



GOD'S REVIVALIST

June, July, August 2016

and Bible Advocate



about this issue

FATHER'S DAY

Some time ago while reading the Song of Solomon, I was struck by the phrase “your name is like perfume poured out” (1:3). This really made me think. What happens when your name is spoken in your absence? What response does it evoke?

I immediately thought of my dad, Elmer Farmer. If you were in a room of people who knew him, the mere mention of his name would reflexively bring smiles in remembrance of the “essence of Elmer.” It takes a lifetime of loving relationships to develop such a sweet fragrance.

If you had ever met Elmer Farmer, you wouldn't have forgotten him. He was one of those people who stood out as a man who really loved God. And people. Too often people try to focus on their relationships with God without understanding the necessity of taking care of their relationships with other people. Both are essential, and Elmer understood that better than anybody I ever knew.

This issue contains several articles related to fathers. First, in “Those Gray-Haired Giants” (p.3), President Avery notes the significant contributions that men of an advanced age have made throughout history and encourages readers to take the time to talk to the gray-haired giants among us. You may be surprised at what you learn from their stories!

The late Elisabeth Elliot looks back on how her father behaved and suggests that fathers today should read with interest her discussion “On the Christian Father: Examining the Male Parent's Role” (p.6).

Kimberly Wagner acknowledges that reading through “Ten Ways to Love Your Husband Well” (p.8) is rather easy to do, but following through on her advice is of utmost importance. It will let husbands know that they are loved.

In “Celebrating Godly Fathers” (p.19), Allan Brown gives four very practical suggestions for effective fathering. These are concepts and practices he incorporated into his efforts to be “the best biblical, godly father” he could be.

Finally, some of our staff and students submitted tributes to their fathers. You may find that you are mentioned among those printed in the “Thanks, Dad!” sidebars throughout the issue.

Happy Father's Day! —Ken Farmer 📌

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STAFF

Ken Farmer, *managing editor*

Kevin Moser, *art director, assistant editor*

Shane Muir, *assistant graphic designer*

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COVER: Selfie by Saul Medellin includes other graduates from the GBS Music Division, Saturday, May 21, 2016.

the president's page



THOSE GRAY-HAIRED GIANTS

by Michael R. Avery, President

Father's Day for me is a time to celebrate the memory of my dad. Though he has been gone for almost a decade, I still miss him. Dad was born in 1921 and grew into manhood during the Great Depression. He lost his father when he was sixteen, so he had to do double duty on the family farm to make ends meet. After high school he served his country in WWII. He was a hard worker who rarely ever said anything about his own life. Dad was a part of that group called the "Greatest Generation." Like his contemporaries, he could endure about any hardship that came his way. Also like his contemporaries, he found it very difficult to express his inner thoughts and feelings. Nevertheless, the lives of these gray-haired giants hold many valuable lessons for those willing to listen and learn.

History testifies to the significant contributions that men of an advanced age can make. Galileo, the incomparable scientist, discovered the libration of the moon at seventy-five. At eighty-one, Ben Franklin affected the compromise that led to the adoption of the United States Constitution. Tennyson at eighty-three wrote *Crossing the Bar*. Michelangelo completed his greatest work of art at age eighty-seven. Immanuel Kant wrote his best philosophical works at seventy-four. Justice Oliver Wendell



President Avery and his dad

God determines a man's usefulness by his character, not his age. God used gray-haired giants like Abraham, Moses, and Caleb. History testifies to the significant contributions men of an advanced age can make.

Holmes wrote some of his most brilliant legal opinions at age ninety. At eighty-nine, pianist Artur Rubinstein, though he could not see the keyboard, played brilliantly from memory at Carnegie Hall. Albert Schweitzer still was head of his hospital in Africa at the age of eighty-nine. Thomas Edison was still busy in his laboratory at eighty-four. At eighty-two, Winston Churchill wrote his four-volume work, *A History of the English-Speaking People*.

God determines a man's usefulness by his character, not his age. God used a youthful David, Daniel, and Joseph; but he also used gray-haired giants such as Abraham, Moses, and Caleb. The story of Caleb is representative of what a gray-haired generation can teach a younger generation. If you need to refresh your memory, you will find much of his story in Numbers 14 and Joshua 14. Actually, that story can be told by lifting a couple of phrases from the biblical narrative. The first is, "Caleb...has a different spirit and has followed me fully." The other is, "As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me.... Now therefore give me this mountain...the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said."

"To make a difference you must be willing to be different."

Caleb was surrounded by a stiff-necked group of rebels who doubted God's goodness, disobeyed His commands, and longed for the old life of Egypt. Yet his faith never wavered, his obedience never ceased, and his longing for Canaan never weakened. Why? Because he was a man with a different spirit!

We live in a fallen world that operates under the dominating, sinister, and deceptive policies of "the ruler of this world." It is a world that is becoming increasingly hostile to those who stand in allegiance to the Lord Jesus and His truth. We need men with a "different spirit" who can make a difference in our world. Men who are world changers know that you can't make a difference by simply adding more of the same. *To make a difference you must be willing to be different.*

"You can win the battle of life if you can win the battle of faith."

As a young man at Kadesh-Barnea, Caleb had a surprising faith. Not many young men would have had the courage to stand up against the ten other spies and challenge the rebellious, riotous mob to disregard their report and go at once to Canaan. As a middle-aged man, Caleb spent forty years wandering in the wilderness with all the backslidden rebels who refused to go up and possess the land. Yet his faith sustained him. He did not falter in his devotion to the Lord, but kept his eyes, heart, and faith fixed steadfastly upon the promise

and the Promise Giver. At age eighty-five, Caleb's faith was still alive and well. He said to Joshua, "Give me the mountain where the Anakim are. I always believed that God was greater than those giants. Forty-five years ago I wanted to prove it. Oh! Let me prove it now!" By faith this grand old senior defeated every enemy and claimed his portion of the Promised Land!

"If you really want to live, then never stop taking great risks for the right cause at any age of life."

Caleb, at age eighty-five, asked Joshua for what may have been the biggest risk of his entire life—"give me the mountain where the Anakim live!" The Anakim were a race of giants that lived in great walled cities. It was these people that gave the ten spies their grasshopper complex more than forty years earlier. Nevertheless, this gray-haired old warrior conquered them with his spear and bow because he believed God could overcome every difficulty or barrier. He did not ask for any easy place where he could spend his remaining years in peace and quiet. He had a cause to live for, a faith to live by, and a future to live toward!

This Father's Day, take a little time and ask one of these gray-haired giants to tell you his story. You will be surprised what you learn! ■

Search Process Review

The Presidential Search Committee (PSC) began its process in 2014, which culminated on April 30, 2016, with a presentation to the GBS Board of Trustees, informing them about the procedures that were followed and providing them with a review of data, including profiles of the final candidates and lists of what the committee had identified as their accomplishments, strengths, and weaknesses.

Information about the process was widely disseminated through the GBS website, *God's Revivalist*, emails to the GBS mailing list, and notifications via GBS social media. In addition, press releases were sent to various publications and letters were distributed to leaders of churches, denominations, missionary organizations, and parachurch organizations.

Candidates were thoroughly vetted through a multi-step process, concluding with interviews conducted by the PSC at an off-campus location. The interviews were staggered and took place over multiple days in order to protect the confidentiality of those under consideration. ■



Announcing President-Elect **Rodney S. Loper**

The Board of Trustees of God's Bible School and College announces the election of Rev. Rodney Loper as the eighth president of the college, taking office in July 2017. President Michael Avery joins the board in congratulating and welcoming President-Elect Loper!

Rev. Rodney Loper is a native of Fairborn, OH, where his family attended the Franklin Bible Methodist Church. After high school, Rev. Loper attended GBS, graduating with a BA in Ministerial Education in 2001. He later completed an MA in Pastoral Ministry from Trinity Theological Seminary.

Following graduation, Rev. Loper pastored a church in Oklahoma City, OK. In 2007 he joined the pastoral staff of Hobe Sound Bible Church, where he has served as senior pastor since 2009. Along with other pastors from Hobe Sound Bible Church, Rev. Loper has frequently participated in the annual Aldersgate Forum at GBS.

Rev. Loper and his wife, Melissa Arender, met as students at GBS. They have four children.

Keeping You Informed

The Presidential Transition Committee will give periodic updates through the GBS website, emails to supporters, *God's Revivalist*, and other postings.

