

# GOD'S REVIVALIST

June, July, August 2023

*and Bible Advocate*



*Congratulations, Graduates!*



# thinking out loud

## THE SON IS SHINING

**H**ave you ever lain awake for long periods of the night? Maybe your insomnia is brought on by sickness, pain, or because you have been struggling with a problem that you simply can't stop thinking about. And then the rays of the early morning sun begin to chase away the dark. It is a new day!

When the sun comes out, situations seem different. The damp, dreary darkness dissipates. The hidden dangers seem more manageable when showered with light. We feel better. Safer. The reality is that the sun didn't just come out; it has been shining all along. This old world is slowly spinning, creating natural cycles of light and darkness, giving us days and nights which mark our progress through time. During those tough nights, we need to be patient. The sun will eventually return.

But even during the day, the sun can be obscured. Clouds may darken the sky. Thunderstorms may form when various elements of the environment combine in a collaborative array. Again, we need to be patient; these clouds will eventually pass. The overcast atmosphere will eventually give way to bright skies. We will soon see the shining sun.

Although these matters relate to the physical world, there is a corollary in our spiritual world. Christians go through cycles of difficulties. No one is immune to the complications they present. You might even describe them as "dark times." Christians experience troubling difficulties when various aspects of their lives seem to conspire against them. Take heart! The Son has been active all along the way. While circumstances may cloud our ability to see the light, be patient. Keep believing. In good time His radiance will penetrate the darkness.

But what if an important life decision is required during a "dark night of the soul"—when you do not have the luxury of waiting for clarity? My father once advised me, "Son, pray, and make your decision. Later, when you look back, you will realize that God was there helping you ALL THE TIME."

Yes, while we are in this world we WILL have tribulation, but the Son says, "Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world (John 16:33b). The Son is indeed the true Light, which lights every man that comes into the world (John 1:9) and it is His Word that is a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path (Psa. 119:105). Bask in the light from the Son! —KF ■

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COVER PHOTO: College graduates march down the aisle of the Adcock Chapel for the start of commencement exercises on Saturday, May 20. Photo by Lori Yoder.





# the president's page

## LAST WORDS

by Dr. Rodney S. Loper, President

On May 19, after a three-year-long battle with pancreatic cancer, Timothy Keller, world-renowned pastor, author, and theologian, gave these last words to his family before his passing: "There is no downside for me leaving, not in the slightest." John Wesley's last words are well known, "The best of all is God is with us." D.L. Moody said, "The world is receding and heaven is opening."

Dying words are of interest to us for several reasons: to get a glimpse into the afterlife; to have a chance to hear words of forgiveness, words of love; to get a final piece of wisdom or advice; or to learn the key to some hidden treasure.

Last words are important, so when a leader knows the time of departure is at hand, I lean in and listen. I know I'm going to hear not only words from the heart, but also words that make grand, summative statements answering critical, existential questions: What has his or her life and ministry been about? What was the point of it all?

In Acts 20, we have Paul's final words to the Ephesians. He knows that his life is coming to a close. He left Ephesus, sailed across the Aegean Sea to Macedonia and on to Corinth, where he spent the winter. He is headed back now down the western coast of Asia. He is hurrying on his way to Jerusalem, hoping to get back by Pentecost. But he wants one more contact with the leaders of the Ephesian church. So, when his boat docks at Miletus, some twenty miles south of Ephesus, he sent for them.

If I might be so bold, I would suggest that what Paul shared with these believers (Acts 20:18b-35) could be distilled into this one sentence: "It is better to lose your life than to waste it." By "lose your life," I mean to give it to Christ in full surrender, living it according to His plans for you, rather than living it according your own plans. While the latter may seem to bring a sense of control and security, it is a "waste" to miss the eternal benefits of staying in the

center of God's control. Let's consider how this dynamic might translate into daily living.

**First, it means to be mastered by the Spirit.** "And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit..." (Acts 20:22a). Jesus set forth the importance of this type of abandonment in Matthew 16: "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?" (Matt. 16:24b-26a).

A person who is wholly abandoned to Christ and completely yielded to the Spirit embraces the slogan, "It is better to lose my life than to waste it." I believe that this is what Paul is conveying in his final words to the leaders of the Ephesian church.

**Second, it means to be content in not knowing what tomorrow will bring.** If you continue reading Acts 20:22b, you will see that Paul is going to Jerusalem with a high level of uncertainty—"not knowing what will happen to me there...." In some sense, Paul is aware that the outcome may not end well for him. He has been told that he will be arrested if he goes. But even with the possibility of arrest or death, one who wholly belongs to Christ can say, "It is better to die than to waste my life!" The pages of church history are filled with believers who embraced this ideal.

While you and I may not be facing death as imminently as some, we are facing the uncertainty of the future. But faith doesn't balk at the unknown—"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going" (Heb. 11:8).

It is better to step into the future and risk your life for Christ's sake than to die sitting on the sidelines waiting for the future to become completely clear. No matter how long you wait, you will never completely figure out the future. But when you go forth into the unknown, you have the assurance and confidence that God will be there with you and for you (Matt. 28:20, Rom. 8:31).

**Third, it means to have the courage to keep going even in suffering.** In the next verse, however, Paul goes on to say that although he does not know what will happen to him at Jerusalem, he is sure of one thing: "The Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me" (Acts 20:23). It's not just that the path ahead simply disappears. While most details were not known, Paul knew that sometimes the path—yes, even the "correct path"—leads through pain.

I have to admit that I'm not "into" pain. There are three primary sources of pain in the life of a believer. First, we must never forget that whom God loves He chastens (Heb. 12:6-7). Sometimes, because of our own actions, that we must experience the pain of the Holy

Spirit's correction. Second, Paul tells us that a "messenger of Satan" tormented him. This "thorn" in his flesh was something that produced pain in his life (2 Cor. 12:7b-9). Last, people can inflict pain. Unfortunately, this can even be done by those within the church. Harsh words, critical spirits, judgmental attitudes, and holier-than-you dispositions are hurtful. If you can honestly say that it is better to lose your life than waste it, you can be content with **uncertainties** about tomorrow, but you can also be content with the **certainty** that some of your tomorrows are going to hurt.

**Fourth, it means to live so that your life is a proper testimony.** Paul says it like this: "I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24). Finishing your course well is a testimony to others.

Your pathway is going to be different from mine. That is okay. What matters is that God is receiving the glory for the life lived on that pathway. We Americans are so result-focused! Questions such as these may come up, supposedly to measure your success: What size is your organization? To how many souls have you witnessed? How much money have you given? How many members were added to your church?

Of course all these questions are good to ponder. But the truth is that God isn't as interested in your results as He is in your relationship with Him. We tend to focus on **doing** while God focuses on our **being**.

**This leads us to a final application.** Paul said, "I'm going to Jerusalem...." Think with me for a moment. Remember all that Paul had accomplished and been through. No doubt many of us would have counseled him to take a different ministry position or to enter a retirement community overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. "Get a hobby and just let young Timothy lead." In other words, "Paul, you have paid your dues, you have made your mark; now enjoy the rest of your life in comfort."

What is your "American Dream"? Perhaps it is to have more land, another car, a boat, a vacation home, or a retirement account that is fully funded. Frankly, you may not be in a position to "lose your life for Christ" if you are too focused on satisfying your present-tense desires.

Now let me be clear. I am not suggesting that you cannot have these things or plan for the future and enjoy a good retirement. I am suggesting that if you do these things to the exclusion of losing your life for Christ—you have your priorities wrong.

Listen again as Paul gives his final thoughts to the Ephesians. Listen to his heart! Lean in and you will hear, "It is better to lose your life than to waste it." ■

*(All Scripture quotations are from the ESV.)*



# God's Bible School's Influence on Juji Nakada, Oswald Chambers, and Lettie Cowman

by Michelle Ule

A short, stocky, Japanese evangelist was the connection between God's Bible School and two of the most noteworthy devotional writers of the 20th century.

Juji Nakada, the "D.L. Moody of Japan," had just finished a year at Moody Bible Institute when he began traveling around the United States. While in Chicago, he had met Charles and Lettie Cowman, who later moved to Cincinnati and were among the first students to enroll at GBS in 1900. Juji, already impressed with Moody Bible Institute, was keen to learn about this newly established school. He later wrote to Knapp that God laid it on his heart to open a school similar to GBS in Tokyo. In February 1901, Nakada and the Cowmans founded the Tokyo Bible Institute—and eventually the Oriental Missionary Society (OMS; now known as One Mission Society).

