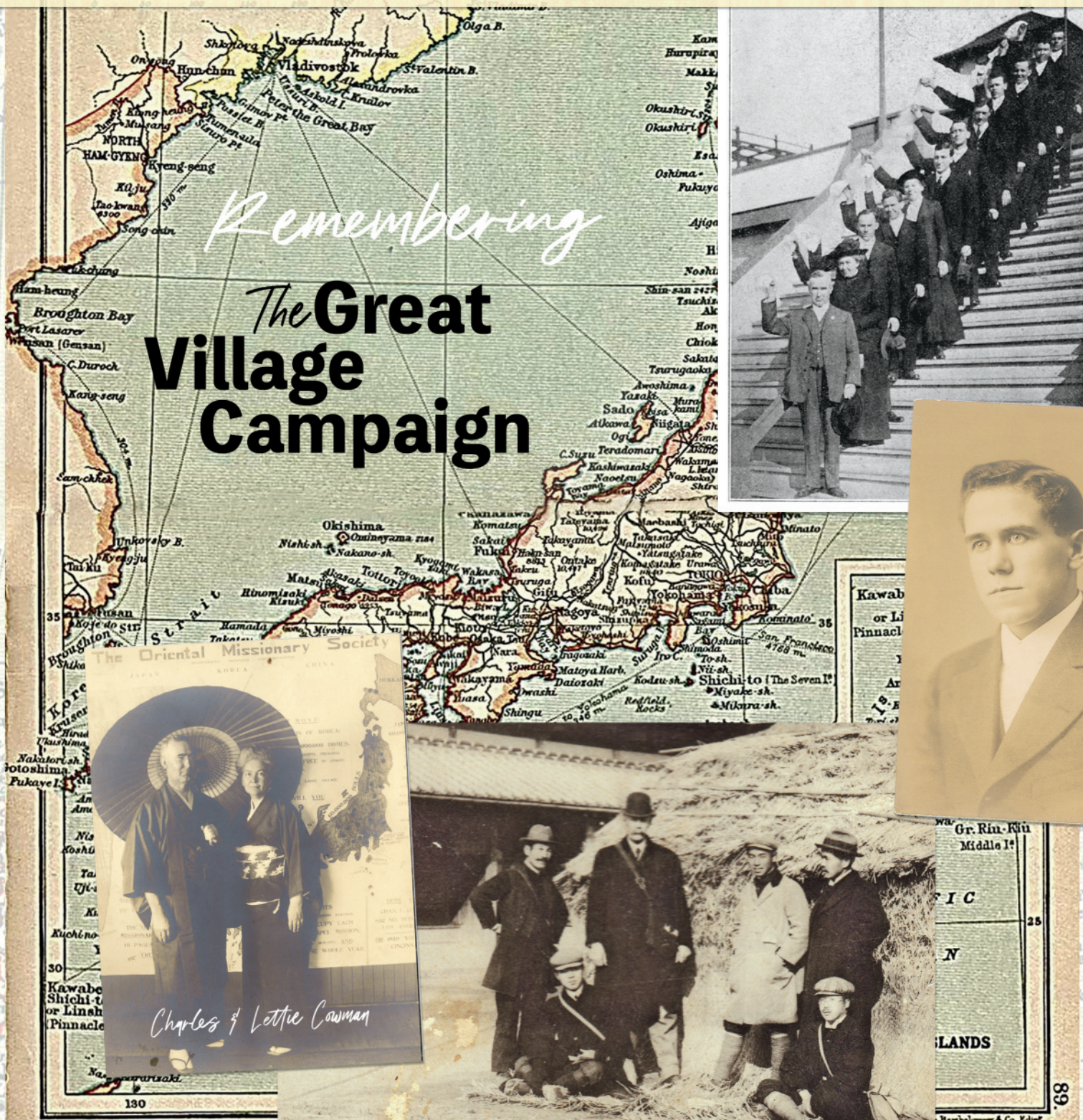




GOD'S REVIVALIST

January-February 2024

and Bible Advocate



Remembering

The Great Village Campaign

The Oriental Missionary Society

Charles & Lottie Cowman

Bro. K. E. Aurell and Village Band of the Oriental Missionary Society.
Cowman & Kilbourne, Tokyo, Japan.



thinking out loud

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

We had just hosted a visit with Mary Breslin, our liaison from the Higher Learning Commission. This was the first step in pursuing regional accreditation, one of the goals that President Avery articulated as he discussed my 1999 return to my alma mater as vice president for academic affairs. I would lead the organization's effort in securing this "gold standard" for accreditation.

I noticed that Mary had grown silent as I drove her back to the airport for her return flight to Chicago. Then she spoke. "Ken, you know the college will have to do something about its name." She went on to say that the word "school" was confusing and could lead people to conclude that GBS was not a college-level institution.

The name, of course, dates back to 1900, when Martin Wells Knapp purchased real estate "for God" in the suburb of Mount Auburn. The official, full name at that time was "God's Bible School and Missionary Training Home."

After GBS achieved state accreditation for its high school in 1922, the Bible school was further developed, beginning with the introduction of a two-year junior college program in 1932 and authorization from the Ohio State Board of Education to grant the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Theology degrees beginning in June 1936.

But the name remained the same, with no direct mention of "college." Then, in 1975, the institution updated its constitution and bylaws and became God's Bible School, College, and Missionary Training Home.

After receiving regional accreditation through HLC in 2008, degrees were expanded, articulation agreements secured, both a distance educational program and a graduate program were begun, and institutional branding became a focus, giving rise to, and increased use of, "God's Bible School and College," or simply "GBSC." During this time, *God's Revivalist* continued to refer to the institution as "GBS"—the moniker commonly used for more than a century by its alumni—even as its various departments consistently added a "C" to the abbreviation.

All indicators lead to the conclusion that the institution eventually will be commonly referred to as GBSC. The good news is that it still belongs to God, and its founding mission continues—training willing workers for Christian service. May it ever be so! —KF ■

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God's Bible School and College seeks to glorify God and to serve His Church by providing higher education centered in Holy Scripture and shaped by Wesleyan conviction, thus preparing faithful servants to proclaim Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness throughout the world.

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COVER COLLAGE: Historic Great Village Campaign photos are from GBS archives and OMS (One Mission Society) archives. Compilation by Kevin Moser.

the president's page



LIVING IN UNITY

by Dr. Rodney S. Loper, President

Unity. What a valued concept! This should characterize Christian groups, especially churches. It should be foundationally alive within other groups, even in families and individual relationships—indeed, a goal for each of us! However, the reality is that too often there is a lack of unity, which results in divisions and strife. We also understand that there have always been issues in the Church with unity. There have always been divisions in the Church, even going back to New Testament times. That is why the Apostle Paul writes so much about pursuing, preserving, and protecting unity.

- When he wrote to the Romans, he told them to be devoted in love; he told them to prefer one another in honor; and he said, “Be of the same mind and be humble” (Rom. 12:16).
- To the Corinthians, he said, “There should be no divisions. You should be of the same mind and the same judgment” (1 Cor. 1:10), and later, “You should be like-minded and live in peace” (2 Cor. 13:11).
- To the Ephesians, he said, “Walk in unity” (Eph. 4:1-3).
- To the Colossians, he said, “Pursue unity, the bond of peace, by love” (Col. 3:14-15).
- To the Thessalonians, he said, “Excel more in love” (1 Thess. 4:9-10).

Lack of unity is not unique to Paul’s time; it is a major problem in the church world today. This is corroborated by various surveys which show that fewer and fewer people are impressed with the truth of Christianity because they see such animosity, bitterness, hostility, confusion, and chaos. Let

us look at one of Paul's examples of disunity at the church at Philippi (Phil. 1:27-2:4).

A GOOD CHURCH...BUT...

First, it must be noted that the Philippian church was a very good church. The people were marked by thankfulness, joy, confidence, affection, and prayerfulness. They pursued Christ. They were generous. There were no doctrinal issues brought up in Paul's letter—no deviation from sound doctrine. There were no corrections of moral misbehavior. They were close to being an ideal church. But there was one looming reality casting its shadow over this group. With all that was right, disunity was gaining ground.

The letter is really framed by Paul's concerns about that, beginning with his plea for them to "stand firm in

The unity Christians ought to possess is that of the "magnetic" variety. The powerful magnet is Christ Himself pulling us to Him, and thus, to each other.

one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel" (1:27), and ending by urging two specifically singled-out individuals to "live in harmony in the Lord" (4:2). This letter, bracketed with his concern about disunity, shows that this was not just a minor issue in the church. It was THE issue.

