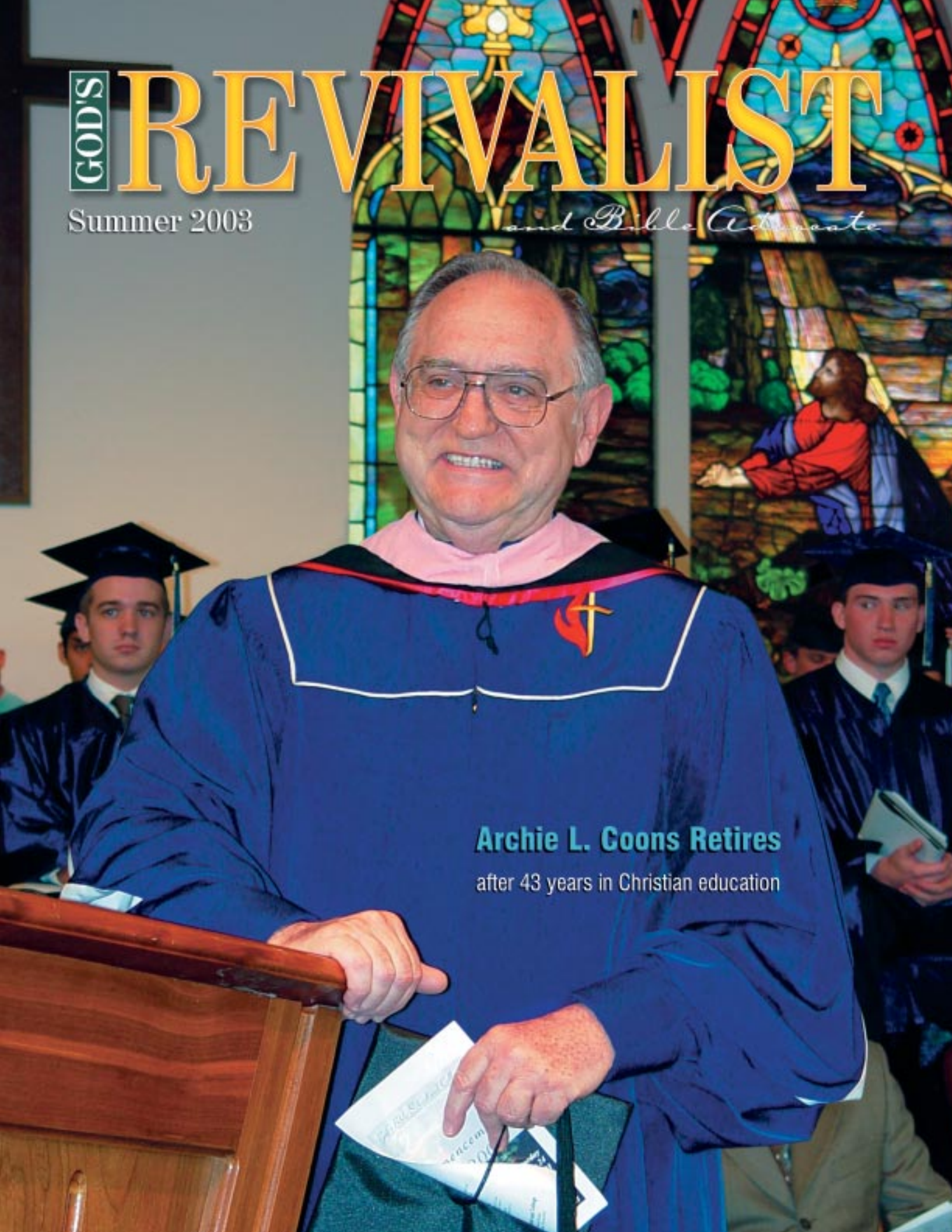


GOD'S REVIVALIST

Summer 2003

and Bible Advertisers



Archie L. Coons Retires

after 43 years in Christian education

the editor's view



LARRY D. SMITH

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN WEDDING?

Jim was a Calvinist, the pastor of a Presbyterian church, while I was a Wesleyan, the pastor of a holiness church nearby. What united us, though, was far greater than what divided us; and our camaraderie in Christ was very great. We prayed together, affirmed each other's ministry, and stood together in public witness. Our people even borrowed his church for a wedding too large for our tiny space, and that service is etched in my memory still.

But so also is Jim's reproof. He was very gentle, of course; but he was also very pointed. "Why did you let them sing 'I Love You Truly' in our church?" he asked. That question may seem puzzling now, for "I Love You Truly" has gone the way of the buggy whip; but 30 years ago it was still sung at weddings. *"I love you truly, truly dear./ Life with its sorrow, life with its tears,/ Fades into dreams when I feel you are near,/ For I love you truly, truly, dear."* It was entirely secular without reference to God or to His purposes in marriage.

That is why Jim thought it was out-of-place in His house. For he knew—as I should have known—that Christian weddings are about God and His designs and not about mushy love songs. Light and sentimental frills add merriment to a party or reception, where they are welcome and appropriate—provided always, of course, that they are neither coarse nor mean.

However, a Christian marriage ceremony is not a party or reception where we are charmed and entertained, but rather a holy rite where God is exalted and His purpose is fulfilled. That is why it usually takes place in church, conducted by a pastor before a congregation; and that is also why all its details must be reverent and devout. *A Christian wedding must honor God! This principle is timeless and universal, and it is uncompromising and non-negotiable. A Christian wedding must be Christian!*

It's important to remember this especially now (p22)➡

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A man in a dark suit and patterned tie is sitting in front of a large bookshelf filled with books. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The bookshelf is made of dark wood and has many books on it, some with red spines.

the president's page

PARENTS, LISTEN UP!

by Michael R. Avery, president

According to a major consulting firm, there are approximately 370,000 Christian high school seniors in America; but only 16 percent (60,000) of them will attend a Christian/Bible college this fall! Of those who do attend, however, 98 percent will maintain their faith and stay in church. The remaining 84 percent will attend a secular university or junior college near home. It is tragic that 52 percent of these will lose their faith and drop out of church. In light of these facts, why wouldn't Christian high school seniors—supported firmly by their parents—overwhelmingly want to attend a Christian college?

Another recent study shows that there are approximately 3000 churches that identify with the conservative values of a college like GBS or its peer colleges and institutes. (Remember, too, that there are still others who would not fully identify with GBS but who would still want the values-based education which it offers.) An observation was made in this study that denominations tend to send at least one student for every two churches to its denominational college.

There is some parallel also between church groups and the colleges they identify with. This means that there is a potential student pool for GBS and its peer colleges of approximately 1500 to 1800 students. Yet enrollment records show that a little under 50% of that number actually attend. Why is this true?

Our own survey shows that the key influence in students coming to GBS is their parents, as indeed it should be. However, our recruitment feedback also shows that the one reason college-bound seniors go to secular schools is also because of parents. What are the reasons parents give for this?

The most consistent reason is money—money on the front end. Junior colleges are close to home and cheap, we are told. Secular universities are also close and cheap, and scholarships abound in these state-funded schools. Moreover, the money which their children will earn after college graduation is also a major factor to parents. "I want my kids to have it better than I did," they reason, "and, frankly, ministry doesn't pay enough!" *Parents pushing their kids for upward mobility is the number-one reason why Christian young people pursue secular training and jobs.*

Another reason is status. Parents want their children to graduate from a college with national recognition. Also some parents don't think their children are mature enough to be away from home, and they also fear that they will lose control over their lives.

On the other hand, I have also heard the reasons why other parents send their sons and daughters hundreds of miles away from home to come to our campus. Let me list some of those reasons. They want their children to get settled spiritually. They appreciate (p14)➡

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Letters should be addressed to the Editorial Office, 1810 Young Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, or e-mailed to revivalist@gbs.edu. 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.

WAL-MART THEOLOGY

I want to thank Dr. Avery for his message "Wal-Mart Theology," in the May *Revivalist*. In my opinion, it addressed, and exposed, "itching ears" preaching (II Tim. 4:3) which is so prevalent today.

We look forward to the *Revivalist* each month. You are in our prayers.

ELDON HOTLE
High Point, NC

A BIBLICAL RESPONSE

I am much interested in Philip Brown's column, "A Biblical Response," in the *Revivalist*. I am filing them for my own instruction so as to be ready to give a Bible-based answer to such questions.

May the joy of the Lord be your strength.

ANITA BRECHBILL

REFRESHING!

How refreshing it is to open the recent issue of the *Revivalist*. I am a Nazarene pastor, in my 84th year, serving a church about three miles from my home. I would like to know a little more about the conservative Holiness Movement.

RUSSELL E. SHALLEY
E-mail

STIMULATE THINKING

I want to express my appreciation to Bro. Smith and the *Revivalist* staff for producing an excellent periodical. It represents GBS and the Holiness message in a splendid manner. As an alumnus, I enjoy reading campus news as well as keeping up with the *Revivalist* family. Both President Avery's and Bro. Smith's articles stimulate thinking and challenge deeper spirituality. Thank you for this ministry in print!