For those curious about the president-elect's role over the next year and how this will interface with President Avery's final year in office, the following questions and answers address several of the top concerns.

What is the reason for this transition?

After prayerful consideration following two decades of successful leadership, President Avery believes it is the appropriate time for the school to transition to a new president.

Who is responsible for the transition process?

The Board of Trustees has appointed a Transition Committee to handle all aspects of the transition. The committee will work closely with President Avery as well as President-Elect Loper to ensure a smooth transfer in leadership.

When will the president-elect begin his term?

The plan is for President-Elect Loper to move to GBS in August 2016 for a one-year transitional term prior to becoming president on July 1, 2017.

Will the president-elect be the acting president prior to President Avery's departure?

No. President Avery will have the full authority of the office through the completion of his term on June 30, 2017.

Where is President Avery going when he finishes his term as president of GBS?

There are several possibilities, but a final decision has not been made at this time.

Will there be a public ceremony for this transition?

Yes. Homecoming 2016 will be the official celebration of the Avery presidency. The inauguration of President-Elect Loper will be held at the Commissioning Weekend in May 2017. More information concerning these events will be made available closer to those times. ■



Elisabeth Elliot on

The Christian Father

Examining the male parent's role

Time was when a gift indicated some degree of thoughtfulness. Nowadays, when Father's Day comes around, it is no trick at all—it requires no thoughtfulness, hardly even any thought—to grab a bottle of shaving lotion for dear old dad. The supermarkets have arranged such items close by the checkout counter for impulse buyers, which most of us are now and then. So we have a gift for father, and he thanks us for it but has no way of knowing whether we actually gave the matter some thought or are merely susceptible to advertising.

Most of us will acknowledge that we are indeed highly susceptible. We are buffeted and bludgeoned every day of our lives from every side by advertising that discolors, distorts, and in the end may even completely revise our images. To be a Christian in spite of this, to try to keep on being a Christian, to think in a Christian way instead of a pagan way, and to accept one's God-given place in this world is a relentlessly hard job.

One of the images that has been grossly distorted, I believe, is that of the father. "Father image," "authority figure," "the old man," these phrases are often used derisively, or at least patronizingly. Television depicts with ho-hum regularity the baffled father, hopelessly naïve and incompetent, bested at every turn by his cute and clever wife and his brilliant and condescending children. He tries hard to swing with them but ends up stumbling and bumbling, providing little more than the big laughs.

Who is this dolt, this buffoon, this dancing bear? If this is the "role of the father," who wants it? Men do not, I suppose, object to thinking of themselves as brothers, buddies, lovers, and husbands; but how many are willing to consider—seriously and for more than five minutes—themselves as fathers? When a man has just become a father, surely he thinks about it, tries to get it into his head that he has begotten a son or a daughter and, if the child is a son, that his name is to be carried to another generation. But let him get back to the office, and he is at once the object of jibes and jokes. As a feeble defense, he passes out cigars.

As a mother with the responsibility of rearing a child whose father had died before she was a year old,

I probably did a lot of dreaming about what it would have been like for my daughter—and for me—if he had lived. He was, of course, in those dreams, the perfect father. But in real life I watched other fathers, many of them Christians, and it seemed to me that too few of them understood, fully accepted, or gave thanks for the responsibility that God had given them.

To understand what being a father means, we have to remember that God is our Father. We pray to "our Father, who art in heaven." The Christian creed begins, "I believe in God the Father Almighty." There are those who insist that God is nothing more than an extension of our human notions, but as Christians we take the opposite view—our human notions of fatherhood, of authority, of judgment, of love reflect Reality. God himself originated them.

A little child's idea that daddy can do it, daddy can fix it, is not from nowhere. His image of his father starts out with omnipotence. He soon learns that this is not accurate, but how sad it is that the image so often and so rapidly devolves until he sees his father as TV shows him—no matter what it is, the old man will bungle it.

One of my earliest memories of my own father, who was a true Christian father, is of his absence rather than his presence. He went to Palestine, and we children were left with mother. It was the only time I saw her cry when we were young. I remember the feeling of exposure to danger we had one night when there was a terrific electric storm that put the kitchen light out. It was not the storm; it was the knowledge that father was gone. I remember an endless stretch of weeks when he was not there, and then I remember the utter rapture of waking one morning and seeing, in the dim morning light, a little carved olivewood donkey on the chair by my bed. He had come back. The donkey was a kind of epiphany, for it showed me that my father was there and that he loved me.

He was there from then on. He went to the office, of course, every morning, five days a week, but we counted on his coming home just before six every evening, opening the front door, and giving the chickadee call that was his signal to my mother. The family always ate supper together, and my father asked the

blessing, served the meat, and talked to my mother of his work (as editor of the *Sunday School Times*) and of his concerns about Christianity, Philadelphia's fundamentalists, the depression, and foreign missions (those are the subjects that stick in my mind). He read the Bible when the meal was over, and sometimes in the living room afterwards he would get down on hands and knees and allow us to ride him, or he would walk around with two of us sitting on his size 12 shoes. On Saturdays he often took us for walks along the Wissahickon and miraculously "found" saltines or Hershey bars in the bushes and trees. He managed to do all these things and still remain, in our eyes, a father. I cannot remember ever thinking of him as a pal. I loved him—I am sure of that—and at the same time I always found him a little awesome.

Of his authority, we children were never in any doubt. What he said was exactly what he meant. There were no threats or promises to be taken lightly. Mother administered the spankings when he was not there, but occasionally we were required to report a misbehavior thing. He was strict. By today's standards (if the word standard may be applied at all) he was exceedingly strict. He had a temper that could flare up and make him stamp around and slam doors, for which he sometimes had to apologize. He made mistakes; I can see some of them now. But none was as serious as the one he did not make, that of not being a father.

We knew where we stood. We knew what was required and expected (requirement and expectation were one and the same thing), and to this I attribute our sense of security and stability as a family. We saw in both parents a humble honesty and a daily effort to live by the things they taught us to believe.

O ye fathers—ye young and timorous ones—why are ye so fearful? Is it that ye have no faith?

You have been given a child. You are *in loco Dei* to that child. Love him. Be to him a father. A man can listen to just so much of the bombardment of talk (a lot of which is pure twaddle) from psychologists about changing roles, about communication, about the child's identity crises and self-image and—God help us—his "rights as a human being" (for I hear that ten-year-olds are now being encouraged to strike for these). Then a man must close his ears and look into his heart and start being a man and a real father. If he does this, his child will stand a good chance of solving all these "problems" without ever knowing he had them.

The two aspects of God's dealing with His wayward and obnoxious children are beautifully brought together in Deuteronomy 33:2,3: "From his right hand went a fiery law for them, Yea, he loved the people." ■

The late Elisabeth Elliot was a missionary and the author of seven books, including *Through Gates of Splendor*. For book and audio information, see www.elisabethelliott.org. Used with permission.



[tributes from staff & students]

Daddy sowed wisdom in our hearts, as God instructs in Deuteronomy 6. Daddy has not merely verbalized love for God, but has proved it with humble, careful obedience to God. He joyfully brought us up with encouragement, diligence, and tender love. All six of us love serving Jesus today because our daddy loves serving Jesus.

—Elizabeth Albertson to Rowen Albertson

From the time I could walk, I was a "daddy's girl." Dad was the one who gave me a good example of how to work hard. He taught me how to play football and baseball, how to use a hammer, and most importantly, to put God first. He always encourages me, helps me, and gives the best hugs. I love you, Daddy!

—Crystal (Kessen) Powers to James Kessen

Rev. Ernest Plemmons, Sr. is the godliest example I could ever ask for—tender, compassionate, loving and always putting others ahead of himself. If there is ever a person in this world I could like to be like, it is my hero, my father.

—Cheryl (Plemmons) Watters to Ernest Plemmons, Sr.

There are many things I appreciate about my dad, but I especially admire his relationship with God and his consistent spiritual leadership. Now that I've become a husband and father myself, I'm beginning to grasp the magnitude of that calling, and I admire how well he modeled Christ-likeness for us.

—Shane Muir to Daryl Muir

The older I get the more I appreciate my father's idiosyncrasies: a phobia of being lost; never just having one of anything; never meeting a stranger; never being idle (almost to a fault); and living a life of service to God, his family, and others.

