real joy! He has an unparalleled blend of consistent carefulness, conviction, and courtesy. His religion wears well in the boardroom and beyond. I'm grateful to be one of the many who have been influenced by his steady leadership and godly example.

JOHN MANLEY

GBS Trustee

MAY 2023

Leonard



Sankey

I have always admired Brother Sankey as a saintly statesman of the Holiness Movement. He is a generation above me, and definitely above my league spiritually. He is just one of those spiritual giants who is in a class of his own. I never imagined that I would be in his circle of friends, but that all changed when we moved our family to his hometown, and we attended church together for a period of time. He would often find our family after church to tell us that he loved us and was so glad we were there. This spiritual giant became my friend!

DR. DAVID BOARDMAN
GBS Trustee

I can think of no higher compliment to give than to say that someone is "gentle and humble." This (to me) is a perfect description of my Grandpa Sankey. He has represented Jesus so very well!

KENT STETLER
GBS Registrar and Dr. Sankey's Grandson

Though he sometimes refers to himself as "Cranky Sankey," I don't believe I've ever seen him that way. Serious, yes. Cranky, crotchety, crabby, cantankerous, no. Not even grumpy. His smile, often present, is contagious; his spirit is kind and considerate. I first met him in the early 1970s when my wife Kathy and I were placed under appointment to serve in Guatemala with Evangelistic Faith Missions. In July of that year, he was at our camp meeting in Tennessee and graciously spent time with us, advising us about packing, what to take and what to leave, and what kind of barrels to purchase (pasteboard). From then until now I have always found him to be thoughtful in his assessments, helpful with his advice, and kind in his admonitions. In our now 51-year relationship, Leonard Sankey is one of the men I most admire and appreciate, and I count him as a great friend.

STEVEN HIGHT
Vice President (2001-08) and President (2013-17), EFM

It has been one of my highest honors to serve with Brother Sankey on the GBS board. Brother Sankey skillfully extracted insights from many years of experience to inform and guide current decisions. He made knowledge especially relevant.

JONATHAN WITTER
GBS Trustee

young for him. The two dated through the rest of the school year and into the summer. For her birthday, June 21, 1959, Leonard bought Janet two gospel albums from the Willis Music Store in downtown Cincinnati. They dated into the fall of 1959 before breaking up.

Upon graduating from GBS in June of 1960, Leonard returned home to Greenville. The day Leonard arrived home, his mother told him that they were going to Bristolville, Ohio, for a revival service. Leonard had just driven eight hours to get home and didn't really feel like going anywhere. So he asked why he needed to go to Bristolville. His mother replied, "Because Janet is there, and it's time for you and her to get back together." Leonard complied with his mother's "suggestion."

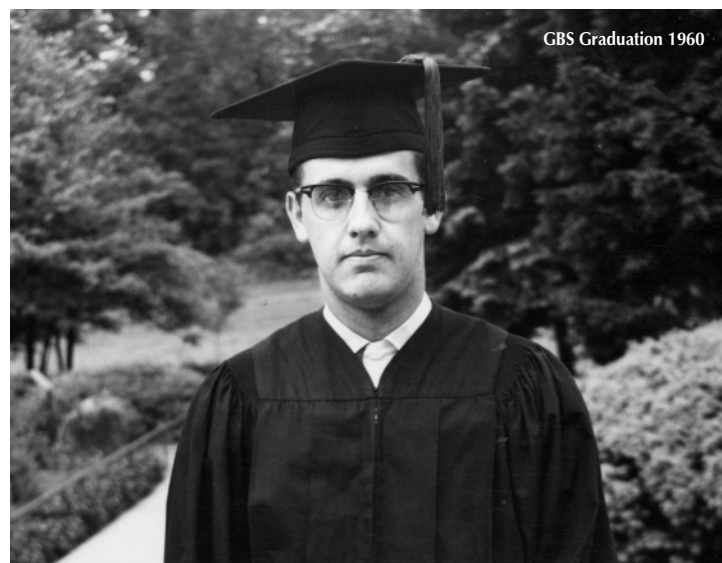
When Leonard pulled into the parking lot of the church, Janet was getting out of her car. Not knowing that she was interested in the young youth evangelist who was preaching for the revival, Leonard approached her and asked if he could sit with her in the service. She agreed. After the service, they went to a local hamburger stand to eat; then Leonard drove her to her grandparents' home, where she was staying at the time.

They began to date again, and Leonard decided to go with Janet and her family to a camp meeting in Montana. When his mother heard about that, she quickly decided that she and Leonard's younger sister, Betty, would go as well. They traveled in two cars: Leonard, his mother and sister, and Janet in one car, and the rest of the Ferguson family in the other.

One afternoon while in Montana, Leonard popped "the question" to Janet, who quickly said "yes." On September 17, 1960, they were married in Leonard's home church in Greenville, Pennsylvania. They spent Saturday and Sunday on their honeymoon before taking part in a revival that started on Tuesday in Barberton, Ohio. They began their song evangelism ministry as a couple with no home and no furniture. When they weren't ministering in revival meetings, they divided their time between their parents' homes.

PASTORAL CALL

In December 1960, Leonard approached his conference president, Rev. H.C. VanWormer, about the



GBS Graduation 1960

possibility of pastoring a church in the Allegheny Wesleyan Methodist Conference. In June of 1961, the Sankeys received a call to pastor the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Clarksburg, West Virginia. It was a small church with little money. Leonard was encouraged to get a second job as previous pastors had, but he politely declined, saying they would try to make it on what the church would give them—\$20 a week for salary and \$5 a week for utilities. Somehow they managed to live on that meager amount.

During this time, Leonard and Janet were informed by a doctor that they would not be able to have children of their own. They were disappointed, but soon thereafter applied to be foster parents. Their caseworker finally gave them the exciting news that they had been approved and that three siblings were coming to live with them—an older brother and sister with a younger brother joining them upon his release from a hospital. Eddie, Janie, and Davey had endured terrible living conditions and did not know how to function properly as a family. They were extremely malnourished and showed signs of mental and social deficits. Davey, who was six years old, had not spoken a word. The children made miraculous recoveries, however, as the Sankeys lovingly cared for them through May of 1962.