PROPER UNITY

Think about a bag full of marbles. Inside the bag the marbles are very compacted. But open the bag and dump the contents, and the marbles will go all over the place. Why? Because they are now loose with nothing binding them together. What had held them together was external. In contrast, think about iron shavings and a magnet. The iron shavings will cling to the magnet because an internal force is PULLING them together, rather than an external force that is HOLDING them together. Let me suggest the unity Christians ought to possess is that of the "magnetic" variety. The powerful magnet is Christ Himself pulling us to Him, and thus, to each other.

MOTIVES FOR UNITY

Toward the end of chapter one, Paul established the mandate for how Christians should conduct themselves:

"...in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ" (v.27a). He then goes on to tell us what that means—"standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel" (v.27c). Then in chapter two, we see the four *motives* for unity.

MOTIVE 1: Our Consolation in Christ (2:1a). All things "given in behalf of Christ" (1:29a), beginning with salvation and including all the blessings which follow, are an encouragement to our souls. Because we have received so much from Christ, because we are in union with Christ, because He has come alongside us, isn't that enough motive to respond in love and gratitude and obey His mandate to be in unity?

MOTIVE 2: Our Comfort in Love (2:1b). In addition to encouragement from Christ, we have this tender comfort coming from heavenly love.

MOTIVE 3: Fellowship of the Spirit (2:1c). The Greek word here is *Koinōnia* and means "fellowship, partnership, communion, shared life." Paul is saying, "You share the life of the Spirit." Notice the likely reference to the Trinity here. First, there's an encouragement in Christ; that's Christ the Son. The consolation of love could come from the Father, because the Father is the source of that love—"For God so loved...." And here is the Holy Spirit and the fellowship He provides. Isn't it amazing that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit have poured their very presence into your life?

MOTIVE 4: Bowels of Mercies (2:1d). First, "bowels" are "deeply felt affections." We could read this as "Because you have been the recipient of deeply felt affections...." This is what Paul refers to in Philippians 1:8: "How I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ." Christ indeed has deep feelings of affection for us. Then, "mercies" simply refers to having feelings of mercy. For example, a father talking to his child might say it this way: "Okay, son, you have been loved and encouraged. You have been supported, nurtured, and taught. You have been clothed and cared for. You have been treated with mercy and grace. You have been given all the affection and compassion and goodness that your father could possibly give. Is it too much to ask you to please do what I am asking you to do?"

CONCLUSION

Based on all that the Lord HAS DONE for us, all that He IS DOING for us, and all that He WILL DO for us, we should be properly motivated to pursue this unity that He desires for us to possess. What should that look like in your life? "Being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose." We will discuss those four marks of a life lived in unity in the April issue.

Blessings on you! Strive for unity. 📌

the GIFT *of* TIME



by Valorie Quisenberry

It's winter in the Northern Hemisphere, and the slate gray of the days is underappreciated by many. Few people list winter as their favorite season. Pining for bright days and warm evenings prompts the retired to fly south and the young to huddle at home. We are reminded yet again of the passage of time as a new year marches in with bluster. The holiday season of warm color and sweet treats has come and gone. Now we are left with bills to pay and diets to begin. These weather miseries and life demands added to our ongoing personal responsibilities and relational obligations create a blizzard of emotions and anxieties.

Why does it seem that reality descends on us with such starkness every January? What is this thing called "time," and why does its passage affect us so?

A GIFT FOR US

We are told in Scripture that God created our universe and everything in it. This includes time since He exists outside of the reach of day and night, season and century. These time stamps are accommodations He made for humankind, gifts as it were, for our human health, for our relationships, and for our good. He designed what scientists call the circadian rhythm, the 24-hour internal clock in our brains which even responds to

the earth's rotation on its axis. He crafted our sun and moon and other lights in the heavens with the word of His mouth and gave them the duty of dividing earthly experience into days and nights and times and seasons. He gave us the pleasure of work during the daylight and rest in the darkness. He sanctified and set apart the Sabbath Day as a space of renewal and sacred contentment. He allowed us the joy of relational time—of seeing babies grow from infancy, of experiencing our own childhood and adulthood, of collecting memories and cherishing moments. He sanctioned this thing called time for the world He created and said it was very good. Time was meant to be our friend and not our enemy.

With the fall into sin, everything on the earth was twisted into something different from its original design. And so, time has become our taskmaster, our enchantress, our bagman, our heckler. It wields power both tempting and tormenting. And it is only after the fact that we can clearly see the effect of it upon us.

Thank God for Jesus. He came to redeem everything in the human experience, including time. Because the Holy Spirit is given to Christ's followers, we can experience peace and victory in our use of time. And it is a skill which we will continue to develop throughout our lives on earth.

As we look at the year stretching before us, we naturally turn our minds to ways in which we can develop and mature, to things to change and habits to adopt. Here are a few thoughts to keep in mind as we attempt to grow in our understanding and usage of this gift of time.

A RESOURCE TO STEWARD

Reflection on time is often a maudlin exercise for the sentimental among us, reducing them to sadness and apathy at the rosy-colored scenes never to be repeated. And looking backward at our failures can cause even the hardest to falter in determination. And so, we must remember that emotion is a good servant and a bad master. Thus, our use of time must operate on the basis of facts. What is done cannot be altered. What is to come billows with promise. Emily Dickinson said it well: “Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul....” The wise man of Ecclesiastes 3:1 was inspired to declare that “*to everything there is a season....*” Today then becomes the most important season, for it is on the platter of the present.

A NATURAL REBOOT

We can appreciate the natural “resets” God has planned into the human experience of time—He gives us the opportunity to reboot our goals and objectives and commitments and habits, etc.—every year, every month, every week, and even every day with the sunrise! As those who trust in Christ, we do not affirm merely “turning over a new leaf” but rather want to avail ourselves of the grace and mercies He gives fresh every morning. He offers the divine enablement to deepen ourselves in Him and to renew our determination to follow more closely what He has taught and where He is leading us through His Spirit.

A PATTERN FOR ACTION

There is work to the Christian life. Not work for salvation, but action toward increased faith and assimilation of knowledge and obedience. There is a responsibility for every Christian who wants to grow in Christ. We must invest our whole selves in this complete love for God. When we love Him to the supreme extent, we cannot hold ourselves back from action. The setting of the will and the executing of the human effort in good works are both sacred responsibilities of the believer. As the Apostle penned to the early Christians, “*For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do [to work] of his good pleasure*” (Phil. 2:13).

AN APPETITE RESET

As we determine to follow the Spirit’s leading in personal and spiritual growth, it will take time and deliberate effort to reorient a “taste” (a pattern, a habit, a preference) to which we have become accustomed. Simply

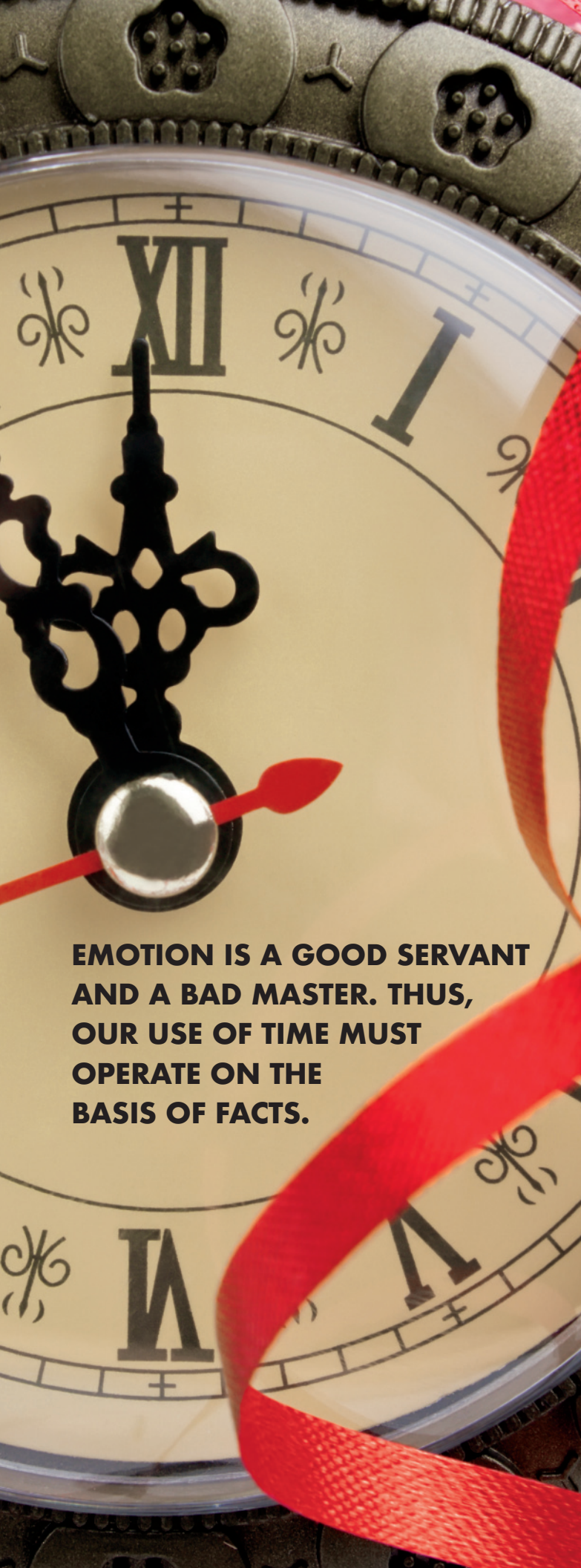
being used to something does not make it the best for us; even the repulsive taste of alcohol becomes desirable to many after they have repeatedly inundated their system with it. Similarly, it is also true that healthy tastes (physical and emotional and spiritual) can be learned.