—Scott Blackmon to J. Alan Blackmon

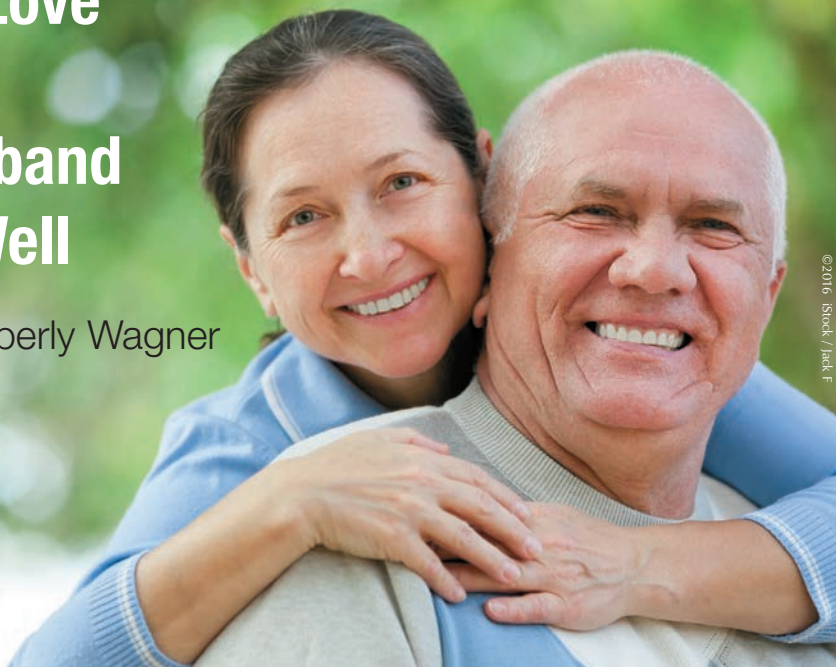
My father stepped up to the plate when my biological father and mother divorced. He's been faithful and loyal to our family, even though we've given him a lot to put up with! God used him to lead our family closer to Him.

—Emily Stillwell to Nick Stillwell

10 WAYS

to Love Your Husband Well

by Kimberly Wagner



dent of your man. Watch what he gets excited about, and learn enough to be able to talk with him about his passion. Find out what communicates “love” to him—is it affirming words, physical touch, acts of service (kindness in action), gifts, little love notes on the dash of his car, or maybe quality time? Know what communicates love to your man so you can love him well.

4. Let Go

Hanging on to hurts poisons a relationship. In the same verse where Paul charges us to “be kind,” he also tells us to forgive one another with this as the criteria: “As God in Christ forgave you.” That is significant forgiveness. And just a friendly warning: Holding on to an offense will cause bitterness to begin

1. Be Kind

Throwing out those two words conjures up all kinds of ideas. I’m not saying put on a frilly apron, paste on a cheesy smile, and ignore your husband’s bad habits. I mean what the apostle Paul is talking about when he says, “*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you*” (Eph. 4:32 ESV).

The charge to “be kind” is an action that is a blend of goodness and usefulness. How can you be “good” to your husband and “useful” in helping your husband pursue godliness? Are you his good and useful friend? Are you good and useful when it comes to helping him fulfill his hopes and dreams?

2. Give Space

It took me a long time to understand that I can easily suffocate my husband. No, really. Without intending to, I can flood him with a barrage of thoughts, passions, plans, and intensity that can leave him gasping for air. Finally, after several years of drowning him, I learned that it is good to give him space. He needs time to process my ideas or plans. He needs time to think before answering my line of questioning. He needs space to rest from my intensity. He needs the opportunity to be alone without feeling guilty for getting time away. Most men need some space.

3. Study Him

Do you know how to practice the “love language” concept? In order to know what conveys love to your spouse, you must enter his world and become a stu-

shaping your perspective and actions (Heb. 12:15). There is much we can “let go” that we tend to hang on to—hurt from misunderstanding, disappointment over dashed expectations, little frustrations that build into blow-ups! One thing we don’t need to “let go” or overlook is habitual sin. So another way of loving your husband well is by humbly confronting him.

5. Humbly Confront

If you are ignoring your husband’s sin, you are not being a true friend to him. Galatians 6:1-2 charges us with the responsibility of loving others through humble confrontation. The easy thing is to turn your back on your man when he is struggling in sin or to vent in anger. The harder thing is to lovingly and humbly reach for biblical restoration.

Restoration is a beautiful process that begins with coming alongside your husband when he is in sin and having a “salty grace talk.” Share your heart and express your concerns in an honest but gracious manner—not accusing or placing blame. Let him know that you’re giving him time to consider what you’ve shared, but if he’s practicing a habitual sinful lifestyle and unwilling to repent, you’ll need to appeal to your church leadership for help (Matt. 18:15-18).

6. Be His Safe Place

Your husband needs to know that you’re in his corner, you’re there for him, and you can be trusted. If he doesn’t open up to you, it could be an indication that your husband is intimidated by you or even fears you. If your husband has retreated to a cave of isolation,

don't demand for him to come out; just pray for him and encourage him. Look for opportunities to affirm him verbally. Be patient with him.

7. Laugh Freely

Be creative in finding ways to laugh with your man. Laughter truly is a “medicine” for the soul. It releases the body’s “feel good” chemicals (endorphins) and bonds you and your husband together by creating happy memories. Is there a funny movie you enjoy together? Private jokes between only you? If you don’t have any, find some. Talk about funny episodes or remind him of crazy moments you’ve shared in the past, and take time to laugh.

8. Appreciate

Husbands thrive on their wives’ appreciation. Letting your man know that you’re grateful for him, that you respect him, that you notice his efforts and affirm him for those is fuel for his manhood! I wrote a book filled with practical content for this point, so I won’t elaborate here, but if you want input on a variety of ways that you can show appreciation, check it out.

9. Kneel Often

Love your husband well by going to battle for him in prayer! Find Scripture passages that speak to your husband’s specific areas of need, and regularly apply these to your intercession for him. Ask him what specific challenges he is facing at work, or in other areas, and how you can be praying for him. Don’t come across as “spiritually superior” when you ask him for input, but let him know that you struggle as well, so you understand the need for prayer support.

10. Intentionally Snuggle

Most men (not all) would say that physical touch is one of their love languages. Be intentional in taking time to hug your man and lay on the kisses before he heads out to the battlefield. Repeat that process when you see each other again at the end of a long hard day. Ask him what pleases him physically, and be intentional in providing time to love him well through sexual intimacy.

Sacred enjoyment in the marriage bed isn’t meant to go only one way. Let your husband know how he can please you, and never demean his efforts in this area. Physical intimacy should be a tender dance of one giving and providing for the other—where both are expressing and receiving mutual enjoyment.

Reading this list is the easy part, but doing it is the proof of our love. Let’s intentionally love our husbands well! ■

Kimberly Wagner is an author who encourages women to be students of the Word. Her website is KimberlyWagner.org. This article appeared on the True Woman blog at www.reviveourhearts.com.



[tributes from staff & students]

My father really showed me how to love one’s family. When mom came down with Alzheimer’s, Dad cared for her 24/7 for 18 years. When he suffered a heart attack and had surgery, he insisted on an early release to care for Mom. In four days he was back home caring for Mom!

—Floyd Hyatt Jr. to Floyd Hyatt Sr.

Dad diligently worked to establish a caring home that also provided family altar, Christian education for my siblings and me, family vacation time, and annual hunting trips. He has given much of his life to ministry as both a layman and pastor, and has devoted numerous years to foreign mission work. Thank you, Dad, for leading your family in the pursuit of a holy life!

—Marilyn (Fish) Muir to William F. Fish

As a child, my dad really had no father to speak of. He doesn’t talk about it often; but when he does, the stories of his childhood are horrific at best. In spite of his upbringing, he determined his family would be different! He overcame the odds that were stacked against him. My eternal outcome is bright because of the difficult choices he made. I’m forever proud and grateful!

—Nathan Dahler to Craig Dahler

My dad has personified the “servanthood” of Jesus—his example of putting others’ needs before his own has been a blessing to his family and to countless others in his pastoral and teaching ministries. His genuine humility, combined with his confidence and understanding of who God created him to be, has been an inspiration and a model to me personally. I am so blessed to have him as my father.