MISSIONARY CALL AND FIRST ASSIGNMENT

Towards the end of their first year of pastoring in Clarksburg, Leonard and Janet had driven down to Oak Hill where friends from their Bible college days were pastoring. It so happened that Glen and Nell Reiff (also GBS friends) were at the church, representing Evangelistic Faith Missions (EFM) and the missionary work in Guatemala. Glen Reiff was insistent that the Sankeys begin thinking seriously about going to Guatemala as missionaries. Leonard finally had to tell Glen, “I really appreciate our friendship and I trust you, but if I go to

I have the privilege to be with Brother Sankey on occasion, including traveling a few times to Salem, OH, for the School of the Prophets board meetings. I have also interacted with him at the college and at church. When you are with Brother Sankey, you are always with a Christian gentleman who is always looking out for others. I asked a family member if he always had a positive attitude. The answer was “ALWAYS! He wakes up like that and keeps it all day.” I appreciate the times I have spent with him and would welcome more. He always puts a smile on my face.

RICHARD MILES
GBS Vice President for Spiritual Life

Brother Sankey has consistently modeled what it means to be a Christian gentleman. I have admired his passion for missions, for Christian education, and for Christian unity in essentials that transcends denominational distinctives. Having served at GBS while he was a trustee and chairman of the board, I have appreciated his support and encouragement for GBS and for the faculty in particular. I pray God's richest blessings on him as he steps forward into God's “next” for his life.

DR. PHILLIP BROWN
GBS Graduate Program Director

Thank you, Dr. Sankey, for your 45 years of dedicated service to GBS. You began serving on the board before I was born! However, as I have now been in board meetings with you for 20 years, I can certainly attest to your loyalty and dedication to God and to GBS. It has been an honor serving with you and hearing your seasoned voice of wisdom. May God richly bless you!

BRENDA HERRING
GBS Trustee; Board Secretary

What a joy it was to work with Leonard and Janet Sankey here in the States and in Guatemala. Leonard is a great example of serving with humility and faithfulness. He and Janet were such a blessing to me when I was preparing to go to the mission field many moons ago. I wish him the very best.

HELEN (LEIGH) REIFF
Former EFM Missionary

Over the many years that I have been at GBS, I have seen many board members come and go. The one who stands out is Brother Sankey. He was always at the meetings, always ready to help, and had great ideas, many of which were put to use. He is a great prayer warrior that we will miss on the board.

FLOYD HYATT
GBS Resource Office / Guide



Guatemala, it will have to be because *God* calls me there, not *you*." Glen laughed and took it in good humor.

On their way home, Leonard began to sense the voice of God speaking to him. "It was as if the Lord came into the car and sat down between Janet and me and began to make it clear that He did indeed want us to go to Guatemala as missionaries." He turned to tell Janet what God had just said to him. As he spoke, he saw a tear run down her face. She nodded and said quietly, "I know." God had been speaking to both at the very same time and calling them to the mission field.

The Sankeys were quickly approved for missionary service with EFM. Mission President Victor Glenn wasted no time in scheduling the couple to their first country of service: Guatemala! Leonard and Glen Reiff held quite a few deputation services throughout the western United States to introduce Leonard as a new missionary. Leonard and Janet then drove to Florida with Glen and Nell, stopping first at Hobe Sound Bible College to spend the night. The next morning they were driven to Miami International Airport to catch their flight to Guatemala. It was the Sankeys' first time on an airplane.

When they landed in Guatemala City on November 26, 1962, they were overwhelmed by the sights, sounds, and smells they encountered as they walked out into the brilliant sunshine. After a picnic lunch with several other missionaries, they piled into various vehicles and began a trip over some very treacherous roads. Several hours later, they arrived in Jalapa, where they were quickly shown to their new home, a three-room apartment consisting of a living area, a kitchen/dining room, and a bed-

room. There was a bathroom across the hallway that was supplied with only cold water.

The next morning they awoke to bells clanging in the Catholic church tower nearby, dogs barking, roosters crowing, street vendors calling out their wares, and other noises of village life. The missionaries and Bible institute personnel prepared a distinctively Guatemalan welcome feast for them: tamales, rice, beans, and tortillas. Their minds whirled as they tried to acclimate themselves to a new culture, language, customs, and people without having had adequate training, orientation, or language study.

It wasn't long before Leonard was diagnosed with Hepatitis B, resulting in a nine-day hospital stay, after which he was bedfast at home for 30 days. The effects of the disease lingered for several years. He also required two surgeries during his first term: one for appendicitis, which was followed by complications from infection, and another to excise a large and painful boil from his neck.

The Sankeys had been sent to Guatemala with no explicit job description. They couldn't speak the language, so they couldn't help with preaching or teaching responsibilities, or even interact meaningfully with Guatemalan nationals. This created tensions between some of the other missionaries and the Sankeys. So in January of 1964, they moved to the nearby village of Monjas. Glen and Nell Reiff had been pastoring in Monjas but were leaving to start a work in El Salvador.

Leta Keith, the other missionary in Monjas, was the only other person in the village who spoke English. She persuaded Leonard to go out to the little village of Reforma, a walk of about a mile, and begin to speak Spanish for himself. She translated Leonard's written sermons into

PHOTOS LEFT TO RIGHT: Sankeys lead the church service in Monjas, January, 1963; Rear view of the missionaries' house in Monjas, which accommodated the Sankeys on the left side and Leta Keith on the right; Leonard, Janet, and baby Beth; Sisters Beth and Vonnice pose for a portrait.



Spanish so he could read them in the services. Leonard eventually became fluent in Spanish because of his regular preaching and interaction with the people, so he also began conducting services in the little village of San Juan Salamo, which involved crossing a river. Toward the end of the first term, he was able to use a church member's horse to make the trip.

There was no open market for food in their new village. The Sankeys lived on a subsistence diet of black beans, eggs, rice, tortillas, and coffee. They also did not have a vehicle at first. Obtaining fresh meat required Leonard to take a three-hour bus trip one way to Guatemala City. The mission had one of only two electric generators in the village. The Sankeys ran their generator every evening for four hours, during which time they would have their church services. They had a well on the property, but no running water in the house. They had a kerosene-powered refrigerator with a freezer compartment to make ice cubes. After bringing the water in, they would boil it for 20 minutes, then fill the ice cube trays. Ice cubes were a wonderful luxury!

It was in Monjas that the Sankeys began their family. When they had first moved to Guatemala, missionary Mary Reiff allowed Janet to accompany her on her many forays into the village of Jalapa. Mary was a nurse and Janet was very interested in becoming a nurse herself, so she often followed Mary around as she helped the people of the community with medical needs. On one of those trips, they went into a small store, and the owner asked if Janet had any children. Janet explained that they were unable to have children. With a dismissive wave, the store owner replied, "That's not true! Before you leave Guatemala, you will have two baby girls."