Five years later, while traveling in England, Nakada met Oswald Chambers—another holiness preacher. The two men formed a strong friendship. Nakada's stories about Moody, GBS, and the OMS Tokyo Bible Institute fascinated Chambers. The two preached together throughout 1906, until Nakada convinced Chambers to travel with him to Japan to visit the Tokyo Bible Institute—and to stop at GBS along the way.

"Brother Nakada and I are being handed around through these States in a wonderful way. The saints are actually squabbling over us! All we do is to eat and sleep and talk, and God witnesses. It is doing me endless good. I have only one desire growing more and more, that the Lord may be glorified."  
(Oswald Chambers: *Abandoned to God*, p.103)

The two arrived in Cincinnati just in time for the 1906 GBS Christmas Convention. The Japanese and Englishman were charmed by what they saw, and when Chambers learned the school had been praying for a teacher, he accepted the job for the next six months while Nakada visited churches.

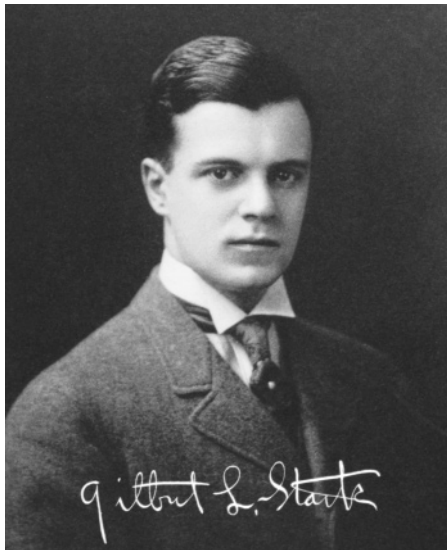
JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2023

BACKGROUND PHOTO:  
Oswald Chambers  
(GBS archives)

RIGHT: Juji Nakada and  
Lettie Cowman in 1939  
(courtesy OMS)







When Nakada returned in July, the two men traveled by train across the United States and sailed to Japan. Nakada's effervescent personality impressed a Yale student, Gilbert Stark, who took the same train and ship to Japan that summer.

"Some of our fellow passengers are very interesting. At the head of the list is Juji Nakada San, a Japanese Christian missionary.... He is one of the brightest, jolliest, cleverest, most

cultured men that I have ever known. A master of jiu-jitsu, [he accomplished] some of his early conversions...by sitting on the neophyte's head and talking to him of the glories to come. He has told us invaluable things about the religions and prejudices of the people, and knowing him has revolutionized our ideas of his people, of the possibility of introducing Christianity into the Orient, and the present attitude of the United States towards Japan." (*Letters of Gilbert Stark*, p.6)

On July 27, 1906, a beaming Juji Nakada introduced his holiness teacher friend Oswald Chambers, the eventual author of *My Utmost for His Highest*, to his holiness OMS co-founder Lettie Cowman, future author of *Streams in the Desert*. Chambers wanted to visit the Tokyo Bible Institute to learn about foreign evangelism. He wanted to see foreign missions in action.

Nakada and Chambers spent several days preaching at the institute and at evening evangelistic services (Nakada served as translator). Chambers wrote, "The eager hunger

after salvation and the Bible, the expectations, are all elements of human nature's wonderful and perplexing mystery. Truly the noblest work in this world is making disciples in His Name." (*Oswald Chambers: Abandoned to God*, p.130)

Several weeks later, Nakada waved goodbye as Chambers sailed to England with the Cowmans. After seeing the importance of Bible-based missionary training at both God's Bible School and Tokyo Bible Institute, Oswald Chambers resolved to open his own school in London.

Chambers returned to God's Bible School while speaking throughout the eastern U.S. summer camp meeting circuit in 1909 and 1910. During the 1910 season, Chambers and his bride Biddy crossed paths with Charles and Lettie Cowman. The two couples no doubt discussed the realities of running a Bible school and reflected on their dear friend, Nakada.

In 1911, Oswald and Biddy Chambers established the Bible Training Institute in Clapham Common, London. They trained students for the mission field for the next four years before leaving for Egypt as YMCA missionaries to ANZAC soldiers during WWI.

Meanwhile, back in Japan, Nakada continued preaching every night at Tokyo's Gospel Hall and wrote and edited his monthly *Tongues of Fire* holiness magazine.



LEFT: Evangelist Juji Nakada, known as the "Dwight Moody of Japan" (GBS archives)

ABOVE: Wedding photo of Juji and Katsuko Nakada, 1894 (courtesy Wikimedia Commons)



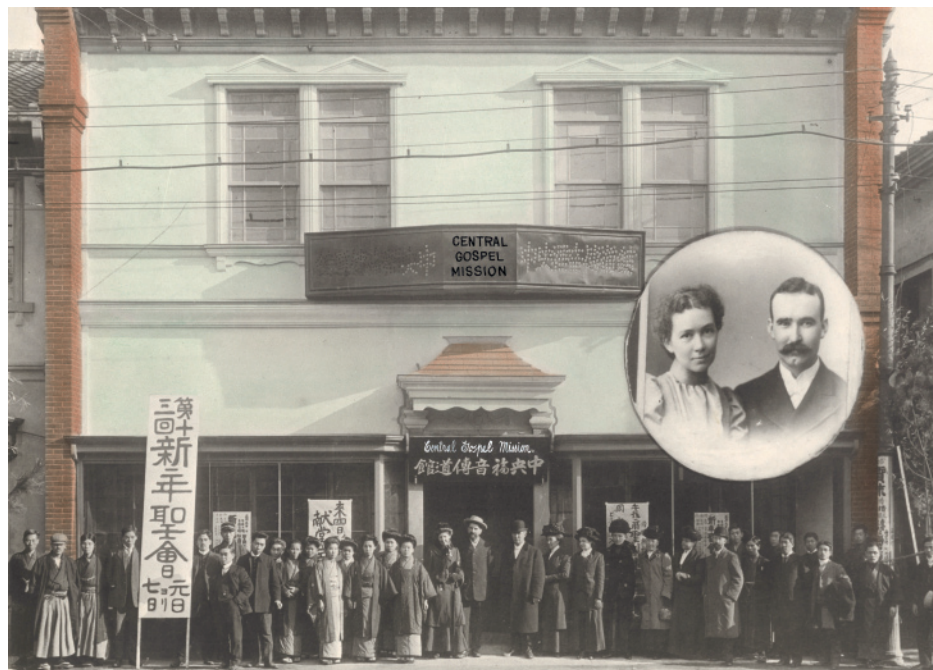


Nakada's introduction to God's Bible School through the Cowmans, and his friendship with Chambers, led to publishing opportunities. While Nakada never wrote for *God's Revivalist*, Chambers penned a monthly article for the magazine over several years, and Lettie Cowman did the same. As early OMS missionaries came from GBS alumni, friends, and financial donors, *God's Revivalist* was an important lifeline to OMS supporters.

God works in strange and mysterious ways. Juji Nakada, a man born to a Japanese samurai family, was instrumental in the lives of a cerebral British teacher and an American missionary couple. Conversions, students, articles, and two devotionals in print for nearly 100 years are the result.

Not to mention the most important effect: all of the saints converted through their ministry who are in heaven today! ■

**Michelle Ule** is an essayist, the author of two novels and five best-selling novellas, and a biographer of *Biddy Chambers* (Mrs. Oswald Chambers: The Woman behind the World's Bestselling Devotional) and *Lettie Cowman* (Overflowing Faith: Lettie Cowman and Streams in the Desert). She has traveled the world in conjunction with writing her WWI coming-of-age novel, *A Poppy in Remembrance*, and has written over 100 posts about Oswald and Biddy Chambers on her blog, [www.michelleule.com](http://www.michelleule.com).



**TOP: Central Gospel Mission, Tokyo, Japan, with Charles and Lettie Cowman (inset)** (courtesy One Mission Society)

**IMMEDIATELY ABOVE: The Juji Nakada Family in 1910** (courtesy One Mission Society)

**LEFT: A women's meeting in Tokyo Bible Training Center, 1907. Juji Nakada stands on the back row, second from left. Oswald Chambers is seated in the center of the back row next to Lettie and Charles Cowman.** (courtesy One Mission Society)





ball, volleyball, dodgeball, nine-square, giant soccer, and jousting! GBS representatives provided several informational sessions for prospective students.