We must put in the work to direct the “palate” to what is good and right, whether that be in food choices or time management or study habits or shopping opportunities or entertainment selections, etc. We need fact-based decisions on how to steward our bodies or redeem our time or manage our finances; and this takes time. We cannot expect to change the appetite from cupcakes to ribeye without a process of retraining the tongue to desire what is a better choice. We must guide the emotional reflexes to appreciate what our minds already recognize as best.

A helpful tip from an online source acknowledged something which seems quite true. Speaking of unhealthy processed foods which are engineered by manufacturers to be “addictive” (creating that desire for taste), this person said, “Nothing in nature tastes that good.” There is nothing in the natural, whole-food world that brings together those flavors in that way.

Could it be that in other appetites in life besides eating we are allowing ourselves to be shaped by tastes that are not naturally occurring as God designed us? Maybe some things we “crave” are built on tastes that He didn’t mean for us to have. If these desires are against scriptural truth, then we need to repent of them as sin. If they are simply not beneficial for us in our physical, emotional, or spiritual lives, the answer is to change those patterns logically and methodically in step with the Holy Spirit. He wants to make us better people in every area of our lives!

We can intentionally retrain the mind by replacing a negative choice with a positive choice. As we do this, we can expect that it won’t taste “right” or be “fun” at first. But, as we direct our natural dopamine response toward an option that is good (whether food that brings nutrition, or a healthy rise/rest time, or sexual purity in mind and body, or money in savings rather than spent on Amazon), the brain will learn to desire what we lead it to, toward that which nourishes it. The mind is a wonderful, malleable creation of God. Romans 12:2 urges us to undergo a godly renewal (renovation) of our minds. As we anticipate victory in all areas of our lives in the new year, we can rely on the Spirit’s help in this. He will do what we *cannot* do, but He asks us to do what we *can* do. The Apostle Paul was divinely inspired to warn the believers in Rome not to “make provision” to fulfill the desires of the flesh (Rom. 13:14). This is necessary both for spiritual habits and for physical habits. May God help us to learn daily to choose a plan of action with truth and facts and not with unstable feelings or unprofitable cravings.



**EMOTION IS A GOOD SERVANT
AND A BAD MASTER. THUS,
OUR USE OF TIME MUST
OPERATE ON THE
BASIS OF FACTS.**

AN ETERNAL PURPOSE

Organize your action plan around the resolute principles in the Word of God.

Contentment—Accept the season where God has placed you. *“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content”* (Phil. 4:11). *“But godliness with contentment is great gain”* (1 Tim. 6:6).

Valor—Expect a battle with human indolence. *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might”* (Eph. 6:10).

Obedience—Exert your mind and body. *“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed”* (James 1:22-25).

Joy—Express gratitude and praise. *“Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice”* (Phil. 4:4).

Trust—Activate your faith in His character and work. *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose”* (Rom. 8:28).

AN ETERNAL PURPOSE

Embracing His perspective and His gifts will help us welcome a new year, even if everything in the present is not what we’d like.

God’s parade of time is not on our schedule. He ordains some of the sections to be longer and others to be shorter. He sees which company in the procession should lead and which should follow. From eternity, He sees the entire earthly parade of time, beginning and middle and ending.

There have been seasons of my life where I could not grasp the purpose. As a homeschooling mom, the monotony was endless, the rewards distant, and the joy sporadic. In flare ups of a chronic illness, the pain and fatigue and the onslaught of health suggestions made my days a practice in perseverance. During a challenging season of ministry life, at a side job for which I had not been educated, which I did not desire, and which paid little, the days and weeks dragged on. But, in all of these conditions, God asked me to be steady (showing up every day) and to be big-picture oriented (looking for the fulfilled joy ahead).

And so, let us remember, through every experience God is meticulously piecing together a life that is radiant for His glory. He makes everything beautiful in His time and puts eternity in our hearts (Eccles. 3:11). He has given us this wondrous bestowment of time...and it is good. ■



The Great Village Campaign: A Startling Endeavor

by Michelle Ule

Nearly 110 years ago, a small missionary organization undertook a revolutionary evangelism campaign. Then called Oriental Missionary Society (OMS, now known as One Mission Society), the missionary group arranged for a band of men to fan out across the island nation of Japan and leave a gospel story tract and a steps-to-salvation pamphlet at every household. There were 10.3 million households in Japan in 1913.

Conceived, proposed, and organized by OMS founder Charles Cowman, the Great Village Campaign (GVC) required God's miraculous direction, Japanese army maps, and dedicated followers of Christ. At the time they began, OMS had no idea a world war would blow up, but they intended, and pretty much succeeded, in

Bro. K. E. Aurell and Village Band of the Oriental Missionary Society.
Cowman @ Kilbourne, Tokyo, Japan.



Charles & Lettie

completing their mission in six years. Students from God's Bible School played a crucial role in the evangelism effort to Japan.

Addressing a Need

Where did such an idea come from? It was inspired by God, of course! But it worked its way through Lettie and Charles Cowman's minds and souls probably beginning with a question asked during a 1907 deputation tour in England.

While Lettie gave a talk about the need for Japanese evangelism, a woman asked how much it would cost OMS to evangelize an entire village. Former businessman Charles Cowman went right to work and ciphered out an answer before Lettie finished her presentation. "About \$5" (\$168.48 today).

Several years later, a Japanese student at Tokyo's Bible Training Institute asked Cowman how people in small outlying Japanese villages would ever hear the gospel? Cowman's brain and soul wouldn't let the idea rest and he stayed up all night praying and calculating.

In 1910, Japan had an approximate population of 58 million people living in 10,320,000 homes. Charles proposed sending trained evangelists to visit every household and leave information about Christianity. It would take about five years to blanket the entire mountainous country of forty-seven provinces (also called prefectures, basically counties) spread over 430 inhabited islands. He knew the OMS printing press in Tokyo could produce a Scripture portion and a gospel tract for about a penny each (34¢ today). Charles forecast the total cost for the entire project at about \$100,000 (\$3.4 million today) for materials and personnel living costs. Still, the task seemed formidable.

One evening Charles and Lettie Cowman climbed a mountain near a large Japanese city. They sat on a bench to rest. In every direction, they saw villages covering the mountainsides. In their hearts, they knew no one had heard of Christ. Charles Cowman later said it seemed as if Christ Himself stood beside him. He heard Jesus say, "I gave my life for these villages, too. Won't you go and tell them for me that I want to be their Savior?"

Cowman nodded, "Yes, Lord. I will go."

Embracing the Task

At every household they visited, missionary teams comprised of Western and Japanese evangelists spoke with residents and/or left information about becoming a Christian. Two western missionaries took up the task the first year: Karl Aurell (who spoke Japanese) and Fred Briggs. Numerous Japanese evangelists who graduated from Tokyo's Bible Training Institute joined them to

preach and translate. The men diligently walked through the first few provinces hauling satchels stuffed with tracts on their shoulders.

They carried two Japanese language tracts, both printed on the OMS Tokyo printing press. A 32-page booklet, *The Gift of God*, written by Charles Cowman, included a selection of Scriptures telling the gospel story using only Bible verses. The final page urged readers to write to the OMS Tokyo office for more information if they wanted to follow Jesus as their Savior. Ernest Kilbourne wrote the second, shorter, tract, *The God You Should Worship*.

Since 95% of the Japanese population had attended school by 1913, most knew how to read. Cowman expected the word of God not to return void, and so he thought leaving a tract written in Japanese could effectively promote the gospel.

Attracting Attention

A Westerner and several Japanese men set out, walking from village to village. They scaled mountains, forded rivers, traveled on ferries, and handed out tracts everywhere. Having a Westerner in the group assured curious villagers would gather and take a tract. In the early decades of the 20th century, tall, well-fed men and women dressed in Western clothes always attracted attention.

