

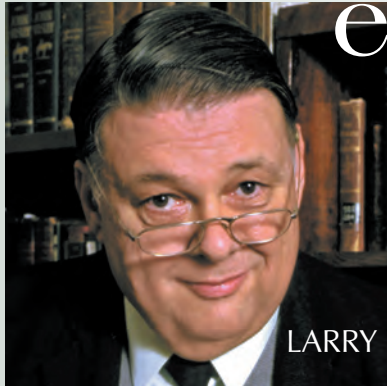
# GOD'S REVIVALIST

November 2010

*and Bible Advocate*

A rustic autumn-themed still life featuring a scarecrow, corn cobs, pumpkins, and gourds. The scene is set against a background of dried corn husks and wooden sticks. The scarecrow has a green hat, a purple shirt, and a straw body. The pumpkins and gourds are scattered around, some with red and orange hues. The overall atmosphere is warm and harvest-themed.

For Thy Bountiful  
Blessings,  
O Lord,  
We Give Thee  
Thanks.



# the editor's view

LARRY D. SMITH

## “TING-A-LING! HURRAH FOR THANKSGIVING DAY!”

Your calendar on the kitchen wall says that it is now November, that golden time late in the year's parade of disappearing months. Soon we shall be overcome by the excited rush of Christmas. What a blessing, then, that first we are given Thanksgiving Day with its call to gratitude and benediction! This, of course, has become our great annual feast of roasted turkey, since festive eating always marks our finest celebrations

But almost as inseparable from the day is the rich nostalgia that has come to permeate the season. Gripped in patriotic reverie, we sit down in old New England with friendly Indians and smiling Pilgrims. Reliving childhood memories, we gather with father and mother, grandparents, aunts and uncles at a white-draped table set with flickering candles and flowered china. For a moment, the realities of today slide away into the mists of yesterday.

Few of us will bundle ourselves into a horse-drawn sleigh this Thanksgiving, as "over the river and through the wood / To Grandmother's house we go." But charmed by these old familiar lyrics, we sing them again, thrilled as the polished runners crunch "through the white and drifted snow." We shiver excitedly beneath the buffalo robes pulled up around our chins, for "how the wind does blow! / It stings the toes / And bites the nose, / As over the ground we go."

We sigh eagerly for the cornbread dressing now turning a glorious amber in the oven of Granny's roaring cookstove, then shout merrily at Old Nellie, our "dapple gray," as she strains into her harness. "Hear the bells ring, / Ting-a-ling-ling!" we shout. "Ting-a-ling-ling! Hurrah for Thanksgiving Day!"

What a vivid 19th-century vignette—something like a print published by Currier and Ives, hand-tinted (p21)➡

## CONTENTS

NOVEMBER 2010  
Volume 122 No. 8

### FEATURES

- Fire Strikes Newberrytown Camp Meeting!** 5  
by Andrew Grate
- America's First National Thanksgiving Day** 20  
by Abraham Lincoln

### DEPARTMENTS

- The Editor's View** 2
- The President's Page** 3
- Letters To The Editor** 4
- The World To Win** 4
- Called Unto Holiness** 7
- News From The Hilltop** 10
- Revivalist Family** 10
- Dear Phil** 14
- World Pulse** 15
- From The Classics** 16
- Revivalist Pulpit** 17
- Alumni News** 20
- Thoughts For The Quiet Hour** 23

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God's Revivalist and Bible Advocate (ISSN 0745-0788) is published monthly except for combined issues in January-February and June-July-August for **\$12.00 per year (\$28.00, Canada; \$45.00, other countries)** by the Revivalist Press of God's Bible School, College and Missionary Training Home, 1810 Young Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202. Periodical postage paid at Cincinnati, Ohio, and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER: send address changes to God's Revivalist and Bible Advocate, 1810 Young Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.**

God's Revivalist and Bible Advocate, the official organ of God's Bible School, is a magazine founded by Martin Wells Knapp in July of 1888. We seek to proclaim the good news of salvation; to stir a revival spirit among Christians; to stimulate Christian growth and responsible Christian living; to present the happenings and interests of God's Bible School.

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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.

God's Bible School and College does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, national or ethnic origin, or against otherwise qualified handicapped persons in its admission of students or employment of its faculty and staff.

Contact us by telephone at (513) 721-7944 (Revivalist Press, ext. 1351); by fax at (513) 763-6649; by email at [revivalist@gbs.edu](mailto:revivalist@gbs.edu) or [gbs4u@gbs.edu](mailto:gbs4u@gbs.edu). Visit us online at [www.gbs.edu](http://www.gbs.edu) or [www.godsrevivalist.com](http://www.godsrevivalist.com).

# the president's page



## **“BY THIS SHALL ALL MEN KNOW...”**

*by Michael R. Avery, President*

**G**od has the most remarkable way of placing little object lessons in our path to remind us of the things that are most important. He has them tucked away in the most unlikely places just waiting for the right moment to spring them. This happened to me recently while standing at the back door of a church where I had just finished preaching the final service of a revival meeting. The church is a growing congregation of good folks from a primarily rural area. They have a number of exciting ministries, one of which is a ministry to adults facing various challenges. The church provides this group with their own special Sunday school class, and in turn the

group participates faithfully in the worship services—usually sitting right up front.

One of the ladies in the group, Robin, has Down Syndrome. Robin lives with one of the church families where she has received loving care for over 26 years. Robin is known for her exceptionally mild disposition and loving manner. She loves the animals on the farm and has spent the entire day in the barn just petting the goats. Once when a baby deer happened along, Robin’s caregiver saw her standing in the backyard with the little deer, each enjoying the other’s company.

As I stood at the back door shaking hands and sharing good-byes, Robin and her family joined the line that was winding its way past me and out the door. One of the family members whispered to Robin, “Why don’t you give him a hug” and pointed to someone standing right behind me. Robin thought she meant me and pushed her way through the crowd, laid her head on my arm, and began to pat my hand. This continued for sometime. It was one of the most pure expressions of love I had ever received from a complete stranger.

A few days later, early one morning as I was praying, I thought of this incident. As I thought about Robin’s unashamed display of unconditional love, I paused in my prayer and asked the Lord, “Father, did you make a special group of people just to show us what unconditional love looks like?” To which He gently replied, “Yes, Son, I did. They are called Christians!” ■

# Letters

## TO THE EDITOR

Letters should be addressed to the Editorial Office, 1810 Young Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, or emailed to [revivalist@gbs.edu](mailto: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.

### GIVE ME A HEART LIKE DEE'S

My family and I read Mark Burkholder's story, "Dee's Paint Can and My Salvation" [*God's Revivalist*, September 2010] during devotions tonight. It seemed a bit graphic, but it touched on very real issues facing men today. This article revealed an incredible miracle of how the ungodly can become holy by God's amazing grace. What a challenging reminder that our God CAN do anything! As a holiness man and a business owner I have been praying that God would lead me as I endeavor to witness for Him. I know many customers need more than the products we offer. My prayer tonight is, "God, give me tears and a heart like Dee's that I might win souls for Thee."

JACK HOLLAND  
Adamsville, Alabama

### "YOU MUST PREACH THE LAW"

I especially liked your emphasis on the way the law should be preached [*God's Revivalist*, "The Editor's View," September 2010]. I have believed for a long time that one of the reasons we see as little conviction in our services and too much shallow altar work is the failure to preach the law as you have written. Many years ago I read somewhere in Godbey's commentaries [that]...in revivals he took Mount Sinai for his pulpit and preached the law for several days before he opened the altar. Then he took Mount Calvary for his pulpit and opened the altar, and people tumbled into the altar, crying for mercy. I also remember that around 1950 and later...many voices began to be raised about so-called negative preaching, by which they really meant naming sin.