On February 10, 1964, Janet gave birth to their first child, a girl they named Pamela Beth. There were no complications, and they happily became a little family of three. Janet soon became pregnant again. This pregnancy was not as easy as the first, and Janet

was sick most of the time. Many hours after the Sankeys arrived at the hospital, Anita LaVonne "Vonnie" came into the world on September 27, 1965.

Janet was not physically well after Vonnie's birth. There were five difficult months ahead before the end of their first term as missionaries. When the family returned to the States, Janet knew that unless God did a miracle in her heart and body, she could never go back and face it all again. However, after reconnecting



Leonard



Sankey

I have known Leonard Sankey for more than 50 years. I have known him to be a man of impeccable character and steady, capable leadership. While never seeking advancement, Brother Sankey rose to be the much-loved leader of the InterChurch Holiness Convention family for many years. Always sensitive to the moving of the Spirit, he led our people with worship and humility into the very presence of God on many occasions. Only eternity will reveal the positive impact he has had on generations of holiness people. Thank you, Brother Sankey, for charting a path we all can follow.

DARRELL STETLER
IHC Treasurer

I think of Dr. Sankey as a spiritual mentor, dear friend, and co-laborer in the work at GBS. He is an excellent communicator, and I always look forward to seeing which adjective he will use when he sends me an email. Marvelous Monday, Terrific Tuesday, Wonderful Wednesday, Thrilling Thursday, and Fabulous Friday are just some of the introductions to his emails. He is always so in tune to what is going on in the lives of his friends, and I have enjoyed working with him throughout the years. He is a great example of Christlikeness.

CHERYL WATTERS
GBS Executive Assistant to the President

When I moved to Bedford a few years ago to work for Evangelistic Faith Missions, Leonard Sankey was no longer directing the InterChurch Holiness Convention or pastoring Faith Mission Church or holding a position at EFM. But moving to the town that was Brother Sankey's home for so long made me increasingly aware of the great footprints that he has left. His leadership presence has made a lasting impression on those institutions. I also felt his continued influence in our movement. His preaching and conversations carry conviction and wisdom that are greatly respected.

DR. STEPHEN GIBSON
President, EFM

How would I describe Leonard Sankey? Christlike. Dependable. Curious. A student of history. An excellent promoter. All that, and more. But foremost, he is a committed disciple of our Lord. Connie and I love and appreciate you and Janet.

MONTE STETLER
GBS Trustee

Leonard



Sankey

It was an honor to serve as a trustee with Brother Sankey for over two decades. Leonard Sankey is one of the most godly, gracious men I have known or worked with. His love for GBS is deep, and his history with this institution is long. I appreciate so much his passion for the mission of the school and his commitment to its spiritual vitality. His wisdom and balance will be greatly missed. Congratulations on your retirement as the longest serving trustee!

KEITH WAGGONER I
GBS Trustee

Our personal lives have been touched by Dr. Leonard Sankey's love and friendship. Our churches and conferences have been blessed by his anointed ministry. Our best organizations and institutions have benefited from his leadership! Dr. Leonard Sankey has touched us on so many levels. We celebrate his life and leadership!

JOHN D. PARKER
Southern Conference President,
Bible Methodist Connection of Churches

Leonard Sankey has been my friend, colleague, and dear brother in Christ for more than 60 years, and in every way I regard him as an ideal model to follow in serving Jesus. His sincerity, fortitude, integrity, and faithfulness have been exemplary; and I especially salute his consistent loyalty and selfless service to God's Bible School, his beloved alma mater. May our Heavenly Father richly reward him in this life and in the life to come.

LARRY D. SMITH
Retired Editor, *God's Revivalist*

As a child, I was keenly aware that my parents had much love and respect for Leonard and Janet Sankey. My mother (Dorothy Lawson) was dean of women at GBS at the time of their courtship. Leonard held a special place in her heart and, in her opinion, was the best song leader of all time! After I arrived on campus as a student and saw him in action at IHC, my life was touched by his winsome spirit and outstanding delivery of God's Word. I always enjoyed his anointed song leading as well! Thank you, Bro. Sankey, for your years of dedicated service to our alma mater and the kingdom of God. We stand on your shoulders!

TIM CRATER
GBS Faculty; Director, College Choir

with family and eating more normally, they almost immediately began to feel better physically. They jumped into a busy summer of evangelistic singing.

In February 1967, Leonard called EFM President Victor Glenn and asked him if he would be interested in sending them back to Guatemala. The response was affirmative, and less than a month later they returned to Central America. In Monjas, they found that the city had installed a new sewage system, running water, and electricity. They also now had a vehicle and were able to get around more easily. As seasoned missionaries returning to familiar churches and people, they now could minister on their own and converse with ease.

A NEW WORK IN HONDURAS

In the fall of 1967, EFM decided that the Sankeys should open a work in Honduras. Leonard and a few others conducted an investigatory trip. They discovered that there was no mission work on the north coast in the San Pedro Sula area. This is where EFM would begin their new work.

With a target start date of January 1, 1968, the Sankeys prayed that God would lead them to a house for their family in the geographical center of their new field of service. A newspaper ad directed them to a house in Colonia Colombia, a neighborhood close to downtown San Pedro Sula. They called the owners, who they discovered were teachers in a Catholic school. The Sankeys thought it unlikely that evangelical missionaries would be permitted to rent the house. Surprisingly, they were immediately able to sign a rental agreement.

They purchased a Fiat 124 station wagon, and within three weeks, on December 26, 1967, the Sankey family had moved all their belongings from Guatemala to the three-bedroom home in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. Marina Rivera, a graduate from the EFM Bible School in Guatemala, moved with the Sankeys to become part of their ministry team and help start children's services in the new location.

One evening they heard music outdoors and stepped outside to see their first Catholic procession in Honduras. They propped their arms on the front fence to watch and enjoy. Someone was carrying a flag and a statue of Mary and playing music over a battery-powered loudspeaker system. The procession entered the intersection and stopped. They could hear the priest making a proclamation, but they didn't understand what it was. Leonard noticed that he sprinkled all the homes on the street with holy water except theirs. Then they finished their procession around the block and disbanded.

That evening, two neighborhood men came to the Sankey's home and apologized for the procession. It had been an anti-evangelical display aimed at the Sankeys. One of the men, Gian Giacovini, permitted the missionaries to hold their first children's service in his home. The Sankeys had tried to have children's services in their own home, but soon real-

ized that parents would not let their children enter the home of evangelicals.