The assignment was grueling. Charles and Lettie went out, as well. As Cowman wrote to a friend:

Wife and I were out with an itinerating party to some villages and did not arrive home until after midnight. The rain came down in torrents and we had five miles to walk to the nearest railway station, so you can imagine what a sight we were on our arrival home.¹

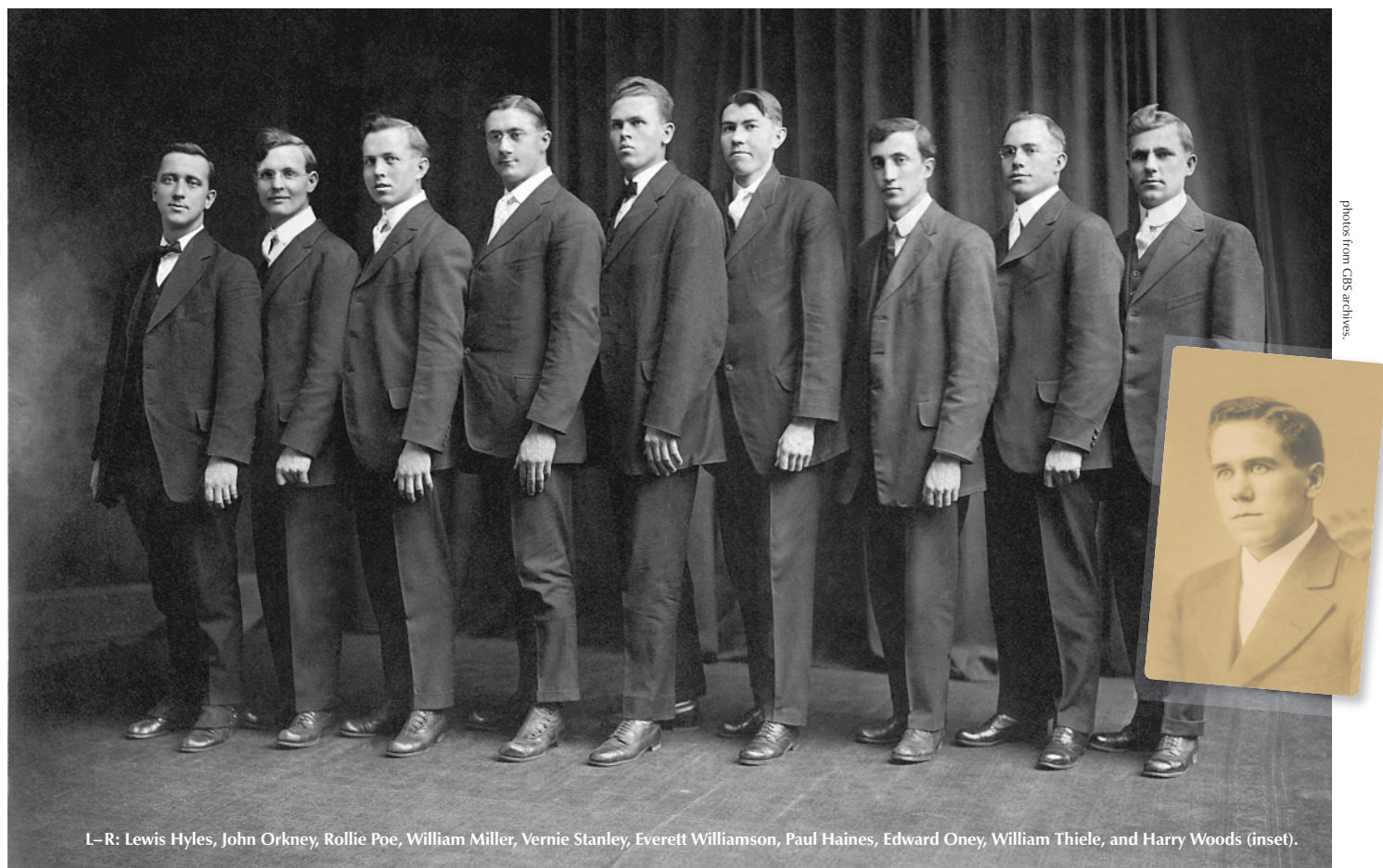
Three months in with several million tracts handed out, the GVC ran out of money. Manpower often proved difficult as well. The need for both often sent the Cowmans and the GVC missionaries to prayer, but not despair. The Cowmans knew Oswald Chambers and certainly were familiar with his famous quote, "Prayer is the greater work." Prayer undergirded everything planned and carried out by the OMS.

Gathering Resources

While the gospel-tract distribution through Japan was shockingly inexpensive, it did require financial resources. Every issue of the OMS publication *Electric Messages* included appeals for money and provided a map of the completed work.

With World War I in Europe at its zenith, but before the United States joined the war, the Cowmans returned





L-R: Lewis Hyles, John Orkney, Rollie Poe, William Miller, Vernie Stanley, Everett Williamson, Paul Haines, Edward Oney, William Thiele, and Harry Woods (inset).

to the States on a deputation tour in 1916. The tour had two goals: find more funding and recruit volunteers to complete the task.

Charles Cowman's first stop was to see an old friend, fellow evangelist W.E. Blackstone. After a humorous exchange where the two evangelists stared down one another, Blackstone responded by writing a check for today's equivalent of \$405,800. Going one step further, Blackstone also underwrote the travel costs for ten men headed to Japan, thus enabling the GVC to complete the project by the end of 1917.

Cowman didn't stop with just Blackstone. Confident God would provide the rest of the needed funds, he continued making pitches on the deputation tour. He carried "proxy missionary certificates" and handed them out along the way. People could sign up—sending funds instead of themselves to the grueling task.

Enlisting Volunteers

One of the Westerners serving as a GVC missionary starting in 1914 was a student at God's Bible School. Cowman sent him back to GBS in 1916 to recruit other students from the school to take a one-year "tour" in

Japan. Cowman knew God's Bible School would be a good source for men willing to give up a year of their lives for the sake of the gospel.

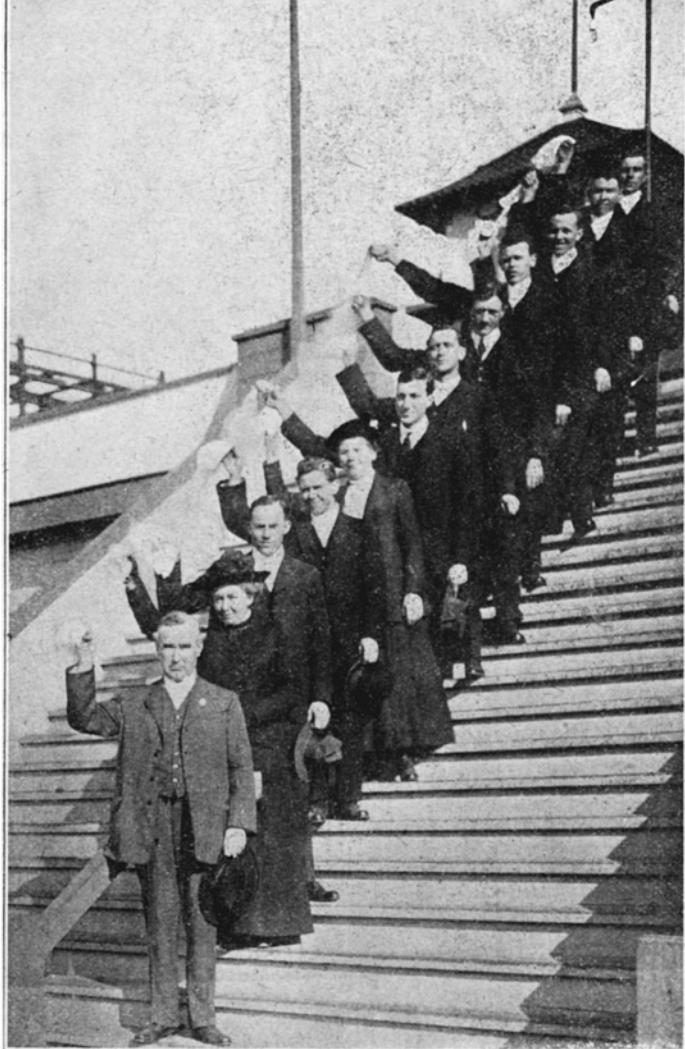
He estimated that with ten Westerners and plenty of Japanese volunteers from the Tokyo Bible Training Institute, the end of the GVC could come by December 1917. Encouraged by the GBS magazine *God's Revivalist*, ten men volunteered. The ten men were: Lewis Hyles, John Orkney, Rollie Poe, William Miller, Vernie Stanley, Everett Williamson, Paul Haines, Edward Oney, William Thiele, and Harry Woods. These ten traveled with Charles and Lettie Cowman across the U.S. by train to Los Angeles in December 1916. After meeting Blackstone and attending numerous prayer meetings, they continued to San Francisco from whence they sailed in early 1917. Landing in Japan on January 20, 1917, they went right to work.