REV. H.C. EMMERT  
Email

## MISSIONS REPORTS

# 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.

**MEXICO.** In recent days, Marc and I have been touched and challenged anew with the urgency of the soul harvest around us. Maybe that sounds odd to you, given the fact that we are missionaries. Please let me remind you that even on the mission field the busyness of life and ministry, duties, and "everyday" tasks that we must complete can at times cause our focus to shift. Through a series of things that God has allowed to come into our lives, we feel that our hearts have been stirred to even greater focus on the soul harvest and on what is truly important for our family. We desire most of all to please Him and walk in His ways in the path He has chosen for our family. "His approval will be our reward." —*Melodie Sankey, Email*

**PHILIPPINES.** "We are now two weeks into language school, and it has been a very humbling experience. If you can imagine what it would be like to become a baby again, trying to sound out syllables, words, and simple phrases that others have known for their entire lifetime.... Please pray specifically that God will graciously grant to us the skill and understanding we need to learn to speak fluently in Ilokano."

—*R.G. and Sarah Hutchison, Email Newsletter*

**UKRAINE.** "Two weeks [this past summer] were spent in the mountains of western Ukraine.... We taught mountain children...in two different vacation Bible schools.... We were able to show the Jesus film in remote villages, visited invalids in their homes, played games with teens, shared the plan of salvation, and prayed with many. After two weeks living in tents here and there we were glad to be in our own village of Osikova. Our gospel team of six teenagers helped with the VBS's.... We praise God that between the two village around 45 children prayed and repented." —*Jason and Joanna Sturtevant, Arms Around the World* ■



# FIRE STRIKES


## NEWBERRYTOWN CAMP MEETING!

by Andrew Grate

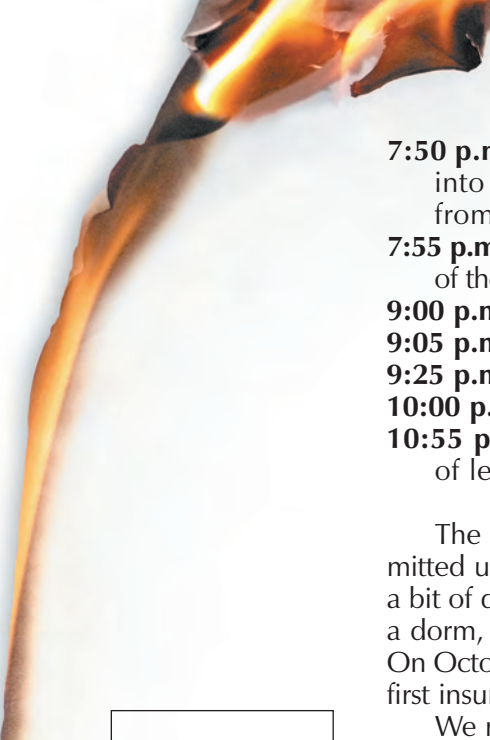
July 15 was day seven of the 2010 Camp Meeting in Newberrytown, Pennsylvania. Our evening pre-service had begun at 7:00 with Camp President Brandon Byer introducing a quartet from Allegheny Wesleyan College. Everything went well for awhile. But then about midway through, we were disrupted by a fire that was to destroy one of our camp's most important buildings. It's a powerful reminder for all of us to prepare for such tragedy.

Let me share a timeline of that evening:

- 7:17 p.m.** A power surge or electrical short caused fire at the camp utility pole, which transferred to the sound board on the platform, causing a pillow-sized puff of smoke.
- 7:18 p.m.** On the other side of the same utility pole, fire traced the wires to the eaves of the dorm roof where one of two power supplies entered the building.
- 7:19 p.m.** As smoke began rising from the roof, two men went through the building pounding on doors and calling out "Fire!" One of the ladies called 911.
- 7:20 p.m.** By this time panic had disrupted the service, which was dismissed. People were pulling laptops, suitcases, and other items from the building.
- 7:21 p.m.** Cars were moved from around the building to allow a safe distance and to make room for the fire crew.
- 7:32 p.m.** Fire trucks began to arrive. With no hydrant nearby, tankers began hauling in water for the fire trucks.
- 7:42 p.m.** Firefighters broke open the third-floor windows and opened the roof, causing billows of smoke to escape.



We Hope Our Loss  
Will Prod Everyone  
To Consider  
Campground  
Safety....



**7:50 p.m.** The building was now in flames. Three of the third-floor dormer windows burst into flames. Firefighters withdrew from the interior and continued to fight the blaze from the outside.

**7:55 p.m.** Some of our teens wept as they realized personal items were going up in smoke. Some of the men who helped build the dorm in the late 1950's stood by helplessly as it burned.

**9:00 p.m.** The fire was under control.

**9:05 p.m.** The Red Cross arrived to serve food to the campers and offer lodging if necessary.

**9:25 p.m.** The fire was mostly out except for "hot spots."

**10:00 p.m.** Some of the campers salvaged a few personal items.

**10:55 p.m.** Fire equipment and emergency vehicles, nearly 20 in all, began the process of leaving the campgrounds.

The next day, the fire inspector took only about an hour to inspect the damage, then permitted us to enter the building and look for ourselves. We salvaged some belongings and with a bit of disbelief took in the dreadful sight of damage estimated at \$600,000. This was not just a dorm, since it included the bookroom, the snack shop, the kitchen, dining hall, and more. On October 1, the excavators rolled in at the camp and brought the ruined building down. Our first insurance settlement has arrived, and we're trusting God for wisdom to use it wisely.

We rest this fire to God's sovereignty, grateful that no one was hurt or killed; but we also hope that our loss will prod all of us to consider safety at our campgrounds.

**We rest  
this fire to  
God's  
sovereignty,  
grateful  
that no one  
was hurt  
or killed.**

Consider the following questions:

1. How long has it been since you reviewed your camp insurance coverage? Is it sufficient?
2. Does your camp have smoke alarms in every cabin or several down every dorm hallway where people are sleeping?
3. Do you replace the smoke alarm batteries every year with a dated sticker on each battery?
4. Do you have fire extinguishers throughout your buildings, and are they inspected with currently dated tags?
5. Are you considering building where the bookstore, snack shop, kitchen, dining hall, dorm and other parts of the camp are connected? Have you considered fire walls even if local codes do not require them?
6. Are you running too many modern appliances on wiring that is several decades old?
7. Are maintenance men running to the breaker box to reset breakers that trip frequently?

Please take this list to your next camp board meeting. Everybody will benefit by making sure that your facilities are secure and safe. Meanwhile, our camp for next year is scheduled for July 8–17. We'll announce our temporary location as soon as possible. ■

**Andrew J. Grate** (GBS '93 BRE) lives in Pennsylvania and is closely associated with the campground at Newberrytown, Pennsylvania.





## — Called Unto Holiness —

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

### PERFECT LOYALTY TO GOD

*by Bishop William Taylor*

**T**he first essential prerequisite to Christian perfection and a leading characteristic of it is a cheerful, perfect submission to the will of God. "But," someone says, "I had to submit myself unreservedly to God's will before He would even pardon my sins." So must every sinner. God will not receive anyone into His kingdom unless he will confess and forsake his sins without reservation.

What then is the difference between the sincere, unreserved submission of the penitent sinner and the cheerful, perfect submission of the seeker of entire sanctification? The submission of the penitent is very much like the submission of the manslayer fleeing from the avenger of blood. As he approaches the gate of the city of refuge, he cries, "Open the gate and let me in!" The porter says to him, "Will you submit to the will of the governor of this city and keep his laws?" "O yes, I will," he responds. Open the gate and let me in!"

This is submission because he is in great jeopardy. So is every sinner who is "fleeing from the wrath to come." He is driven by the law of God and also attracted by the love of God who prepares a refuge for his poor soul. But after he is admitted to the city of refuge—adopted into God's family—he is placed in the school of Christ. Here he ascertains through the light of the Holy Spirit upon His heart that the will of God is much more comprehensive than he could have anticipated before. He acquires such confidence in God as the reasonable ruler of his life that he makes a consecration of himself to God very different from that which he had made as a the penitent sinner. Let me explain:

**1. This is an intelligent submission and consecration.** As a penitent he could not know about the details of Christian experience and duty. But now he has reached a place where he has an appreciative view of his relations to God and His Kingdom. So he cheerfully adjusts his entire consecration of heart and life to his enlarged perceptions of these relationships.