The second VIP Day was held April 20-21 on the GBS

campus in Cincinnati, OH. Over 130 prospective students attended and took part in capture the flag, Nerf® wars, basketball, soccer and

## TWO VIP DAYS

GBS hosted two VIP Days this year. The first was a lock-in at Rocky Top Sports Complex on April 13 in Gatlinburg, TN, in conjunction with the InterChurch Holiness Convention. More than 200 prospective students attended and enjoyed eighteen courts of fun activities including basket-



VIP Day guests on the GBS campus



VIP Day guests on Cincinnati's Purple People Bridge

volleyball tournaments, music, campfires, s'mores, and more! The VIP guests were also able to participate in the College Choir, Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble, a chapel service, and multiple interactive workshops centering around healthcare, ministry, and videography. The goal of these activities was to help prospective students to be open to God's calling in their lives. The day ended with a service featuring the College Choir and SWSE, followed by activities outside for everyone to enjoy.

# REVIVALIST FAMILY

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

## BIRTH



To **Crystal (Kessen) (BA, AA '15)** and **James ("J.J.") Powers (BA '15)**, a daughter, **Allyson Joy (Ally)**, born May 4, 2023, at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Lawrenceburg, IN. Crystal teaches music at the St. John Lutheran School in Aurora, IN, gives private lessons, and conducts a local string orchestra. J.J. is a mail carrier for the U.S. Postal Service. Both are very involved in their church, filling in wherever needed. The Powerses live in Aurora, IN.

## DEATHS



**Donna M. Battles**, 75, of New Waterford, OH, passed away, Sunday, April 2, 2023, at East Liverpool City Hospital. Born, June 22, 1947, in Greenville, PA, she was the daughter of Russell and Marion (Moyer) Greenlee.

Donna graduated from the GBS high school in 1965. She was a homemaker and mother who believed taking care of her family and caring for her children was the most important job in the world. Donna was a member of Lisbon Pilgrim Holiness Church.

Donna is survived by her daughters, Debbie DuBray, Karla Grogg, and Rachelle Adams; sisters, Barbara Spence and Lucinda Clevenger; 16 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.





GBS combined choirs and orchestra perform on the courthouse steps for the National Day of Prayer.

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The college choir and orchestra teamed up with Aldersgate Christian Academy's high school choir to minister in an annual National Day of Prayer service on the steps of the courthouse in downtown Cincinnati on Thursday, May 4. The orchestra performed a prelude and arrange-

ments of the National Anthem and "God Bless America" and accompanied the combined choirs for "Your Grace Still Amazes Me" and "It Is Finished." Dr. Rodney Loper led the ceremony, and prayers were offered for those who govern and adjudicate (Rev. Don Davison), for America (Dr. Stephen Oliver), for those who protect and serve (Chandler Witter), for those who educate (Dr. Kristin Bird),

and for families and those who minister (Rev. Dr. Robert Anderson).

## YEAR-END STAFF AND FACULTY MEETING

The end-of-year staff and faculty meeting on May 10 was a time for looking back over the previous school year as well as looking forward to the next. Several moves scheduled during the summer were announced. These include inter-campus moves as well as personnel changes, which will be highlighted in an upcoming issue of *God's Revivalist*. However, we make note here of two employees who will be departing from our campus family.

**David Hartkopf** will be leaving GBS for a new ministry opportunity this summer. After graduating with a BA in Christian School Music Education from GBS (2007), David continued his education at Miami University (Oxford, OH) where he received his MM in Music Performance (2009). That fall, he ➡



Pastor David Crosley celebrated Donna's life at Arner Funeral Chapel, Chester, WV. Private interment was held at Sheakleyville Cemetery, Sheakleyville, PA.



**Ruby Jean Bable**, 88, of Bulger, PA, passed away April 6, 2023, in her home. She was born December 10, 1934, to Burman and Bertha (Belk) Burton. Ruby attended Brownsville High School, Brownsville, PA, before attending God's Bible School and College. She married George Bable on May 8, 1954.

Ruby was a member of the Bible Methodist Church, McDonald, PA, where she taught Sunday school, provided eldercare and childcare, and was a companion aide. She enjoyed cooking, baking, painting, and gardening.

Ruby is survived by her husband, George; son, George Jr.; three daughters, Sherri West, Lori Bable, and

Linda Bable; 10 grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. Funeral services were held at William G. Neal Funeral Homes, Washington, PA, with Pastor Randy Brown officiating. Burial followed in Washington Cemetery.



**Gene L. Pope**, 90, of Bluffton, IN, passed away on Saturday afternoon, April 15, 2023, at Bluffton Regional Medical Center, with his family at his side. He was born July 31, 1932, in Raub, ND, to Fred T. and Vivian (Olson) Pope. On Oct. 11, 1953, Gene and Evelyn E. Sweeny were married. They celebrated 70 years of marriage together.

He taught at Jay County Schools, Portland, IN, for 50 years; the last two years, he taught special needs students. After retirement, he continued as a substitute teacher. He also taught at the Kirkland Bible Institute, ➡

➡ accepted a position in the Division of Music at GBS. It was Garen Wolf's final year as division chair, and David served as assistant director of the Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble that year, assuming the position of director the following fall. In addition to his directing/teaching responsibilities, David again furthered his education at the Robert E. Weber Institute for Worship Studies, Jacksonville, FL, where he currently is a candidate for Doctor of Worship Studies.

**Shane Muir** also received a degree from GBS—a BA in Intercultural Studies and World Missions (2009). In 2011 he accepted a position working in graphic design. Over the 12 years he worked for GBS, videography was added to his portfolio of responsibilities and became

increasingly prominent. Shane has moved to Fairbanks, AK, where he continues to work in digital media as a freelance artist.

Gifts were awarded to various employees for milestones of service. **5 years** (pen/pencil set): Anthony Arender, Nicholas Black, Michael DeStefano, Lisa Profitt, Joe Reimann, Allison Turner; **10 years** (personalized clock): Elias Abraham, Kent Stetler; **15 years** (leather binder): Melissa Gresham, Stephen Harms; **35 Years** (crystal plaque): Ken Farmer.

### **MUSIC DIVISION ENDS SCHOOL YEAR WITH CONCERTS**

The GBS Division of Music ended spring semester with two

major concert presentations in the Adcock Memorial Chapel.

### **Oratorio Choir**

On Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 7:00 pm, the Oratorio Choir, directed by Mr. Tim Crater and accompanied by Mrs. Martha Miller (piano), performed "A Celebration of Harmony." Assisting were Ms. Jessica Smith (organ) and Channing Martin (bass guitar/percussion). The selections were written and arranged by a variety of composers in largely three categories: classical choir, chamber vocal ensemble, and spirituals. Featured selections included "Agnus Dei" by Andrea Thomas and "Baba Yetu" by Christopher Tin. All selections were well-received by the audience. Mr. Crater

## **REVIVALIST FAMILY** continued

➡ Paoli, IN. Gene was instrumental in setting up the Alternative School in Pennville, IN.

He served as music minister at the East 18th Street Wesleyan Church in Muncie, as well as on the board of All Tribes Missionary Council. He was involved with two youth camp ministries: International Holiness Youth Camp, Greenfield, IN, and Athens Youth Camp, Athens, MI.

Survivors include his wife, Evelyn; two children, Twila (Pope) Dubbeld, and Allen Pope; eight grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; a sister, Violet Veasey; and a brother, Richard. Funeral services were held at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton with Pastors Dennis Campbell and Paul Walden officiating. Burial followed at Six Mile Cemetery, Bluffton.



**Rev. John L. Dye, Sr.**, 84, passed away April 26, 2023, at his home. He was born in Rochester, PA, on March 12, 1939, to Grady and Marybelle Dye. John was "born again" at the age of 15. At age 22, he began pastoral ministry with the Allegheny Wesleyan Methodist Connection, serving churches in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia. He retired in 2018 and moved to Salem, OH.

