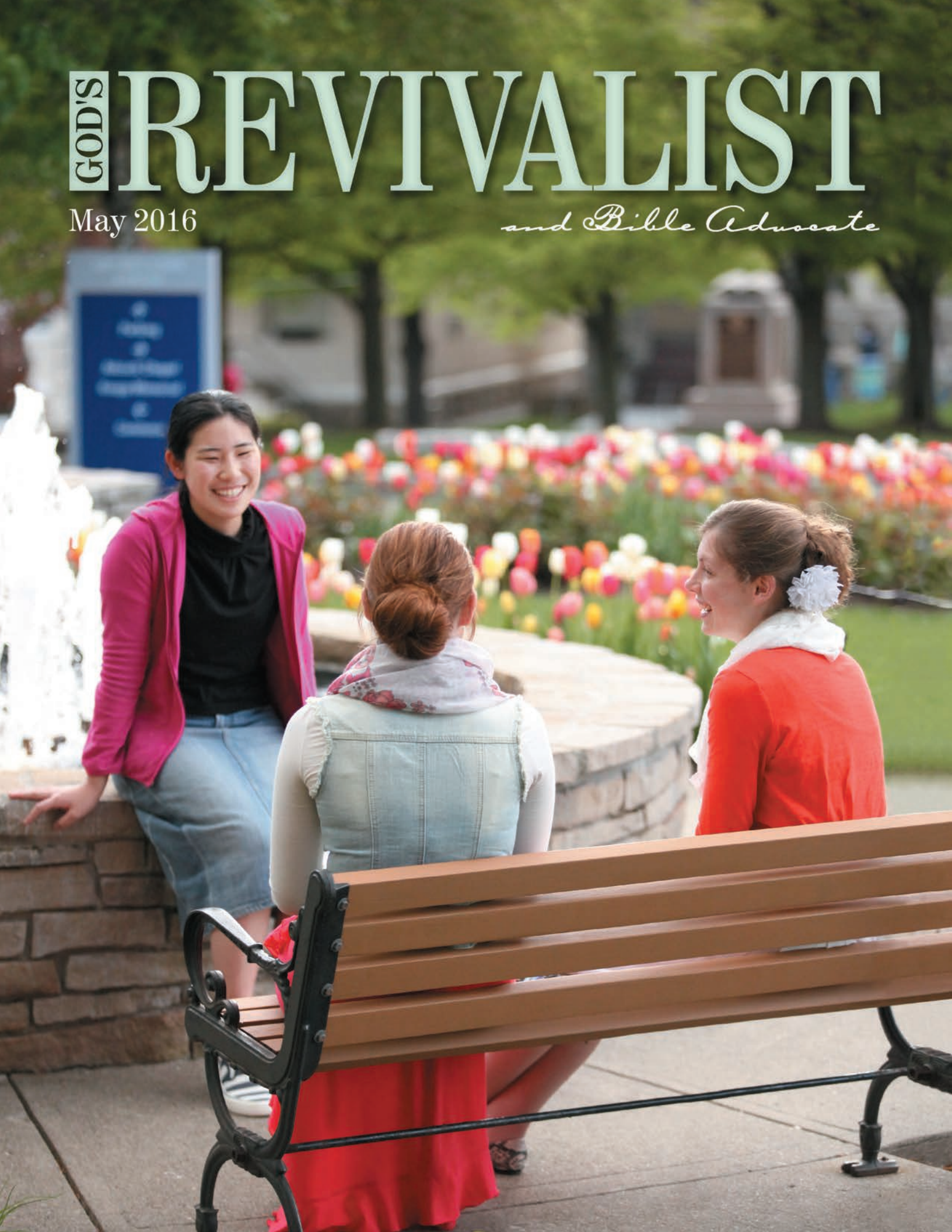


# GOD'S REVIVALIST

May 2016

*and Bible Advocate*





# about this issue

## HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

The modern American holiday of Mother's Day was first celebrated in 1908. This issue of *God's Revivalist* has several articles related to Mother's Day. Jonathan Parnell gives husbands helpful information in "Ten Things to Pray for Your Wife" (p.9). Kelsey Shade gives a glimpse into how our spiritual adversaries look for possible avenues of attack on mothers. Reading "A Screwtape Letter for the Unappreciated Mom" (p.14) gives advance warning about some of these areas and helps moms to be on guard. Finally, Christina Fox makes the case that how we invest in our kids and speak into their hearts will last for eternity. So, in those "Moments of Motherhood" (p.21), care should be taken to give proper attention to children.