**2. This is based on different motives.** In coming to Christ as a penitent sinner, his motive was primarily fear. Now it is not, for he has acquired such confidence in God that he understands that God's will is perfectly right and consistent with his own best interests in time and eternity. He knows that God will require him only to give everything opposed to perfect heart purity because it is only rubbish and death. Therefore he gladly accepts God's will as the rule of his heart and life. "I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom 12:1).

**3. This submission embodies such a development of the principle of obedience in the heart of a Christian that it will perfect his loyalty to God and settle the question as to whether he will do his whole duty to God.** The perfectly loyal heart has but one question and that is, "What is my duty?" Its development is often promoted and demonstrated by specific tests of obedience, as it did with Abraham. When he promptly offered up "his son, his dear son Isaac," as a burnt-offering, he demonstrated heart loyalty to the death.

This loyalty must embrace the settlement of every question and preclude any debate about whether or not we will do God's will. Remember His service "is a reasonable service." What a scandal to the religion of Jesus that men and women professing to love God should set themselves against God's will. So bring your sacrifice, my dear Christian reader, "bind it with cords," lay it on God's altar, and steadily keep it there. ■

*William Taylor (1821-1902) was a famous Methodist minister, author, holiness advocate, and missionary bishop to Africa. This selection, abridged by the editor, is taken from The Double Cure or Echoes from National Camp Meetings, published in 1894.*

# HOMECOMING

OCTOBER 8 & 9 2010



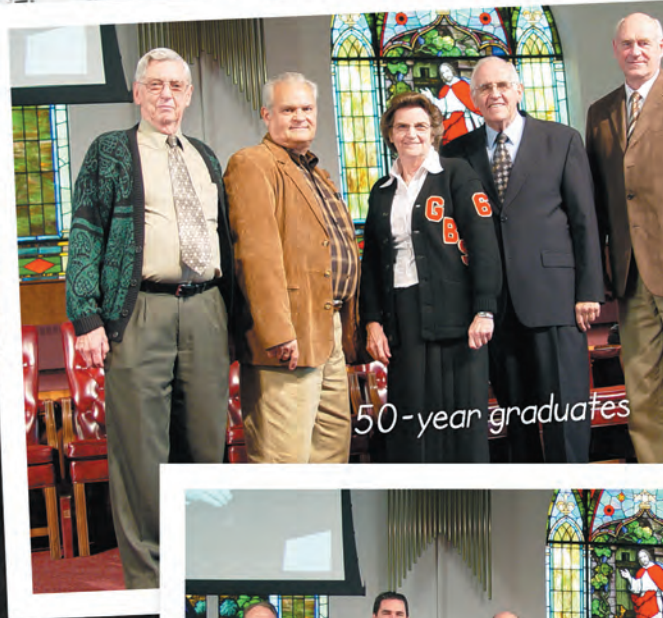
Jerry Glick



Don Quales, Melvin Adams, Mark Going



faculty award



50-year graduates



25-year graduates

A Tribute to

*Saren Wolf I*





## HOMECOMING 2010: "A SPECIAL TIME" HONORING GAREN WOLF

Homecoming 2010, October 8 and 9, was a very special time honoring the retirement of Prof. Garen Wolf, longtime chair of GBS's Division of Music. The entire weekend consisted of several opportunities to remember and honor the life and influence of Mr. Wolf. This began with a banquet in the dining hall. Fortunately, the entire Wolf family was able to attend and be the honored guests. The Friday night concert featured an alumni quartet, alumni orchestra, and alumni choir. Two video tributes to Mr. Wolf were presented to the alumni and friends who filled the chapel.

We were especially honored to have participating several music directors from sister Bible colleges and universities who had studied under Mr. Wolf. The "Passing the Torch" ceremony at the close of the concert was especially meaningful.

Saturday breakfast gave an opportunity for reunion and fellowship. Saturday morning services featured a devotional by Mr. Jerry Glick and recognition of the 25- and 50-year graduates. The Faculty/Staff Appreciation Award was presented to GBS Director of Finance,

David Frederick, who has served the school faithfully for fifteen years. The Alumnus of the Year Award was presented to former GBS professor and division chair, Dr. Michael Williams. Dr. and Mrs. Williams have spent a number of years in ministry, church administration, and Christian education.

Saturday concluded with a great picnic on campus. Plenty of food, games, and even a dunk tank attracted many alumni to spend the afternoon on the Hilltop. Please mark your calendar now for Homecoming 2011, which will be held October 7 and 8. We invite all of our GBS alumni to come back home for this special event. ■

—Jack Hooker, President,  
National Alumni Association



# NEWS

from the Hilltop

## GBS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM OFFERED DECEMBER 10, 11, 12

God's grace—His amazing unmerited favor—is the theme of the GBS Music Division's Christmas program *Were It Not for Grace*, which will be staged in the Adcock

Chapel at 7:00 PM, December 10, 11, and 12. A 115-voice choir, a 40-piece orchestra, and a cast of actors come together in this musical production which promises to "take you back to Bethlehem on that first Christmas night," introducing you to "four, ordinary people whose lives were intersected by the grace of God." You will meet a hard-hearted centurion, a self-sufficient woman named Martha, a

lowly shepherd, and a sin-wrecked woman of the streets. When they met the Master, their lives were drastically changed.

**TICKET INFORMATION:** Each family may request up to five free



# 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 **James (GBS '00-01) and Jodi (GBS '89-97) Randel**, Miltonvale, Kansas, a daughter Jerabeth Lea Randel, born September 27, 2010. Her siblings include Josiah, Jeralyn, Jeshanah, Jesherah, and Joashleiah. Jodi served on the GBS staff as head cook, 1997-2001, and is a stay-at-home mom. James is a grain elevator operator.



## DEATHS

**Gary M. Groves, 37**, of Strongsville, Ohio, died of a massive heart attack August 4, 2010. He graduated *summa cum laude* from God's Bible School in 1999 with the degree BA in Christian School Music Education and in addition earned a degree in accounting from the University of Cincinnati. He is survived by his parents Willis and Evelyn Groves, his brothers Doug and Tim, and other relatives and friends. He was cremated, and memorial



services were held at Jardine Funeral Home, Strongsville, Dr. Kent E. Knife, officiating.

**Helen Cora Mabel Luelf, 91**, of Independence, Kansas, died Friday, July 2, 2010, in Iola. After attending Truston schools, she worked at Troy Garment Factory, then went to God's Bible School, where she graduated as valedictorian. In 1946 she and Zola Mae Rich began their ministry in Barbados. In 1952 they opened a new work in Grenada, where she lived until 1988, and where she helped establish a dozen churches and other missions.



After retiring from the mission field, Miss Luelf pastored in San Bernardino, California, for 12 years, then returned to Independence in 2003. She moved to Iola in 2008. Survivors include two sisters, Esther and Faith, and nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held at the Bible Holiness Church, Independence, the Revs. Duane Johnson, DeSilva Smith, and Joe Davolt, officiating. Burial was at Mount Hope Cemetery.

**Dr. Walter H. Johnson, 93**, of Hebron, Indiana, formerly of Greenville, Illinois, died August 4, 2010, Merrillville, Indiana. He was converted at the age of 12. After graduating from God's Bible School with a high school diploma in 1936, he attended Spring Arbor College. He went on to grad-



tickets for one night only. After the fifth ticket, the cost is \$5 per ticket (please send payment with your order). Phone or email orders will not be accepted. All orders must be sent to the school with a self-



addressed, stamped envelope. Include the date you prefer and the number of tickets needed. Please contact the ticket coordinator at (513) 721-7944 if you will not be using your tickets.