John attended Central Wesleyan College in Central, SC, and was a 1962 graduate of Allegheny Wesleyan College. He served as alumni president and on various connection boards. His quiet, humble spirit was deeply admired by all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Louise (Elsey), and is survived by his loving wife, Shirley (Richardson); two daughters, Cindy Haight and Karen Blankenship; son, John L. Dye, Jr.; seven grandchildren; one great-grandson; one great-granddaughter to be born in July; six sisters and three brothers. Funeral services were held at the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Salem, OH, Rev. Stanley Grabill officiating. Burial followed in the Union Cemetery, Titusville, PA.

John's daughters attended GBS and met their husbands there: Cindy (BA '85) and Karen (BA '86). His wife Shirley (BA '72) served as assistant secretary to the president (1969-1972) and secretary to the president (1975-1983). John was a GBS donor, *God's Revivalist* subscriber, and frequent visitor at school functions.

**Rev. William Robert Tillis**, 84, passed away April 27, 2023, at the Jupiter Medical Center, Jupiter, FL. He was born to Roy and Viola (Harris) Tillis on March 2,





Mr. Tim Crater directs the Oratorio Choir.

publicly thanked the choir members for another great year, and the choir's graduating seniors were called to the front and applauded.

### Symphonic Wind & String Ensemble

On Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 7:00 pm, the Division of Music

presented "Nostalgia," an entertaining program of popular concert music. The performance featured a nearly 60-piece orchestra directed by Mr. David Hartkopf, assisted by Ms. Jessica Smith (piano). Several alumni guest musicians and students from Aldersgate Christian Academy joined the Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble for the evening. All enjoyed the opportunity to conclude the school year with fun music.

The concert included two major classical works: *English Folk Song Suite* (Ralph Vaughn Williams) and *Piano Concerto in A Minor*, Movement 1 (Edvard Grieg, arranged by Marc Oliver) featuring Mr. Michael DeStefano on piano. The final piece, "Over the ➡



1939, in Langsville, OH. He and his ten siblings were raised by hard-working, God-fearing parents who instilled in their family a love for the Lord. William married Naomi J. Carroll in 1959. Early in their marriage, he felt the call of God, and they moved to Cincinnati to attend GBS. Their ministry spanned over sixty years as they remained obedient to God's call. In addition to pastoring various churches in Ohio and Pennsylvania, they also served over fifty years in evangelism, both singing and preaching.



William is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Naomi; his daughter Connie (Tillis) Forney; three grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; two siblings, Curtis Tillis and Goldie Ratcliff; and a host of nieces and nephews. A brief memorial tribute was held during a morning worship service at the Hobe Sound Bible Church where the Tillises have wintered during recent decades. The funeral was held at the Beavertown God's Missionary Church, Middleburg, PA, officiated by Rev. Alan Walter, assisted by Kevin Forney, Rev. Dwight Rine, and Rev. Allen Stump. Interment followed in the Mountain View Cemetery, Penns Creek, PA.



**Gary David Gattone**, 85, of Fredericksburg, PA, formerly of Allentown, passed away on Saturday, April 29, 2023, at the Lebanon Valley Home in Annville. He was born in Reading, PA, February 6, 1938, to Rev. Verino Gary and Catherine (Luppold) Gattone. He was the husband of Irene (Cole) Gattone, of Fredericksburg. They had celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 21, 2022.

During his working years, Gary was a pipefitter for Western Electric in Allentown and also had his own plumbing business. He attended the God's Missionary Church in Lebanon while living in Fredericksburg. He enjoyed using his construction skills to serve God at his church and at Bible colleges and was a GBS donor and a *God's Revivalist* subscriber.

He is survived by his wife, Irene; sons, David and Kevin; and five grandchildren, including GBS students Ariana (Gattone) Johnstone (BA '22) and Dominic Gattone (current). Funeral services were held at the God's Missionary Church, Lebanon, PA. Interment followed at the Wenger Cemetery in Jonestown. ■



➡ "Rainbow" (H. Arlen and Y. Harburg arranged by Warren Barker) featured guest vocalist, alumna Mrs. Brittany (Cravens) Glick (soprano).

At the completion of the concert, Director David Hartkopf was presented with a huge, framed "purple gold star" (an inside joke) and a box of gifts recalling significant memories shared by the organization. It was a rather emotional ending to David's final SWSE concert. After 13 years of directing the orchestra, he and his family are moving to a new venue of ministry (see p.9). Before pronouncing the benediction, Mr. Garen Wolf, Chair Emeritus of the Music Division, reminisced about his relationship with David during his student years at GBS and during the transitional period when David was the assistant director.

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

## SPRING PICNIC

The Spring Picnic was held Wednesday, May 3, at Miami Whitewater Forest, Harrison, OH, which, among other attractions, is known for scenic trails, a lake with a variety of boating options, and a 9-hole disc golf course. Students and staff enjoyed playing softball, volleyball, disc golf, spikeball, and cornhole. Many enjoyed hiking the trails or roller-skating on the paved paths. The campus children had access to great playground equipment. As has been the tradition for many years, Floyd Hyatt was in charge of the grill with help from Sonja Vernon and Daryl Muir of Student Affairs.

## CANDLELIGHT PRAYER MEETING AND BAPTISMAL SERVICE

The close of the school year and beginning of Commissioning Weekend was marked by an outdoor candlelight prayer meeting and baptismal service on Wednesday, May 17, on the campus south lawn. Students, staff, family, and friends enjoyed a wonderful time of singing and testimonies. The service honored the graduating college seniors, and each shared a personal testimony including future plans. Sev-

eral students were also baptized in a portable baptistry.

The service culminated in a candle-lighting ceremony as the attendees, holding small candles, passed the flame from candle to candle until the hillside was lit by the many tiny, dancing lights, each representing those who leave campus to minister in various parts of the world.

## COMMISSIONING WEEKEND

Thursday evening, May 18, was the opening service of Commissioning Weekend. President Rodney Loper introduced the guest speaker, Rev. Jonathan Slagenweit, pastor of the Bible Methodist Church, Easley, SC. President Loper noted that when he had been senior pastor of Hobe Sound Bible Church, Hobe Sound, FL, Jonathan had been the youth minister.

Rev. Slagenweit read John 21:15-19 as the text for his message "Who Do You Love?" He noted that this passage came in the middle of a conversation Jesus was having with





Peter, who had recently “failed” as a disciple—he had denied Jesus three times. Peter had gone back to doing what he knew best—fishing. But now he was even failing as a fisherman! Then Jesus called to him from the shore, telling him to cast his net on the other side of the boat. When the nets were filled with fish, Peter recognized that the man on the shore was the risen Lord.

In the discussion which ensued, Jesus asked Peter three times, “Do you love me?” Jesus was asking Peter if he loved Him more than anything in this world. He wasn’t asking, “Are you going to deny Me again?” or, “What did you learn from your failure?” No, He was more concerned about the heart.

Jesus asks the same question to us today: “Do you love me?” We will only be effective in the ministry of God as it flows from a love for Jesus. If we get that right, it will transform our effectiveness as witnesses to the world.

We are thankful for how God used Rev. Slagenweit in these services to bring help and victory to many. Each Commissioning Week-end sermon is available for viewing on the GBS Facebook page.

## COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT

Commencement exercises took place Saturday, May 20, at 10:00 a.m. in the Adcock Memorial Chapel. Mrs. Martha Miller, organist, played “Pomp and Circumstance” as school officials and the graduates filed in and took their places on the platform. Robert England, Jr., GBS board chair, welcomed the crowd. Tim Crater led the congregation in singing J. Wilbur Chapman’s “Our Great Savior.” Darline Line delivered the invocation. Rev. Todd Hurst read the class Scripture verses (Colossians 2:6-10, 3:1-3).