—Jana (Burroughs) Pop to John Burroughs

My dad has always been one of the hardest working men I have known. Raising seven children, he was able to provide plenty for the family while allowing Mom to stay at home and help us. I am more than thankful for that! He has been the greatest example I have seen of spending time with God, even early in the morning. Happy Father’s Day! I love you, Dad!

—Mark Richmond to Ron Richmond



by the Office of Public Relations under the direction of Don Davison. Pennsylvania pastor and experienced bus driver Andy Cooley safely navigated the itinerary to venues in Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio over the dates of April 1-6. Those in attendance were challenged with stories of GBS students answering the call to Christian service.

The tour provided opportunities for GBS alumni to reconnect with and show their support for the school. Mrs. Charlotte Frederick, alumna and GBS professor, attended one of the services and shared these remarks: "How very 'proud' Dave and I were of the students! ...There's just something about GBS that makes our heart swell with gratefulness to be a part of God's work there."

SWSE SPRING TOUR

The Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble sounded forth the themes of God's grace and faithfulness during its spring tour. Conducted by music faculty member David Hartkopf and assisted by faculty accompanist Jessica Smith, the ensemble presented spirited symphonic renditions of gospel music interspersed with inspiring vocal numbers and heartfelt student testimonies. God blessed the promotional and recruitment tour planned



The Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble

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 **Michael (HS '94) and Beth Lavy (HS '96) Dickinson**, a daughter, **Ava Elizabeth**, born March 24, 2016, in Dayton, OH. Michael works as a commercial carpenter and Beth is a stay-at-home mom. Ava is welcomed by her four siblings: Isaiah (9), Sophia (7), Jeremiah (4), and Joshua (2).



To **Austin (AA '10) and Kristen Fox (2007-08) Watters**, a daughter, **Aydysyn Jeneé**, born March 8, 2016, in Hillsdale, MI. The Watters live in Osseo, MI, where

Austin is an interior and exterior painter and Kristen is a music teacher and band director at Camden-Frontier Schools.

DEATH



Rev. Bernard (Bernie) M. Roof Sr., 86, of Harrisburg, PA, went home to be with his Savior on March 9, 2016. He was born in 1929, in Short Tract, NY, the son of the late Milton and Althea James Roof. Bernie graduated from Fillmore Central High School in 1948. He then attended Houghton College and transferred to GBS (1949-50). He married Norma M. Palmer on June 10, 1950. He then served during the Korean War and was later in the U.S. Army Reserve. Bernie was an evangelist who preached and led music with his trumpet. He started

VIP DAY, FRIDAY, APRIL 22

VIP Day 2016 was a great success with 195 guest high school students, as well as many parents and sponsors, on our campus! This was a significant increase in attendance over last year's event. From the beginning of registration on Thursday night to the end of brunch on Saturday morning, everything flowed smoothly. The Friday evening banquet was fun and entertaining, and a guest who testified that he had surrendered all to God in response to Pres. Avery's closing challenge reminded us how important VIP Day can be in the lives of our visitors and students! Receiving many new applications for the fall semester and recalling the fun and fellowship we shared together, we thank God for those who were able to come and experience GBS, and for those who worked tirelessly to make this event possible!

—Kent Stetler, student recruiter

ALBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

We were recently honored to award the Wilma Albright Memorial Scholarship to two student recipients taking mission trips this summer.



Caslyn Rice, a junior working towards her BA in Elementary Education, will be traveling to the Amazon this summer to work alongside missionaries serving in the area. Mission work holds a special place in her heart, and she plans eventually to serve as a missionary in Romania.

Josue Diaz, a sophomore in the music division, has a lingering bur-

den on his heart for Thailand. Through an Accelerated Christian Education program, he will be traveling to Thailand to assist building/remodeling several classrooms for Christian schools as well as participating in children's ministry. Upon graduation, Josue plans to return to Mexico and minister to the people there.

Special thanks to the friends and family of Wilma Albright who donated funds in her memory towards this scholarship!

MUSIC DIVISION ENDS YEAR WITH CONCERTS

The Music Division ended the spring semester with several presentations. At noon on May 5, GBS hosted a National Day of Prayer event in downtown Cincinnati on the courthouse steps, praying for our city and nation. Dr. Michael Avery, together with religious, political, and educational leaders, led in prayers ➡

churches in North Carolina, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, and Maryland. He received a Bachelor of Theology degree in 1972 in Tennessee. He retired in 1995 from the pastorate in The Wesleyan Church. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, and woodworking. His greatest enjoyment in life was spending time with his family. Bernard is survived by his wife, Norma; three daughters, Shirley, Patricia, and Roben; a sister, Faith; 13 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. A memorial service was held at the Short Tract United Methodist Church, Short Tract, NY, with a committal service following at the Short Tract Cemetery.

MARRIAGE

Betty Jo Cochran (AA '06) to Christopher Allen Howe, April 30, 2016, at the Morgan Center Christian



Holiness Church in Bidwell, Ohio. The ceremony was officiated by the bride's uncle, Rev. Ted Russell. Betty Jo was the Aldersgate Distance Education Program Coordinator at GBS from 2005 to 2013. Christopher works at Meijer supermarket in Findlay, OH. The couple resides in Upper Sandusky.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Independence Bible School in Independence, KS, is in need of a math teacher for the 2016-17 school year. This would be a full-time position and would involve teaching middle school (7th and 8th grades) and all four years of high school. If you qualify for the position and feel God directing you, or if you would like more information, please contact the IBS principal, Matt Brewer, (913) 406-7629. ■

➡ and the combined college and high school choirs accompanied by the Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble presented several musical selections, including “The National Anthem,” “Who Am I?,” “He Still Reigns,” and “God Bless America.”

On May 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Adcock Memorial Chapel, the Oratorio Choir, directed by Mr. Tim Crater, assisted by Ms. Jessica Smith, and accompanied by Mrs. Martha Miller, performed an eclectic selection of classic sacred literature. Although these pieces were composed in varying styles, genres, and time periods, they collectively portrayed one specific theme—“Festival of Praise.” Composers and arrangers included: G.F. Handel, Mark Hayes, Craig Courtney, Heather Sorenson, Randall Thompson, Patrick Liebergen, Peter Anglea, Christopher Tin, Paul Basler, and Jay Althouse. Soloists included Brittany Cravens, Jonathan Leach, and Ashley Quesenberry, along with instrumentalists Jason Albertson, Shelley Carey, Katrin Crater, Hollie Kessen, Sarah McBryant, Lydia Yoder, and Ms. Rachelle Wolf. Two highlights of the evening included a tribute performance, Dan Forrest’s “Beautiful in His Time,” in memory of Mrs. Cassandra (Cassie) Suzette (Nelson) Kessen (1965-2015) and an encore performance of “The Name of the Lord is Great,”



arranged by Bradley Knight, with narration by Mr. Ryan Watters and accompaniment by members of the SWSE.

On May 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Adcock Memorial Chapel, the GBS Division of Music presented, “Epic Music with the SWSE.” The performance featured a 55-piece orchestra with Mr. David Hartkopf as director and Ms. Jessica Smith assisting. The orchestra performed several selections from a variety of style periods and cultures, including Aaron Copland’s famous “Lincoln Portrait” with narration by Dr. Aaron Proffitt. Professor of voice Dr. Nicolae Pop was also a featured soloist singing “The Impossible Dream” with the orchestra accompanying him.

Dr. Jana Pop, Chair of the Division of Music, expresses deep

appreciation for the generosity of individuals who have contributed to the Annual Fund, thus enabling the presentation of guest master classes and recitals throughout the year, as well as scholarships for upperclassmen to attend professional workshops and events. Persons who are interested in making contributions for the coming year should contact Dr. Jana Pop at jpop@gbs.edu or (513) 763-6547.

MT. AUBURN CLEANUP DAY

About 25 students participated in the annual Mt. Auburn Clean-Up Day on Saturday, May 14. With the help of more than 100 volunteers, every street in Mt. Auburn was cleaned. We are always proud of our students and staff who participate and make a lasting impact and impression on our community!

COMMISSIONING WEEKEND

The Commissioning Weekend began Wednesday evening with a Candlelight Celebration Service as people gathered on the south lawn for a time of singing and student testimonies. The service, officiated by Rev. Mark Cravens, featured a group of international students leading the singing and specials by two of the GBS PR groups. Several of the graduating seniors shared a



short testimony on the impact that their time at GBS had on them.