No seats may be saved at any-time. No persons arriving after 7:20 p.m. will be permitted to enter, and those leaving the auditorium during the performance will not be granted readmittance. Prelude music will begin at 6:30 p.m. Child care will be provided for children ten and under. A freewill offering will be taken at the close of each performance. Persons wishing to place an advertisement in the evening's program should contact the Music Division at (513) 763-6546.

Ticket orders should be addressed as follows: Christmas Program Ticket Request, God's Bible School and College, 1810 Young St., Cincinnati, OH 45202.

**CHE BROWN SCHOLARSHIP FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS ESTABLISHED AT GBS**

*by Faith Avery, Office of Institutional Advancement*

A remarkable person or story is behind the founding of each scholarship at God's Bible School and College. In the case of the recently established Che Brown Scholarship, there are both.

The story begins in 1987 in the town of Reynoldsburg, Ohio, ➡



uate from Greenville College; McCormack Seminary; and Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, from which he received his doctoral degree in 1947. He served as a Free Methodist pastor, then joined the faculty at Greenville College and later Seattle Pacific College. In retirement he returned to Greenville.

He is survived by his wife, the former Virginia White, to whom he was married for 68 years; their children W. Stanley and Ruth; grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held at the Greenville, Illinois, Free Methodist Church with burial at the Mt. Auburn Cemetery. ▀



While finishing work toward his high school diploma in 1935-36, Walter Johnson (far left) directed the GBS orchestra.

**UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)**

**Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation**

1. Publication Title <b>God's Revivalist and Bible Advocate</b>	2. Publication Number 0 7 4 5 - 0 7 8 8	3. Filing Date 09-28-10
4. Issue Frequency 9 per year	5. Number of Issues Published Annually 9	6. Annual Subscription Price \$12.00
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®) Revivalist Press, 1810 Young St., Cincinnati, OH 45202		Contact Person <b>Sharonna Mitchell</b> Telephone (include area code) (513) 721-7944 x1351

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer)  
Revivalist Press, 1810 Young St., Cincinnati, OH 45202

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)  
 Publisher (Name and complete mailing address)  
 Revivalist Press, 1810 Young St., Cincinnati, OH 45202

Editor (Name and complete mailing address)  
 Rev. Larry D. Smith, 1810 Young St., Cincinnati, OH 45202

Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)  
 Mr. Kevin Moser, 1810 Young St., Cincinnati, OH 45202

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
God's Bible School, College, and Missionary Training Home, Inc.	1810 Young Street Cincinnati, OH 45202

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box  None

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
N/A	

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)  
 The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:  
 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months  
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 1 of 3 (Instructions Page 3)) PSN 7530-01-000-9931 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com

13. Publication Title <b>God's Revivalist and Bible Advocate</b>	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below September 1, 2010
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15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		5,711	6,100
(1)	Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	5,334	4,805
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)			
(2)	Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	0	0
(3)	Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	0	0
(4)	Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail®)	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		5,334	4,805
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)			
(1)	Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	0	0
(2)	Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	0	0
(3)	Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)	0	0
(4)	Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	327	1,245
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		327	1,245
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		5,661	6,050
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		50	50
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		5,711	6100
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		94.22%	79.42%

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership  
 If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the **November 2010** issue of this publication.  Publication not required.

17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner  
 Sharonna J. Mitchell Date: 10-25-10

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 2 of 3)

➡ where Eleanor Nunley welcomed her second grade public school class to a new year. Eleanor took note of one student in particular, an African-American boy named Che. He was certainly bright enough, but his behavior would prove extremely challenging—even for a seasoned teacher! All year Eleanor worked diligently with Che, so he could make it both academically and socially. She was able to connect with the boy, and in return he cooperated with her in a way he never had for other teachers. In fact, Che did so well under Eleanor that when she was assigned to teach third grade the subsequent year, she asked to teach him again—a challenge the other teachers gladly relinquished!



Che Brown as a child



Eleanor Nunley and Che Brown

Che transferred to another school for fourth grade, yet whenever Eleanor occasionally saw him she was always introduced as his “favorite teacher.” Though no longer in the same school, the bond created between teacher and student would have a lasting impact over the next fifteen years of Che’s life.

Eleanor eventually lost track of Che during his high school years, after which he moved to the inner-city of Columbus to live on the streets. Che’s life spiraled out of control, but the most devastating part was his involvement with drugs. Arrested multiple times, he had only the “streets of Columbus” to give as his address. Finally in 2005, Eleanor learned he was in the local county jail, a stint which allowed her to reconnect and start influencing his life again.

When he was released from the county jail, Eleanor continued to visit and work with Che. As she did, she became increasingly burdened for at-risk, inner-city youth, and two things became apparent: first, she wanted to join forces with a larger organization to help prisoners like Che serving their sentence; second, she needed to do her part to prevent youth like Che from starting down the road to prison with little hope of diversion.

And so it was that Eleanor began working at South Eastern Correctional Institute under Prison

Fellowship. She joined their weekly Bible studies and connected with a number of other ministries to address issues facing inner-city youth, giving generously of her time and support.

Eleanor wanted to go beyond even these ministries to give at-risk African-Americans another opportunity. Studies show that on any given day 30 percent of African-American males aged 20 to 29 are “under correctional supervision.” A Bureau of Justice analysis shows that 32 percent of black males born in 2001 can expect to spend time in prison over the course of their lifetime. In the face of such staggering statistics what could one person do? Eleanor took courage in the words of Edward Everett Hale, “I am only one, but I am still one; I cannot



Eleanor presents check to Faith Avery

do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.”

What could Eleanor do? She could and did start the Che Brown Scholarship for African-

American college students called to minister to inner-cities of America. This scholarship provides educational opportunities for African-American youth desiring to give at-risk teens like Che a different direction, a new hope.

If you wish to link arms with Eleanor to help give inner-city youth another path, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at (513) 763-6565, or send a donation to God’s Bible School and College for the Che Brown Scholarship.

### STUDENTS SHARE CHRIST IN OPEN AIR CAMPAIGN

“It was a wonderful experience to be used by God to minister to people in such distinct ways.” This was how college senior Rachelle Wolf described GBS’s



## Investing in Tomorrow’s Christian Leaders

### Examples of Single-Life Gift Annuity Rates

Age of Donor	Rate of Return	Age of Donor	Rate of Return	Age of Donor	Rate of Return	Age of Donor	Rate of Return
60	5.2%	68	5.7%	76	6.5%	84	7.9%
62	5.3%	70	5.8%	78	6.8%	86	8.3%
64	5.4%	72	6.0%	80	7.2%	88	8.9%
66	5.5%	74	6.3%	82	7.5%	90+	9.5%

- **Lifetime Income** — at attractive payout rates for one or two people.
- **Tax Savings** — a large part of your amount is a deductible charitable gift.
- **Tax-Free Income** — a large portion of your annual payment is a tax-free return of your principal.
- **Capital Gains Savings** — when you give appreciated securities for a gift annuity, you minimize any taxes on your “paper profit.”
- **Special Blessing** — in securing the future of God’s Bible School.

#### GOD’S BIBLE SCHOOL & COLLEGE

OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT  
1810 YOUNG STREET • CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202  
PHONE: (513) 721-7944, EXT. 1221

Open Air Campaign, September 13–16. “God knew what each person needed, and He allowed us as students to let them see Christ in us.”

Under the direction of Dr. Mark Bird, GBS college professor, and Eric Briscoe, Open Air Campaigners Field Director, students took the gospel to downtown Cincinnati, focusing on Fountain Square, heart of the city’s business district. There they witnessed their faith through outdoor preaching, sketchbook painting, gospel singing, tract distribution, and personal counseling. Hundreds of people were thus confronted by the offer of salvation.