This issue also notes the passing of former GBS President Bence C. Miller (p.13) as well as several alumni. In addition to their obituaries, we have included an article from two of those alumni. Betty Wallace Farmer (HS '55), my mother, was an interesting and energetic person who stayed active in ministry until her sudden passing. "Betty and the Beans" (p.8) is a little story she told on a number of occasions, often to children, illustrating the importance of doing right. Dr. Wesley Duewel (BA '38; ThB '39), renowned missionary statesman, author, and organizational administrator, was also active in ministry from his call at age five until his death at 99. With such a long and distinguished life, his thoughts on "A Christian Philosophy of Retirement" (p.6) are very instructive.

Lastly, National Alumni President Keith Waggoner I interviews a significant alumnus—Richard Miles, Vice President for Student Affairs—who has played a big part in making God's Bible School a great place for both students and colleagues (p.22). You will not want to miss reading this and getting a closer look at one of the key individuals in the current administration. —KF ■

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.

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). Visit us online at [www.gbs.edu](http://www.gbs.edu) or [www.godsrevivalist.com](http://www.godsrevivalist.com).

COVER: The GBS fountain is a delightful meeting place for students. Photo by Amit Dutta.

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God's Bible School and College does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, age, handicap, veteran status, genetic information, or political affiliation in provision of educational opportunities, programs and activities, or employment opportunities and benefits.

# the president's page



**Trustworthiness in the One to whom we pray is crucial in developing a healthy, vibrant prayer life. Praying the Lord's Prayer and embracing what it teaches about our Heavenly Father reinforces this.**

## NOTES FROM MY PRAYER JOURNAL PART III

*by Michael R. Avery, President*

In my last two articles, I mentioned that I have made 2016 my year of prayer. I did so in part to renew my own prayer life, but also to learn more about prayer. In my first article (March), I gave some general observations about prayer. In my second article (April), I raised and then attempted to answer the basic question of why we pray. I suggested that there is no better answer than simply the example of Jesus—*“And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray”* (Matt. 14:23). The Son of God, who knew the wisdom of His heavenly Father above any of us, felt such a strong compelling need to pray that He made it a regular habit of His life.

Answering the question above caused me to focus on the prayer life of Jesus. As I did, I discovered something that is both fundamental and essential to our own prayer life. Jesus was able to pray with remarkable ease, under any circumstance, about anything, and with complete confidence because He knew His Heavenly Father was absolutely trustworthy. The God Jesus reveals always has our ultimate good in mind. He has no malice or evil intentions. He is completely good. And the fact that He is also all-knowing and all-powerful makes His goodness even better. One can never develop a satisfactory prayer life until one knows that our Heavenly Father is entirely good, loving, and trustworthy.

When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, they did so presumably because Jesus' own prayer life was so vibrant and reflected such an easy, uncomplicated trust in His Heavenly Father. One way Jesus used to teach them how to pray was to give them a model prayer (Matt. 6:9-13) that actually accomplished two things. First, it gave them the basic composition of a prayer. Second, it provided amazing insight into the nature of the God to whom they prayed. To me, this second aspect is more important than the first because it fuels our faith by underscoring the trustworthiness and goodness of the God to whom we pray!

# Commissioning Weekend 2016

God's Bible School & College, Cincinnati, OH

Nathan Purdy, guest speaker

The public is invited to join with us for our  
"end-of-the-year, spiritual renewal."  
Help us celebrate commitment and commencement.

## Friday, May 20

7:00 PM The Challenge

## Saturday, May 21

10:00 AM Commencement (College)

7:00 PM Consecration

## Sunday, May 22

10:30 AM Communion

2:30 PM Commitment to Ministering Now

6:00 PM Commission



Originally from Northern Ireland, Nathan Purdy pastors the Bible Mission Church in Lock Haven, PA. He is a gifted speaker with powerful emphasis on scriptural holiness. Nathan is married and has three young children.

Services will be live-streamed beginning Friday, 7:00 PM at [www.gbs.edu/news-events](http://www.gbs.edu/news-events)

As we dismantle the various sections of the prayer, we can clearly see the kind of God that Jesus came to reveal—the kind of God that is truly trustworthy!

"Our Father"—God is not a distant sovereign but rather is a "Dear Father." He desires to have intimate involvement in our lives. He is a God that is personal!