As William Miller wrote, "We landed with a zeal and determination to spread the gospel like Samson's foxes spread the fire."²

Walking through Japan

Greeted by OMS co-founder Ernest Kilbourne upon their arrival, the men were organized into ten teams,





matching each American with five to seven Japanese Bible interpreters. The Americans from God's Bible School ranged in age from 22 to 30 and served as the leaders and attention grabbers. Given their lack of familiarity with the Japanese language and customs, however, they quickly learned to trust the Japanese men who did most of the work!

The teams trekked between fifteen and twenty-five miles a day. Some days they visited as many as eight villages. With five million houses visited in the previous four years, they had the same number to complete in that final push. It was hard work. "Often after treading over mountains... [we have] tired, aching bodies, and blistered feet. Other times we are very wet, having worked in the rain all day."³

The men often went to extremes to ensure they canvassed every house. They encountered lepers, caged men, fast-flowing creeks, frigid temperatures, and a variety of physical ailments. Conditions altered as the seasons and terrain changed. They trekked through the rainy season, summer heat, fall chill, winter snow, across mountains, through streams, up valleys, and along narrow paths.

One group sailed to a distant village unreachable by foot. Their shoes wore out, they lost weight, and rats ran

across their bodies as they slept on thin mats. The corn-fed American men towered above the Japanese and remained continually astounded by the Eastern culture.

Completing the Job

Was it even possible to complete the task? Career OMS missionary Paul Haines later wrote, "A sincere effort was made as far as humanly possible, to reach every home."

Reflecting later, missionary Woods said the rationale behind the wholesale and indiscriminate distribution of the Bible was not so much evangelism as seed sowing. Charles Cowman had a great faith that "the gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth."⁴ Charles himself believed any results had to be left at God's feet. Only God could determine success.

Blackstone certainly agreed with Cowman and put his money into his belief. When funds ran low toward the end of the GVC, he wired an additional \$8,000 (\$232,435 today).

Most of the men signed on for one year and, for the majority, the campaign finished in January 1918. *The Oriental Missionary Standard's* front page blazed the announcement: "Hallelujah! The Japan Village Campaign is finished!" However, several men needed to remain in Japan. They closed out the final campaign distribution in June 1918.

All ten men eventually graduated from God's Bible School. Half returned to work for the Oriental Missionary Society as missionaries. Charles estimated the ten men (and their valuable Japanese counterparts) cumulatively walked fifty thousand miles—the equivalent of twice around the world. They distributed gospel tracts to thirty Japanese provinces in one year.

Well done, good and faithful servants! ■

Michelle Ule is the bestselling author of historical inspirational novels, a WWI-coming of age novel, and the biographer of two of the world's most famous devotional writers: Mrs. Oswald Chambers: *The Woman Behind the World's Bestselling Devotional* (Baker Books, 2017); and *Overflowing Faith: Lettie Cowman and Streams in the Desert* (Independently published, 2023). After receiving her English Literature degree from UCLA, she has taught Bible studies ever since and loves to travel the world when she is not at home and reading. She is also an avid, long-term blogger at www.michelleule.com.

1 Cowman, Lettie. *Missionary Warrior: Charles E. Cowman*. One Mission Society, 2019, p.209.

2 Erney, Ed. *Young Men of the Cross*. One Mission Society, 2011, p.40.

3 Ibid, p.44.

4 Wood, Robert D. *In These Mortal Hands: The Story of the Oriental Missionary Society, the First 50 Years*. OMS International, 1983, p.105.



FULL ACCREDITATION OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS THROUGH CAEP

In early November 2023, the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) granted full accreditation without stipulations to licensure-eligible education programs at GBS. As a result, graduates remain eligible to pursue state teacher licen-

sure in Ohio. GBS offers licensure-eligible degrees in several areas: Elementary Education for grades pre-Kindergraten to 5th; Adolescent to Young Adult Integrated Language Arts (English) for grades 7-12; Choral and General Music for grades K-12; and Instrumental Music for grades K-12.

GBS has earned this national accreditation by demonstrating excellence in the areas of content and pedagogy; clinical partnerships and practice; candidate recruitment, progression, and support; program impact; and quality assurance and continuous improvement.

This recognition comes as a result of the ongoing efforts of staff and fac-

ulty from the Division of Professional Studies and the Division of Music since 2016. GBS began this work in response to students' sense of calling to minister in public education—we want to help our students follow God's calling! We also know many

Christian schools value licensure as a mark of excellent preparation.

CAEP is the only national accreditor for educator preparation that has been recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation since its inception. Accreditation is

a nongovernmental activity based on peer review. This process serves the dual functions of assuring quality and promoting improvement. CAEP's vision is to encourage excellence in educator preparation through ev-



Dr. Lyle Witt

REVIVALIST FAMILY

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

BIRTHS



To **Autumn (Quesenberry) (BA '21)** and **Caleb Zeigler**, a daughter, **Elsie Joanne**, born July 22, 2023, at St. Rita's Medical Center in Lima, OH. Caleb is the assistant pastor / children's pastor at Lima Pilgrim Holiness Church and the Lower Learning Center supervisor at Pilgrim Christian School, Lima, OH. Autumn worked as a Learning Center supervisor at PCS from 2020-2023 and is now a stay-at-home mom. Elsie's paternal great-grandparents are GBS Alumni, Rev. Raymond (ThB '63) and Mary (Neff) (HS '63) Zeigler, and her paternal grandparents, Rev. John and Leanne (Leach) Zeigler, pastor the Weisbach Community Church in Shoals, Indiana. Elsie's maternal grandparents are Rev. Duane (BRE '94) and Valorie

(Bender) (BSM '94) Quesenberry, Public Relations director and Financial Aid director, respectively, at GBS.



To **Caroline (Crater) (HS '18)** and **Ryan Craig (AAS '21)**, a son, **Emerson Ryan Craig**, born December 3, 2023, at The Christ Hospital, Cincinnati, OH. Caroline is a stay-at-home mom. Ryan currently works for the facilities team at God's Bible School. Emerson is preceded by three generations of GBS graduates on both sides of the family. Maternal grandparents are Tim Crater (BA '89), GBS College Choir director, and his wife Tanya (Cheatham) (BA '89). Paternal grandparents are Stephen (BA '91) and Ronna (Hughes) (BSM '94) Craig.

DEATHS

Norine Virginia (Ashcraft) Vasey, 102, of Berea, KY, peacefully departed for her heavenly home on September 12, 2023, at her residence surrounded by family. She was born May 29, 1921, to Leslie and Celia (Hawk)

idence-based accreditation that assures quality and supports continuous improvement to strengthen Pre-K–12 student learning. In Ohio, completion of a CAEP-accredited program is a standard qualification for graduates seeking teacher licensure.

Because education programs of GBS have been granted accreditation, education graduates from GBS may pursue their callings in both public and private institutions. After completing their degree programs and qualifying state assessments, graduates may secure state licensure in Ohio. Since Ohio has reciprocity with most other states in the U.S., graduates are able to pursue licensure in other states as well, sometimes by meeting minimal additional requirements (such as a course in the history of that state). Because graduates from our programs also qualify for certification through the Associa-

tion of Christian Schools International (ACSI), they remain well qualified to serve in Christian schools.

—*Dr. Lyle Witt, Division of Educational and Professional Studies Chair*

EMPLOYEE CHRISTMAS DINNER

The annual Christmas Dinner for GBS employees, their families, as well as board members and their families, was held Thursday, December 7, at Higher Ground Conference and Retreat Center, West Harrison, IN. As the 254 attendees assembled, they were favored by music from Brent Vernon of Hobe Sound, FL. After opening greetings and prayer by President

Loper, dinner was served featuring roast beef and pecan chicken, accompanied by salads, vegetables, and a choice of dessert.

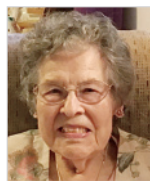
President Loper and Duane Quesenberry served as MCs for the evening. Brent Vernon led in a sing-along of traditional Christmas songs, interspersed with special music and the Christmas story. Brent called ➡



Brent Vernon and Sam bring Christmas cheer to the staff dinner.



Ashcraft in Nelsonville, OH. Norine attended GBS, graduating from high school in 1940, and took some college classes (1939-41). While there, she met fellow student William Vasey (ThB '43), and they were married in 1941. Their daughter, Ginene says, "They both always spoke very highly of GBS and the training they received there. They spent forty years pastoring in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania." After retirement, their son Kenneth and his wife Terry served for 17 years as primary caregivers for both parents.