“I appreciated the wonderful participation from the students and the encouragement and support from all the administration, staff, and faculty, especially the Christian Service Director, Dr. Dan Glick,” says Dr. Bird. “More students participated in the Open Air Outreach this year than in several years.” ■



## Dear Phil

### ELIJAH AND ENOCH

Dear Phil,

***I recently read that Elijah and Enoch were both taken into the third heaven and remain alive today, possibly to return to earth as God's "two witnesses" and finally be slain and resurrected. How can they be at the throne of God in flesh and blood when 1 Corinthians 15:50 says, "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God"? —Dan Russell***

Dear Dan,

I know of no reason to believe that Elijah and Enoch continue to exist in heaven without a glorified body. 1 Corinthians 15:50 is an excellent text to rebut the idea that these two patriarchs are still living in perishable bodies. As the following context indicates, it is not necessary to die in order to have a glorified body. In 1 Cor. 15:52 the phrase "and we will be changed" refers to believers who are alive on the earth when the trumpet sounds. As Paul notes in 1 Thessalonians 4:17, "We who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds, and so shall we ever be with the Lord." Saints who are alive when Jesus returns to this earth will receive glorified bodies as they are caught up to meet the Lord in the air.

Since Paul says we will receive imperishable bodies, the two wit-

nesses who are slain in the book of Revelation must not be persons who have received glorified bodies.

Blessings,  
Philip Brown

### HEAVINESS OF HEART

Dear Phil,

***I have been plagued for several years with a heaviness on my heart that robs my peace and joy. It will leave for a time, and I have wonderful peace. Then it returns. It weighs me down until I cannot enjoy my relationship with God or other Christians. I have been saved and sanctified for 43 years. Can you help me? Please send an answer. —Joey Bennett***

Dear Joey,

I experienced a similar heaviness when I was in China with my parents, who were serving the Lord as educational missionaries. A sense of oppression would descend upon me for no apparent reason. However, we had been forewarned regarding this phenomenon. In the training we received before going to China, our instructors told us to expect the devil to seek to discourage us in this way.

Since there was no physical basis for the sense of oppression, we understood it to be spiritual warfare. So we addressed it with

the weapons of spiritual warfare: praise, prayer, Christian fellowship, and Bible reading. God delights to manifest His presence when His people praise Him (Psa. 22:3; Psa. 42, 43).

Jesus has told us that He is always with us (Heb. 13:5). Paul tells us that a key component of our resisting the devil is knowing the truth (Eph. 6:14). We keep our loins girt about with truth by believing the truth, asserting the truth, and rejoicing in the truth, regardless of how we feel.

The truth is that God is sovereign (Psa. 97:1; 99:1; Dan. 4:35; Eph. 1:11). That means that nothing comes into my life without His permission. The truth is that God is wise (Dan. 2:20; Jer. 10:7; Pro. 2:6; Rom. 16:27). That means He never makes a mistake in what He permits in my life. The truth is that God is good (Psa. 34:8; 145:9; Jer. 33:1; Nah. 1:7). That means that God has my best interest at heart in everything He allows into my life (Rom. 8:28-29). The truth is that God is faithful (Deut. 7:9; 1 Cor. 10:13; 1 Peter 4:19). That means He will always keep his promises. He has promised that, regardless of how I feel, he is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8).

By the time I finished praising, praying, fellowshiping, and focusing my mind upon who God is, the sense of oppression lifted. When it returned, I took it as an opportunity from the Lord to refocus my mind and heart about His magnificence. I encourage you to do the same.

Blessings,  
Philip Brown ■

*Dr. A. Philip Brown II is a member of the faculty in the Division of Ministerial Education at God's Bible School and College.*

[pbrown@gbs.edu](mailto:pbrown@gbs.edu)



## AMERICAN CHURCH ATTENDANCE

According to Audrey Barrick, writing in *The Christian Post*, a Gallup poll indicates that church “attendance increased slightly in 2010.” The latest poll found that 43.1 percent of Americans reported weekly or almost weekly church attendance, up from 42.1 percent in 2008.” The poll also indicated that “the most dedicated churchgoers... are conservatives, non-hispanic blacks, and Republicans. Those least likely to attend church at least once a week or almost every week are liberals, Asians, and those aged 18–29 years.” It noted that “Americans who are 65 years and older are more likely to attend than those who are younger.”

## IS JORDAN RIVER POLLUTED?

A news item in *Christianity Today*, informs us that Israeli “government officials and environmentalists have clashed over one of the holiest spots in the Holy Land.” Though environmentalists have insisted that part of the Jordan River traditionally connected to the baptism of Jesus is contaminated, the Ministry of Tourism has responded, insisting that “the water was fine.” Controversy continues even though a test “put the pollution content well within safe levels.”

## AMERICANS IGNORANT OF RELIGION

“A new survey of Americans’ knowledge of religion found that atheists, agnostics, Jews and Mormons outperformed Protestants and Roman Catholics in answering questions about major religions, while many respondents could not correctly give the most basic tenets of their own faiths.”

This report by Fox News adds that the survey, released by Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, “aimed to test a broad range of religious knowledge, including understanding of the Bible, core teachings of different faiths and different major figures in religious history.” It noted that more “than half of Protestants could not identify Martin Luther as the person who inspired the Protestant Reformation.” The survey included 3,412 people. Those scoring highest in this order were atheists, agnostics, Jews, Mormons, Protestants, and Catholics.

## REFERENCES TO GOD IN WASHINGTON, D.C., DISPLAY WILL REMAIN

“A federal district court dismissed a lawsuit challenging the engravings of ‘In God We Trust’ and the Pledge of Allegiance at the Capitol Visitor Center in Washington,” writes reporter Audrey Barrick in *The Christian*

*Post*. Judge William Conley ruled that the organization filing the lawsuit lacked standing because it could not point to “specific Congressional appropriation funding the engraving of the Motto and the Pledge.” The American Center for Law Justice, a conservative group, commented that while “the First Amendment affords atheists complete freedom to disbelieve, it does not compel the federal judiciary to redact the religious references in every area of public life in order to suit atheistic sensibilities.”

## FAMOUS CRYSTAL CATHEDRAL FILES FOR BANKRUPTCY PROTECTION

Rev. Robert H. Schuller’s famous Crystal Cathedral, Garden Grove, California, now apparently in serious financial trouble, has filed for bankruptcy protection. Its current senior pastor, the Rev. Sheila Schuller Coleman, Robert Schuller’s eldest daughter, blamed the church’s problems on the nation’s economy. But Laurie Goodstein, writing in *The New York Times* online edition, comments that the church “was in trouble long before the economic turndown, according to church insiders and family friends...[and] suffering from the botched succession of Mr Schuller, one too many vanity building projects, and changes in the religious broadcasting industry.”

In 2006, Robert H. Schuller turned over the Crystal Cathedral complex to his son, Robert A. Schuller. According to Goodstein, the “church was already carrying a huge debt from its last lavish building project. But in a little more than two years, the son was pushed out before he ever really took the reigns, and some of his sisters and their husbands stepped in.” Conditions have worsened in the wake of the family disagreement. The reporter says that the Crystal Cathedral now has a \$43 million debt that “even by megachurch standards is serious.” ■



# Classics

## CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

### *Worshiping in Spirit and Truth*

Worshiping in spirit is the opposite of worshiping in merely external ways. It is the opposite of empty formalism and traditionalism. Worshiping in truth is the opposite of worship based on an inadequate view of God. Worship must have heart and head. Worship must engage emotions and thought. Truth without emotion produces dead orthodoxy and a church full (or half-full) of artificial admirers (like people who write generic anniversary cards for a living). On the other hand, emotion without truth produces empty frenzy and cultivates shallow people who refuse the discipline of rigorous thought. But true worship comes from people who are deeply emotional and who love deep and sound doctrine. Strong affections for God rooted in truth are the bone and marrow of biblical worship.