TIM DOTSON
E-mail

(continued on page 21) ➡



the world to win

Each month we publish brief "field reports" from missionaries around the world. Missionaries are invited to send us their newsletters and other information about their activities. GBS graduates are especially urged to respond, but we also wish to include others who uphold our vision and our commitment.

BRAZIL. "Pastor Fransisco from our Coroado church has been diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver and the beginning of cancer of the liver. The doctors give him less than two months to live. We are trying to keep close contact with him, making sure he has all the medicines he needs and food to eat. Others of our pastors are visiting on a regular basis. Pastor Fransisco has stuck with this church through thick and thin. We watched him grow in the Lord. He has been an excellent pastor and the church has grown under his leadership. He has testified that he has no fear in dying, for he knows the Savior." —**Rod and Cora Wells (Pilgrim Holiness Church of New York), Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil**

COSTA RICA. "Our Costa Rican church building (Paraiso), walls and roof made out of corrugated tin, has been far outpaced by the surrounding houses, which are built of cement block, red brick, or solid frame construction. The brethren are hard at work replacing this sanctuary with a new one, and Evangelistic Faith Missions will be paying for the roof and perhaps helping with some other expenses. We need at least \$4,000 and could use as much as \$7,000 for this project." —**Missionary Herald (EFM)**

PERU. "Pastor Mauru has been faithful to the flock at Prosperidad, Peru, on the Amazon. Now the AMA crew has erected a lovely chapel. Over 200 were there [for the dedication]. Following the dedication was a baptismal service in the Amazon River for 11 new converts. The water is always coffee-colored due to its drainage from the rain forest." —**Newsletter, Flying World Mission, Inc.**

(continued on page 14) ➡



Barriers Which Hinder Harvest

By Chad Durfee

Why do
you think
that the
laborers
are so
few?

During the past year as I have traveled in the north of Ghana passing by village after village of mud huts, I have had an increased burden for the multitudes that I have seen who have no shepherd. It reminds me of Matthew 9:36–38, where Jesus was “moved with compassion on them because they fainted and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.” Those ancient people were loaded down with sin, and no one cared for their souls. The Pharisees were too proud even to associate with them, since they were poor and accursed.

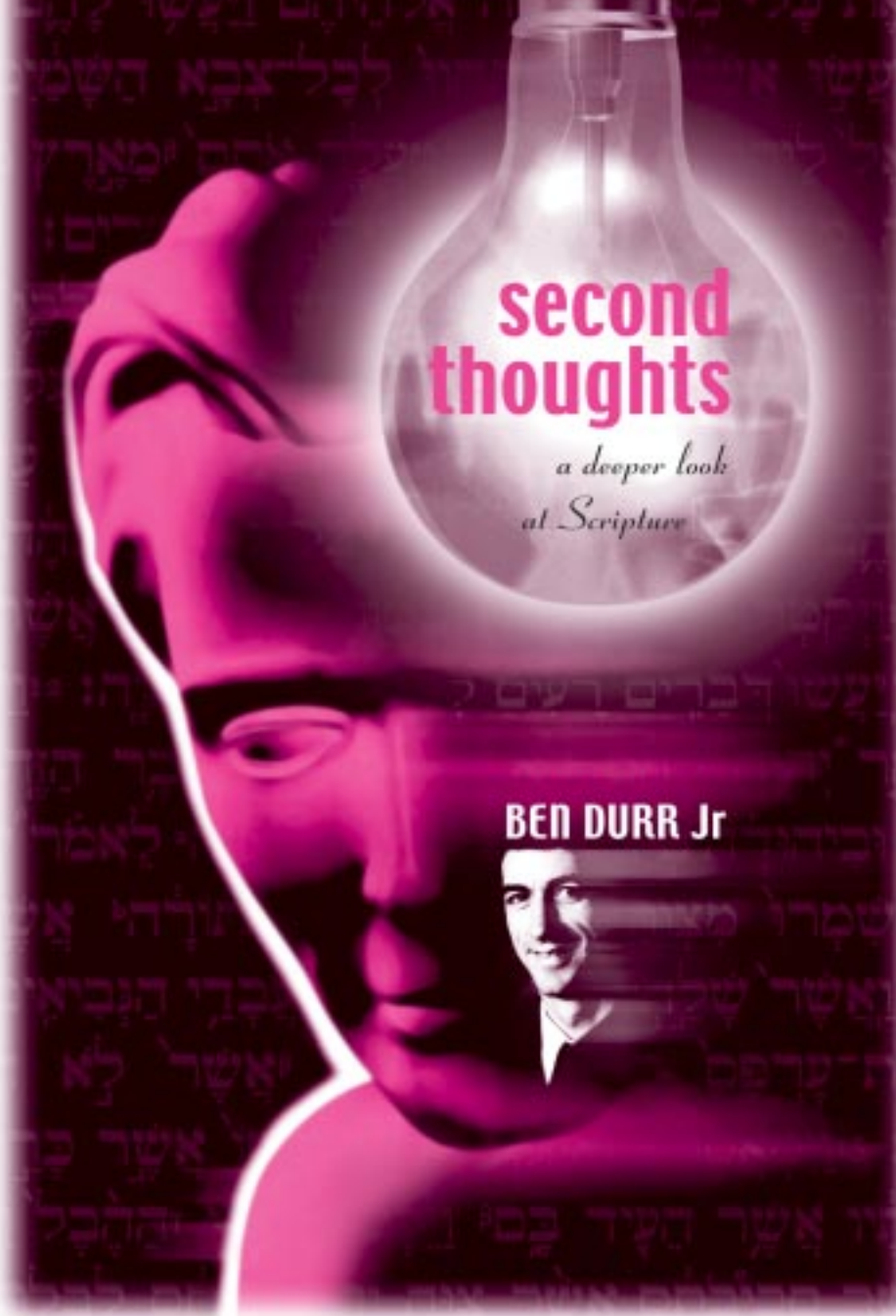
“The harvest,” said Jesus, “truly is plenteous.” Consider how rapidly our opportunities for that harvest are increasing daily. We are told that there are more people alive today than all who have lived on earth in the centuries before. In Ghana, many families are made up of one father and five wives with their respective children. It is not uncommon for a family to have 25 to 35 children.

Everywhere the fields of the world are ripe for harvest, for there are multitudes of people who are hungry for truth and the message of salvation. Many of them are painfully conscious that their pagan gods cannot save them, nor can their blood sacrifices remove their guilt. Many also have an awareness that they are perishing and unprepared for the forthcoming judgment of God.

Half the population of Ghana is made up of those 16 years old and younger, and they see that idol worship has left their parents poorer and poorer, as well as shrouded in ignorance and darkness. The amazing fact is that many of these young people are very quick to believe in Jesus as the true Mediator and Sacrifice for sin. They are already familiar with the offering of blood sacrifices to their heathen gods, so that these gods will keep them happy and say good things about them to the “God of creation.”

(continued on page 7) ➡





RUTH'S EMPHATIC CHOICE

"The Lord gave her conception"
—Ruth 4:13

I was browsing through a novel on the book of Ruth several years ago, mostly out of curiosity rather than seeking new insights into the story. The novel opened with a conversation between Ruth and a sister. This fictional sister was berating Ruth for refusing to submit to the fertility rites of the false god Baal in order to be able to bear a child.

Suddenly, for the first time, I was

alerted to a small, but significant detail in the story of Ruth: *she and Mahlon had been childless*. Now this was either because they had been married a very short period of time, or because she was barren, as the novelist assumes. Today, of course, we understand that there are medical explanations for this; but in Ruth's culture, barrenness was considered to be a sign of divine disfavor.

Back to the novel. This sister was urging Ruth to submit to lewd fertility rites in order to procure the approval of Baal. I remembered that many ancient pagans considered

Baal to be a fertility god—the giver of both children and crops. Throughout the biblical story, Ruth is consistently referred to as "the Moabite," as if to strongly reinforce in the reader's mind the fact that she was a product of the fallen Moabite culture. No question, she grew up hearing about Baal and about his supposed ability to bestow the gift of children, as well as the seasonal crops.

If she was indeed barren, she would certainly have felt the pressure to conform to the conventions of her culture and submit herself to the degrading acts associated with Baal worship. But had she really been barren? I think I finally found a clue in scripture to corroborate the assumption of the novelist. Ruth 4:13 states this fact about Ruth, who by this time was married to Boaz: *"the Lord gave her conception."* That short statement, coupled with the fact that her previous marriage had not produced children, convinces me that she had been barren and that therefore she most likely did feel pressure to entreat Baal for his favor. But she didn't! In fact, her unshakable resolution spoken to Naomi was, "Thy God shall be my God!"

While preparing this article I realized yet another excuse Ruth could have used to revere the god of her culture. Remember, there had been a famine in Bethlehem-Judah, where Yahweh was served, but not in Moab where Baal ruled. She could have easily reasoned that Baal had provided well for his subjects "both children and crops" and thus doubly deserved her homage.