Leonard heard that the principal of the local elementary school wanted some bars put on the windows of the school building for protection. He contacted her and said he would be happy to install some window bars at the school. Instead of charging her money, he asked if she would give him permission to hold some services on the outside porch of the school building. Surprisingly, she agreed!

Leonard began taking evening walks around the neighborhood to see if God would send people across his pathway to befriend. He often took with him his two little daughters with their curly blonde hair and blue eyes. Beth and Vonnice enjoyed the fresh-air excursions, and Leonard knew the girls would help present a non-threatening image to the community. The girls' hellos, smiles, and little waves quickly won over the hearts of their neighbors. Soon, Leonard began to venture farther in his walking expeditions. As he walked, he made new friends, which resulted in other homes being opened for evangelistic meetings and brought more people to the services held on the schoolhouse porch. Attendance grew to 80, and children, teens, and adults were getting saved!

When the Sankeys discovered Janet was expecting again, they were happy. Janet was homeschooling the girls at that time. She would accompany Leonard on his visits to some of the outstations, but most of the time she was busy taking care of her home and preparing children's lessons for the different services that they held. This third pregnancy was an easy one. However, the expected due date came and went, and no baby ar-

rived. After two weeks and an unsuccessful induction by a doctor, a Cesarean section was planned for March 3, 1970. On that hot March afternoon, the Sankeys welcomed Leonard Marc into the world.

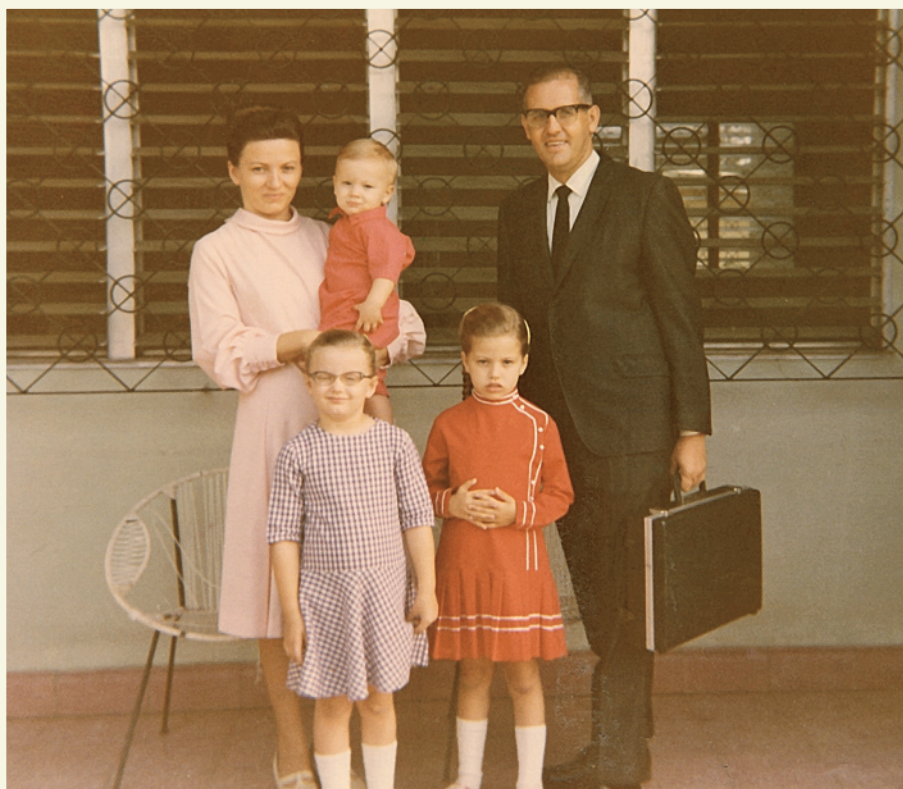
The Sankeys began to look for a central location where they could build a larger building as a general meeting place for all of the area churches. They built a church and parsonage in Colonia Los Andes. Eventually more rooms were added to include an EFM radio station.

For a year and a half, the Sankeys held multiple services throughout the week—sometimes as many as 10. Leonard was discipling, mentoring, teaching, and training new converts, and over the course of time, some of them were developing into competent leaders. He kept up this intense pace until their term came to a rather sudden and unexpected end.

In 1971, Leonard received a letter from the EFM board secretary, Leslie Wilcox, informing him that by unanimous vote, Leonard had been elected to an administrative position in the mission organization. So the Sankeys moved to Bedford, Indiana, where Leonard worked in the mission home office until March 1973. He was then asked to return to Guatemala as field director for all of EFM's Central American ministries from March 1973 to May 1975.

THIRD MISSIONARY TERM

After returning to San Pedro Sula, Leonard had the opportunity to hold services in the penitentiary. Every week he was allowed into the open yard with hundreds of prisoners and no guards present. Normally 40 or 50 prisoners came to the services, and a number of them made professions of faith.



Leonard started a five-days-a-week radio ministry called “La Voz de Centro America” (the Voice of Central America). He would take seven-inch reel tapes of the gospel programs that Glen Reiff had produced in Guatemala, broadcast them from the radio station in Honduras, and then ship them to El Salvador so that all the fields could make use of them. Eventually, he was placed in charge of the EFM mission radio programs for all three countries.

Leonard continued to provide mentoring and discipleship programs to some of the older men. He had a desire to see them firmly established in correct doctrine and the practice of Christian living so that they could in turn teach others. He took them out with him on many occasions to help him conduct services. These experiences taught them how to hold services on their own when Leonard was not available.

Fifty years after the mission organization’s humble beginning in Honduras, the property in San Luis, where EFM currently has its regional headquarters, contains a Bible institute, dorms, dining hall, staff housing, missionary homes, a clinic, a surgery center, a medical center, a water bottling facility, a radio station, an airstrip, a coffee plantation, other agricultural businesses, and a pizza restaurant that have enabled the Honduran national church to become fully self-supporting.

BACK TO BEDFORD

When the Sankey family returned to Indiana in May of 1975, Leonard continued to work in the home office of EFM until 1979, when he accepted the call to pastor Faith Mission Church, also in Bedford. While there, he founded Stone City Christian Academy (1980). Both the church and the school experienced steady growth throughout Leonard’s 30-year tenure as pastor. Janet attended nursing school from 1975 to 1978 and spent

the next thirty years as a nurse, eventually earning a master’s degree. She retired as an adult nurse practitioner in 2007.