—*Desiring God*, by John Piper ©1996, used by permission Questar Publishers, Inc., Sisters, Oregon 99759

### *The Study of God Must End in Worship*

True theology ought to end in prayer. If theology is the study of God, the knowledge of God, and if God is God, then the end of the study ought to be worship. If it is not, if it has been only a study about a subject and our thoughts on that subject, that is idolatry; I have made God a thing. It does not matter how accurate my thought is; if it does not bring me to Him as a living Person, I have only found a substitute for Him, a knowledge of something other than God. When one comes to know the true God, the only response is, in the language of the Old Testament, fearful worship. I do not mean fearful in the sense of craven terror, but rather a deep-seated awe that you have come into the presence of the Holy One of Israel, the Creator and Lord of all. In every one of those passages in the Scripture where we find a person meeting God, that response of fearful worship is always there. Whether it is Isaiah or Moses, or whether it is Paul on the road to Damascus or John on the island of Patmos, there it is. So in your study, whatever else you look for, look for God. You will know you have found him if you find yourself on your face before him.

—*Lectures in Old Testament Theology*, by Dennis F. Kinlaw with John N. Oswalt ©2010, used by permission, Francis Asbury Society, PO Box 7, Wilmore, Kentucky 40390



The author of the Letter to the Hebrews quotes Jeremiah 31:33 and then tells us that written Scripture is actually the Holy Spirit witnessing to us. This witness is mediated to us through Scripture. The author further tells us that one must receive the witness of the Holy Spirit to us through Scripture by faith in order for the truth of Scripture to effectively work in us (Heb. 4:2). He says, "For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached [the Holy Spirit's witness to them through the oral presentation of Scriptural truth] did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it." This means that although the witness of the Holy Spirit to the Israelites in the desert came through preaching (the oral Word of God), it was indeed God's Word, and thus the witness of the Holy Spirit to the people of Israel was mediated through God's Word.

The Scripture writers regularly identify Scripture as the testimony of the Holy Spirit. For example, the Hebrew writer quotes Psalm 95 and attributes it to the Holy Spirit: "Just as the Holy Spirit says, 'Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, As in the day of trial in the wilderness,' (Heb. 3:7-8). In Acts, Peter quotes from Psalm 2 and attributes it to the Holy Spirit speaking through David: "who by the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David Thy servant, didst say, 'Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples devise futile things?'" (Acts. 4:25). Other passages that make this identification include Matt. 22:43; Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22; 14:13. The point is that to hear God speak in Scripture is to hear the testimony or witness of the Spirit.



*In part 3, we will discuss the immediate witness of the Spirit!*

—sermon by DR. ALLAN P. BROWN



"COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE  
IN PREACHING"

## HOW TO KNOW FOR SURE YOU ARE ENTIRELY SANCTIFIED (part 2)

by Dr. Allan P. Brown, Chair  
GBS Division of Ministerial Education

There are at least three ways Scripture offers a Christian assurance of entire sanctification. The first and primary way is through biblical faith in God's Word. Since the focus of biblical faith is God's written Word, Paul calls it "the word of faith" (Rom. 10:8). When believed, God's Word effectually works in the one exercising faith (1 Thes. 2:13). I developed this concept in my last sermon (part 1).

In this message we focus on another way Scripture offers a Christian assurance of entire sanctification, namely, through the witness of the Holy Spirit. It is important to observe, however, that all of the Scriptures in the New Testament which address the subject of the witness of the Spirit are speaking of assurance of the new birth. They do not address the topic of assurance of entire sanctification. However, since one is saved by faith, and subsequent to being born again, one is also entirely sanctified by faith, one can logically argue that if God provides a witness of His Spirit as a means of assurance of being saved, He will also provide a witness of His Spirit to the reality of being entirely sanctified. With this logical premise in mind, let us examine what the Bible says about the witness of the Spirit to being a child of God.

There are three key passages that speak of the witness of the Holy Spirit to one's salvation: Romans 8:16, Hebrews 10:15-16, and 1 John 5:9-13. Each of these passages are important for developing a balanced understanding of how the Holy Spirit witnesses. Let's begin with Romans 8:15-16 and weave the other two passages into our discussion.

## I. THE WITNESS OF THE SPIRIT TO OUR SALVATION

Romans 8:15-16 says, “For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but you have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”

As we examine this passage, we make three observations. First, there are two agents of witnessing: the Holy Spirit and the human spirit. Second, the testimony of the two agents of witnessing must agree that we are the children of God. Third, the activity of each agent of witnessing is different, but both are necessary for assurance.

### A. There are Two Agents of Witnessing: the Holy Spirit and the Human Spirit: “...the Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God.”

Almost every English translation of Romans 8:16 agrees that there are two agents of witnessing. Except for the New English Translation (NET), the majority of the translations understand the Greek to be teaching that the Holy Spirit bears witness, and our human spirit also bears witness that we are the children of God. The two agents of witnessing bear witness together. The reason for this understanding is that the verb translated ‘witness’ is *summarturei*, which is a compound verb composed of (*martureo*) “to witness” and the preposition (*sun*) “with.” Literally translated, the passage says the Holy Spirit witnesses **with** my spirit, not **to** my spirit (see KJV, NASB, NIV, NLT, NRS). In other words, there are two distinctly different agents of witnessing involved.

### B. The Agreement of the Two Agents who Witness: “the Holy Spirit” and “our spirit.”

Why does Paul tell us that two distinctly different agents bear witness together of the reality of our being the children of God? The most likely reason is the requirement of Scripture itself. God says in Deuteronomy 19:15, “in the mouth of two or three witnesses a matter shall be established.” Jesus reiterated the importance of at least

two witnesses to verify truth when he said, “...truly, in the mouth of two or three witnesses a matter is established” (Matthew 18:16). Therefore, in establishing the certainty of one’s relationship with God, Paul tells us that we have the two witnesses necessary for assurance: the witness of the Holy Spirit and the witness of our spirit. These two witnesses testify to the same fact—that we are the children of God—thereby producing assurance.

### C. The Activity of Each Agent of Witnessing: the Holy Spirit and the Human Spirit.

#### 1. The witness of our human spirit.

How does the human spirit bear witness to the certainty of our relationship with God? Scripture tells us that the human spirit bears witness through the testimony of a continually clear conscience, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, that we are fully obeying God (1 Tim. 1:19-20; Acts 24:16; 2 Corinthians 1:12; 1 John 1:7). In other words, with the help of the Holy Spirit we can sense within ourselves the truth about our own spiritual condition. 1 John 2:3 tells us that “we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.” To “know that we know him” brings inward assurance. But in addition to the testimony of our own human spirit, we must have the additional witness of the Holy Spirit.

#### 2. The witness of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit witnesses to our relationship with God in two distinct ways. He witnesses “mediately” through Holy Scripture, and “immediately” by an inward perception. Let’s first look at the passages that teach the Holy Spirit witnesses to our sonship mediately by means of the written Scriptures, and then we will discuss the immediate witness of the Spirit through feelings.

##### a. The mediate witness of the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 10:15-16 says, “The Holy Spirit also witnesses (*marturei*) to us about this. First he [the Holy Spirit] says: ‘This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.’”



the first baby of the Maddox's son yesterday, and we all had a nice meal together in our fellowship building. Our entire congregation was so blessed. It was just a wonderful occasion. Each of those children have grown to be successful adults who are doing their best to serve God. They all still live in Cincinnati, and they beat the odds by making it out of the projects.

"I don't know how often in ministry something like this happens. Usually, especially when working with street children, not many return to say thanks."

*Editor's Note: To all the GBS Alumni who worked faithfully in an inner city mission, this should be a great encouragement. Only heaven will reveal the results from the gospel seed you sowed. —Jack Hooker.*

*compiled by Rev. Jack Hooker, President,  
National Alumni Association of God's Bible School and College*

**DON (ThB '77) AND RUTH (YOUNT) (BA '75) NICHOLS HONORED BY MEMBERS OF THEIR "FIRST CHURCH"**

*by Stephanie (Nichols) Burley (BA '98), Lima, Ohio*

"We have received a blessing that was beyond anything we have witnessed in a long time. My father, Don Nichols, pastored Main Street Mission when he was a student at God's Bible School during the time frame 1973–1977. He and my mom, Ruth Yount, really gave it their best! There was one family from the inner-city, the Maddox family, who always stood out to them. There were five sisters and a brother. My parents were close to these kids during their years at the mission. My mom, even when nine months pregnant with me, would drive the mission van through the projects to pick up kids for the weekly Good News Club, and the Maddox kids were part of that group.