Candles of the graduating seniors were lit first, then each of them read a Scripture passage that was



meaningful to them personally, before using their own candles to light those of the rest of the attendees. The service concluded with the hillside lit with candles, each representing those who leave campus to minister in various parts of the world.

The guest speaker for the weekend was Nathan Purdy, originally from Northern Ireland and currently the pastor of the Bible Mission



Church in Lock Haven, PA. Rev. Purdy's powerful emphasis on scriptural holiness came through in the services. Over the four services in which he spoke, he followed the four themes: Challenge, Consecration, Communion, and Commission. As these services were livestreamed, we will feature them in "Chapel Pulpit Media" in the September *God's Revivalist*.

The college commencement was Saturday morning. President



2016 College Graduates of God's Bible School and College

2016 GRADUATES* OF GOD'S BIBLE SCHOOL, COLLEGE, AND MISSIONARY TRAINING HOME

HIGH SCHOOL

Corin Armelli
Marley Carter, *Co-Valedictorian*
Rachel Glick
Jesse Keep, *Co-Valedictorian*
Mikaela Quales
Carly Sumner
Nakia Williams

COLLEGE

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN GENERAL STUDIES

Dwight Zachary Crater
Alicia Marie Frederick
Jarod Mark Mahan
Jenae Peabody

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN INTERCULTURAL STUDIES AND WORLD MISSIONS

Mark Hunter
Kerri Rebecca Pouzar *
Joyana D. Simmons

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN MUSIC MINISTRY

Katrin Elisabeth Crater
Anne Marie Hauser
Emily Mitchell
Laura Ashley Quesenberry ***

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN BIBLE AND THEOLOGY

Derrick E. Trent ***

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Luke Boldon *
Richard Charles Cole
Mark Richmond ***

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CHURCH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Angela Rae Carpenter
Regina Michele Thomas

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CHURCH MUSIC (PERFORMANCE TRACK)

Timothy William Lanigan
Ashley Lynn Fall ***

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN INTEGRATIVE STUDIES

Karen Elizabeth Olson, *Salutatorian* ***
David Olson
Audrey Stevenson *

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN INTERCULTURAL STUDIES AND WORLD MISSIONS

Dylan D. Boyer
Ruthu Katikala
Keyara Renee McFadden
Kayla Raines

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MINISTERIAL EDUCATION

Ken Anthony Bladen *
Andrew Blankenship *
Dwight A. Crosley
Jeffrey D. Paulus, Jr.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MUSIC EDUCATION (K-12 NON-PERFORMANCE)

Saul Israel Medellin Gomez

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MUSIC EDUCATION (K-8)

Teresa Mae Troyer **

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN TEACHER EDUCATION (ELEMENTARY)

Julie Lanae Going
Natasha Mae Hausman
Cheyenne Kelley
Sarah Beth Sanford
Kayla Renee Slayton

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN TEACHER EDUCATION (SECONDARY ENGLISH)

Valeria Medina Olivo, *Valedictorian* ***

★ pending completion of all course requirements

* Cum Laude (3.50-3.79) ** Magna Cum Laude (3.80-3.89) *** Summa Cum Laude (3.90-4.00)

Michael Avery conducted the service, and Mrs. Martha Miller was the organist. Rev. Bob Blankenship of Talladega, AL, delivered the invocation, and Mrs. Valorie Quesenberry of Massillon, OH, read the Scripture lesson. Special music was "He's Always Been Faithful," sung by seniors Dwight Crosley, Julie Going, Timothy Lanigan, and Ashley Quesenberry.

The graduating class selected Joshua Avery, the Director of Library Services and history professor at GBS, to address the assembly. He talked about cultivating what C.S. Lewis called a "baptised imagination"—a way of perceiving and making sense of the world. Noting that our imaginations need to be healed and shaped by Jesus Christ, he made three suggestions: keep reading to develop a strong imagination; get outside to contemplate the greatness of the Creator and creation; and remember the Sabbath, for without rest and reflection our imaginative abilities will wither.

Valeria Medina Olivo was recognized as valedictorian, and Karen Elizabeth Olson as salutatorian.

Andrew Blankenship was presented with the college's *Educated Christian Award*. The chairs from the academic divisions presented the following student awards:

Division of Ministerial Education (Dr. Allan Brown, Chair): *Zondervan Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Study of Biblical Hebrew*, Akashi Nishigata; *Oswald Chambers Ministerial Leadership Award*, Ken Anthony Bladen; **Division of Music** (Dr. Jana Pop, Chair): *Academic Excellence and Outstanding Musical Achievement Award*, Saul Israel Medellin Gomez; **Division of Education and Professional Studies** (Lyle Witt, Chair): *Excellence in*



Valeria Medina and Karen Olson



Jesse Keep and Marley Carter

Student Teaching Award, Sarah Beth Sanford; *Oscar Johnson Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Service*, Dwight Zachary Crater.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Aaron Proffitt called Charlotte Frederick forward to receive the biannual *Excellence in Teaching Award*. This prestigious award, given to a faculty member who has taught at GBS for at least five years, is based on two key elements: academic excellence and student centeredness. Nominations are taken from the student body and reviewed by a committee of students, faculty, and administration which makes the final selection.

Presenting college graduates was Dr. Aaron Proffitt, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and conferring degrees was President Avery. Rev. Rick Hutchison of Lenoir City, TN, offered the benediction.

You are cordially invited to attend
a special GBS service to mark the book release

A Century on the Mount of Blessings

7:00 PM, Monday, September 26, 2016

(on the 116th anniversary of the GBS
inaugural dedication service)

the official history of God's Bible School
by Jerry D. Smith

ACADEMY GRADUATION

On May 27, Aldersgate Christian Academy held its graduation ceremony at 7:00 p.m. in the Adcock Chapel. Principal William Marshall presented seven high school graduates with diplomas. Special recognition was offered to Marley Carter and Jesse Keep as co-aledictorians. The ceremony also honored the eleven students graduating from eighth grade to high school. President Michael Avery gave the address entitled "Where Do You Draw the Line." ■



Aldersgate Christian Academy Graduation

Jim Cymbala

"Declare His Glory Among the Nations"
 GBS Missionary Convention | Oct. 30–Nov. 1

Jim Cymbala *featuring:*
 author; pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle

Rick Hutchinson
 director, Barnabas Ministries



[tributes from staff & students]

Dad, you are sacrificial and selfless. You answered your country's call by serving in the U.S. Army. Then you answered God's call by serving in Haiti after the earthquake. Your sacrifice in working a tough job that requires most of your time made it possible for me to attend GBS. You are also caring, answering my calls late at night when I'm in tears about a paper or a test. I have seen how much you have grown spiritually over the last five years and it is encouraging and inspiring. I hope that one day I can find a man who loves me like you love me, and who loves God as much as you do! I love you, Dad!

—Whitney Collins to James Collins

My father is one of the most godly men I have ever known and I feel blessed to call him Dad. He has exemplified what it means to live a holy life. He taught me how to enjoy life to the fullest extent along the journey. His people skills and sense of humor never cease to amaze me. I hope to continue the family legacy that would make him proud! I love you so much, Dad!

—Priscilla Vernon to Steve Vernon

My dad will always be my hero! I remember how he would come home and make time for me, my sister, and mom after the countless hours he spent working at the school and church in Bedford, IN. His dedication to his family, as well as the love and passion he showed towards others, are memories I will cherish forever! I still want to be just like him when I grow up!

—Kent Stetler to Steve Stetler

My father is all the world to me. He has always been there for me when I needed his help. Though I don't say it often enough, "Thanks Dad for all you have done for me. I love you, Dad."

—Marlissa Brandon to David Brandon

Thanks, Dad, for teaching me to be passionate about Jesus and to love others. Your integrity in life has inspired me to live the same way. Thanks for always answering your phone when I call and for helping me figure out life. I love you.

—Meagan Cravens to Chris Cravens

Dear Phil

by two things: the huge disparity in the amounts, and the fact that Solomon builds the temple complex on this site later, which requires a much larger lot than a threshing floor would have covered (cf. 2 Chron. 3:1).

Regarding Joab's census, Samuel reports Judah having 500,000 men, and Chronicles reports 470,000 men. This appears to be a case of different reporting methods. The author of Samuel seems to have rounded up the 470,000 to 500,000; whereas the author of Chronicles did not.