During this time, Leonard once again became involved with the leadership of the InterChurch Holiness Convention at the request of its general secretary, Harold Schmul. He ably served as Schmul’s assistant until he was elected to succeed him in 1998. He served the IHC with distinction for 19 years, then stepped down at the age of eighty.

SERVING HIS ALMA MATER

No matter where Leonard has served—pastorates, mission fields, or the IHC—he always brought honor to his alma mater. It is no wonder that when he returned to Bedford in 1975, he became an active participant in the GBS Alumni Association. In 1978, Leonard was elected as president of the organization and held that position for two three-year terms, which also afforded him an ex-officio seat on the GBS Board of Trustees. He was then elected to the board on his own right by members of the association (who elected the trustees at that time). He became a well-known and influential member of both the Alumni Association and the board. He retires from the board as its longest serving member—45 years, of which 25 years (1991-2016) were as chairman.

With great appreciation, God’s Bible School and College takes note of what God has accomplished through this surrendered servant whose life has been poured out in ministry. We trust God will bless both Janet and Leonard and bring them back to campus often! ■

This article was condensed and adapted from My Dad, the Missionary, by Marc Sankey, with additional content from A Century on the Mount of Blessings, by Larry D. Smith.

GBS BOARD OF TRUSTEES L-R: David Boardman, Keith Waggoner I, Leonard Sankey*, Monte Stetler*, Robert England Jr. (chair)*, Viola Durr, John Manley, Nathan Smith, Daniel Edwards, Jack Hooker, Rodney Loper*, Jonathan Witter, David Crosley, Brenda Herring*, Rob Ryan (not pictured).

* executive committee



GOD’S REVIVALIST and BIBLE ADVOCATE



student focus

NONVERTS

You may have noticed that studies characterizing religious beliefs often have a category called “nones.” In his book *Nonverts: The Making of Ex-Christian America*, Stephen Bullivant proposes that the category should contain subcategories of “nonverts” and “cradle nones.” The former are those who, “though raised in households that were recognizably religious, now describe themselves as nonreligious. They converted out and became the sort of people who check “no religious affiliation” on surveys. Bullivant argues that nonverts deserve special attention because their nonaffiliation is different from those Bullivant calls “cradle nones.” The author comes to this conclusion from the extensive subject interviews which are the substance behind the statistics: “The rise of the nones, fueled primarily by an extraordinary two or three decades of...nonversion, marks a decisive moment in American religious and cultural history.”

ANIMAL SACRIFICE AT HOME

After voting to continue a ban on animal slaughter last December, the Hamtramck City Council took up the issue again earlier this year and voted to allow animal sacrifice on residential property. This came after several months of debate and pressure from Muslim residents.

Hamtramck, which is near Detroit, MI, has one of the highest percentages of Muslim residents among U.S. cities. Hamtramck residents who intend to sacrifice animals will be required to notify the city, pay a fee, and make their property available for inspection.

PUBLIC TRUST IN PASTORS FALLS TO HISTORIC LOW

According to the latest Gallup survey, trust in pastors fell for the third straight year and reached an all-time low as fewer Americans regularly interact with pastors and fewer say they trust clergy overall—only 34% rated the honesty and ethical standards of clergy as “high” or “very high.” In 1985, 67% of Americans said pastors had a high or very high ethical standard and level of honesty. Since 2001, this indicator has fallen 30 points.

TRADITIONAL WESTERN VALUES

A survey from Rasmussen Reports found that a strong majority of American adults believe it’s important for schools to teach traditional values of Western civilization: 78% of respondents say it’s at least “somewhat important” for schools to teach “traditional values of Western civilization,” and 57% believe it’s “very important,” an increase of about 15 percentage points from a similar survey in May 2022. ■

Reared in a Christian home with five siblings (including two who were adopted from China), **GRACE BURKHART** moved with her family from Pennsylvania to Texas when she was 13. Being homeschooled, they enjoyed many opportunities for educational travels. After graduation, Grace took a gap year before enrolling at GBS in 2021. She says GBS “changed my entire life forever!”

During her first semester, in answer to “cries for help,” “God revealed Himself.” After committing her life to Him, “everything just made so much sense!” The Bible classes at GBS have given her a solid foundation, and the ministry opportunities (such as Kids Power) are preparing her for the future.

Grace is working on a BA in counseling and psychology with graduation plans for Spring 2025. After that, she intends to pursue a master’s degree in counseling with the goal of being involved in inner-city children’s ministry as a licensed counselor. ■

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



BLOOD DRIVE

On March 21, GBS held its annual Blood Drive. The Student Government officers coordinated with Hoxworth Blood Center to help make this day possible. Our collection goal was 35 units.

We had 35 volunteer donors, including 22 first-time donors. In this group we had ZERO deferrals! That is amazing,

since Hoxworth's normal deferral rate is between 10% and 15%, and trends even higher at colleges. This resulted in 35 units being collected—GOAL MET—and 105 potential lives saved!

—Sonja Vernon, Vice President for Student Affairs

EASTER EGG HUNT

On April 6, the Children's Ministry Interest Group staged the annual GBS Easter Egg Hunt for the campus children. Thirty-four children, ages 12 and under, registered to participate and gathered at the front steps of the administration building for this fun event. Of course, the children had a great time, but so did the parents taking pictures of their little ones!



Bradley Thomas makes a life-saving donation.



Emily Albertson gives with a smile.

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.

DEATHS



Deanna Marie (Wood) Schermer, 66, of Milton, KY, formerly of Forsythe, IL, died February 13, 2023. She was born December 7, 1956, in Decatur, IL, to Clarence and Marie (Matthews) Wood. In 1975, she graduated from high school in Forsythe, IL. On May 3, 2008, she married Timothy Ray Schermer, and they moved from Decatur, IL, to Milton, KY. She grew up in the Decatur Pilgrim Holiness Church; after moving to Milton, she became a member of the Mt. Tabor Wesleyan Church, Trimble County, KY.

Deanna was a caregiver who also worked with Head-Start in Decatur for 20 years during her career.

She served as secretary for the Bryantsburg Holiness Camp near Madison and the Callis Grove Holiness Camp in Trimble County. She enjoyed reading her Bible, cross-stitching, and being with her family.

She was preceded in death by her husband Timothy in 2022 and is survived by her son, Matthew; mother, Marie; brother, Bob; as well as several nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and other relatives. Funeral services were held at the Morgan & Nay Funeral Centre, Madison, IN, officiated by Pastors Wayne Mahoney, Orville Mann, and Stanley Hedden. Burial followed later at the Fairlawn Cemetery, Decatur, IL.