"Sunday, September 12, all six Maddox children, now in their late 30's and 40's, showed up at our church in Lima, Ohio. One of the girls had called me a few weeks ago to let me know they were planning this surprise to honor my parents for their work at the mission and to present them with a plaque of appreciation.

"Each of them spoke of the impact my parents had in their individual lives and claimed my parents as spiritual father and mother. They proudly called themselves my dad's "First Church" and humorously told our church people never to forget that. My dad was able to dedicate

**FRANCES CARPENTER (CWC '48)** writes: "I attended GBS in September 1945 taking the Ten Weeks Course and then the Christian Workers' Course, graduating in 1948. I fully agree with Opal Adams Forrester who gave comment about GBS teachers Miss Nettie Peabody and Rev. E.G. Marsh. I would like to add another teacher to that list, Sarah Ratcliff. She made the New Testament come alive to her students. I have additional memories of the prayer room with closets in the girls' dorm. In the prayer room I was blessed as I settled many problems with God in that private, sacred place. Maxine Lewis (who also attended GBS) and I pastored several Nazarene churches and then worked at Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Oklahoma. Maxine passed away in 2009. Both of us served in our local church for many years. I am 86 years old and live with my sister in Huntington Beach, California. God has helped me through the years and still does. Blessings to all the students and workers on the Hilltop." ■



The Maddox siblings (Thomas, Regina, Brenda, Tonya, Mary, Adrienne) with Don and Ruth Nichols

# AMERICA'S FIRST NATIONAL THANKSGIVING DAY

Washington, D.C., October 3, 1863

by the President of the United States of America

## A Proclamation

The year that is drawing towards its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added which are of so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God.

In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict, while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union.

Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battlefield; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American people.

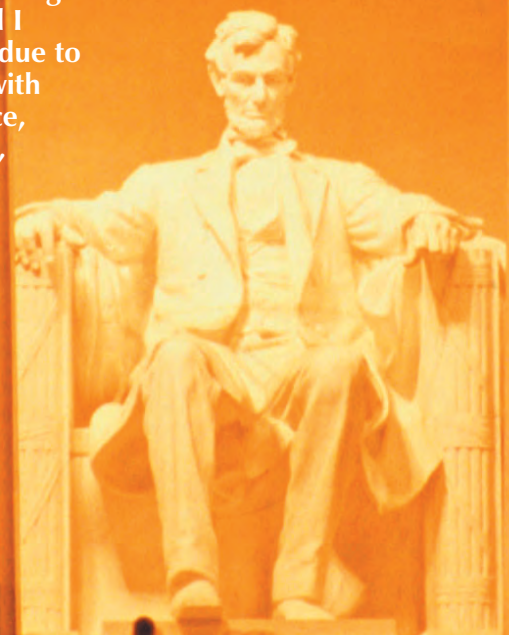
I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-eighth.

By the President: Abraham Lincoln

William H. Seward,  
Secretary of State



➡(p2) in glowing colors, framed in heavy walnut, and suspended from a tasseled cord on the parlor wall. Like that print, it is unashamedly sentimental, a slice of red-white-and-blue Americana still beloved in this bewildering time when traditional symbols are either ruthlessly attacked or shamefully ignored.

Granted, it no longer mirrors contemporary life; but in historical perspective it remains fitting and even iconic, since Thanksgiving Day, as we know it now, had its origin in the 19-century when it was celebrated in the context of horse-drawn sleighs, buffalo robes, and roaring cookstoves. Americans had observed various days of thanksgiving and supplication since the days of those friendly Indians and smiling Pilgrims. But on October 3, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation, written on his behalf by Secretary of State William Seward, that established Thanksgiving Day as a national holiday to be kept on a fixed date by Americans everywhere.

It's now six generations later, and between feasting, naps, and football, it's easy to forget that Thanksgiving Day isn't just a day of family fun or relaxing respite preparing us for the national frenzy to "shop until we drop." That's why we should consider Lincoln's proclamation, for its corrective is highly valuable as we prepare the turkey and the pumpkin pie—and, yes, the cornbread dressing.

For in line after line, this historic document explains why and how we should observe this familiar holiday. That's why we turn to it now, nearly 150 years after it was "Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-eighth." Here in the words of his proclamation are President Lincoln's priorities for Thanksgiving Day—priorities that were valid for our great-great grandparents but remain as valid for us today.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT:** *"The year that is drawing towards its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies.... They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy."*

We are called first to sober recollection, pondering all the gifts we have so unworthily received, and then to humble acknowledgment, bowing before "the Most High God," who has lavished these gifts upon us. For even the thoughts that devise our best-laid plans, as well as the energy that carries those plans into action, is bestowed upon us by our loving Father who has created us spirit, soul, and body, and who continually nourishes us by His "blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies."

Yet a stubborn sense of sinful pride and rebellious autonomy keeps many from confessing their utter dependence on Him, who in His wrath "hath neverthe-

less remembered mercy." Some do this in contemptuous silence and others in foolish assertion of unbelief. But as Christians, we acknowledge and adore Him who is "the Giver of every good and perfect gift."

**ENUMERATION:** *"In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity...order has been maintained...and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict.... Needful diversions...have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the border of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals...."*

When President Lincoln issued his proclamation, our nation was midway through the agony of our Civil War. In 1863, boys in blue and boys in gray were fiercely leveling muskets against each other in such places as Chancellorsville, Vicksburg, Gettysburg, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and Knoxville. Both the Union and the Confederacy reeled from the bloody horror.

## **President Lincoln's priorities for Thanksgiving Day are as valid for us today as they were for our great-great grandparents.**

Yet the President paused carefully to enumerate the blessings that God had continued to give—the rule of law; the fruits of agriculture, industry, and commerce; the supply of natural resources. Once more we are summoned to do the same. There is no way, of course, ever to fully "count our blessings," but still it is of invaluable benefit "to name them one by one." So in the words of the *Book of Common Prayer*, we "bless [Him] for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for [His] inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace and the hope of glory."

**GRATITUDE:** *"I do therefore invite my fellow citizens...to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens."*

Not only are we called to remember our Father's blessings but also to verbalize our gratitude to Him. For He delights in the praises of His children, pouring out the added blessings of His favor to those who offer them. "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and his

courts with praise; be thankful unto Him and bless His name" (Ps.100:4).

So we too will set apart the last "Thursday of November...as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens." Praises spontaneously flow from our grateful hearts, but sometimes we find it helpful to frame them in phrases from one of our magnificent Thanksgiving hymns. "We thank thee, then, O Father, For all things bright and good," we gladly murmur. "The seed-time and the harvest, / Our life and health, our food; / No gifts have we to offer / For all thy love imparts, / But that which thou desirest, / Our humble, thankful hearts."