The difference between the 800,000 reported in Samuel and the 1.1 million in Chronicles doesn't suggest a difference due to rounding. Rather, there are two key differences in the wording of 2 Samuel 24:9 and 1 Chronicles 21:5: (1) Israel versus all Israel, and (2) valiant men who drew the sword versus men who drew the sword. It appears from these differences that the Samuel account referenced only the experienced or "valiant" men in Israel (800,000); whereas the Chronicles account referenced all military-age Israelites, whether experienced and valiant or not (1.1 million).

Alternative explanations exist. However, the point is not that we must be sure of our explanation. Rather, we should be sure that if we had all the facts, we would find that one of the five options listed above is true. For further reading, I recommend Gleason Archer's *Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties*, and Walt Kaiser's *Hard Sayings of the Bible* as go-to sources for these sorts of challenges.

Blessings,
Philip

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

WHAT ABOUT 'DISCREPANCIES' IN SCRIPTURE?

I have been reading in a chronological Bible that contrasts the accounts of 2 Samuel 24 and 1 Chronicles 21. How do you explain the differences of the amount of money given by David to cover the cost of the offering. In a previous account during the census, there was a similar discrepancy in the census account. Are such apparent discrepancies any threat to the inerrancy of the Scriptures? —William

Dear William,

Good questions. Old Testament numerical differences, along with apparent ethical and theological challenges, were the focus of one of my PhD classes. If the inspiration of the Old Testament and its consequent inerrancy rested on empirical grounds, it would be threatened by such discrepancies. That is, if we had to prove there were no errors in the Old Testament before we could affirm its inerrancy, we wouldn't be able to affirm inerrancy.

However, our confidence in the trustworthiness of Scripture is a function of our confidence in Jesus, who, as God's Son, affirmed the complete unbreakableness of the Old Testament (John 10:35), and pronounced foolish those who were slow to believe all that is written in the prophets (which would include Joshua to 2 Samuel as "writing" prophets; Luke 24:25).

Given Jesus' affirmation of Scripture's trustworthiness, there are a number of possible explanations for numerical discrepancies:

1. Scribal errors in copying the text of Scripture (e.g., 1 Sam. 13:1—"Saul was a son of **one year** when he began to reign").
2. Different objects are measured (e.g., the bronze laver's inner circumference versus its outer circumference).
3. Different methods of reporting are used (e.g., round up, round down, don't round).
4. Different methods of measurement (e.g., cubit or span).
5. Factors assumed by the author and known to his audience but unknown to us—i.e., we can't explain it.

In the case of David buying Ornan/Araunah's threshing floor with 50 shekels of silver (2 Sam. 24:22) and 600 shekels of gold (1 Chron. 21:25), most scholars understand that we have two different things being purchased. The 50 shekels of silver purchased Ornan's team of oxen and the threshing floor itself. The 600 shekels of gold purchased the entire property upon which the threshing floor was situated. This conclusion is supported



student focus

TEACHING CHILDREN THAT TRANSGENDERISM IS NORMAL IS CHILD ABUSE

The American College of Pediatricians has urged legislators and educators to reject all policies that condition children to accept transgenderism as normal, adding that attempts to normalize a condition classified as a mental illness is child abuse. They point to data from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the American Psychiatric Association (DSM-V), showing that as many as 98% of gender confused boys and 88% of gender confused girls eventually accept their biological sex after naturally passing through puberty.

IRANIANS TURNING TO CHRIST

Although the Iranian government considers Christianity a threat to Islam, they have not been able to keep their people from converting. Open Doors USA estimates that as many as 450,000 Christians are in Iran. Others estimate there are more than one million practicing Christians in the country. Many are coming to Christ as they secretly worship in the house church movement.

GENOCIDE LABEL FOR ISIS

On March 17, Secretary of State John Kerry announced that the Islamic State's murderous campaign against Christians and other minorities in the Middle East is genocide. It was his judgment that

the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), "is responsible for genocide against groups in areas under its control, including Yazidis, Christians, and Shia Muslims." Because of this designation, the United States and the 146 other countries who are part of the U.N. genocide treaty "have an obligation to do all they can to bring the killing of innocent people to an end."

MANY AMERICANS SAY BIBLE IS KEY TO BETTER POLITICS

According to American Bible Society's "State of the Bible" survey, 51% of American adults say politics would be more civil if politicians engaged in regular Bible reading. A similar majority (53%) say American politicians would be more effective if they read the Bible on a regular basis. In addition, 46% of all adults say they wish the Bible had greater influence on American society. Overall, Americans hold the Bible in high regard, but younger generations are more skeptical.

ATTACKS ON RELIGION IN AMERICA DOUBLED

Since 2013, First Liberty Institute has compiled a list of incidents of legal attacks against individuals, ministries, and business owners that have stood up for their religious liberties. This year showed 1,285 such incidents—more than double the number documented by the initial survey. ■

JORDEN MESSNER came to GBS from Leeds, Alabama, because he believed that "GBS was not just interested in my spiritual well-being, but also my intellectual [well-being]." He is an introvert, but GBS has helped him get out of his comfort zone both to interact and to work with peers and adults. Jorden is employed by GBS custodial services to help pay his school bill. He also does volunteer work in the chapel sound booth, recording and live-streaming services.

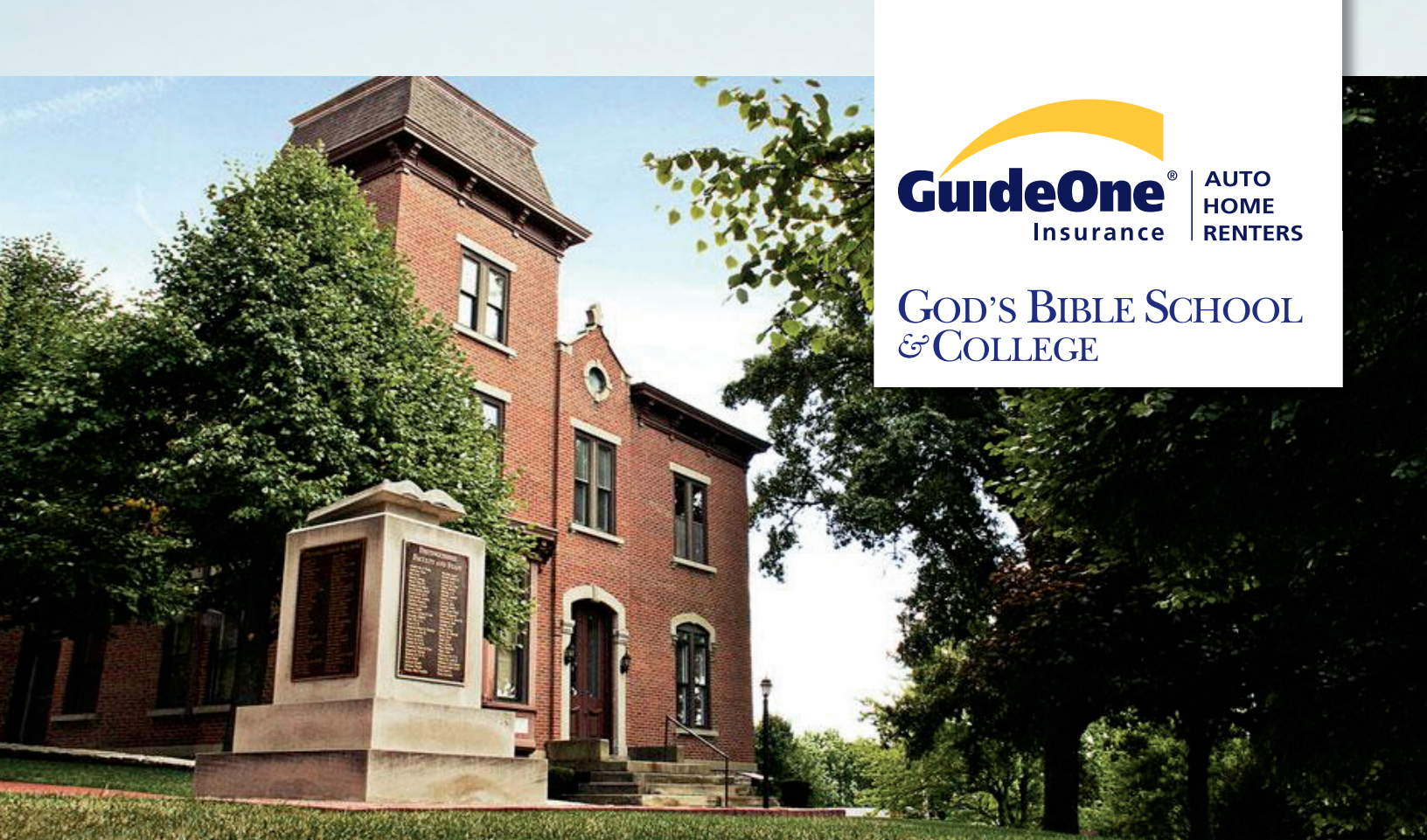
Jorden plans to teach history in a Christian day school. He also believes that God is calling him to some kind of small group ministry in the local church—specifically a class that would teach people the basic Bible doctrines and teachings, especially to new and young converts.