Nancy "Janie" Louise Smith, 83, of Galax, VA, passed away February 24, 2023. She was born April 17, 1939, to Robert Lee and Ruth Edna Sikes of Galax, VA. She was a "Proverbs 31" lady—a virtuous woman whose worth was far above rubies; the heart of her husband safely



MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter are common celebrations in our churches. Maundy Thursday, which brings into remembrance Jesus' observance of the Passover with his disciples, has not been a common

celebration among our groups. This time is marked by Jesus' example of humble service to others as he washed the feet of his disciples and commanded them to do the same for one another. "Maundy" is a shortened form of "mandatum" (Latin) for the new commandment that Jesus gave at the

Last Supper: "Love one another as I have loved you."

GBS held a Maundy Thursday service on campus, Thursday, April 6. It was a uniting, worshipful, learning experience. All participants observed holy communion, and some followed Christ's example by washing the feet of others.

—Richard Miles, Vice President
for Spiritual Life



Sharing communion during the Maundy Thursday service

trusted in her; she worked diligently and willingly, providing for her family; she arose consistently each morning to spend time with God on behalf of each one of her family, church family, and friends; she worked faithfully in her church.

Janie is survived by her husband, John Wayne Smith, with whom she shared life for over 65 years. Their marriage was an example for everyone around them as seen in their love for each other, God, their family, their church (Haven of Rest Bible Church), and their friends. She is also survived by sons, Mitchell and Mark; daughters, Darlene Rice and Susan Hoch; sister, Dianna Bowers; ten grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and several other extended family members. Funeral services were held at Haven of Rest Bible Church, Galax, VA. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Janie was the second grandmother lost in quick succession to Kendra (Smith) Muir (BA '11), who teaches at GBS.

Her other grandmother, Brenda May (Wood) Jenkins, passed away December 21, 2022 (see GR March 2023).



Lorin Melvin Jeffries, 89, of Port Clinton and formerly of Littleton, CO, passed away March 8, 2023, at Promedica Ebeid Hospice, Toledo, OH. He was born May 28, 1933, to Jewell and Hazel (Moore) Jeffries. He married Cleta Purtle on January 16, 1958. Lorin retired as a carpenter working out of Local 555 in Denver, CO. He enjoyed fishing and woodworking. He was a member of the Bible Methodist Church in Port Clinton, OH. Lorin was a GBS supporter and a *God's Revivalist* subscriber.

Lorin is survived by his wife, Cleta; two sons, Douglas and Kent; daughter, Caren Barnett; ten grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and many nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held at Neidecker, Crosser and Priesman Funeral Home, Port Clinton, OH. Burial followed in Salem Township Union Cemetery, Oak Harbor, OH. ■

Sankey Family Tributes



from **Janet Sankey**

Leonard has been an integral part of my life for over 60 years. We were married in September of 1960. We have served as pastors, missionaries, and Christian workers together with a deep, continuing desire to follow God's leading.

Leonard's commitment to God and his years of service are unflawed. He is faithful, honest, kind, and steady. He is a friend to everyone. His memory is phenomenal. He can remember places he's been, people he's met, the food that he's been served, conversations he's had, and things that have happened over 60 years ago better than anyone I know.

He's laughed, he's cried, he's been misunderstood and insulted (just a few times), he keeps his heart and his emotions close and doesn't unburden himself often.

His strength is in his Spirit-led life, and to know him is to love him. He's a good man.



from **Beth (Sankey) Stetler**

What a blessing it was to grow up under Dad's care and with his love! He taught us through both words and example that the best way to live is through loving God and obeying Him. Dad instilled in us the knowledge that consecration to God would be our most important decision. The themes of faithfulness, submission, and dedication to God were exemplified and taught diligently. The benefits of a life of love and service were modeled and emphasized.

I had a wonderful childhood and upbringing. Our home was full of acceptance, forgiveness, and security. Dad freely showed affection and expressed his care for us. Hugs and words of love were given liberally. He and Mom created a home of safety for us. Dad was a listening ear; he heard our concerns, and he answered our questions. He played basketball and softball with us. We did silly things and had loads of fun. Dad loved vanilla ice cream topped with chocolate syrup and ensured that we consumed copious amounts of it!

Dad always had time for us. I visited his home office frequently. He would sit back with his elbows on the arms of his chair and his fingertips pressed together. Dad listened to my thoughts and questions, and consistently gave wise and practical counsel. He was always reasonable, sensible, and balanced. I saw in Dad consistent, careful habit formation. I saw self-control, grit in the face of adversity, and perseverance in daily tasks. He did not give in to dramatic emotions or feelings; he did not allow unrestrained self-indulgence.

I have learned so much from Dad's example. I picked up his habits of record keeping and early rising. I inherited his enjoyment of travel, especially road trips. His love of the Central American people, their countries, their language, and their culture lives deeply and passionately in me.

For almost 70 years, our family's history has intertwined with that of God's Bible School and College. Dad and Mom attended GBS in the 1950s and have deep respect for the life-changing process that can occur on this campus. When our family returned to the USA from Central America in 1975, one of our first stops was GBS. Over the years, we regularly attended camp meetings, revivals, and special events. Dad committed himself to his responsibility as a board member and taught us to love this institution and its role in God's Kingdom. All of his children and many of his grandchildren have attended GBS.

Dad has lived an exemplary life. His journey has been marked by quiet, steady strength and faithful commitment. I count myself exceedingly blessed to be able to say, "Leonard Sankey is my dad."

from **Vonnie (Sankey) Bryan**

I've seen my dad in so many different roles that words are not adequate. Many people know him as a pastor, preacher, evangelist, and missionary. I know him best as my dad. As a father, he has excelled in being present; showing grace, mercy, and love; and living exactly what he preaches. He has modeled Christlikeness in every situation.

My earliest memories of him are as a *missionary father*. I remember going with him to villages and helping pass out tracts, visiting with the nationals, and making friends with their children. We were all missionaries, and it was a joy to serve Jesus together.

I then knew him as my *pastor father*. Dad never failed to demonstrate what being a true follower of Jesus looked like. He always showed graciousness and never retaliated or spoke ill of others. When others encountered grief or loss, he walked that road with them, giving biblical counsel and encouragement. He rejoiced with weddings and baby dedications. He was overcome with emotion when new believers found the Water for which they long had thirsted. He wept with joy when backsliders returned to Jesus. It was such a joy to serve Jesus as the pastor's family.