"Our Father which art in Heaven"—The Jewish understanding of heaven did not refer to a faraway place. Heaven referred to the surrounding atmosphere. He was telling His disciples that God is near. He is as close as the air you breathe. He is a God that is present!

"Hallowed be thy name"—God is holy. There is nothing about Him that is bad or evil. He cannot sin nor participate in anything evil or wrong. His intentions for me are always good. He is a God that is pure!

"Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven"—As the King who rules over all, He is a God that is powerful!

"Give us this day our daily bread"—God cares about our basic needs. He is a God that provides!

"Forgive us our trespasses"—Richard Foster said, "At the very heart of God is the desire to forgive and to give." He is a God that pardons!

"Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil."—We all face trials, problems, and sicknesses, but our Heav-

enly Father always has the last word. Nothing can happen to us that God cannot redeem. He is a God that protects!

Trustworthiness in the One to whom we pray is crucial in developing a healthy, vibrant prayer life. Praying the Lord's Prayer and embracing what it teaches about our Heavenly Father was Jesus' way of reinforcing this in the lives of His disciples. I believe it still works today. Try it with me in 2016! ■

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

Letters should be addressed to the Editorial Office, 1810 Young Street, Cincinnati, OH 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.

I really appreciated the *Revivalist* focusing on children's ministry [Jan/Feb 2016]. Are extra copies available? The articles would be very beneficial to others.

RICHARD ABRAHAM (HS '52)  
Columbus, IN

**Editor's note:** We keep extra copies of the special issues, such as: "Pornography," "A Tribute to Moms," "Train Up a Child," "Protecting Marriage," and "Children's Ministry Today." These issues may be purchased for \$2 each plus shipping/handling. Contact us at [kfarmer@gbs.edu](mailto:kfarmer@gbs.edu) or 513.763.6650.

## Transition Committee

The Transition Committee is excited about the future of God's Bible School and College and is dedicated to facilitating a smooth transition from President Avery to the next president. Having worked closely with President Avery, we are confident that GBS is optimally positioned for this time of change.

The committee will be highly involved in the process of acquainting the president-elect with the organization, its constituents, its community, and its history.

After the president-elect is chosen, we will be communicating regularly with the Revivalist Family and on the GBS website to update our progress and share pertinent information. May God continue to show favor on His school as we anticipate the next chapter in His story!



**Robbie England, Chair**  
*GBS trustee since 2000*

Robbie has worked as a physician assistant since 1999 and enjoys having the opportunity to be a witness for the gospel while practicing medicine. He grew up on the GBS campus, graduating from the high school (1988), and earning a BA (1993). He credits the spiritual grounding he received at GBS as foundational for his life and considers the GBS community his family. He also graduated from Trevecca Nazarene University with a BS (1998). Robbie is married to Rachel (GBS 1990-1992), and they have four children: Josiah, Isaac, Hannah, and Simeon. The Englands attend God's Missionary Church, Lebanon, PA.



**Maricka Herrer**  
*GBS alumna & graduate program student*

Maricka, born and reared in South Africa, was first introduced to GBS through missionary friends after receiving a clear call from God to full-time Christian ministry while she was in high school. By God's guidance and provision, she came to GBS in 2010, graduating in May 2015 with a BA in missions as well as a BA in Biblical and Theological Studies. She currently works as the GBS Graduate Program administrative assistant and is taking courses toward an MA in Biblical Studies.



**Brenda Herring**  
*GBS trustee since 2008*

Brenda is a professional photographer specializing in family and children portraits. She served as an executive assistant to President Avery for six years (2003-08). She earned an AS in Applied Business from Cincinnati State (1999), a BA from GBS (2005), and an MS in Business Management from Liberty University (2007). Brenda is married to Aaron (GBS 1996-98) and they have four children: Clayton, Addyson, Bryson, and Rylee. She is also a member of the GBS Presidential Search Committee.



**Richard Miles**  
*GBS administrator since 1997*

Richard graduated from GBS with a BRE (1974) and with an MA in Counseling (2004) from Liberty University. He served as a pastor and Christian educator in K-12 schools before joining the GBS staff as Vice President for Student Affairs. He is happily married to Brenda and they are blessed with two children and five grandchildren. Believing that relationships define people's lives, Richard preaches, counsels, and holds conferences on having healthy relationships with God and others.