A 13-member chorale, which included three graduating seniors



2023 GBS College Graduates

## 2023 GRADUATES OF GOD'S BIBLE SCHOOL, COLLEGE, AND MISSIONARY TRAINING HOME\*

### HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS

Cameron Alexander  
Alex Donohue  
**Joseph Gichuru**, +  
Valedictorian  
Kamryn Glenn  
Ryan Gresham  
Arsema Hadgu  
Nancy Valenzuela  
Ethan Janofski  
Casey Kyle •  
Brooklyn Loper  
Lauren Loper •  
Kaitlyn Marshall +  
Jacob Mason  
Laura Medrano  
Charles Mitchell  
Adrianna Oliver +  
Micole Pickett  
Kimberly Pommering  
Ethan Ratcliff  
Grant Sackett  
Gwen Uhlenbrock  
Israel Wailo  
**Helina Weldu**, +  
Salutatorian

### UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

**AA IN BIBLE & THEOLOGY**  
Hannah E. Kangas

**AAS IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION**  
MacKenzie Pratt

**AA IN GENERAL BUSINESS**  
Ashlynn Thomas \*\*

**AA IN GENERAL STUDIES**  
Bethany Derbidge \*\*  
Justin Matlock  
Isaac D. Singleton

**AAS IN INTERCULTURAL STUDIES & WORLD MISSIONS**  
Darin Baldwin

**AAS IN MUSIC MINISTRY**  
Karissa Stence

**BA IN BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL STUDIES**  
Aaron Gillespie  
Zane Glen Hurst \*\*  
Christopher McCain  
Eric James Miller  
Carl D. Rogers \*\*

**BA IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY**  
Samuel Isaiah Denton \*  
Patrick Kariuki  
Kinyanjui \*\*  
Benjamin Robert Perez \*  
Jonathan E. Rice

**BA IN CHURCH & FAMILY MINISTRY**  
Deborah McGill \*

**BA IN CHURCH MUSIC (NON-PERFORMANCE TRACK)**  
Julianna Elaine Rowe

**BA IN INTEGRATIVE STUDIES**  
**Emily Grace Albertson**,  
\*\*\* Salutatorian  
Kadia Satraghan Constant  
Samuel Reuben Epp, \*\*  
Jacob Messner \*  
Callie Pottenger \*\*

**BA IN MINISTERIAL EDUCATION**  
**Kyle Isaac Johnstone**, \*\*\*  
Valedictorian

**BA IN MUSIC EDUCATION (CHORAL/GENERAL MUSIC TRACK)**  
Jennifer Melinda De  
Leon \*

**BA IN TEACHER EDUCATION (ELEMENTARY)**  
Melanie Hilling

### GRADUATE DEGREES

**MA IN BIBLICAL STUDIES**  
Shane Anthony Walters \*\*\*

**MA IN MINISTRY**  
Steven C. Davis II \*\*\*  
Eric D. Kuhns \*

\* pending completion of all course requirements  
• online graduates of Aldersgate Christian Academy  
*italics indicates graduates in absentia*

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



Valedictorian Kyle Johnstone receive awards from Dr. Allan Brown.

(Jennifer De Leon, Samuel Epp, and Julianna Rowe), sang a breathtakingly beautiful arrangement of Dorothy A. Thrupp's "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us." Rev. Jonathan Slagenweit gave the address, "Foundation Restoration," an excerpt of which can be found on page 16.



Dr. Jana Pop presents Jennifer De Leon with the Academic Excellence and Outstanding Musical Achievement Award.

Following the address, each graduate came to the front of the platform as Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Aaron Profitt read his or her name. Each then received a diploma from President Loper.

Special awards were presented, beginning with Dr. Profitt recognizing Kyle Johnstone as valedictorian

and Emily Albertson as salutatorian. Each received a plaque.

The GBS academic division chairs presented the following undergraduate student awards: **Division of Ministerial Education** (Dr. Allan Brown, Chair): *Excellence in Biblical Greek Award*, Josiah England; *Excellence in Biblical Hebrew Award*, Kyle Johnstone; *Oswald Chambers Ministerial Leadership Award*, Kyle Johnstone. **Division of Music** (Dr. Jana Pop, Chair): *Academic Excellence and Outstanding Musical Achievement*, Jennifer Melinda De Leon. **Division of Professional Studies** (Lyle Witt, Chair): *Educated Christian Award*, Jennifer Melinda De Leon; *Oscar Johnson Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Service*, Emily Albertson.

## MASTER OF ARTS GRADUATES

**Shane Anthony Walters** received an MA in Biblical Studies, a 36-hour degree designed to equip students with advanced exegetical skills and theological understanding so that they are prepared to teach high school and undergraduate levels. He chose GBS because he wanted an education that is solidly anchored in Scripture, avoids a narrow-mindedness by engaging with a breadth of theological perspectives, and balances academic rigor and personal transformation. Shane has recently returned from the mission field to pastor in Maryland. He plans to pursue further education and eventually a PhD in hopes of developing written material for the Conservative Holiness tradition.

**Steven C. Davis II** received an MA in Ministry, a 36-hour degree that weds biblical and theological learning with practical ministry training. He chose GBS as a starting point for

further accredited graduate education because of its doctrinal alignment with his faith tradition. He commented, "The professors are experts in their field, yet they clearly try to help you be a better preacher, teacher, and Christian.... Most helpful to me was learning how to engage well with people with whom I disagree. [GBS Professor] Dr. Stephen Smith modeled how to understand a position before critiquing it." Steven currently teaches a teen Bible class, is involved with music ministry, mentors a student who teaches a teenage Sunday school class, and preaches as needed.



Shane Walters is hooded by Dr. Stephen Smith.

**Eric D. Kuhns** received an MA in Ministry after having been a missionary in Honduras for over a decade. He chose GBS because he wanted to learn more about church planting and sharpen his knowledge of Scripture in order to minister more effectively. The church multiplication practicum courses he took gave him the tools he needed to start two churches and train others to be leaders of discipleship groups. He is currently planting his third church. ■

Would you like to elevate the spiritual level of the believers you pastor? Do you want to be a more equipped Christian apologist? Would you like to get a better handle on the doctrines of Scripture? If you want to study the Bible at a deeper level and enhance your ministry effectiveness, our Master of Arts programs can help you do just that. We offer 36-hour degrees in Apologetics, Biblical Studies, Theology, and Ministry. Our programs are accredited, affordable, and fully online. For more information, visit [gbs.edu/gradinfo](https://gbs.edu/gradinfo) or email [gradinfo@gbs.edu](mailto:gradinfo@gbs.edu).



Graduate Program Director Dr. Philip Brown recognized the 2023 MA recipients who were then hooded by Dr. Stephen Smith. (See separate article, p.14.)

President Loper conferred the degrees on the graduating class of 2023, and Aroldo De Leon Solis offered the benediction.

## ACADEMY GRADUATION

Aldersgate Christian Academy held its graduation ceremony at 7:00 p.m., May 26, in the J. Wesley Adcock Chapel. After the processional, Mr. Jon DeBolt gave the invocation.

Principal Tim Makcen made various special recognitions. Five seniors received Academic Honors Diplomas and blue-and-white tasseled cords in recognition of their excellence in academic achievement for having completed honors courses: Joseph Gichuru, Arsema Hadgu, Kaitlyn Marshall, Adrianna Oliver, and Helina Weldu.

High school valedictorian was Joseph Gichuru, with a GPA of 4.21 as well as 24 hours of completed college credit. Helina Weldu graduated as salutatorian with a GPA of 4.08. They both received honorary plaques and a GBS Scholarship and made brief remarks. Eighth Grade honors went to Samuel Pop (valedictorian) and Jion Lee (salutatorian).

Principal Makcen presented the (U.S.) **President's Education Award**. This honor is granted to academically excelling students who rank above the ninetieth percentile of the nation's 2023 graduates, have a GPA of 3.5 or higher, and have scored high in the national standardized achievement tests. Those receiving the *Gold President's Award* were: eighth graders Johanna Bueno,



# ALDERSGATE FORUM

## "Expository Preaching"

featuring keynote speaker  
**Dr. R.G. Hutchison**

*Higher Ground Conference & Retreat Center  
West Harrison, IN*

### October 24-26, 2023

*Cost per person: \$200  
Register early and receive a \$50 discount*

More info at [gbs.edu/aldersgate-forum](https://gbs.edu/aldersgate-forum)

Liam Debolt, Charlotte Downing, Jion Lee, Samuel Pop, Nia Reimann, Chandler Watters; and high school seniors Joseph Gichuru, Arsema Hadgu, Lauren Loper, Kaitlyn Marshall, Adrianna Oliver, and Helina Weldu. Those receiving the *Silver President's Award* were: eighth graders Fabien Izara-Diaz, Nadia Speed; and high school seniors Ryan Gresham, Casey Kyle, Brooklyn Loper, Micole Pickett, Grant Sackett, and Gwen Uhlenbrock.