Norine was a homemaker who loved her family and was proud of being blessed to achieve five living generations of the Vasey Family. She was a member of Laurel Run Primitive Methodist Church (Wilkes-Barre, PA), and, after moving to Berea, KY, in June 1983, she became active in Pilot Knob Baptist Church and Berea Baptist Church.

Norine was preceded in death by her loving husband of 73 years, Rev. William Vasey. She is survived by her three children, Ginene Vasey Randall; William (Joyce) Vasey; Kenneth (Terry) Vasey; nine grandchild-

ren; 22 great-grandchildren; 4 great-great-grandchildren; as well as numerous relatives, friends, and church family. A funeral service was held at Pilot Knob Baptist Church with Rev. Bill Vasey officiating. Grandsons and great-grandsons served as pallbearers. Granddaughters and great-granddaughters served as honorary pallbearers. Burial followed in Pilot Knob Cemetery.



David Eugene Newberry, 84, of Wichita Falls, TX, passed away November 28, 2023. He was born December 24, 1938, in Alameda, CA, to Herman and Valeria Newberry. He grew up in Fort Scott, KS, and graduated from Fort Scott High School in 1956. He graduated from college at Kansas City College and Bible School in 1960. David met Sharon Rose Collins while he was singing gospel music in a college quartet. They were married on August 3, 1962. David began a career in Christian education while continuing to be actively involved in the music ministry of his church. He and Sharon moved around often to Kansas, Missouri, West Virginia, and Indiana in the 1970s. ➡

➡ all of the children to the front, where he introduced his puppet Sam. Brent and Sam travel the country from coast to coast, ministering together through ventriloquism.

Children were further occupied with coloring pages, puzzles, and guessing the number of candies in a candy jar. Family and group photos were taken throughout the evening in front of the beautifully decorated fireplace. The children were blessed with Christmas gifts presented by President and Mrs. Loper. A gift was given to each member of the Loper family, with a standing ovation for their commitment and love for the GBS family. It was a wonderful evening!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The GBS Christmas program was presented three times at two separate locations: the Adcock Chapel of God's Bible School and the Answers Center at The Ark Encounter in Williamstown, KY. Guests arriving for this year's campus productions, December 8 and 10, were welcomed by festive Christmas lights, the campus Christmas tree and nativity, and an outdoor tent offering free coffee, hot chocolate, and cookie bar. Guests attending the production at the Answers Center enjoyed both the beautiful "ChristmasTime at the Ark Encounter" and the GBS Christmas production free of charge. Special

thanks to Ken Ham and his team of amazing people for so graciously hosting the event.

Fulfilled, a musical drama written by music faculty member Michael DeStefano and developed by the music faculty team, highlighted the joy of God's promises made visible.

A combined choir of high school and college students, guest alumni, orchestra, and cast of actors came together in this production to share stories of Old Testament figures who pictured the nature of Emmanuel—and celebrated their fulfillment in Jesus!

The performance group totaled approximately 160 members. Assisting Producer Jana Pop were Timothy

REVIVALIST FAMILY continued

➡ He finally found Texas in the summer of 1978. He served as a music leader or pianist for the past 20 years at his church in Wichita Falls, TX. David was a GBS donor and a subscriber to *God's Revivalist*.

David is survived by his wife of 61 years, Sharon Rose; daughter, Rhonda Carlson; three sons, Andy, Aaron, and Anthony; ten grandchildren; and his brother and best friend, Michael. A celebration of David's life was held at Jefferson Street Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, TX, with Rev. John Welter officiating.



Michael (Mick) Sobie, 71, died November 28, 2023, following a four-year battle with brain cancer. He was born November 21, 1952, to Leonard and Laverne Sobie. He married Linda ("Lin") Oriti and served as a military policeman in the Army. While serving in Germany, the trajectory of Mick and Lin's path changed dramatically when they devoted their lives to Jesus Christ. After the service, he began his law enforcement career in Medina County, OH. He found joy in facilitating seminars, Bible Studies, and home groups which encouraged people to grow in their walk with Christ. Mick was an elder at River of Life Ministries in Barberton, OH, and was influential in starting the Celebrate Recovery ministry there. He was quick

to share with others that the source of his purpose in life was his relationship with Jesus. Real joy came in devoting his free time and vacations to his children and grandchildren. This included many trips to Ukraine and Alaska, where he invested in their lives and outreaches. He retired from the Wadsworth, OH, Police Department with recognition and awards for his exemplary service to the city and care for victims. Following retirement, Mick found enjoyment as a school bus driver in Medina.

Mick is survived by his wife Lin; two sons, Scott and Nathan; two daughters, Carleen Hobbs and Danielle Watters; his brother Timothy; and 16 grandchildren ages 2 to 23, to whom Mick is beloved "Poppi." Funeral services were held at River of Life Ministries, Barberton, OH.

Mick's son Scott is a GBS graduate (BA '18) and three of Mick's grandchildren currently attend college at GBS: Darya, Dalina, and Diana. Also, his son-in-law Ryan Watters is a GBS graduate (BA '11) who served on the Student Affairs staff from 2011 to 2018.



Kathryn J. "Kathy" (Hofacker) Klassen, 79, of Dayton, OH, went to be with the Lord on December 6, 2023. She was born on February 25, 1944, to Frank and Lillian (Russell) Hofacker of Oil City, PA. Kathy was well-known for her pies and

Crater and Michael DeStefano (also Drama Director), music directors; and support staff: Janaye Byers, Rachelle DeStefano, Timothy Long, Martha Miller, Nicolae Pop, Jessica Smith, and Lane Webb. Each performance was well received by those who packed the chapel on Friday and Sunday, those who joined via livestream, and by guests at the Ark Encounter. Estimated in-person audiences totaled approximately 3,500. The campus family invited many friends, family, and acquaintances, including those in the community. We thank

the many volunteers who helped make our Christmas celebration so

special. We hope that you make plans to attend next year! ■



GBS Christmas Presentation at the Ark Encounter, Williamstown, KY.



sewing skills as well as her kindness and generosity. She was an active member of her local church. The two things Kathy enjoyed most in life were fishing and singing, especially singing with her sisters.

Kathy is survived by her husband, Aaron Klassen; children, Anita Mays, Aaron Klassen, Margaret Warner; six grandchildren; sisters, Nancy Kingsley and Marilyn England; one great-grandchild; and many nieces and nephews. A funeral service was held at the Hile Funeral Home, Emlenton, PA, with the Rev. John Case officiating. Interment followed at Big Bend Cemetery, Emlenton.

A number of Kathy's relatives attended GBS: her sister Marilyn (Hofacker) England (BA '62); her daughter, Margaret Warner (HS '92); and various nephews, nieces, grandnephews, and a grandniece. Her nephew, Robert England (HS '88, BA '93) currently chairs the GBS board of trustees. A grandniece and three grandnephews are current students: Cassie, Cade, Josiah, and Isaac (all Englands). Isaac England's student work position is office manager for the Revivalist Press.

Mary Anne Hinton, 72, formerly of Fredericksburg, VA, left this life for Heaven and a cancer-free body on Sunday, December 10, 2023. She was born Christmas Eve, 1951, to Glenn and Freida Hoerner in

Salem, OR. Mary Anne grew up in Kansas, fell in love in Indiana, raised her children both there and in Virginia, and retired to wherever she wanted to go in an RV with her sweetheart. She was loved by so many and hoped for more time with them all. She spent Christmas with her Savior this year, her most beloved friend of all.



Mary Anne is survived by her husband of 48 years, Thomas; six brothers and sisters, Glendah Comfort, Paul Hoerner, Ruth Hauser (Terry), David Hoerner (Gwen), Dale Hoerner (Deb), and Daryle Hoerner (Kathi); her ten children, Jarod (Anna), Matthew, Laura Moser (Meredith), Kristen Goff (Jonathan), Katherine, Caleb (Hannah-Marie), Nasia, Truman, Hannah, and Gregory; and sixteen grandchildren. A funeral service was held at Faith Baptist Church, Fredericksburg, VA. Interment followed at Laurel Hill Memorial Park, Spotsylvania, VA.

Seven of Mary Anne's 10 children attended GBS: Jarod (2013-14), Matthew (2010-12), Laura Moser (2012-13), Katherine (2013), Caleb (2014-15), Nasia (2015), Gregory (AA, BA '21). Two of her grandchildren, Evelyn and Ian Moser, are currently enrolled in Aldersgate Christian Academy, and her son-in-law Meredith Moser is the high school volleyball coach. ■



GOD'S BIBLE SCHOOL
& COLLEGE



Board of Trustees 2023 Highlights

The Board of Trustees of God's Bible School and College is comprised of a great group of individuals who are tasked with the responsibility of protecting and strengthening the mission of GBSC. We have inherited a sacred trust from the men and women who birthed this institution in 1900 and the thousands who have sacrificed over the years to keep the light shining brightly from the hilltop in Mount Auburn. Here are highlights of events and changes to the board in the past year:

- One of the best-known members of the board has chosen to retire after 45 years of service to his alma mater. **Dr. Leonard Sankey** began his board service in 1978 as president of the National Alumni Association, and for many years fulfilled the role of board secretary. He served with distinction as the board chair for 25 years and his contributions to the success of GBSC cannot be overstated.