Jorden says that he has "observed many wonderful facets of teaching style and class structure at GBS" and plans to implement some of those into his future classroom as well. ■

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

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

or give online anytime at
www.gbs.edu/givenow



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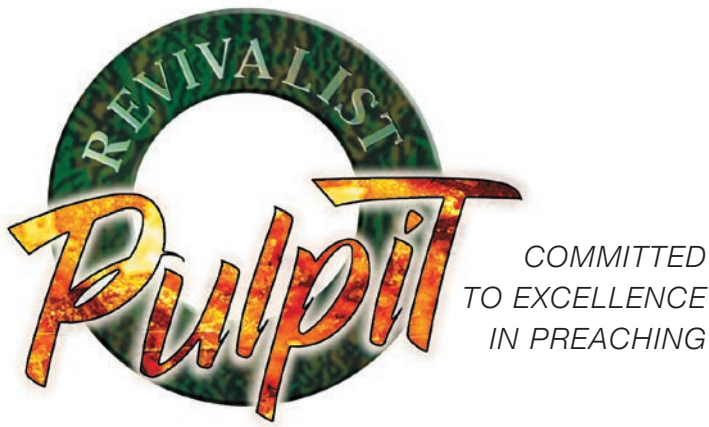
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CELEBRATING GODLY FATHERS

by Allan P. Brown, Chair

GBS Division of Ministerial Education

Scripture: Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding (Prov. 4:1). The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him (Prov. 20:7).

Happy Father's Day! Did you know that the Creator of the universe is proud to be our heavenly Father? In fact, God elevates the meaning of "father" to the highest degree possible by claiming it for Himself; and Jesus reminds us that, when we pray to God, we are to address Him in the most intimate and familial term of "Father."

Let me share a personal word about what it means to be a father.

I am a happy and blessed father! My children gave their hearts to the Lord early in life, and as they grew they continued to follow Jesus. Today my children are grown, married, and rearing their own families. Happily, my sons and I continue to be the best of friends. I was honored when each of my sons asked me to officiate at their weddings, and pleased when each son asked his brother to be his best man. Wow! What a blessing to have such love and unity among the men of my family.

I no longer occupy the role of leadership and teaching that I filled in their lives when they were children. Now, by invitation, I occupy the role of counselor and friend to each of them. I am also privileged, when opportunity presents itself, to participate in the rearing of my grandchildren (Deut. 6:4-9). Every day I pray that they will have hearts to love and serve Jesus, and grow up to be a blessing to their

world, just as their fathers are (Prov. 22:6). There is nothing more important to me than for my children and grandchildren (and someday perhaps great-grandchildren) to love and serve Jesus.

My desire is that this sermon will celebrate and encourage every father. Every Christian father wants to be the best father he can be. Without doubt, all of us fathers feel the weight of responsibility of fatherhood, but seemingly very few people know how to encourage us. I hope and pray that my suggestions for effective fathering will be a blessing to every father who reads these words. These are concepts and practices I did my best to incorporate into my efforts to be the best Biblical, godly father I could be (Eph. 6:4).

1. Sprinkle on much positive affirmation.

Take every opportunity to tell your children you love them. You may choose to use short statements like, "I'm so glad you are my son or daughter," "I'm glad to be your dad," or "I'm so glad God chose me to be your dad." "God has wonderful plans for your life." "I love you sooooo much!" Positive affirmations like these help build self-confidence in the child and a sense of destiny. It also gives them the security that their father really loves them.

Try to focus your positive affirmations on the biblical character traits you wish to see your children develop. Compliment them on sharing with others, and on having a good attitude when told to do something or not to do something. Teach them the importance of finishing a task, and then praise them when they do it.

Perhaps the following analogy will be helpful. If we think about our children's emotions in terms of a bank account, positive affirmations may be likened to making deposits. When we have to correct or discipline our children, we are making emotional withdrawals. We need to make sure that we are making lots of positive deposits in order to counteract the withdrawals we must make as we train and correct them.

2. Use consistent but reasonable discipline.

I am convinced that "teenage" rebellion does not have to occur. I think a primary cause of rebellion is bitterness and a sense of not being allowed to express one's feelings. It seems that everyone can remember times when they were falsely accused or got punished for something they did not do. Such incidents can cause resentment which may eventually lead to rebellion. In order to minimize the possibility of wrongly correcting my children, from their view-

point, I made an agreement with them. I promised not spank them unless they agreed that they deserved a spanking. I made this agreement when they were old enough to understand concepts of obedience versus disobedience and were able to express themselves. I did not want my children thinking that I got any pleasure or enjoyment from correcting them. So I told them that I did not want to spank them. And I asked them to please not “ask me” to give them a spanking. I explained that when they chose to disobey deliberately, they were in essence saying, “Daddy, please spank me. I am out of control. I need a spanking to help me obey.” I stressed the fact, “I don’t want to spank you.” But I assured them I would spank them if they insisted I do so. The choice would be up to them. If they chose to obey, they would receive no spankings and we would all be happy. If they chose to disobey, they would be insisting that they needed a spanking to motivate them to obey.

My children were quite pleased with this arrangement. It made it impossible for me to discipline my children if they felt they did not deserve a spanking. Instead, it gave me an opportunity to review the behaviors and attitudes that were expected and ask them if they understood. When they could repeat to me what I was wishing to communicate, I was able to say to them, “Now, in the future, if you choose to do contrary to what we just agreed upon, what will you be asking me to do?” The correct answer, of course, was, “Daddy, please spank me because I have deliberately chosen to do wrong, and need pain to motivate me to do right.” If my children genuinely forgot (this is often difficult to determine), I would choose to remind them instead of spanking them.

3. Create and maintain a regular weekly family time.

I think all of us fathers would agree that our daily schedules are filled to the brim with both things we have to do (such as go to work) and things we ought to do (such as mow the lawn, wash the car, and pay the bills). This is excluding the things we would like to do if we had more time and sufficient money to do them. As a result, it is easy to allow time with the children to get squeezed out of our schedule. This is why I am suggesting that you talk with your family and decide together which day would be the best day for a weekly family time.

My family decided that each Friday, from 3pm until 9pm would be our family time. We sat down together and compiled a list of things we could do during “family time.” This included things like playing

games together, going to the shopping mall, going out to eat at a favorite restaurant (that we could afford!), reading a book together, or other activities. We wrote each activity on a slip of paper and put them in a glass jar. Then on Friday, a different member of the family would get to reach in the jar, pull out a folded piece of paper, and read to the rest of us what our family time activity would be. What excitement and fun we had together! I will never forget the Friday when we decided to take a walk along the railroad tracks near our home and look for “treasure.” My wife, a science teacher, had thought of the activity, and that evening we all marched together looking for “treasure” along the railroad tracks. We discovered the skeleton of a small animal and Nadine showed us what we could learn from the bones. We found nuts, bolts, and other small objects that interested the boys. We also rediscovered the physics principle that sound follows a speeding train, and very little sound precedes it—so we decided this was not an activity it was safe to repeat!

4. Take time each week to talk privately with them about their walk with God.

I think we would all agree that the most important thing any of us can do as human beings is to love and serve Jesus. God promises all Christians that He will actively work in the midst of everything that happens to us for our good (Rom. 8:28). He also explains in Romans 8:29 that the “good” is not things like health, happiness, friends, a job, money, or other benefits that are properly called “blessings.” Although He chooses to bestow many blessings upon His children, God is talking about our developing of Christ-like attitudes and character qualities when he promises to work in the midst of all things for our “good.”