It is becoming increasingly clear to me that Ruth's emphatic choice was made when the prevailing pressures upon her were quite contrary to such a decision. And her noble decision is both a challenge and inspiration to those who feel the pressure of ungodly influences upon them today. ■

Ben Durr Jr. is a pastor and member of the faculty in the Division of Ministerial Education, God's Bible School and College.

But as our Lord has said, "the laborers are few." Why do you think that they are so few? Have we not prayed for such laborers for the harvest? Yes, of course, at least in some measure.

But is God not calling? "Who will go for us?" was God's question to Isaiah.

Are we worried about finances? Remember the Lord Jesus did not say to pray for finances but for laborers. "For the workman is worthy of his meat."

Is the gulf between the lost and American affluence unbridgeable? "He that findeth his life shall lose it; and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."

Are we so pure and protected from sin that we are afraid of sinners? Jesus said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

Is it too much to rest our lives in the goodness of God? "No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."

Does a missionary call lack prestige in the eyes of your parents? "Everyone that hath forsaken... father, or mother...for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life."

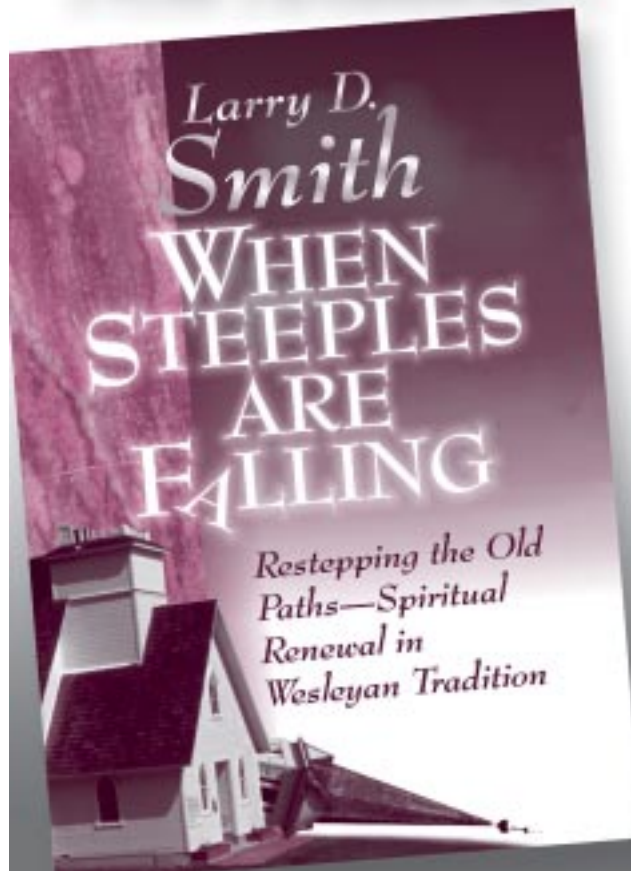
Is there a cause to which God still calls us to commit ourselves? Yes, "for God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son."

Is not one soul worth more than the whole world? Yes, yes, yes! "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

Yes, the "harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few." Let us respond readily, gladly, and immediately to God's call to worldwide evangelism. He has "committed to us" and not to angels "the word of reconciliation." Let us rally now to spread that word. "He that winneth souls is wise." ■

The Rev. J. Chadwick Durfee serves as missionary to Ghana, West Africa, under the sponsorship of the Allegheny Wesleyan Methodist Connection. He and his family, are currently on furlough in the United States until January.

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CAMP MEETING and commencement





Veteran evangelists Noel Scott, Coy McGinnis, and Wingrove Taylor ministered with grace and effectiveness at GBS's annual camp meeting, May 18–25. Presenting rich truths from God's Word in the power and demonstration of the Spirit is a long-standing tradition on the Hilltop, and this year was no exception. A spirit of prayer marked the preaching and the praying, and both guests and members of the campus family sought and found spiritual renewal at the public altar. In the afternoon, classes were taught in "Holiness: Critical Issues" by Dr. Allan P. Brown and "Principles of Christian Life" by Dr. Philip Brown. Commencement exercises were held on Saturday morning before an overflow audience. Professor Garen Wolf directed the music, both congregational and special; and it was thrilling to hear hundreds of God's people join in the praise of God. Praise forever to God, who once more has visited the GBS campus with His sanctifying presence!





challenge by Kenneth Blackwell (pictured here), Ohio Secretary of State. Many of the visiting students applied for enrollment this fall. I'm looking forward to God's continued blessing on the GBS student body as they 'make their lives count' for Christ." —Keith Waggoner, Director of Student Recruitment

dent of the Ohio Conference for a number of years. Friends of Dr. Young may contribute to the scholarship by contacting Jack Hooker, Vice President for Advancement at 513-721-7944 ext. 223.

GRADUATES HONORED AT '03 COMMENCEMENT

Delivering the address at GBS commencement exercises, Saturday morning, May 24, Vice-President for Student Affairs Richard Miles quoted Robert Frost, challenging graduates to take the "road less traveled by." Within the context of worship and celebration, high school and college graduates were awarded their appropriate diplomas. The Rev. Blake Jones offered the invocation, and the Rev. Knox Bullock I pronounced the benediction. The Scripture lesson was read by the Rev. Kenneth Cox, and Hope Trio presented special music.

President Michael Avery officiated, and Dr. Leonard Sankey, chairman of the Board of Trustees, conferred college degrees. In a special presentation, Dr. Avery honored

VIP DAY "GREAT SUCCESS"

"VIP Day 2003, April 25, was a great success as approximately 150 prospective students from across the country came to see what God's Bible School and College is all about. The day's theme, "One life to live; make it count," was made real in various activities, including the morning chapel address by President Avery and the wrap-up



SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWED IN MEMORY OF DR. J.D. YOUNG

Through the generosity of a friend of the late Rev. Dr. J.D. Young, the Ohio Conference of the Bible Methodist Church announces the creation of the Dr. J.D. Young Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded annually to a student from the Ohio Conference, preferably a ministerial student. Dr. Young served as Conference Presi-



REVIVALIST FAMILY

On these pages, we feature items about GBS alumni, vital statistics, significant events scheduled throughout the "Revivalist family," and brief news notes from across the holiness movement. An item for inclusion in the "Revivalist Family" must be submitted within four months of the event which it reports and should be addressed to the Editorial Office, 1810 Young Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202; or revivalist@gbs.edu.



CONGRATULATIONS!

GBS President Michael Avery and his wife, Ruth (Vernon) Avery, observed their 25th wedding anniversary, June 24. The entire Revivalist Family joins in congratulating them and offering best wishes for their future happiness.

Friends of the **Rev. Carl and Frances Dennis**, Nashville, Tennessee, offer best wishes to them on the 50th anniversary of their marriage. "God has been good to us!" the couple write.

NOTICES

Relax in Amish country! With the exception of weekends and holidays, Dan Glick and his family live in Cincinnati, where he serves GBS as chair of

Professor Archie Coons, who had announced his retirement after 43 years of service in Christian education [see box, page 12]. David Crosley, academy principal, and Dr. Kenneth Farmer, Vice-President for Academic Affairs, also participated.

Given special high school honors were Jonathan Avery, valedictorian, and Samantha Kelso, salutatorian. Scott Clemens was recognized as college valedictorian and Mary Bevin as salutatorian. Both Clemens and Bevin were given membership in Delta Epsilon Chi, prestigious honor society of the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges.



SCOTT CLEMENS

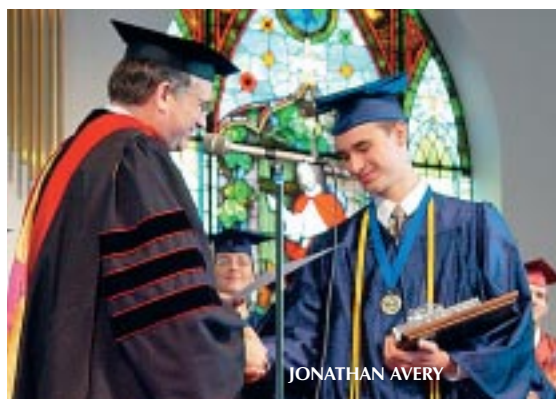
David Alan Hamer (BA in Min. Ed.), Brian Lee Consley (AA in BT), and John Wesley Lum, Sr. (AA in BT) were granted diplomas as GBS's first Aldersgate graduates. This is a significant landmark in the pace-setting academic program designed to assist mature students already in ministry



GBS COLLEGE GRADUATES

to continue their ministerial education.

Awards by the various academic divisions of the college were also presented by the appropriate chairs: These included the following: *Christian Teacher Education*, JoAnna Newton, Excellence in Student Elementary Education; *Ministerial Education*, Scott Clemens, Preaching Excellence; (p12) ➡



JONATHAN AVERY

the Division of Intercultural Studies and World Missions. Therefore their home in Wayne County, Ohio, is available for those who would like to spend a few days relaxing in Amish country for \$35 per night for a couple. Their home is located eight miles from Holmes County, which has the largest Amish settlement in the United States. There are many fine restaurants and interesting sites nearby. To contact Dan or Martha Glick, call (513) 241-3492 or email them at dglick62@aol.com.