After a special song, "Goodness of God" (All my life You have been faithful), was sung by the entire graduating class, Principal Makcen introduced the guest speaker, Joseph Ratcliff, a GBS alumnus (HS '01, BA '08) and current ACA Pastor, Bible teacher, and chapel leader affectionately known as "Pastor Joey." (His son, Ethan, a member of the Class of 2023, is a fourth generation ACA graduate.) He encouraged the graduates to find their purpose in Christ and to allow Christ to live through them.

Dr. Aaron Profit, Vice President for Academic Affairs, assisted Principal Makcen in presenting the diplomas. Family and friends took pictures as graduates turned their tassels. After a final round of applause, Dr. Steven Oliver offered the benediction. A reception followed in the cafeteria. ■



Aldersgate Christian Academy graduates





COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

# FOUNDATION RESTORATION

BY JONATHAN SLAGENWEIT

It is my honor to share in the commencement exercises and this momentous day.

Dr. Tony Evans tells the story about noticing a crack appearing on his wall. He called a painter and asked him to come fix the crack. The man came, used drywall mud, and repainted the area, making it look as good as new. About a month later the crack reappeared on his wall. Again the painter came and fixed it. But a month and a half later the crack reappeared, bringing its whole family along with it—aunts, uncles, cousins—as it spread across the wall like a huge spiderweb.

This time, Dr. Evans called a new painter, thinking the previous one wasn't very good. When the new painter arrived, he said to Dr. Evans, "You don't have an issue with cracks in your wall." Dr. Evans said, "Excuse me?" The painter said, "You don't have an issue with cracks in your wall; you have an issue with your foundation.... The cracks are just revealing the problem with the foundation."

Jesus ended the Sermon on the Mount by saying, "Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock" (Matt. 7:24). He completed the parable by telling about another man—a foolish man who also built a house. Both men faced storms. When the rains fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on each house. The wise man's house did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. But the foolish man's house fell because it had been founded on the sand. Both had heard the instructions, and both built on a foundation. The difference was in the choice of foundations.

This parable reminds us that not every house, not every life, and not every culture will be able to stand against the storms. In John 17, as Jesus was praying for His disciples, He said, "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth" (v.17).

We are living in a day when truth is under attack. Graduates, you are entering a world that says truth is relative—that promotes the idea that you can define truth however you want. But we are seeing cracks on that wall.

I don't believe those who are attacking truth believe they are destroying the foundation upon which the world and societies are built. I think they genuinely feel that truth is indeed relative and that it will result in a better society. The reality is that the world is exchanging the truth for a lie. Their damaged foundation causes the cracks we see and results in a lot of splintering and breaking apart within the culture in which we live. The problem is the foundation.

Remember, Paul warned Timothy (2 Tim. 1:5) that there would come a time when people "will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths" and would "not endure sound doctrine." He said, that is the time to be ready to communicate the truth "with great patience and instruction" (v.2) and, in so doing, "fulfill your ministry."

My challenge to you as graduates is simply this: God is calling you to serve this present age. Don't busy yourself with trying to fix what's on the surface. You've learned the truth here at GBS. You've learned that the Word of God is the foundation of truth. You've learned that truth is embodied in the person of Jesus. You've learned that it's the truth that will set a person free. Take the truth you have learned and go repair crumbling foundations.

Graduates, this is your moment. Now go and share the truth of God's Word in this present age! 📖

*Adapted from the 2023 GBS commencement address by Rev. Jonathan Slagenweit, pastor of the Bible Methodist Church, Easley, SC.*



# Letters

## TO THE EDITOR

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

Just before the May issue of God's Revivalist was placed online, Pres. Rodney Loper sent Dr. Leonard Sankey the following email late Wednesday evening, April 26. Attached to the email was an advanced digital copy of the special issue honoring Dr. Sankey.

Bro. Sankey,

I trust that this email finds you well. We have been working on a little project here at GBS for the past several months to give honor to a living legend. That project is now complete, and we are getting ready to unveil it to the general public. We have dedicated the May edition of God's Revivalist in your honor. Nearly 5,000 homes will receive their hard copy in the next several days. We wanted you to have the first look, and so we have made a special "online" version for you while you wait for the hard copy to arrive.

We appreciate all that you have done for the school over these 45 years. I personally am forever grateful for your influence in my life. You are not just a holiness preacher, missionary, and leader, but you also live out your faith in the transactions of life.

With much appreciation and honor, and in Christ's name,  
Rodney

*Early the next morning, April 27, Dr. Sankey responded:*

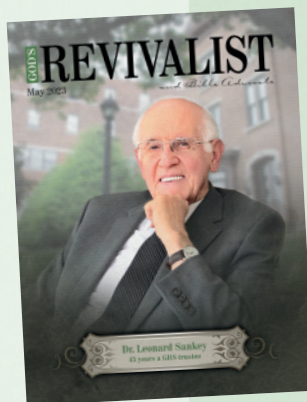
Mr. President:

I stand completely stunned! Amazed at your/GBS's generosity in dedicating an issue of God's Revivalist in my honor. Who in the world am I? I have lived a simple life for Jesus—something many others have done better and longer—propelled, admittedly, by my time at GBS. Anyway, I am overwhelmed.... LLS

*Dr. Sankey also sent this email to the editor:*

Thanks to President Loper, Ken Farmer [editor], and Kevin Moser [assistant editor/art director] for shepherding this issue to completion. I appreciate my friends and colleagues at Country Pines [company that prints and mails God's Revivalist] for their printing excellence. And many thanks to those who kindly wrote tributes that were included. My family was so gracious in their comments (and devious in their methods for keeping me from knowing that this issue was being prepared).

Dr. Leonard Sankey



The latest God's Revivalist [GR May 2023] is a superb collector's edition on the life and service of Leonard Sankey. Great articles and graphically stunning. I'm definitely keeping this issue as a collector's archive. Great job!

ROBERT SCOTT  
former Revivalist Press graphic designer  
Independence, KY

We wish to thank the editor and staff of God's Revivalist for the admirable tribute that was given to Dr. Leonard Sankey in the May 2023 issue. It was wonderful that he was recognized in this special way for his 45 years as a GBS trustee. Many wrote about the tremendous influence that Brother Sankey had on their lives. To quote the words of Janet (his wife), "To know him is to love him." And we do!

LARRY & BARBARA WIESERMAN  
Apollo, PA

What a wonderful celebration it is of Dr. Sankey and his many years of service to the Lord and this institution. Thank you, God's Revivalist editor and staff!

VALORIE QUESENBERY  
Cincinnati, OH

I do love reading your magazine so much, especially the last copy on the life of Brother Sankey. A wonderful guide for all.

MARY SWEARENGIN  
Rogersville, MO

The Sankey tribute may be the best tribute issue ever from the Revivalist Press! Well done!

DR. MICHAEL AVERY  
Former GBS President  
current Chancellor  
Cincinnati, OH



# the WORLD to WIN

[ A FOCUS ON MISSIONS ]

## The “Stans” of Central Asia

by Stephen Gibson

**G**lobal missions have not forgotten Central Asia, and outreach exists, but the challenges require new strategies and sustained efforts.

“Once terrorists seized a busload of people and made demands. The government destroyed the bus, the terrorists, and the passengers. There have been no hostage situations since then, because everyone knows that hostages are of no use in dealing with our government.”

The preceding story was told by a pastor from Uzbekistan. Think of the contrast between that scenario and the hostage situations that occur in Western countries where individual lives are valued. Imagine how the same principles would be applied to law enforcement and justice. How concerned would they be to make sure an accused person gets a fair trial and that prisoners are treated humanely?

The same disdain for individual rights applies to religion. Evangelism is illegal. Home Bible studies are illegal. Printing unapproved religious material is illegal. The pastor explained, “They consider religion too important for them to leave the decisions to individuals.” In contrast, Americans believe that religion is too important and personal to be put into the hands of the government.

There are seven countries in Central Asia whose names end with “stan.” The suffix means “land” or “place of,” so “Kazakhstan,” for example, means “land of the Kazakhs.” Five of these nations were part of the Soviet Union and still have strong Russian influence. Other “stan” regions are not independent countries, such as Dagestan in Russia and Kurdistan in Iraq.

There is barely even a façade of religious freedom in most Central Asian countries. Most are majority Muslim, and some favor Muslims, while others tend to restrict all religions. While their constitutions may promise free practice of religion, some Christians fear to be seen praying over their food in a restaurant.