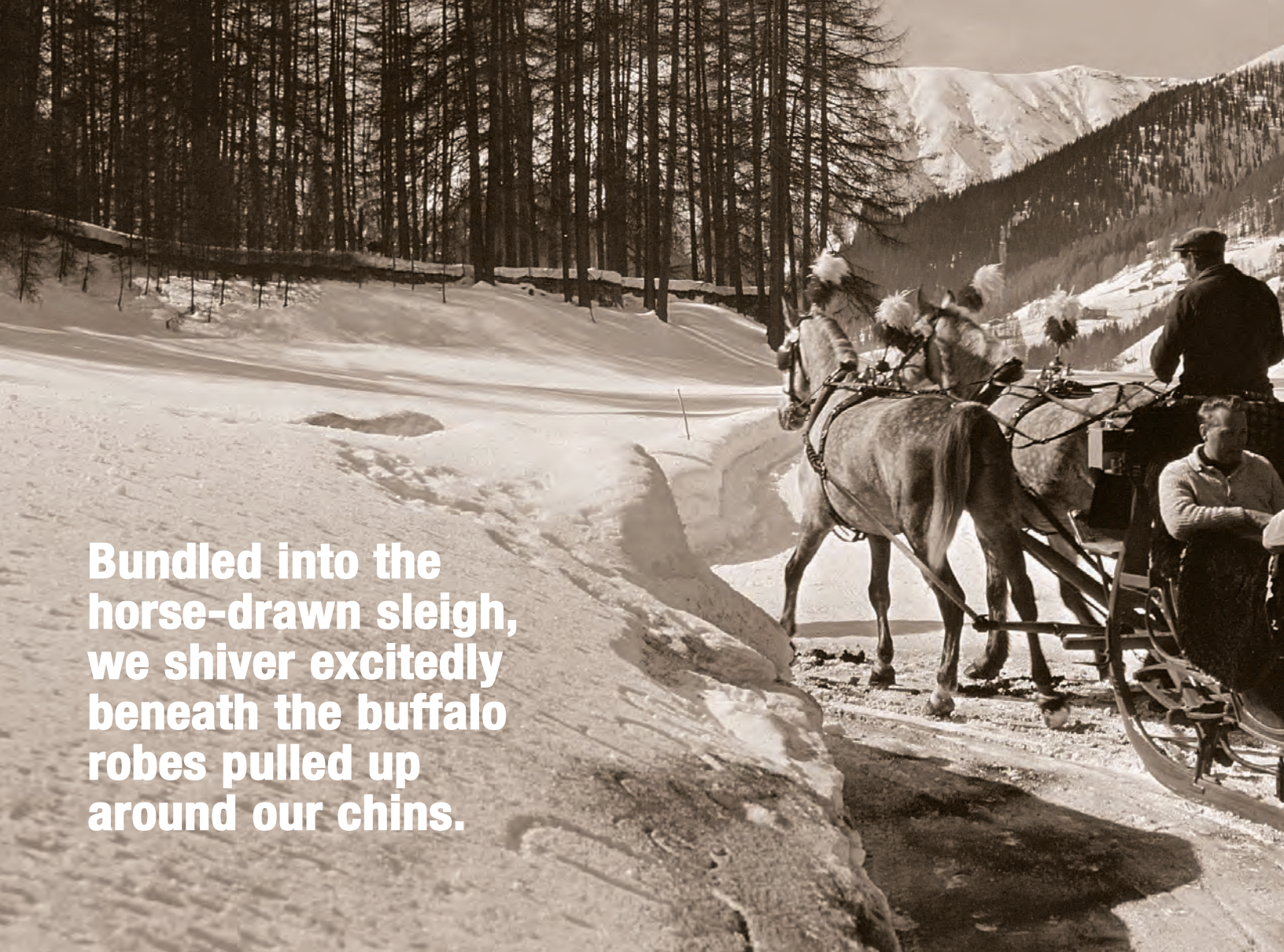
**PRAYER:** "And I recommend to them that they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience...commend to His tender care all those

who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife...and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and restore it...to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and Union."

As solemn address to Almighty God, prayer is the channel for all the communications we direct to Him. How can we ever speak to heaven except through prayer?

This is why we eagerly reach to God through prayer in glad response to His extended mercies."What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord" (Ps. 116:12-13).

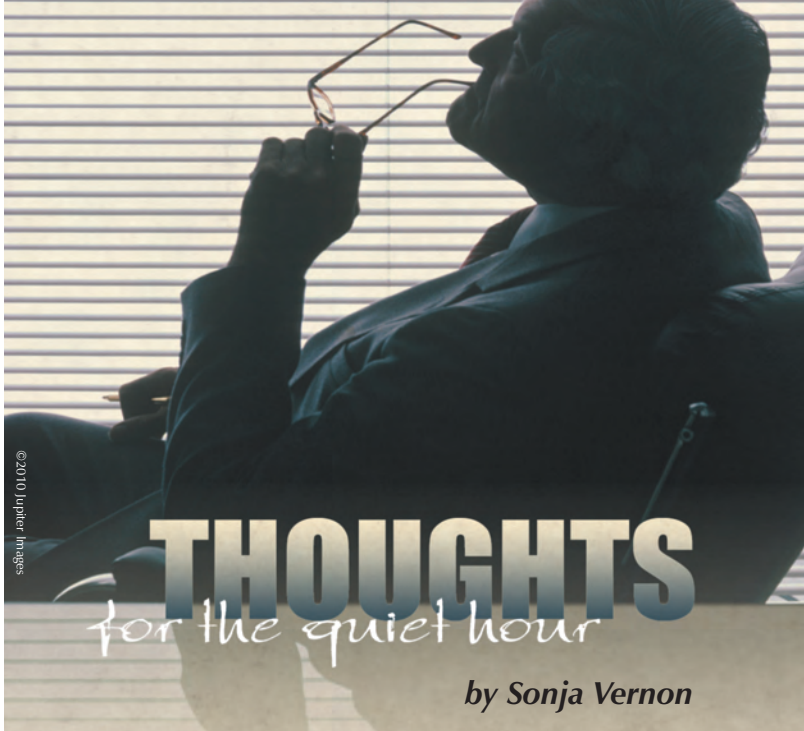
President Lincoln has summoned us to adoration and thanksgiving. Now he focuses on two other aspects of prayer—confession and supplication. Let his call to "humble penitence for our national perverseness and



**Bundled into the horse-drawn sleigh, we shiver excitedly beneath the buffalo robes pulled up around our chins.**

disobedience” pierce deeply into our hearts. For Thanksgiving offers us opportunity again to seek God’s forgiveness for our nation’s many sins, begging Him to avert His hand of judgment. Then we should add our earnest petitions, praying for America’s “peace, harmony, tranquility, and Union,” pleading His blessings for our families and our future.

Well, Granny’s got the turkey roasted, and she is about to put her cornbread dressing into the oven of that roaring cookstove. Bundled into the horse-drawn sleigh, we shiver excitedly beneath the buffalo robes pulled up around our chins, for “how the wind does blow! / It stings the toes / And bites the nose, / As over the ground we go.” Merrily we shout at Old Nellie, our “dapple gray,” as she strains into her harness. “Hear the bells ring, / Ting-a-ling-ling!” we shout. “Ting-a-ling-ling! Hurrah for Thanksgiving Day!” ■



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# THOUGHTS

for the quiet hour

by Sonja Vernon

## ABUNDANCE

*“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us.”*

—Ephesians 1:7-8a NASB

A few days prior to this writing a strange thing happened on our campus. A large quantity of chocolate milk was donated to the school—chocolate milk that had to be consumed within a very few days of its receipt. The word went out, and within minutes people responded and passed the news along. Campus was covered with students totting gallons of chocolate milk for themselves, for friends, for any excuse they could muster; and all of them were smiling. It was as if Christmas had come early in the form of creamy, chocolate goodness. There was abundance, and there was joy.

However, let us suppose that this supply of chocolate milk became a constant. Very soon the excitement would wane. Chocolate milk would become an expectation. It would be seen as a right; and if it were taken away, vociferous complaints would ensue.

Have we forgotten that we do not deserve the grace that is “lavished on us” every day? Living in a land drenched with blessings and saturated with good things, have we come to expect the same? Are we grateful for our abundance, or do we protest what we’ve lost? Do we recall that our redemption and forgiveness came at an incredibly high price and still it is given freely? Our God gives lavishly “according to the riches of His grace.” What a reason for joy! ■

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NOVEMBER 2010



# GOD'S BIBLE SCHOOL & COLLEGE



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