Anita K. Brechbill, a regular devotional columnist for God's

Revivalist, has condensed and paraphrased a dramatic version of John Bunyan's classic book *Holy War*, transcribed from long-play records. "A booklet containing the script and a CD of Ethel Barrett's rendition of this inspired allegory are now available as a packet," she notes. "Making the tremendous spiritual lessons available to this generation of our people is the motivation back of this effort. The exposure of the deceitfulness of Satan and the dangers of complacency are powerfully portrayed," she adds. The materials are available from the GBS bookstore.



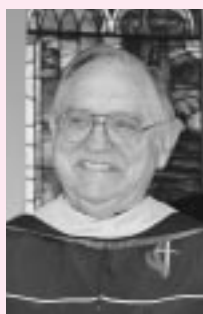
BIRTHS

To **Rebecca (Crouse) and Michael Kelley**, Cincinnati, Ohio, a son, **Alexander**

Grant Kelley, born April 23, 2003. Mrs. Kelley is an adjunct faculty member at GBS.

CORRESPONDENCE

"I appreciate the note [concerning our "prayer page"] which you put in the *Revivalist* on pages 11 and 12 of the April (p12) ➡



“THE STANDARD FOR MUSIC MINISTRY”

Below is President Avery’s salute to Archie Coons at commencement exercises, May 24, during which he honored the retiring teacher for 43 years of service in music education.

“The year was 1960 when a tall, thin, handsome young man with music in his soul and rhythm in his fingers came to this campus to teach music. His teaching career has now spanned about half a century and has impacted the lives of thousands of students...During these 43 years he has given distinguished service to both Hobe Sound Bible College and God’s Bible School and College...Brother Coons, you have become the standard for music ministry, but most of all, you have become a stately example of Christian character. We could all look to you and say, “Follow Him as He follows Christ.”



GBS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

➡(p11) Ryan Colson, Christian Character; and Darrell Stetler II, Ministerial Leadership; *Intercultural Studies and World Missions*, Mary Bevins, Charles Cowman, Missions Leadership; *Music Education*, Jana Pop, Academic Excellence and Outstanding Musical Achievement.



JENNIFER KEY RECEIVES EFM GAUNCE MISSIONARY SCHOLARSHIP

Jennifer Key, GBS sophomore missions major, received the \$2000 Mary E. Gaunce Missionary Scholarship at commencement exercises, May 24. Awarded by Evangelistic

REVIVALIST FAMILY

continued

➡(p11) issue. **The problem is that if anyone does wish to receive it, they won’t be able to do so because the e-mail address is wrong by one letter.**

The correct e-mail address is folwinhim@hotmail.com

—*Dorothy B. Klass, Prayer Coordinator, North Carolina East District, The Wesleyan church.*

Our apologies!—Editor.

“God’s Bible School will always have a warm place in our hearts. It was in 1939 that I was dying with leukemia. We had been married only one year. I had three months to live. One day, two mis-

sionaries, Mancel and Olive McMillan (1939) came from God’s Bible School to the far North in Saskatchewan, Canada, to begin a work there. They believed in healing. They prayed for me, and I was healed. Praise God, the Lord has been real to me ever since. Thank you for the *Revivalist*. After we read it, we pass it on to friends who also enjoy it.” —*Rosa L. McAfee, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.*

ALUMNI INTEREST

Carol L. (Winkler) Clevenger (GBS HS ‘88) received the degree

BS in Education with a major in secondary education on May 10 from



California University of Pennsylvania. She resides in Washington, Pennsylvania, with her husband Eric and their children Caleb, Abigail, and Benjamin.

Rev. Robert Blankenship (GBS



’86 BRE) was granted his Master of Arts in Ministry (MAMin) from the Moody Bible Institute (MBI) of

Chicago on May 17, 2003. He is currently the pastor of Talladega

Faith Mission, Bedford, Indiana, the scholarship is endowed by a donor in honor of his mother, Mrs. Mary E. Gaunce, who according to a EFM statement, "is a fine holiness woman who typifies both the lifestyle and the spirit of holiness. She has been long active in her local church, serving in various offices, and has been known as one of the stalwart pillars of the congregation. She has maintained an interest in missions and has hosted many missionaries in her home when they came to speak in the church where she attends."

WE PRESENT ALDERSGATE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

It was in 1738 at a prayer meeting on Aldersgate Street in London, England, John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, experienced his spiritual conversion: "I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine,

and saved me from the law of sin and death." Wesley went on to share this new love in his heart with people throughout England.

This past school year, the academy and high school departments were brought under one principal, David Crosley. This also gave occasion for exploring the possibility of bringing them under one name. They were God's Bible High School and God's Bible School Academy, respectively.

The recommendation for a name change was approved by the Board of Trustees. The two departments will now be known as Aldersgate Christian Academy.

Principal Crosley says he is excited about the new name change for two reasons. "First, Aldersgate Christian Academy reminds us of our Methodist heritage and our duty to make that heritage a reality in the lives of our students. Second, Aldersgate Christian Academy reminds us that the high school and the academy now operate as one school—kindergarten through grade 12."



CENTER AND ENGLUND EACH NAMED "STUDENT OF THE MONTH"

Two 2003 graduates were honored by the Office of Student Affairs as "Student of the Month." Erin Center received the honor for April and Eric Englund for May.

Erin Center received the Associate of Arts degree in Office Administration at spring commencement exercises. A native of Franklin, Ohio, she plans to continue her education with the goal of earning a "degree in the legal field." Converted at the age of 12 at a summer camp, she later came to GBS "to grow closer to God." She has really enjoyed being (p15) ➡



Bible Methodist Church. The MAMin program, in which Blankenship studied, is a 36-hour program designed for individuals involved in full-time ministry.

Rev. Donald E. Nichols (GBS '77 ThB) received the degree Master of Arts in Christian Ministry from



Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana, April 26, 2003, with academic hooding the previous evening.

His thesis was entitled "Wesley's Concept of Accountability in Spiritual Formation." He is pastor of the Pilgrim Holiness Church, Lima, Ohio.

Jewel A. Smith, GBS professor from 1980–1989, received the degree PhD in Musicology, June 13, from the University of Cincinnati—College Conservatory of Music. Her thesis was entitled "Music, Women, and Pianos: The Case of the Moravian Young Ladies in Seminary in Antebellum Bethlehem, Pennsylvania (1815–1860).

HITHER AND THITHER

"As we approach the 34th General Conference, are we helpless and desperate enough to pray a prayer of holy indifference?"

asks Doug Newton, senior editor of the Free Methodist publication *Light and Life*. "Father, our church is locked up. For decades we've been trying to return to the days of being a holy movement in the United States by pushing every button we know to push. Nothing's worked—not really. We are tired of trying this and that...Forgive us. At this time we will wait until you speak Your will to us theocratically, not necessary *through* us democratically. And we will do whatever You say." The Free Methodist General Conference convenes June 28–July 4 at Seattle Pacific University. ■



Dear Phil

“Please explain Isaiah 45:7, ‘I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.’ Does this really mean that God creates evil? Help!”

—Adam

Dear Adam,

Good question! While we’re dealing with Isaiah 45:7, let’s include Amos 3:6, “Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? Shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it?” The problem with these two verses is that they seem to say that God, who is holy, also creates and does evil.

The answer lies in understanding two things (1) who God says He is; and (2) the words the KJV translates peace (*shalom*) and evil (*ra’*).

First, God tells us that He is holy and that means, among other things, that God is pure and sinless. Habakkuk says it this way: “Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, and You cannot look on wickedness with favor” (1:13). John says, “God is light and there is no darkness in him at all” (1 John 1:5). James says, “God cannot be tempted with evil, nor does He tempt anyone with evil” (James 1:13). (p19)➡

➡(continued from page 4)

PHILIPPINES. “We deeply appreciated Dr. Michael Avery and the God’s Bible School team (along with Rev. Parker, of course) for their ministry in the Philippine church. In each of the four camps they gave their very best under quite primitive conditions, and because of their sacrifice, the church here was greatly encouraged. I think the team said the highlight for them was the ministry in Jabez Conference, where around 500 very receptive people turned out to stay there for one day. We all went home greatly inspired and renewed.” —**Tim Keep, Newsletter, Philippine Bible Methodist Mission**

RUSSIA. “Our Tenth Anniversary JUBILEE celebration was a great success. More than 100 people came to hear more than 25 presentations, including many beautiful musical specials. The climax was the testimony of Viktor Bouroulyov [who] was without friends, family, finances, or hope...When he heard the Good News and responded, his whole life changed. His almost forgotten talent

of piano playing suddenly returned, and now Viktor plays classical and Christian music for the Lord instead of nightclub numbers for the world. Dr. Bill Saxon came all the way from Florida to congratulate Vyborg Christian Center and to introduce us to the new name of our parent organization. After 56 years as Florida Evangelistic Association/FEA Ministries, our new family name is Hope International Ministries—HIM.” —**Richard Grout, Russian Lifeline (HIM).**

UKRAINE. “After [we made] several long trips to Nova Odessa...[we’re] in the process of purchasing a two story home (and a sturdy outhouse) with many prospects for ministry. Along with the possibilities goes a major amount of work. Something will have to be done with the bare, powdery cement floors. Heating and a bathroom will have to be put in on the second floor. A well has to be drilled in order to have a dependable source of water...We thank God for His provision.” —**Drummond Newsletter (Bible Holiness Church), Independence, Kansas** ■

➡(p3) the academic excellence and ministry opportunities at GBS. They see the value of student residence life in the maturing process. They also want their offspring to be around other kids who share their values and faith so they will have appropriate choices for a life partner. GBS, they believe, also provides an atmosphere where students can make themselves available for full-time Christian ministry and respond to whatever God’s call is for them.