Seek to find a moment of quiet time with each of your children each week and simply ask them, “How are you and Jesus getting along this week?” “How are things going for you spiritually?” “Is there anything I can help you pray about?” “Are you remembering to read your Bible each day?” “Do you need to tell Daddy anything?” Also ask, “How are you and I doing?” “Have I hurt you or been unfair to you in any way?” Reassure each child that you would never knowingly wish to hurt their feelings or to be unfair to them in any way. Listen to what they say. Keep the channels of communication open! You are one of God’s greatest gifts to your children—their father.

May God bless each of you and strengthen and encourage you as together we celebrate “Father’s Day.” ■



[tributes from staff & students]

To the man who can literally fix anything, thanks for being an awesome dad. You have taught me many things, such as the meaning of hard work, sacrifice, how to control my temper, and how to keep calm and skip the drama. Thanks for being my steady support. I love you!

—Rachel Craig to Stephen Craig

My dad (aka “Pop”) taught me the value of hard work and a job well done. He instilled in me a love for God and family, has been a source of wise counsel, and has taught me a multitude of life lessons that have shaped me into the man and father I am today. I’m now seeing those same values passed on to my children. Thanks, Pop! Love you!

—Steve Harms to Ken Harms

My dad is the one I go to when I need to chat. He is the one who taught me that when you get bucked off, get right back on. Also, that true strength is being able to say I’m sorry, to be sentimental at times, and to love without fear. I never considered God as a terrifyingly harsh, judging Father, probably because that was not the father I grew up with. He continues to show me love and teach me new things every day. I am blessed with a wonderful dad.

—Danae L. Belcher to Derik A. Belcher

I have been blessed with a father who shows me what it means to pursue God and live that out in practical ways. I have watched my dad internalize the Word and let that Word change the way he behaves. The result is a man who is humble, honest, authentic, and possesses a servant’s heart and a wonderful sense of humor. Holiness is beautiful; I’ve seen it.

—Sonja Vernon to George Vernon III

My dad is my hero. He doesn’t fight crime or wear tights (at least I don’t think he does), but he has always been there for me. He taught me to be an authentic person who is real no matter what others think. I am proud of the man he is and I want to be just like him when I grow up...whenever that may be! Love you, Dad. You are a superhero in my book!

—Jordan Potter to Mark Potter

Consistent. Honest. God-focused. If I were to tell you all about my daddy, these three qualities would make up the core. The patience he shows by allowing me to work beside him in the garage and by discussing nerdy topics with me is another quality I really appreciate.

—Shelley Carey to Joe Carey



God’s Bible School and College streams Wednesday chapel messages, as well as other special services and events during the school year. Livestreamed events can be accessed at www.gbs.edu/news-events.

Additionally, new videos are posted to YouTube each Tuesday. Below are three such sermons which have been uploaded for your edification and enjoyment.



Michael Avery: “*Becoming a Man*”
1/27/15 (39 min) www.gbs.edu/Avery16-5
President Avery makes a comparison between new believers and mature Christians with suggestions for moving toward spiritual maturity.



Philip Brown: “*Being Berean*”
4/14/15 (35 min) www.gbs.edu/Brown16-5
A challenge to be Bible Christians—reading the Bible consistently, being a good listener, asking questions, evaluating preaching, and holding fast to what is good.



Rick Grubbs: “*Redeeming the Time*”
3/16/16 (27 min) www.gbs.edu/Grubbs16-5
Time, our most valuable earthly possession, is limited; and we will give an account for how we use it. “[Redeem] the time, because the days are evil” Eph. 5:16.

YouTube.com/GBSC1900 is your online source for chapel sermons, GBS history, college information, and even comical or candid glimpses of campus life that may include your son, daughter, sibling, cousin, or friend!

Be sure to click on the “subscribe” button at the top right of the screen.

Other points of interest may be accessed from the bottom of our home page (www.gbs.edu). Various icons direct you to other aspects of our social media: Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.



ALUMNI RECEPTION AT IHC

The annual alumni reception was held April 20 during the Interchurch Holiness Convention in Dayton, OH. A crowd of 450 GBS alumni and their families from across the nation gathered to fellowship with former classmates and hear updates from campus.

As GBS graduates talked over a light dinner, plans for Homecoming 2016 were shared with the group. This year's Homecoming is dedicated to honoring the 21-plus-year tenure of President Michael Avery. Please join us October 14-15 as we reflect on God's leading and look ahead to the future.

President Avery gave a number of campus updates, including: plans for additional campus signage, newly renovated office space for the Graduate Program, newly installed windows in historic R.E. McNeill Music Hall, and ongoing renovations. Dr. Philip Brown presented highlights from the new Graduate Program, appealing to pastors or leaders interested in graduate studies.

For her exemplary life of leadership, commitment, and generosity to GBS, Eleanor J. Nunley (BA, ThB '59) was presented the Alumni Philanthropy Award by President Avery.

Special gifts were also given to all 1810 Sustaining Donors who make monthly gifts to GBS.

The Alumni Association thanks Luke Gibson and GuideOne Insurance for their sponsorship of the reception. Their generosity is greatly appreciated. ■

—Faith A. Avery, Director of Institutional Advancement

Alumni are encouraged to email updates and pictures of their lives and ministries to Keith Waggoner I at w.ministries@comcast.net.



Alumni Philanthropy Award



Alumni show off new babies.



[tributes from staff & students]

Daddy, you have always been there for me, teaching and caring. When I was little, you taught me how to ride my bike, and you bandaged my knees when I fell and scraped them. Now that I'm a young adult, you teach me the importance of sticking to my Christian values, and you never fail to bandage my emotions on those days when nothing seems to go right. I love you! Happy Father's Day!

—Ashley Quesenberry to Duane Quesenberry

My father is a kind, hard-working man. He has faithfully loved and served God for many years, acting as an example to me through all of my life. Although he only received an eighth-grade education himself, he worked incredibly hard to provide for his wife and four girls. He valued Christian education enough to put his daughters through private school. I know that I would not be where I am or who I am today without my father.

—Cheryl (Martin) Comparativo to Warren Martin

My father is a committed, hard-working man who loves God and his family. His strong work ethic taught us by example to perform all tasks, no matter how menial, with dignity and to the best of our abilities. I'm so thankful for his influence.

—Maricka Herrer to Johann Herrer

When I first got the email concerning tributes to fathers, I assumed it didn't really apply to me as I never really had a father who filled the "dad" role. However, one of the definitions of the word father is "a man who gives care and protection to someone or something." This does apply to someone in my life. When my father wasn't present in my life, it seemed like my world crashed down, and I missed out on so much!

But God gave me a "father" role model and put him in my life when I needed him the most. He took his time to invest into my future! He showed me compassion, care, and love that I never got from my father! With showing me those important traits, he showed me the love of God, so now I know I have more than my earthly father role model, but my heavenly Father as well!

My role model was a graduate of GBS and he was the person who brought me to GBS for a campus visit, then later drove hundreds of miles to bring all of my stuff here on my first day as a student. He even stayed a while to make sure I got settled in. He then came back a few weeks later making sure I was doing well, and he still does. I am here at GBS because of him, and I am a stronger Christian because of him! So, even though he is not my father, he has functioned well as a substitute and has made a huge impact in my life. I am so thankful for him!

—Eli Albring to Titus Byer



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THOUGHTS

for the quiet hour

by Sonja Vernon

THE POWER OF YOUR STORY

"And He has said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.' Gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me." —II Cor. 12:9 NASB

It was 5 a.m. I had awakened with a start. My heart was pounding, and my spirit was troubled. I needed to clear my conscience. I had been careless, and my heart was condemning me. I heard the tell-tale rattle of dishes in the kitchen. My dad was already up performing his morning ritual. I walked out of my room. "Dad, I need to talk to you." And everything began spilling out. My dad turned around, stopped what he was doing, and came to sit next to me. He listened. Then he said, "I'm not entirely surprised to hear this." And we talked. He didn't let me off the hook, but the funny thing was, we didn't hash over my struggles very long. After a moment he began to share how God had worked through his own weaknesses, how he too had needed (and still needed) so much grace, and how faithful God had been to him and would be to me as well. Later, in reflection, God whispered to me, "That's what I am like."

Dads, your kids don't need perfection. They need you to be real. They need you to come alongside, to hold them accountable, and to give them hope through your own experiences. Show them a God who specializes in redemption, who loves them...period, and who has the power to transform them by His grace. Tell them your story and live it in front of them. ■

Sonja Vernon is Dean of Women at God's Bible School and College.

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2016

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