For my last three years of high school, he was my *school administrator father*. He was usually the chapel speaker and always had an encouraging word with interesting stories. Each day of school, he would come over to the school building and spend a few minutes talking with each student. I remember how we all felt so loved and cared for with the conversations we had with him. It was a joy and privilege to serve Jesus.

You will not meet anyone who loves Jesus more than my dad. His life is a beautiful exhibit of the Word of God and the Savior to whom he is dedicated. Above all, there has been joy in serving Jesus, which has created a longing in his children to follow Him.



from **Marc Sankey**

Dad has lived his life for the purpose of bringing glory to God. All he has ever wanted is for God to be pleased with him. Proverbs 16:7 says, "When a man's ways please the Lord, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him" (ESV). Dad has not only gained the approval of God on his life, he has also garnered the admiration and affection of people around the globe.

Dad has always been personable, outgoing, positive, optimistic, and happy. He genuinely likes people, and they in return like him. He pays attention to them and remembers their names despite going months or even years between occasions of seeing them. He has made people feel special, wanted, and cherished. Dad has a gracious way of relating to people, and, as a result, people love him.

One day, Dad will hear the sweetest words his ears have ever heard, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

I know my words cannot compare to those gracious words from Jesus, but I hope Dad will hear me when I say, "You've done good, Dad—really good! I couldn't have asked for a better earthly father. You have shown me the way to God. You deserve every kind word you read today. I love you!"





— Called Unto Holiness —

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

TO THE THESSALONIANS, WITH LOVE

by Leonard Sankey

"And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: To the end He may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints." —1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

A small smile of satisfaction creases the lively face of the Apostle as he arches his back and stretches his arms over his head with his writing instrument still in hand. God's gracious Spirit had been with him from the very beginning of the letter. When he had sensed God's voice speaking and instructing him to write to the young converts at Thessalonica, his spirit yielded willingly, and the words had flowed from the pen with a force and authority far beyond his own. Now laying his pen down, he picked up the letter and read through it. Pausing in the middle, His fingers found and lingered over the Spirit-inspired prayer (1 Thess. 3:12-13).

It might be helpful to look over Paul's shoulder as he mulls the significance of the prayer. As he studies to understand what God is trying to say, perhaps we, too, will receive a new revelation of what God desires for us. He speaks here of love—love that is at the center of God Himself.

God is **Love's Extravagance**, for there is no limit, no boundary to this love. And this is the source of our love. God's love is written in extravagant, munificent style.

In this prayer we find **Love's Example**, for Paul admonishes them to love "even as we love you." Paul faithfully followed Christ and could without hesitation beseech others to follow him. What an example he left for them and us of serious, sacrificing love!

Then, in this love of which Paul writes, we find quality: **Love's Excellence**. This love, originating in the nature of God and bestowed by Him upon His children, far exceeds the ability of human minds to comprehend it. It is love that glows.

Paul speaks of **Love's Expansion** and encourages his Thessalonian converts to increase and abound in their love, showing us that love will grow as well as glow: "Lord, give us more, give us more of this love"—increasing, abounding, glowing, growing love!

Almost breathless with excitement, we lean closer to the sacred page, and, as the Spirit continues to open its riches, we note also **Love's Extent**. Implied in this verse, and clearly stated in many others, is the marvel of God's love to us, and also the natural response of the Christian to that love—our love back to God. This is love in the vertical. But true Christian love should also be molecular, or a love within the Body of Christ that invests itself "toward each other." And last, he shows love to be horizontal by saying that this abounding love should be expressed to "all men."

His exultant prayer closes with **Love's Expectation**. What is the purpose of God's love to us, and what is the reason why our love needs to increase and abound? Paul answers, "To the end [so that God] may strengthen, confirm, and establish the heart and make it unblameable, faultlessly pure in His sight."

No wonder, then, that he allows himself a small smile and a shout of praise to the loving Father whom he serves with his whole heart. Such precious words were probably blessed to Paul's spirit; they undoubtedly comforted and strengthened the Thessalonians, and today they still speak with power and authority to us. Thank God for Paul's prayer, and "Thank you, Lord, for the love that You give us yet!" ■

*This abridged article by **Leonard Sankey** was originally published in God's Revivalist, August 16, 1984, p.10.*



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

ANNUAL ALUMNI CHOIR REUNION

by Joy (Bender) Barnett

It is a day that alumni choir members anticipate every year! On Saturday, March 25, 2023, a group gathered with Garen L. Wolf I (Music Division Chair 1976-2010) and his wife, Sheila (GBS faculty 1976-2012), for a reunion. The event was hosted at New Life Community Church in Cincinnati. The very first small, local GBS Alumni Choir Reunion was hosted at Kenwood Bible Methodist Church in the fall of 2017, simply to see how much interest such an event would generate. That same congregation has re-

cently purchased a new, beautiful facility in the Eastgate area of Cincinnati and rebranded it as New Life Community Church. It has become the new home for Choir Reunion, in some ways bringing it back to where it all started.

The event was organized by the Alumni Choir Planning Team: Matt (HS '89) and Joy (Bender) (BA '00) Barnett, Paul (BA '81) and Robyn (Myers) (BA '82) Clemens, Rob (BA '99) and Stephanie (Thompson) (BA '99) Ryan, and Lisa (Burton) (BA '02) Robison. Several alumni and friends volunteered to help staff the reunion. Participating alumni and friends arrived from several states, including Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, West Virginia, North Carolina, Alabama, and Florida. Organizers welcomed choir members and participants who preceded Bro. Wolf's leadership of the GBS College Choir, as well as several who followed his time at GBS. There were many first-time attendees this year, and several current students participated in the instrumental ensemble that accompanied the choir as well.

The reunion began at 9:30 a.m. with Craig (BRE '79) and JoEllen (Walker) (BA '77) Dahler overseeing registration. A light breakfast snack was provided in the atrium, while Nick Pop (BA '00) ran a slide show of old pictures on the church's media screens. Lisa Robison oversaw the chil-

dren's registration, while Mrs. Sarah Cook (BA '17) provided childcare.