All this is true even for many parents who know that their children will only be here for a couple of years and then move on to a college that offers training for a career field

we do not and could not offer. Such parents do not see coming to GBS as wasted time, but rather as one of the best investments they can make in the future of sons and daughters they want to see maintain their faith and become effective Christian servants, no matter what other calling they may follow in life.

Nothing is more important to parents than their children. Nothing is more important to Christian parents than the spiritual welfare of their children. If that is so, why don’t you do whatever it takes to get your children in that 98% group who keep the faith and bless God’s Kingdom? ■

➡(p13) on the GBS campus, where she made wonderful friends which she believes will last a lifetime. Most of all, she has enjoyed the atmosphere at GBS that "helped her grow spiritually."

Eric Englund, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education, was converted at the age of four. He "continues to enjoy his daily Christian walk," desiring to "go wherever God may lead." At this point his future plans are indefinite. GBS's outstanding music program was the major factor in drawing him to GBS. He "knows he has grown musically and as a person and as a Christian" and urges others "to serve God and let Him lead!"



SWSE TOUR "ANOINTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT"

The Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble from God's Bible School and College conducted its annual spring tour the first week of April. This nearly 50-piece orchestra traveled 2,160 miles in four states. Services were held in Emlenton, Gratz, Beavertown, and Hanover, Pennsylvania; Salisbury, Maryland; Schenectady, New York; and Danville, Ohio.

Tour personnel included, Don Davison, tour director; Garen Wolf, conductor; Deanna Wolf, assistant conductor; Martha Miller, accompanist; and John Lum, bus driver. The group played to a number of large crowds and were blessed by generous giving. "The tour was definitely blessed and anointed by the Holy Spirit," reports Jack Hooker, Vice

President for Advancement. "God used our students in a powerful way to exalt Christ and communicate the gospel through music."



EASLEY RECEIVES "FAITH IN ACTION" AWARD

GBS student Kim Easley was presented the "Faith in Action" award by the Council of Christian Communion, Cincinnati, Ohio, at the organization's 89th annual dinner and delegates assembly, April 29. "She most assuredly puts her faith into action here in the Justice Center and is an invaluable help to the inmates and to us," declared Sheriff Simeon Leis, in his letter supporting Easley's nomination. She is director of the jail's inmate choir, helps in Bible studies, and is active in visitation sponsored GBS's jail ministry team directed by Floyd Hyatt. [For further information on Kim and the jail ministry, see p. 5, *April Revivalist*.]

GBS ALUMNI ATTEND IHC RECEPTION, APRIL 23

Over 200 alumni attended the annual reception of the GBS Alumni Association, April 23, during the Inter-Church Holiness Convention, Dayton, Ohio. They were treated to a meal, gifts, and singing from Assurance and Harmony; and several received special recognition. Three students shared their testimonies, and President Avery gave a campus update and thanked the alumni for their faithful support of their alma mater. Due to the over-

flow crowd, plans are already in place to expand the meeting area next year.

BRIEFLY NOTED: Fall Revival at GBS is scheduled to coincide with the first week of college classes, for August 25-29 with the Rev. Marc Sankey as evangelist.... **Miss Evelyn Ware, (GBS '51)**, veteran staff member at GBS, now retired, has returned to her campus home after surgery, hospitalization, and rehabilitation following a hip fracture in April. Friends may contact her at the school address.... **President Michael Avery and Vice Presidents Richard Miles, Ken Farmer, and Jack Hooker participated in the annual meeting of the Administrator's Roundtable**, April 21, Dayton, Ohio. Structured as a forum for holiness college administrators, the Roundtable includes God's Bible School and College, Hobe Sound Bible College, Penn View Bible Institute, Kansas City College and Bible School, Allegheny Wesleyan College, Union Bible College, and Kentucky Mountain Bible College.... **Prayers are requested for the health of Dr. Charles Tryon**. He and his wife Lottie serve as coordinators of GBS's Aldersgate Program.... **An Open Air Outreach Seminar was conducted at GBS April 23-May 2**. The event was held under the direction of Dr. Mark Bird, director of Christian service, in coop-



eration with personnel of the Open Air Campaigners, "an independent evangelical faith mission," founded in Australia in 1892. Students were introduced to techniques of public witness and actually participated in outdoor presentations in (p20)➡

ArchiveS

WALKED ON BY ELEPHANTS

I count it quite an honor to speak tonight, and I appreciate being invited by President and Mrs. M. G. Standley. I have been a friend to this institution for many years, and I am still its friend....

I used to worry a lot when folks criticized me. You know, I came from up in the mountains of West Virginia. I started my ministry twenty-seven years ago, riding a mule over the mountains, with a pair of saddle bags under me. The first church I had paid me \$7.00 a month, and I was the most overpaid preacher in the state. But, you know something? Nobody called me a grafter then. If you want to have folks criticize (p20) ➡

The high school class of 1949 included longtime GBS associates Wingrove Taylor and Jewel (Lamb) Stetler. (Jewel's grandson, Darrell Stetler II, graduated with honors from our college ministerial division in May.) An excerpt from B.R. Lakin's 1949 commencement address is included here, also.



sumed by a godly ardor (a holy jealousy) to exalt God by maintaining purity of worship.

If a person insists on arguing that Jesus' zeal was fueled by anger, a strong case can be made that if it was, it was a holy anger, a perfectly right state of heart. Is not a child of the heavenly Father demonstrating a sinful defect if there is no show of filial love and respect when the Father's house is wrongly used? Should not a child of God become angry, for example, when he hears his Father's name blasphemed? Whatever one says about Jesus cleansing the Temple, it must never be forgotten that Scripture makes it clear that He was Spirit-guided in all His actions (see Luke 4:1, "full of the Spirit"; Luke 4:14, "in the power of the Spirit"; John 8:28, "I do nothing of myself"; John 8:29, "I do always those things that please Him" [the Father]).

As a spectator, you could have looked at the overturned tables and the whip in Jesus' hand, and concluded that Jesus was expressing carnal anger. In reality, he was Spirit-directed. He was acting in a holy manner and was fulfilling Scripture even though his actions could easily be mistaken for carnal anger.

Be very careful about categorizing the behavior of others as "carnal." If you have a legitimate concern, practice Matthew 18:15 and go to the person and in a non-accusing manner, share your concern and ask him to help you understand why He acted as He did.

CONCLUSION

A Christian is to be angry, but not sin (Eph. 4:26). Because Satan is close by whenever a Christian becomes angry, seeking to push him into unChrist-like attitudes and behavior (Eph. 4:27), he must be careful that his anger stays within the boundaries of Scripture. Christ-like anger does "explode," causing the person to lose control of himself. Christ-like anger is also of short-duration. It does not harbor bitterness or go to bed angry (Eph. 4:26b). Nor does it speak unkind or harsh words. Christ-like anger is not vengeful (1 Cor. 13:4) and is careful not to grieve the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30, 32).

If you are having a problem with carnal anger, ask God (and perhaps the people who were recipients of your anger) to forgive you and purpose in your heart that through God's grace you will put it off. Faithfully follow the Scriptural guidelines given in this message for the renewing of your heart and mind. Do not deny that you have a problem and do not be discouraged as you wholeheartedly seek to put off carnal anger. Through the strength that Christ provides, you can do God's will (Phil. 4:13). You can win the victory over carnal anger.

—sermon outline by DR. ALLAN P. BROWN



"COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE
IN PREACHING"

WHEN YOU GET ANGRY

Is it Carnal or Christlike?

Part 2

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:17-32

Text: Ephesians 4:26, 27: Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil.

INTRODUCTION

In our last sermon, we learned the Biblical characteristics of Christ-like anger. Any anger that does not measure up to the criteria of Christ-like anger is "carnal" anger and must be "put off" by the Christian (Eph. 4:22, 31).