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- The board was privileged to participate in a Board Governance Training course sponsored by the Association for Biblical Higher Education. This involved a group of trustees engaging in a day of virtual learning in the Fall of 2022, several days of in-person training in Orlando, Florida, during the 2023 ABHE Annual Meeting, and then a full-board experience with a campus visit by our coach, Dr. Jim Barnes (President Emeritus of Indiana Wesleyan University). Five Strategic Action Steps were identified and substantial progress has been made in each area, qualifying GBSC to receive the Certificate of Excellence in Board Governance from ABHE at the scheduled Annual Meeting in February 2024.
- The board voted unanimously to extend President Rodney Loper's contract by four years, sending a clear signal of support and deep appreciation for the God-honoring leadership that exemplifies Dr. Loper's administration. Thank you for praying for President Loper as he navigates the broad areas of responsibility that are under his purview, including hiring personnel, leading the Administrative Team, fundraising, casting a vision for the future of GBSC, fostering a culture of excellence and accountability, and maintaining a 27-acre, inner-city campus.
- With a sense of gratitude and expectation, the board is pleased to announce the addition of two new members this year.

Steve Snyder has joined the board with 25+ years of experience in corporate leadership positions. He brings a valuable business-oriented perspective with a strong background in strategic planning, budgeting, team building, change management, and project management. Steve's reputation as a leader was recently rewarded with his promotion to Vice President, Enterprise Applications, at Kimball International. Along with his stellar business credentials, Steve also has a keen sense of awareness related to the board's responsibility to maintain a spiritually robust institution that keeps our mission front and center.



David Spivey brings a deep passion for serving Christ with excellence to his role as a trustee of GBSC. He has pastored several churches and is currently the senior pastor of Haven of Rest Bible Church in Galax, Virginia. He is well-known as a visionary with fantastic people skills and is "all-in" with whatever he does! Sensing the need for men to be called to a higher standard of living in their personal, family, and spiritual roles, he led the effort to start Men Arise, a movement that is challenging men to embrace godly manhood. With his connection to young people and desire to encourage their growth in Christ, David is well-suited for his position on the GBSC board.



As a board, we are extremely grateful for the favor God has shown to His school, and our prayer is that He will give us wisdom as we face the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Robert England, Jr.,
Chair, Board of Trustees,
God's Bible School and College

Dear Phil

OT DESCRIPTION / NT PRESCRIPTION

When talking about various OT passages, you said [in class] that OT description doesn't necessarily mean NT prescription, approval, or permission. Why would the OT description of adornment not be prescription, approval, or permission, but OT description of priests wearing a head covering be any different? —Keegan

Dear Keegan,

I appreciate the thoughtfulness of your question. There are some built-in limitations to the statement "OT description doesn't necessarily mean NT prescription, approval, or permission."

The first and most important limitation to that hermeneutical rule is it doesn't apply to statements about God. God tells us in Malachi 3:6 that He never changes. Hebrews 13:8 says the same thing: "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever." This means that when the OT describes God, whatever is said about God continues to be true about God, regardless of the covenantal time period in which it is said.

For example, in Exodus 34:6-7 God describes himself as "compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations" (NASB). This will always be true of God.

A second limitation is it doesn't apply to statements God makes about the moral nature of actions. Again this is based on God's immutability. What God judges as inherently sinful or shameful reflects His character, and since His character doesn't change, His view of what is sinful or shameful doesn't change. For example, God says that exposing nakedness is shameful in the OT (Isa. 47:3; Micah 1:11). That judgment doesn't change across time (see Rev. 3:18).

Of course, God can give rules about things that are not inherently moral for a certain time period and then change them in another time period. The eating of clean and unclean animals is the classic example of this. God gave to Noah "Every moving thing that is alive" as food, regardless of whether it was clean or unclean (Gen. 9:3). Then under the Mosaic Covenant, He restricted the diet of the Israelites to clean foods only (Lev. 11). Under Christ, He reversed this restriction, and now all animals are permitted by God to be eaten (Rom. 14:20; 1 Tim. 4:4-5).

A third limitation is it doesn't apply to statements about man's na-

ture. Admittedly, this is not actually an assumption since the NT explicitly links humanity to Adam (Rom. 5:12-19; 1 Cor. 15:22). The NT affirms, for example, that we all continue to be made in the image of God (James 3:9). The OT description of us as made in the image of God is important for 1 Corinthians 11.

In 1 Corinthians 11:7, Paul says "For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man." Man's status as the image and glory of God hasn't changed since creation, though the image of God in us has been marred. Since God hasn't changed, and man is still the image and glory of God, I know of no reason to think that Paul's statement that man is not to "cover" his head changes.

I put the word "cover" in scare quotes because it has been misunderstood by many. Most readers see the word "cover" and immediately assume it is talking about some kind of a material covering. There are three reasons why I believe that is incorrect. First, the Greek doesn't require it. Second, it would make God inconsistent. Third, it doesn't make good sense in the context. My understanding is that Paul is using the word "cover" figuratively or idiomatically to talk about men allowing their hair to grow uncut (1 Cor. 11:4, 14).

To explain all the details of 1 Corinthians 11 is far beyond the scope of this column, I have published a variety of papers on the topic that can be found at <https://comeafterme.com/articles.html>. The article that addresses this question at length is entitled "Eikōn kai Doxa Theou—An Interpretive Key in 1 Corinthians 11:2-16."

Blessings,
Phil ■

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



ONLY ONE PERCENT OF CHURCHES ARE DOING THIS

A recent “Church Answers” poll by Thom Rainer found that only one percent of churches have an ongoing evangelism effort. This comports with their ongoing longitudinal study (since 1996) which shows that the lowest “church health score” across denominations is in the category of evangelism. The effect of this lack of evangelism effort also shows up on the “Know Your Church” surveys with responses from tens of thousands of church members from various denominations. The data from the last five years reveal a shocking lack of new believers in these churches. Those reporting that they have been a Christian for less than one year make up only 0.6% of those surveyed, with 94.3% reporting being a Christian for eleven or more years. The proposition is that “creating a culture of ongoing evangelism is the best way to regain church health.”

HOME SCHOOL RISES

The *Washington Post* reported in November 2023 that school data from 32 states and Washington, D.C., show a 51% increase in home school students since the 2017-2018 school year. There had been predictions that most home school families would return to public schools after COVID-19 restrictions went away. That was not the case. The growth was especially high in

states with large urban centers; for example, California’s five-year increase in home schooling is 78%, New York’s is 103%, and Washington, D.C.’s figure is 108%.

Some think that this growth will cause the government to become more involved with home schooling, since it results in loss of income to public schools because federal, state, and local governments provide \$16,390 per student to public schools each year and the schools spend an average of \$16,080 per year on each student. Therefore, every student exiting the public school system results in a \$310 loss in discretionary spending for the school.

ANTI-CHRISTIAN HATE CRIMES SPIKE IN EUROPE

A new report is documenting a drastic rise in anti-Christian hate crimes across Europe. The annual report of the Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians in Europe (OIDAC Europe) showed a 44% increase over the course of 2022 in anti-Christian hate crimes, identified as “social hostility towards and violent attacks against Christians as well as acts of vandalism and desecration against churches.” It was noted that most of these attacks were committed by groups affiliated with far-left, satanic, Islamic, feminist, or LGBT groups with the aim of suppressing religious liberty and criminalizing Christian practices. ■



student focus

RYAN CRAVENS grew up in a pastor’s home and began following Christ as a young boy. His sister Meagan and older brother Christopher had both attended GBS. So when he also felt God calling him to GBS, he considered that “to go anywhere else would be wrong!” Among the many benefits of attending here, “GBS has helped me grow spiritually and has increased a desire in my heart to do God’s will.”

Ryan appreciates the community at GBS. “Everyone is welcoming, and I can go to anyone here for advice.” His course work is giving him a better understanding of Scripture and how to apply it. Taking discipleship classes and traveling as a member of the college choir have also been very helpful.