Kyrgyzstan is 88% Muslim, and many of its people are not acquainted with a Chris-



*A youth Bible study recently interrupted by police*



tian. When Nuria was a child in school in Kyrgyzstan, her classmates were astonished to hear that she was not Muslim; they hardly knew that different religions existed.

What is the condition of the church in Central Asia? Sometimes we assume that the church always thrives under persecution. Persecution can purify and strengthen the faith of the church. However, long term restrictions and penalties have an exhausting and taxing effect. Christians learn to “keep their heads down” and avoid the actions that get them into trouble, such as resisting corruption or sharing the gospel outside their immediate social group.

In Kazakhstan it is illegal to have teenagers in the church without permission from their parents. That means that if a 16-year-old walks in because he was invited by a friend, the pastor has reason to be worried. The church could be fined or even closed for a while if the parents complain. Imagine how such conditions over decades would cause a church to become cautious about outreach.

Bible college training barely exists in Central Asia. Few church organizations feel able to operate such a program. And because most pastors minister to small congregations in their spare time, with little support, the job of pastor is not seen as an occupation that one would prepare for with several years of education.

Some find creative ways to evangelize and disciple. Natalie holds Bible studies called game nights or English classes for Christian young people. She has events in a coffee shop for unsaved youth where they study various



*Natalie's Coffee Shop Group*

religions or periods of history. Pastor Alex has started home Bible studies in 28 villages so far, though his work is illegal.

What can American Christians do in Central Asia? We cannot send missionaries identified as such. Businessmen and educators are more likely to be welcomed, and an American in a professional role can fellowship with the church and witness to friends.

We can offer training material to strengthen the church, but we face some challenges. One problem is that printing religious material is illegal in many Central Asian countries, though the enforcement and penalties vary.

Another challenge for local training is that many churches lack a person who feels able to teach. The leader of a house church may feel that he/she does not have a competency that deserves the title of pastor. More personal mentoring and coaching is necessary to initiate ministry training than in some other places. Patience and wisdom will be necessary as we develop a strategy for missions in Central Asia. ■

*waitresses in a coffee shop where Christians sometimes meet*



*An ancient Orthodox Church in Kyrgyzstan*



**Dr. Stephen Gibson** is president of Evangelistic Faith Missions and Holiness Pilgrim Mission. He has taught at several Bible colleges, served on mission fields, pastored a diverse inner-city church, and written courses for Shepherds Global Classroom. He and his wife Stephanie live in Williams, IN, and are the parents of six children.



*Naryn Central Mosque in Kyrgyzstan*



JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2023



## Dear Phil

### WHAT DOES PAUL MEAN WHEN HE DECLARES, "WOMAN WAS CREATED FOR THE MAN"?

**1 Corinthians 11:8-9 says, "For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man; for indeed man was not created for the woman, but woman for the man." Why does it matter that women were made for men? I feel injustice, but there must be something I'm missing, and I want to understand. —Ana**

Dear Ana,

I commend your humility, transparency, and desire to learn. I can easily see how the phrase "woman was made for the man" could feel unjust and even disparaging. Further, I grieve that some men have misused Scripture to justify abuse of women. Such Scripture twisting is abominable to God and deserves censure. Rightly understood, this passage honors women and highlights their importance in God's design. The keys to understanding Paul's meaning include (1) the meaning of the word "for," (2) the background of Genesis 1-2, and (3) the context of Paul's statement in 1 Corinthians.

Let me be clear about what "for the man" does *not* mean. It does not mean for man's ownership or for man's control. It certainly does not mean for man's use, let alone abuse. Rather, it is "for" in the sense of purpose, design, and as a complement to. Here's where the Genesis 1-2 background comes in. Man was designed to image God, to have dominion over the earth, and to multiply and fill it (Gen. 1:28). But by

himself man was insufficient (Gen. 2:18). He could not fulfill his purpose alone. He needed a helper who would correspond to him and complement him (Gen. 2:19-20). So, God created woman "for" man to complete His image, to complement man's design, and to cooperate with him in caring for creation. That's what it means that woman was made "for the man."

Your question, "Why does it matter that woman was made for man?" is a bit deeper. (I'll make it as simple as I can, but you might want to buckle up.) It matters because we were created in God's image to glorify Him.

One aspect of God's image is that there is a headship-glory relationship in the Trinity. God is the head of Christ (1 Cor. 11:3); Christ is the glory of God (Heb. 1:3; 2 Cor. 4:4-6). So, God created man and woman through Christ (see John 1:3) to reflect this headship-glory relationship.

Under the Spirit's inspiration, Paul sees at least three things in Genesis 1-2 that teach this headship-glory relationship: (1) the bodily nature of humanity (heads

produce hair), (2) the method of creation (woman taken from man), and (3) the purpose of creation (women created to help man).

With regard to the bodily nature of humanity, God designed the visible human head to represent the invisible fact that God is the head of Christ who is the head of man who is the head of woman (1 Cor. 11:3). He made the human head produce hair to represent the fact that "heads" are the source of their glory. The Father is the head and source of the Son, who is His glory. The Son is the head and source of the man, who is His glory (1 Cor. 11:7a). The man is the head and source of woman, who is his glory (1 Cor. 11:7b). And the woman is the head and source of her hair, which is her glory (1 Cor. 11:15).

With regard to the method of creation, God made woman from man, to represent that as her source, man is her head, and she is his glory. With regard to the purpose of creation, God made woman "for man" as a complement to man to show that woman is neither inferior nor superior to man; she is a teammate essential to the completion of God's mission for mankind.

So then, it matters theologically that woman was made for man, because humanity images and participates in the headship-glory relationship of our Triune God. It matters practically, because it helps explain why men must have uncovered heads (11:4, 14) and women must have covered heads when praying and prophesying (11:5-6, 13). For the meaning of "covered" and "uncovered" as well as extensive discussion of 1 Corinthians 11:2-16, see "The Glory of a Woman" available at [comeafterme.com/articles](http://comeafterme.com/articles).

Blessings,  
Phil ■

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





*These news articles are an indicator that the culture wars have largely migrated from homosexuality to gender identity. —KF*

### LEADING GENDER DYSPHORIA EXPERT'S RECOMMENDATION

Dr. Riittakerttu Kaltiala, chief psychiatrist at Tampere University, Finland's largest pediatric gender clinic, said that while it is "important to accept the child as they are," it is also necessary to recognize that "four out of five" children will grow out of their gender confusion during puberty, and it is "purposeful disinformation" to suggest that minors must medically transition due to increased risk of suicide. Her recommendation for a better course of action is "to monitor the situation, give the child peace of mind, and treat the family's anxiety and...related problems."

### STATES MOVE TO RESTRICT TRANSGENDER CHILD ABUSE

As of March 2023, 10 U.S. states have banned transgender experiments on minors, and 21 others are considering legislation to ban minors from receiving transgender hormonal "treatments" or surgery.

Those who support such treatment, which they call "gender-affirming care," tend to encourage children to have their own bodies mutilated if they feel they've been born in the wrong one. Those who oppose it simply refer to it as "child abuse." These battles will continue.

### STATE CAN TAKE CHILDREN FROM PARENTS

Washington state passed Senate Bill 5599 allowing children legally to be taken away from their parents for not consenting to gender transition procedures on their child. According to the bill, shelters could contact the Department of Children, Youth, and Families instead of parents for minors seeking reproductive health services or gender-affirming care, effectively taking away the rights of the parents. The backlash for passing the radical bill has been significant, with detractors calling it an attack on families and parents by the Left.

### PRONOUN PROTECTION

The U.S. 7th Circuit Court of appeals used a precedent to approve firing a teacher in Brownsburg (IN) Community Schools who used students' last names rather than transgender preferred names. They ruled that the school system had a legitimate reason for firing the teacher, who they said had caused "emotional harm" when he used students' last names rather than transgender preferred names because doing so went against his Christian beliefs. Meanwhile the United States Supreme Court is considering abandoning or modifying the precedent the lower court used. The SCOTUS ruling is expected in June. ■



## student focus

There were two main reasons why **JEREMY SAYU** says he decided to attend GBS: the Christian worldview focus it has and the affordability of its tuition. He describes his experience at GBS since arriving from Papua New Guinea as "amazing." He is particularly encouraged by how everyone helps each other. "The classes are practical and engaging, with a lot of discussion and hands-on experience."