In this message we want to learn the Biblical method for gaining freedom from carnal anger. God's command to put it off brings the assurance that He will provide the grace and strength we need to obey His command. When it comes to the defeat of carnal anger, the Bible gives us the steps we need to take to renew our minds and transform our behavior.

I. THE DEFEAT OF CARNAL ANGER

The first step to putting off carnal anger is to identify the things that stir up your anger. Ask yourself, "What causes me to become angry?" "What makes me mad?"

A. Identify the causes of your anger. Most people find that anger is triggered either by a person or a situation that violates what you perceive as your personal rights. Someone has tried to take advantage of you. Perhaps he or she cheated you, lied to you, criticized you, ignored you, insulted you, or treated you or someone you care about in a way you felt inappropriate or unfair. Prayerfully try to remember your past angry behavior and ask the Lord to help you to identify which of your personal rights were violated. If you have trouble identifying the causes of your anger, talk with those closest to you and ask them for help. Ask yourself, "Why did that person or situation make me angry?" Try to figure out the cause of your anger. You will usually find that the root cause involved the violation of one or more of your personal rights. Once you identi-

fy the cause or causes for your anger, prayerfully surrender all of your personal rights to God.

B. Surrender your personal rights to God. I can hear someone saying, “Why do I have to surrender my personal rights to God?” The answer lies in understanding the concept of “meekness,” which is the Biblical antithesis to carnal anger. Jesus said, “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth” (Mat. 5:5). He also claimed meekness as one of his own character qualities (Mat. 11:29). Meekness is the fruit of bringing your will and emotions under the authority of God’s Word. It is the God-given ability to keep your emotions under the control of the Holy Spirit. Meekness is attained only when we fully yield our personal rights to God. And meekness is maintained only as we keep our personal rights fully yielded. The Christ-like quality of meekness is what enables a person to bear ill-treatment and injury without resentment. Like Jesus, who refused to return railing for railing, who gave blessing in return for cursing, the meek are to respond in like manner to the irritations and hurts of life.

When you find yourself getting irritated before you become angry, ask yourself, “Which of my personal rights are being violated?” View irritation as a red flag reminding you to renew the surrender of them to God. Let irritation be a means of driving you to God in prayer. Be careful, however, to distinguish between your personal rights and your God-given responsibilities. We are not to surrender our responsibilities to God. We are to ask God for the spiritual strength and ability to fulfill them.

C. Engraft Gods Word into your heart and mind. A powerful means of changing your behavior is to renew your mind (Eph. 4:23). The Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit uses Scripture to set us free from sin (John 8:32; Psa. 119:9-11). Find Scripture that addresses the problem area in your life. Write the Scriptures on 3-inch by 5-inch file cards and carry them with you throughout the day. Say the Scriptures aloud, praying them wholeheartedly back to God as your sincere prayer for deliverance.

Here are some verses you can use in your daily prayers for renewing your heart and mind and thereby gaining victory over carnal anger.

Psa. 39:1: “I will guard my ways that I may not sin with my tongue; I will guard my mouth as with a muzzle while the wicked are in my presence.”

James 1:19-20: “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God (does not bring about the righteous life that God desires).”

Eph. 4:29: “Let no corrupt communication [unwholesome words] proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”

Eph. 4:31-32: “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”

Col. 3:8: “But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.”

Co. 4:6: “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”

Mat. 15:18: “But those things which proceeded out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.”

Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

If you will read these verses aloud, changing the wording slightly to make them more personal, using the personal pronouns, “I, me, and my,” and pray them to God three times a day (preferably after each meal), asking God to change your heart, and to renew your mind and to enable you to put away carnal anger through the power of the Holy Spirit, you will find that God will answer your prayer. The old pattern of reacting with carnal anger can be broken and Spirit-enabled control and Christ-like attitudes can be achieved. Continue praying these Scriptures three times a day for at least thirty days. That should be sufficient time to break the old patterns of reacting with carnal anger and to gain Christ-like ways of responding to irritating circumstances and people.

II. THE DANGERS OF WRONG THINKING ABOUT CARNAL ANGER

There are at least two dangers that invariably accompany any discussion of carnal anger.

A. The refusal to admit to carnal anger in one’s own life. The first danger one faces is the unwillingness to admit that his attitude or behavior is really “carnal.” Lots of Christians deny that their attitudes or actions fit in the category of “carnal” anger, when, in fact, they do. There is not much hope for change if a person is not willing to measure himself by Scripture and admit his problem.

B. Accusing others of carnal anger.

The second danger involves our evaluation of other people. Just because someone gets red in the face, pale around the lips, raises his or her voice, or takes charge of a situation with a firm hand does not necessarily mean he or she is demonstrating “carnal” anger. We need to be very careful about accusing others of carnal anger.

If we are going to be hard on anyone, let’s be hard on ourselves. Let’s give other people the benefit of the doubt. If you had been in the Temple the day Jesus cleansed it, watching Him overturn the tables of the money-changers and driving out the animals with a whip in his hand, you might have thought, “Wow, is Jesus ever angry!” You might even have been tempted to say, “He isn’t acting very Christ-like, is he?”

A careful reading of the three gospel accounts that record Jesus’ cleansing of the Temple reveals no mention of the term “anger” (John 2:14-17; Mat. 21:12-13; Mark 11:15-17). Scripture specifically says He was moved by “zeal.” He was led by the Spirit to fulfill the prophetic statement of Psalm 69:9, “For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.” Jesus, as Messiah, was con-

➡(p14) Psalm 92:15 says, "The LORD is upright...and there is no unrighteousness in Him." From Scriptures like these, we can conclude that God is not the creator of sin or evil.

Second, to most people, the word peace in English means "the absence of conflict" or "quiet restfulness." Although the Hebrew word *shalom* has these meanings, as well, it more frequently has the sense of "well-being, prosperity," even "completeness."

The Hebrew word *ra'* has the meanings "evil" and "calamity, disaster, or hurt." The KJV translators recognized that *ra'* could mean "hurt" and translated it that way 20 times (see, for example, Ecclesiastes 8:9; Jeremiah 7:6; 25:7).

Now take a look at Isaiah 45:7. It is important to see that the Lord sets up a pair of contrasts in this verse.

He contrasts light with darkness and *shalom* with *ra'*. What is the opposite of well-being (*shalom*)? Isn't it calamity or harm? Interestingly, modern translations consistently translate this verse with words like "calamity" (NASB, ESV, NET), "disaster" (NIV, NJB), "woe" (NAB, RSV, NRSV, Tanakh) or "bad times" (NLT). The New King James reads: "I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the LORD, do all these things."

This is what Isaiah and Amos are both saying: *God is responsible not only for the prosperity that we enjoy, but also for the calamities that we endure.*

You might say, "But Philip, why would God create calamity?" Remember, the Bible tells us various reasons why God creates calamity: (1) God punishes sin with calamity (Deuteronomy 31:29); (2) God uses

calamities to chasten his people, e.g., Jonah (Jon. 1:4, 7); and (3) God uses calamity to try His servants and refine them (e.g., Job; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:7). In the case of Job, we learn that God was not directly responsible for Job's tragedy, but He did permit it. This highlights the wonderful truth of God's sovereignty: *nothing can or ever will enter the life of God's children without first receiving His stamp of permission.* In the light of Romans 8:28-29, we can rest assured that if God permits calamity or tragedy in our lives, He will also be at work to form in us the character of His Son through it.

Resting in Him,
PHILIP ■

Dr. A. Philip Brown II is a member of the ministerial faculty of God's Bible School and College. He may be contacted by e-mail at pbrown@gbs.edu.

Camp Meeting 2003 Tape List

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___	CM2003-03	"Seeing the Savior Solely" Pt. 1 Taylor	
___	CM2003-04	"Balance is the Secret"	McGinnis
___	CM2003-05	"Be Faithful in Prayer"	Scott
___	CM2003-06	"Seeing the Savior Solely" Pt. 2 Taylor	
___	CM2003-07	"Values"	McGinnis
___	CM2003-08	"Seeing the Savior Solely" Pt. 3 Taylor	
___	CM2003-09	"Making the Right Choices"	McGinnis
___	CM2003-10	"Holiness 101"	Scott
___	CM2003-11	"Seeing the Savior Solely" Pt. 4 Taylor	
___	CM2003-12	"Walking in the Light"	Scott
___	CM2003-13	"Walking with God"	McGinnis
___	CM2003-14	Music Tape 1	
___	CM2003-15	Commencement Address	Miles
___	CM2003-16	"What Is My Life?"	Scott
___	CM2003-17	"Failure Isn't Final"	Scott
___	CM2003-18	"Knowing the Time"	McGinnis
___	CM2003-19	Music Tape 2	