Ryan plans to graduate with an AA in Bible and Theology in the spring of 2024 and then attend a police academy. He also plans on serving his church in the best way that he can. No matter what, he will be ready for what God has next for him! ■

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
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Cincinnati, OH 45202

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www.gbs.edu/givenow



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at advancement@gbs.edu or 513-763-6510. **Thank you!**





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

GBS ALUMNUS/EMPLOYEE RECEIVES FITTING HONOR

The mission of Honor Flight Tri-State is simple: to celebrate veterans by flying them for free to Washington D.C. to see the memorials that were built to honor them. Tri-state honor flights are open to all Cincinnati area World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans aged 65 and older. A normal flight accommo-

dates up to 88 veterans and a designated guardian for each. Guardians can be younger relatives of the honorees, but not spouses. A veteran who doesn't have a relative or young friend to act as his or her guardian is assigned a volunteer.

GBS alumnus (ThB, BA '75) and longest-tenured employee currently on staff, Floyd Hyatt, recently took part in Cincinnati's final Honor Flight for the year 2023 on Tuesday, October 17. His daughter, Veronica Douglas (HS '89), served as his guardian. Eighty-one veterans and their guardians assembled at the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport before 5:00 a.m. and boarded an American Airlines Airbus 321 that was chartered for the occasion. This particular Honor Flight included 40 veterans who were also law enforcement retirees. For this reason, a visit to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial

was included along with stops at the various war memorials.

Four chartered buses carried the group from site to site in the nation's capital. The historian on Floyd's bus was a retired Navy captain. He shared so much knowledge that Floyd said the tour was "like taking a whole American history college course in one day." It was an emotional experience, too. Floyd "cried like a baby" at the memorial for his father's WWII outfit, and he felt keenly patriotic at the Lincoln Memorial. He was awed at Arlington National Cemetery as they watched



Pre-flight convocation at the Cincinnati airport



Honor Flight Tri-State veterans pose for a group photo at the Marine Corp War Memorial.

the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

When the plane landed back in Cincinnati at 7:45 p.m. and everyone had disembarked, a band of bagpipers and color guard led the veterans in a procession through an inside promenade where hundreds of tri-state well-wishers had gathered to greet the returning heroes. As Floyd and his daughter Veronica approached the end of the wide corridor, astonishment crossed Floyd's face and tears filled his eyes as he suddenly recognized a group of enthusiastic GBS staff families and students who, without his prior knowledge, had assembled with banners to cheer him on and express gratitude for his military service!

The grand welcome these veterans experienced on that Tuesday evening was especially meaningful to the Vietnam War veterans. Many of them had been drafted into service and risked their lives in the unpopular war in the 1960s only to be treated with scorn upon their return home. Although Floyd had not personally experienced such contempt, he knew of others who had.

Floyd served as an aircraft mechanic in the U.S. Air Force from 1963 to 1967. He pre-enlisted while in high school and departed for basic training in San Antonio, TX, upon graduation. He then began technical training in Amarillo. Taking advantage of an authorized leave of absence, he married his sweetheart, Virginia Kratz, in Indianapolis, IN, on November 16, 1963. The two were on their honeymoon when President John F. Kennedy was murdered in Dallas, TX, on November 22. The US military went into emergency alert, and Floyd was immediately ordered to report to duty at the Air Force base in Grand Forks, ND.

The sudden change in plans put the young newlyweds in a difficult position. Floyd had intended to use

his leave-of-absence to find an apartment near the Grand Forks Air Force Base, move their belongings from Indianapolis, and settle into their new community. Instead, they were forced to relocate to their new destination without adequate preparation. Wearing only light

jackets, which had been sufficient for the benign weather in Indiana, the two arrived in Grand Forks to a frigid temperature of 8 degrees! They also had no food or place to live, and most of their belongings were left behind in storage. In God's providence, a Nazarene



Floyd Hyatt was greatly surprised and overcome with emotion when he saw that dozens of GBS people had come to the Cincinnati airport to greet him upon his return.



Floyd Hyatt and daughter Veronica Douglas (center front) surrounded by GBS staff and students

Church provided them with a meal and helped them locate an available apartment.

"We had no furniture. We didn't even have silverware," recalls Floyd. "The worst part was I had to leave my wife in that condition and report to the base eight miles away."

The base, like all others across the country, was on lockdown. Fears were that the Kennedy assassination was the beginning of a planned Russian attack. The Chrome Dome operation, in which planes were launched for 48-hour continuous flights, continued unabated and with added diligence. Against normal protocol, however, Floyd's sergeant took pity on him and other servicemen and allowed them to return home to their wives each evening. In less than two years, Floyd had advanced to the position of crew chief.

After his honorable discharge in 1967, Floyd worked in a couple of factories and then began pastoring a Wesleyan church in Indiana two years later. He attended Frankfort Pilgrim College where J. Wesley Adcock was one of his teachers. Floyd drove an hour to and from school each day, then worked a job at night. When The Wesleyan Church announced the closure of the college, Adcock took a teaching position at God's Bible School. That is how Floyd became acquainted with the Bible college in Cincinnati and decided to enroll there.

Adcock drove an hour to Indianapolis each Tuesday morning, and Floyd drove him from Indianapolis to God's Bible School in Cincinnati. After the noon meal on Thursday, the two would depart the GBS campus for Floyd's home in Indianapolis, and Adcock would drive another hour to his own home. This arrangement continued for three-and-a-half years.

After his college graduation in 1975, Floyd continued pastoring for another year. Then he and Virginia moved to the GBS campus in 1976, where Floyd became the head of vehicle maintenance and taught classes in automobiles, electricity, industrial arts, and Bible in the high school department, as well as mission skills and evangelism in the college. After earning a master's degree in vocational education from the University of Cincinnati, he continued his education with graduate studies at Miami University and Cincinnati Bible Seminary. During this time he also became a chaplain in the Hamilton County Justice system, a ministry he has continued to the present time. In more recent years he put aside his teaching role to become Access and Safety Director at GBS. Now in semi-retirement, he is the school's Safety Resource Officer. His wife of 53 years, Virginia, passed away on December 8, 2016.

We are happy to honor Floyd Hyatt for his service to our country and his extended service to God's Bible School! —KM ■



by Sonja Vernon

LOVING THE WORD

"Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart..." — Jeremiah 15:16 ESV

A new year lies before us. What decisions will we make? How will those choices determine who and where we are at this time next year? New Year's resolutions rarely make much difference. Check out the numbers at the gym in January and again in July. Good intentions have little real impact. The actions that transform us are the small, repeated ones—the ones that form habits and, eventually, a lifestyle.

One of the most powerful things you can do for yourself in 2024 is to form the habit of daily incorporating God's Word into your life. By "incorporating," I mean letting it become an essential part of you. Start by making small, incremental changes. Take a short passage, read it in context, and meditate on it. What does it show you about God's character, desires, and how He works? What does it tell you about yourself? What universal truths does it bring to light? How can you conform your life to its message? Pray over it. Memorize it. Don't rush. Marinate in its wisdom. A survey of God's Word shows us patterns and recurring themes, and there should be times when this is our focus. But going deep into the Word is life changing. "Eating" God's words in bite-sized pieces, allowing them to penetrate to our core, and watching them change the way we think and act, will indeed cause them to become the delight of our hearts.

May this time next year find each of us deeper into the heart of God's life-giving Word. ■

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

COLLEGE CHOIR LATE-WINTER TOUR 2024

Wednesday, February 21 | 7:00 PM
Haven of Rest Bible Church
2757 Fishers Gap Rd., Galax, VA 24333
Pastor David Spivey
Info: (276) 237-3007

Thursday, February 22 | 7:00 PM
Faith Community Chapel
345 Faith Chapel Rd.
Thomasville, NC 27360
Pastor Jonathan Heath
Info: (336) 472-6881

Friday, February 23 | 7:00 PM
Bible Methodist Church
855 Gentry Memorial Hwy.
Easley, SC 29640
Pastor Jonathan Slagenweit
Info: (864) 395-7247

Sunday, February 25 | 10:00 AM
Light and Life Free Methodist Ch.
5730 Deeson Rd., Lakeland, FL 33810
Rev. Jeff Bellingier
Info: (863) 858-6361

Sunday, February 25 | 2:30 PM
Florida Holiness Camp
3335 South Florida Ave.
Lakeland, FL 33803
Dr. Ted Lee, President
Info: (863) 646-5152

Monday, February 26 | 7:00 PM
Avon Park Holiness Camp
1001 W. Lake Isis Ave.
Avon Park, FL 33825
Dr. Tom Hermis, President
Info: (863) 453-6831

Tuesday, February 27 | 7:00 PM
Talladega Bible Methodist Church
Held at the Historic Ritz Theatre
115 Court Square N (NOT Court STREET)
Talladega, AL 35160
Pastor Andrew Durst
Info: (256) 299-5024

Wednesday, February 28 | 7:00 PM
Mackey Church of the Nazarene
9612 East Main St., Oakland, IN 47660
Pastor Jared Henry
Info: (812) 795-2708

GOD'S BIBLE SCHOOL & COLLEGE

COLLEGE CHOIR