The morning rehearsal began with a trio singing some familiar songs, concluding with a song that has become the Choir Reunion theme song, "Loving God, Loving Each Other." Then Garen Wolf conducted songs that had been part of the choir repertoire throughout his tenure, including some numbers that have become Alumni Choir favorites. Martha (Madden) Miller (BSM '82) provided piano accompaniment. Mr. Wolf shared encouragement and admonition, as voices from various decades blended together. Rob Ryan, Wes Hurles (HS '92, BA '18), and Joy Barnett sang solos from their time in choir. Hearts soared as the presence of God was felt in a special way.

The group was honored to have President Rodney Loper (BRE '01) bring a personal greeting from the school, as well as to leave some very nice "give-away" gifts. Dr. Jana (Burrows) (BA '03) Pop also gave a greeting as head of the music department and took a moment to honor Mr. Wolf's legacy. Tim Crater (BA '89), the current GBS choir director, and David Hartkopf (BA '07), current Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble director, both gave an update regarding this year's tours for their organizations. Mr. Wolf particularly thanked the leadership who are continuing the tradi-



tion of excellence in the music program at GBS. Mr. Wolf always prays a blessing over us, but it was suggested by an alumna that it was time for us to pray over the Wolfs. A very special moment was shared as the choir gathered around Bro. and Sis. Wolf, and Don Bates, Jr. (1987-89) led the alumni in a prayer of blessing over them.

For the second year, an instrumental ensemble accompanied many of the songs. Instrumentalists included Deanna (Wolf) Mander (HS '93, BA '98), Sarah (Wolf) Fry (HS '95, BA '00), Ruth Paulus (current faculty), Michelle Probst (AAS, BA '15, BA '17), Jonna McCaman (BA '01), Danella Joslin (BA '97), Lora Ward (BA '84), Donna (Downing) Buck (BA '00), Samuel Cramer (HS '17, BA '21), Rob Ryan, David Hartkopf, Tony Sechrest (AA '01), Chris Castle (current student), and Blake Castle (current student). The instruments played beautifully and added such a special touch to the day.

Throughout the morning, there were moments for stories, testimonies, and familiar songs. One tender moment of note came while the group sang the choruses of "Through It All" as Laneé (Carpenter) Marshall (BA '01) sang the verses. Marlon King (HS '82, BA '87) shared a touching story about his obedience to God during language school in preparation for the mission field, Cheryl (Raines) Belcher (BA '95) shared how God had been providing for her needs, and Heather (Bryan) Dickinson (BA '97) praised the Lord for protection in an incident with her little daughter. The morning ended with a triumphant rendition of Handel's "Hallelujah" chorus, while Jessica Smith (BA '07) added the organ to Mrs. Miller's piano accompaniment.

The group then gathered in the fellowship hall for a meal provided by event planners and alumni, with Bev Replogle and Esther Replogle hosting. Mary (Black) Burton (1990-93), a



Don Davison shares a memory.



Wes Hurles sings a solo from his choir days.



Mary (Black) Burton and Deanna (Wolf) Mander



Lanéé Marshall (behind Garen Wolf) sings the verses of "Through It All" while Joy Barnett (left) leads the choruses.



long-time volunteer for Choir Reunion, handled donations and directed logistics for the meal. A special thanks to Steve and Cindy (Huber) (BA '97) Caniff for providing the delicious smoked pulled pork, and Andrew (BA '10) and Katie (Kaufman) (BA '10) Rickenbach for providing a table laden with seven varieties of delectable cheesecakes. During lunch, Rob Ryan served as MC for "Half-time Happenings" in which choir members shared amusing stories from their years of choir travels, especially focusing on some of the things that happened during service half-times. Don Davison (BRE '83) shared some very funny stories about his most embarrassing moments during PR speeches.

An auction occurred throughout the lunch hour with donated items from alumni and local businesses to help raise money for the day's expenses. Some of the donations included a half hog, a large basket of items donated by Answers in Genesis, including tickets to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum; scenic river cruise tickets donated by B&B Riverboats, items from the Collingsworth Family and the Heath Brothers, baskets from Chik-fil-A and Texas Roadhouse, and a special out-of-print GBS cookbook. Attendees also had the opportunity to browse and buy from tables set up with Mr. Wolf's latest books, the Alumni Choir Reunion souvenir coffee mug, a new CD project by alumni Jessica Smith and Kevin Moser (HS '82; BA '90), and a new book written by Michelle (Hurles) Morehouse (HS '89, 1990-91).

As the day came to a close, the choir joined in singing a traditional song that we used to sing on the bus, "I Can't Even Walk Without You Holding My Hand"; and once again we ended with "Loving God, Loving Each Other." Mr. Wolf closed the reunion with a prayer of blessing over the Alumni Choir family. It was a wonderful day connecting Alumni Choir members of all ages as they laughed and cried, sang and worshiped together. Comments from alumni included: "It was my Asbury." "I look forward to this every year and it has never disappointed me." "Every year as we worship and testify to the goodness of God, I am reminded this is why I come...and why I will come back." "Laughter, reminiscing, and a sweet spirit that can only be experienced in person—God met with us in such a powerful way." "What a blessing Saturday was! The Spirit of the Lord was definitely in that place. I was so hungry for that kind of atmosphere again. I felt honored to play and sing." "I will be back! My husband really enjoyed the atmosphere and I'm trying to get my friends to come next year."

Further information can be found by joining the Facebook group "GBS Alumni Choir." Anyone who has ever been a part of college choir at GBS is invited to come next year! ■



by Sonja Vernon

AT THE SOUND OF THE TRUMPET

"And I said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, 'The work is great and widely spread, and we are separated on the wall, far from one another. In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us.'"
—Nehemiah 4:19-20 (ESV)

If you know the story of Nehemiah, you know he returned to Jerusalem with the king's blessing to rebuild the city walls. You also know he met with opposition. Sanballat, Tobiah, and others were determined to stop his progress. Instead of giving in, Nehemiah simply prayed to God and set a guard (4:9). From then on, spears, shields, bows, and armor were at the ready (4:16). Many worked with one hand and held a weapon in the other (4:17). However, their groups were small, spread out, and vulnerable to attack. Nehemiah charged them to listen for the trumpet and rally to help if the need arose. God would fight for them.

Friends, we too are working in the service of the King in the face of opposition. Most of us do not fight against an enemy we can see, but the warfare is just as real. We labor in small groups, sometimes far from each other. The call goes out. A brother, sister, or fellow ministry is under attack. How do we respond? Do we ready our spiritual weapons and run to their aid? Do we call out to God on their behalf? Or do we turn a deaf ear and go on with our work? Worse yet, do we wound family members down the wall with friendly fire? Friends, the trumpet is blowing. How will you respond? ■

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



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