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

➡(p15) Cincinnati...**GBS-related weddings this summer include the following:** (1) *Joseph David Radcliff to Andrea Dawn Cranor*, May 31, Erlanger, Kentucky, the Revs. Marc Sankey and Phil Adams, officiating; (2) *Ronald Steven Ray Cook to Sarah Marie McClurg*, June 14, Portsmouth, Ohio; (3) *Donald Eric Davison II to Sarah Jo Popplewell*, June 14, Cincinnati, Ohio; (4) *Jonathan Howard Ayars to Ruthanne Marie Hoerner*, July 19, Ottawa, Kansas; (5) *Jack Dean Burkett III to Sarah Elizabeth Tomes*, August 8, Eastgate, Ohio, the Rev. Michael Avery, officiating; (6) *John Wesley Lum Jr. to Melissa Lynn Terry*, August 16, North Vernon, Indiana; (7) *Daron Blake Jones to Amber Lynn Davison*, September 20, Cincinnati, Ohio....Four-month old **Joshua Wegener**, son of Joel Wegener, GBS high school instructor, and Freida Wegener, his wife, had open-heart surgery for an AV Canal Repair at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, April 8, 2003. The surgery was successful, and the cardiologists are convinced that if the child has a normal recovery, his heart should "last a lifetime." Joel and Freida

thank all their friends and family for all the love, prayers, and acts of kindness over the last months....**GBS's Division of Music presented George F. Handel's oratorio "Israel in Egypt" in the main campus chapel, May 7.** Director was Prof. Garen L. Wolf; faculty accompanist was Martha Miller; and associate director was Deanna Wolf. The college choir was supported by these student soloists: Aaron Terry, Heidi Holmes, Aaron Perkins, Amanda Strain, Michelle Miller, Eric Englund, Seth Wetherald, Brandon Mills, and Brannon Littleton....**The Department of Intercultural Studies and World Missions of God's Bible School is sponsoring three missions teams this summer.** A team will be ministering in the Ukraine, Mexico, and Cayman Islands. Missions students will gain first-hand experience as they assist missionaries on the various fields....**Three musical groups also will be traveling across the country this summer representing GBS:** Assurance, a male quartet; Harmony, a mixed quartet; and Hope, a ladies' trio. Each of these groups will be ministering in camps, youth camps, and churches. ■



ASSURANCE



HARMONY



HOPE

ARCHIVES continued

➡(p16) you, just do three things: Know more, have more, and do more! Then they'll get after you. So it used to worry me to have people say things about me. I've been swallowed by whales, and nibbled by minnows, and walked on by elephants, and crawled over by ants until now I've got so that when a stinkbug gets on me...phhhtttt...that's all there is to it!

Next Monday, God willing, I'll be down in Greenville, S.C. for the Commencement at Bob Jones University. I'm a member of the Board of Trustees, and I'm going to have a cap and gown myself next week; they are going to "Doctor" me some way or other. I've already got a D.D. I was so delighted with it that I thought my wife would be highly pleased, too. She looked at it, and do you know what she said? She said, "Honey, that D.D. on a preacher's name is about like the curl on a pig's tail. It looks pretty, but it don't make any more pig!" —*Dr. B. R. Lakin, from his 1949 GBS Commencement Address* ■

2003 GBS GRADUATES

COLLEGE

- Kristen M. Anders, *summa cum laude*
- Jason David Baker, *cum laude*
- Mary Anne Bevin, *summa cum laude*, salutatorian
- David Knox Bullock II
- Angela Ann Burton, *cum laude*
- Erika Dawn Center
- Jaime Erin Center
- Scott Anthony Clemens, *summa cum laude*, valedictorian
- Ryan Matthew Colson, *cum laude*
- Brian Lee Consley
- Dixie Lee Downing, *cum laude*
- Eric Lavon Englund
- Jennifer Michelle Fikes, *cum laude*
- Julia Ann Fleener
- Pamala Lavat Gardiner
- James Burcham Haddix
- David Alan Hamer
- Martha Michelle Hedstrom, *cum laude*
- Lynnette Marie Hopkins, *cum laude*
- Lorraine Yvette Humes
- Shelan Arthur Humes
- Joseph Brannon Littleton
- John Wesley Lum, Jr.
- John Wesley Lum, Sr.
- Julie Anne Mater, *summa cum laude*
- Mandy Lynn Mimier
- Patrick Elon Murray
- JoAnna Joy Newton, *cum laude*
- Jonathan Andrew Parriman
- Jana Sherie Pop, *magna cum laude*
- Anna Lynnette Osborne
- Jennifer Lynn Riddle
- Rhett A. Ritchey
- Melanie Ann Robley, *summa cum laude*
- Lisa Michelle Sherrard
- Darrell Lee Stetler II, *magna cum laude*
- Elizabeth Joyann Stetler
- Lynette Lorraine Troyer, *cum laude*
- Stephen Brent Waggoner
- Heidi Rochelle Wetherald
- Timothy Charles Wilson, *cum laude*
- Raymond Reed Zeiger II

HIGH SCHOOL

- Jonathan Avery, valedictorian
- Nathan Becker
- Kwon Choe
- Kenneth Cox II
- Amanda Davison
- Jon DeBolt
- Cherie Jones
- Jason Jowers
- JiYi Jung
- Samantha Kelso, salutatorian
- David Miller II
- Ben Morris
- Jeremy Morris
- Jason Rogers
- Elizabeth Schafer

ACADEMY

- Alicia Mae Bonnett
- Jennifer Carrol Campbell
- Nicole Joy DeBolt
- Miguel Ryan Dilbert
- Jeremy Lee Gordon
- Gregory Jones II
- Daniel Adam Kilgore
- Drew Edward Kochanowski
- Benjamin Chike Nwankwo
- Julie Marie Sullivan, salutatorian
- Louis John Tye
- Robert Colton Welker
- Rachelle Christine Wolf, valedictorian

➡(continued from page 4)

LIKE JESUS

I just wanted say the article "Like Louis or like Jesus" [Editorial, May 2003] was really good. Personally, I certainly want to do my best to be like Jesus in my dealings with others and in my own eyes. Thanks for a powerful article.

MICAH THOMPSON
E-mail

THIRD ON THE LIST

My applause to President Avery for his time commitment to his sons [President's Page, "Evaluating my Relationship Portfolio," April 2003]. I wonder how our culture in general, and our holiness movement more specifically, would be different if we were more focused on our children? I thank God often that my children have a daddy that puts them third on his list of priorities: right under God and his wife.

DARLA STROUP
E-mail

GLIMPSE INTO GLORY

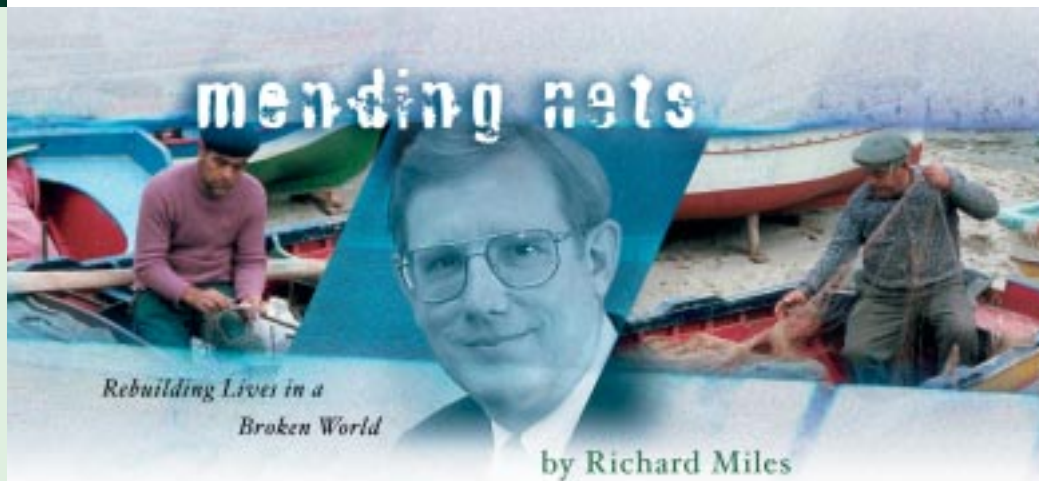
Our family is so grateful for the wonderful tribute you gave to my husband Lynn Theroff ["A Glimpse into Glory," May 2003]. It was so well written as to the way he went to Glory right here at home. He had such a glorious homegoing that we all continue to praise the Lord. Even though the loneliness for me has been hard to bear, I have the Lord with me to comfort me and lead me on. We appreciate the *Revivalist* very much.

MRS. LYNN THEROFF
Petersburg, Indiana

MARVELOUS MAGAZINE

I can't tell you how much I appreciate the *Revivalist*...I enjoy Rev. Larry Smith's "The Editor's View"; Ben Durr, Jr.'s "Second Thoughts"; Richard Miles' "Mending Nets," and all the other wonderful articles. What a marvelous magazine. I praise God for allowing me to have it in my possession.

EDNA GRAHAM
Camden, New York



YOUR CONDITION IS NOT HOPELESS

"I don't know whom to talk to, but I have to do something! I am trying my best to be a Christian, and yet I have been gay ever since I can remember. I don't act on those desires; but I feel so lonely, guilty, and like nobody cares or even wants to understand. If I tell someone, I feel like I will lose what little I have left."