Jeremy's parents have been involved in pastoral work for over 20 years. He was saved while in the 3rd grade and has been participating in church activities since that time. He spent three years in the Philippines while his parents were furthering their education.

Jeremy is studying Biblical Theology and plans to graduate in 2024. Since he loves interacting with and helping others, he is considering furthering his education in counseling (family counseling and addiction counseling). He says, "I want to be involved wherever God wants me and to help wherever I can." ■

**Seventy-five percent of our students receive some form of financial aid which enables them to attend GBS. If you would like to support students with financial needs, you may send a gift to:**

**Student Fund**  
**God's Bible School and College**  
**1810 Young Street**  
**Cincinnati, OH 45202**

**or give online anytime at**  
**[www.gbs.edu/givenow](http://www.gbs.edu/givenow)**

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2023



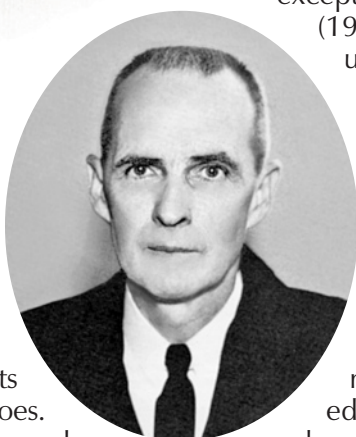


GBS alumni are encouraged to submit updates on their lives and current ministries. —KF

## REMEMBERING ALBERT MUIR

“Some people deserve much more recognition than they receive in this life.... Over the years, God’s Bible School has been blessed with more than its ‘fair share’ of unsung heroes. One, who has faithfully served for 21 years, has been Albert Muir.” Thus began a glowing tribute by President Bence Miller and Executive Editor Glenn Black in the July 31, 1980, issue of *God’s Revivalist*.

Albert E. Muir married his sweetheart, Muriel Rolston, in 1942, and settled down as editor of the local newspaper in his hometown of Dundalk, Ontario, Canada. When the two became Christians seven years later, Albert felt called into ministry and enrolled at Emmanuel Bible College, which had been founded earlier that same decade in Kitchener, Ontario. Their first daughter, Sharon, was born in 1949, and the young family moved to Espanola for a short time to work as missionaries at a nearby Indian reserve. Their second daughter, Faith, was born in 1951. Then Albert returned to Dundalk to pastor the Pilgrim Holiness Church for three years.



In 1955, Albert was hired by the printing department at God’s Bible School, and the Muirs moved into the second-floor apartment at 1805 Young Street, Cincinnati, Ohio. This marked the start of Albert’s long tenure at GBS. A son, David, was born the following year in 1956.

The Revivalist Press was a bustling enterprise in those days, filling both basement levels beneath the women’s dormitory in the Revivalist Memorial Building. With the exception of four years

(1961-65), Al served GBS until July 1980 in various (and sometimes simultaneous) capacities that included compositor, printing supervisor/superintendent, bookroom manager, press manager, office editor, and managing editor. He also serviced

the mechanical needs of the linotype and other machines, saving God’s Bible School thousands of dollars in parts and labor during his employment.

At some point, the Muirs moved into the second-floor apartment



Left: Sharon Muir, GBS yearbook photo, high school junior, 1966. Right: Faith Muir, GBS yearbook photo, high school junior, 1967.

of what is now McNeill Music Hall (1811 Young Street). That building housed three families at the time. Sharon recalls that the Shuttlesworths



The Al and Muriel Muir Family

On April 28, descendants of Albert and Muriel Muir visited the GBS campus: Left to right, they are Lt. Col. Perry Mowrer; his fiancé, Dr. Catherine Inch (granddaughter of Albert, niece of Sharon); Sharon (Muir) Hendrickson (daughter of Albert); Lady Julie Landes (granddaughter of Albert, niece of Sharon); and her husband, Keith Landes.





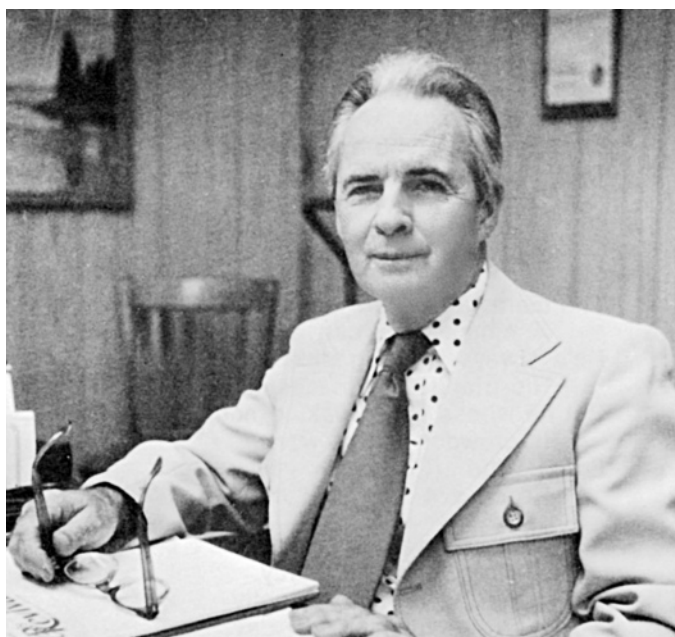
lived in the apartment above them. Later, the Muirs settled in at 518 Channing Street.

Sharon Muir attended the GBS high school for 9th and 10th grades and got married following her junior year in 1966. She met her husband, Jerry Hendrickson, who was not a GBS student, when he came to campus to play in the old “gym” beneath the Adcock Chapel. There students honed their basketball skills on a less-than adequate court with a ridiculously low ceiling. Sharon later finished her high school work at nearby Hughes High School.

Faith Muir, 18 months younger than Sharon, also attended the GBS high school for several years before marrying Carl Inch. He had not attended GBS, but his sister Carrie (Hughes) had, and she was instrumental in introducing the two. Like her sister, Faith later graduated from Hughes High School.

The *God’s Revivalist* tribute to Albert noted that he preferred working in seclusion, and many students had never even seen him. “He has never had a desire to be seen or heard. His strongest desire was to be faithful and productive. His talents talked for him. His faithfulness was louder than words. He loved his work.”

After retiring from GBS in 1980, Albert became the pastor on staff at Schaefer Busby Funeral Home, 24 West 9th Street, downtown Cincinnati. (This historic mortuary, founded in 1836, is still in operation under the ownership of Spring Grove Cemetery.) Al passed away in October 2001 and Muriel in June 2002. Both had been living with their daughter Sharon in Bright, Indiana, (near Lawrenceburg) at the time of their deaths. —KM ■



by Sonja Vernon

## BE AN ONESIPHORUS

*“May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me earnestly and found me—may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day!—and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.” —2 Tim 1:16-18 ESV*

Paul is in his second imprisonment in Rome. It won’t be long before he dies a martyr’s death. After his dramatic conversion on the Damascus road, his life has been characterized by selfless ministry in the face of persecution and danger. Now, from prison, he sends a letter to Timothy, his son in the faith, who is ministering in Ephesus. In this letter, amid passionate exhortations to his protégé, Paul states that not all of those who started out with him could stand the pressure. He reminds Timothy that “all who are in Asia turned away from me” (1:15). His imprisonment and other difficulties likely caused some to walk away, but there was one who did not. Into Paul’s prison walked Onesiphorus, the one who searched for him in order to bring encouragement, the one who refreshed him in time of need. As Paul writes to Timothy, we can hear the depth of his gratitude to this man who ran toward his needs instead of away from them, who did what was unpopular to help one of God’s servants.

When have I last inconvenienced myself to bless someone in need? Am I willing to risk my reputation in order to refresh those who are suffering, maybe even misunderstood, for the sake of the gospel? Do people thank God for me? Am I an Onesiphorus? Are you? ■

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





# GOD'S BIBLE SCHOOL & COLLEGE HOMECOMING

OCTOBER  
2023

## EVENTS

Bonfire  
Basketball/Volleyball  
Carriage Rides  
Kids Zone  
Benefit Auction

**FUN FEST FEATURING**  
Food, Fellowship,  
and Benefit Auction

## THEME

**Faithful Hands  
Serving Hearts**

## CLASSES HONORED

**1998 & 1973**

**October 13-14**

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