We are fallen people, and sin extracts its heavy toll upon all of us. Though we are marked with different features of sin, they all have the same root cause. Prior to personal faith and redemption, humanity is separated from God, and as a result, lives in inadequate and damaged relationships with people.

The fact that you are not acting on your homosexual desires shows that you are willing to do what is right and best for you. The Bible clearly teaches that homosexual conduct is sin, though many argue this. The Bible also clearly condemns lusting after another person as being the sin that leads to immoral conduct, but sexual desire in itself is not sin. Though the conduct is, the desire is not. It is wise, of course, to understand your condition; but remember that just because a person has a desire or temptation, this does not make him or her a practitioner. Heterosexual temptation does not make one a fornicator. Homosexual desire, however, is not natural because it is not our Creator's intention (Rom. 1:26-27). All sin is a perversion of God-given desire and requires transformation by God's grace.

Male homosexual desire is more than sexual; it is relational (as are most problems). Sometimes men develop homosexual tendencies because a male molested them. Often these tendencies also result from failing to identify with male role models, and this prevents men from developing masculine identity. In fact, they may be seeking in another male what they "cannot" be themselves. Your next step might be to find a godly male mentor whom you can trust and who can handle your dilemma. Let this person help you walk toward completeness in Christ to become the person you were created and redeemed to be.

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➔(p2) that the the summer wedding season has begun. This is a festive time when beautiful girls marry handsome boys—for as you know, all girls are beautiful and all boys are handsome on their wedding day. Charmed by those desires for companionship, intimacy, and union which God has built into our nature and charged by those hammering hormones which He also has supplied, those youngsters come together in an atmosphere so thrilling that they hardly know how to handle it.

God knows how to handle it, however; and that is why He established holy matrimony at the beginning of our race. In this “honorable estate” which “signifies unto us the mystical union that is between Christ and His Church,” He directs the drives, contains the hormones, and sanctifies the atmosphere. For all these are brought together to His glory, as He unites bride and groom in lifelong, sacred covenant, pledged voluntarily between them, privately at first, and then publicly in formal confirmation.

In this public ceremony, “the two parties to the contract marry each other and are the ministers of the nuptial bond,” as the Rev. Massey Shepherd, Jr., a liturgical expert, has explained. Those beautiful girls and handsome boys—who, by the way, may be in their nineties as well as in their teens—may do this before a magistrate on the courthouse steps as well as before a clergyman on the altar steps. If their vows are lawfully made, they are as valid before the one as before the other.

Yet for most Christians, the bare legalities are not enough; and that is why they ask the church to receive and bless their vows. “When the Church presides over a marriage ceremony,” Shepherd adds, “it serves as the witness to the contract, and through its [minister] bestows a blessing of God upon the union, with prayer that the parties concerned may have grace to fulfill their vows of fidelity and to create a Christian family and home.”

Witness, blessing, and prayer—these are the central roles which the church supplies at weddings conducted by its pastors. It must also insist, however, that these take place in an atmosphere which honors God. “Weddings are often seen as purely personal and are left totally to the discretion of the couple and their families—persons who usually have little training in service design, theological concepts, or appropriate etiquette,” according to *Christian Worship*, a text published and used by Southern Baptists.

“Any service sanctioned by the church should be controlled by the church and its leaders,” it continues. “All texts, actions, and intent must honor God.” Pastors should never allow enraptured couples, doting parents, and pushy “wedding directors” to turn a marriage ceremony into a sentimental extravaganza.

So how does a Christian wedding honor God? We suggest five brief answers to that question

1. *A Christian wedding honors God in worship.*

“Marriage in the church is a worship service; therefore every element of the service should honor God in a spirit of worship,” declare the authors of *Christian Worship*. Christian weddings do not focus first upon the bride and groom but upon the God whom they ask to bless their union. Neither are they sensual celebrations of human love but sacred celebrations of that love sealed and sanctified by Him.

Deep reverence for the holy and the Holy One are essential to any atmosphere of worship; and all that is crude, disruptive, and trivial are offensive. Exalted, Christian music is essential, but we also suggest the reading of scripture, the preaching of a homily, and such devout and dignified ritual as the traditional “Order for the Solemnization of Matrimony” from the *Book of Common Prayer*.

2. *A Christian wedding honors God in purpose.* Infidelity and divorce are rampant in our sinful culture; and so the church must speak powerfully of God’s designs in marriage. We’re not suggesting fiery exhortations or altar calls, but we do believe that everything about a wedding should emphasize that marriage is pledged in holy, lifelong covenant between a man and woman who also pledge themselves to God. “Cutesy” homemade services often betray or trivialize this central principle, as in those weddings where bride and groom promise to remain faithful to one another as long as each remain “faithful to the Lord.” Whatever else this may be, it is not the vow of Christian marriage, for that vow is “for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, til death us do part.”

3. *A Christian wedding honors God in stewardship.* What He has put into our hands, including money, is really His; and He requires us to spend it for His glory. This principle of stewardship demands conscientious purpose in planning a wedding and paying for its expenses. It is true that one of the most significant milestones of our lives should be commemorated by memorable observance, and this means decorations, photography, special clothing, as well as the reception. God does not condemn legitimate costs for appropriate celebration, but He despises extravagant display in order to satisfy lavish personal taste or to impress others by it. Moreover, this often forces the newly married into crushing debt.

4. *A Christian wedding honors God in personal appearance.* It is fitting for the wedding party to appear in special clothing, but never to violate Christian standards of modesty and simplicity. God has spoken specifically on these issues, and that is why we have spoken specifically on them too. But our marriage ceremonies sometimes betray the very principles which we vigorously defend. If tight bodices, plunging necklines, and bare backs and shoulders are

grievous to God and embarrassing to us at other times, why are they not also so at weddings? If “gold and pearls and costly array” are unbecoming to a Christian elsewhere, why not there? The Bible does not make exceptions for marriage ceremonies, and neither should we who profess to follow its demands.

5. *A Christian wedding honors God in music.* What is sung at God’s altar must be for Him, and this means sacred music, not secular love songs. Frankly, “I Love You Truly” sounds like a splendid anthem compared to the trashy sounds which sometimes pound throughout our churches now.

Yet the church’s treasury offers great hymns suitable for a marriage. Among these are “Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us,” “The Voice that Breathed O’er Eden,” “O Perfect Love,” and Malotte’s “The Lord’s Prayer.” That repertoire is enriched by such recent additions as Jon Mohr’s “Find Us Faithful,” Barbara Hart’s “A Christian Home,” or Brian Wren’s “When Love Is Found,” all of which are found in *Sing to the Lord*. Remember, too, that congregational singing of exalted hymns provides an atmosphere of participatory celebration. For instance, “Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven,” makes a magnificent processional, as it did for Queen Elizabeth II at her wedding in 1947.

What is a Christian wedding! My friend Jim knew—as I know now—that a Christian wedding is about God and not about sentimental frills. For it is a holy rite where God is exalted and His purpose is fulfilled, and that is why all its details must be reverent and devout. *A Christian wedding must honor God! This principle is timeless and universal, and it is uncompromising and non-negotiable. A Christian wedding must be Christian!* ■



By Anita K. Brechbill

“...when He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold” (Job 23:10).

For Job the “trying” meant incredible loss. The furnace through which he passed seemed more than mortal could endure. But the brilliant purity of the gold that “came forth” shines even to this distant time. God banked His reputation on Job’s integrity and won. The testing had to be extreme. Consider also Joseph who on his way to the throne of Egypt was “laid in iron.” *“...The Word of the Lord tried him” (Psalm 105:19)*. To Joseph—as to Job—all was darkness, and there was no explanation. The man who would bear the weight of the throne of the mightiest nation on earth and save the chosen people from extinction had first to bear the heavier weight of neglect, hatred, betrayal, and the dungeon.

Frankly, most of us don’t amount to much because we can’t stand the “trying.” ■

Anita Brechbill, Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania, is editor of RopeHolders and a regular contributor to the Revivalist.

MENDING NETS continued

➡(continued from page 21)

You are wise to take care in choosing the one in whom you confide. Many will resist helping you because they lack knowledge, have misperceptions, or are uncomfortable in dealing with something they cannot understand. But don’t assume that no one cares. God cares, and many of God’s people care. Your condition is not hopeless. The converts in Corinth were people who had been involved in many sins, including homosexual conduct. God’s grace does not leave any of us where it finds us. He transforms us like He did the Corinthians, for they had been “washed...sanctified...(and) justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our Lord” (II Cor. 6:9). ■

“Mending Nets” explores God’s readiness to mend the breakdowns which so often mar our lives. It is written by the Rev. Richard Miles, GBS Vice President for Student Affairs. He invites our readers to send questions to be addressed in this column. His e-mail address is Mendingnets@gbs.edu.



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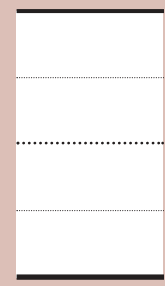
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