**Aaron Profit**  
*GBS employee since 2004*

The son of Christian school teachers, Aaron attended school on a Bible college campus for most of his K-12 years, after which he earned his BA (English, Political Science, 2001) and MA (English, 2004) at the University of Kansas, where he taught introductory math and English courses. More recently, he completed his PhD (Educational Studies, 2015) at the University of Cincinnati. At GBS, Aaron has served in admissions and financial aid, as a college faculty member and division chair, and, since 2013, as Vice President for Academic Affairs. Aaron is an accreditation evaluator for the Association for Biblical Higher Education. He and his wife Lisa have three sons: Elliott, Simon, and Eben.



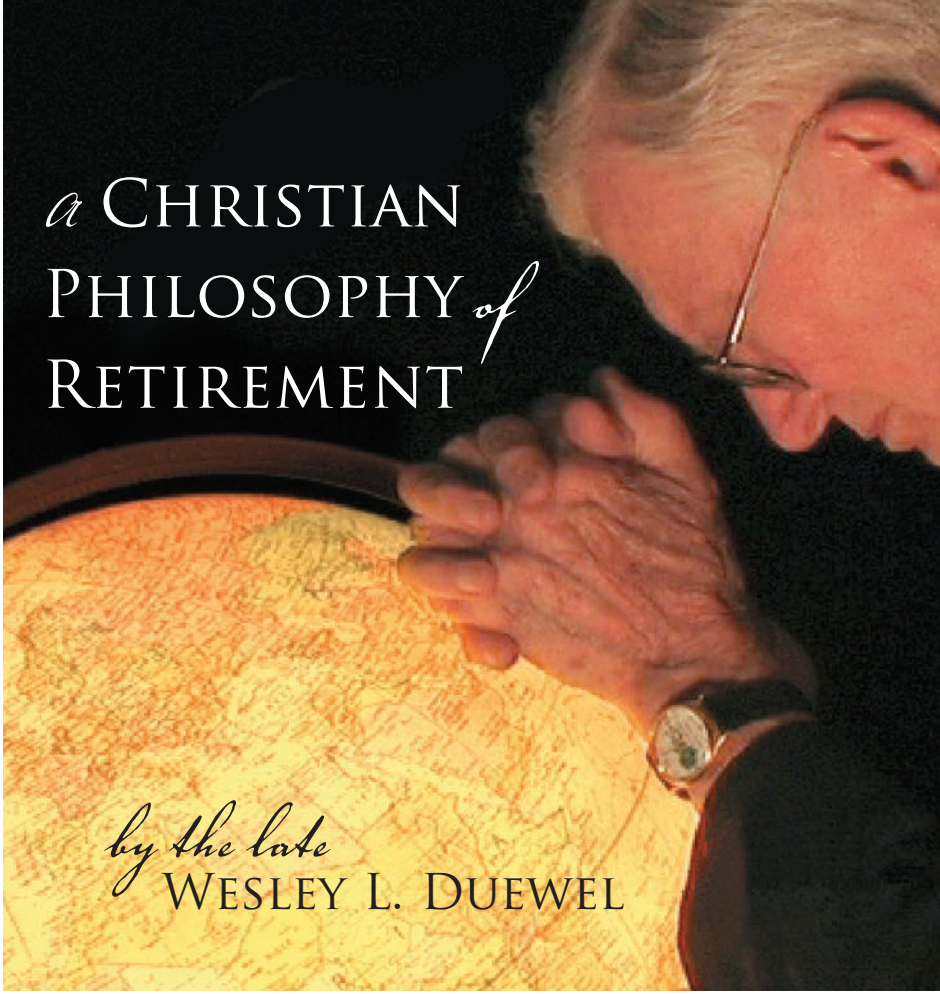
**Leonard Sankey**  
*GBS trustee since 1978*

Dr. Sankey has a long and rich history with GBS. He graduated from the college with a ThB (1960) and married Janet Ferguson (HS 1959) the same year. He has been in full-time ministry for 56 years: 17 years of missionary service, including three terms in Central America; 31 years in pastoral ministry; and 19 years as General Secretary of IHC. As a GBS board member, he has served as its secretary and chairman, as well as president of the Alumni Association. In addition, he has served on missionary boards and as editor of the *Convention Herald* and *Missionary Herald*. He and his wife have three children and 11 grandchildren. He continues to travel extensively in evangelistic work.



**Keith Waggoner I**  
*GBS trustee since 1998*

Keith graduated from the GBS high school (1974) and received BSM (1988) and MSM (1991) degrees in Management from Indiana Wesleyan University. Prior to his retirement in 2012, he was a division manager for Caterpillar, Inc. Keith is currently a business consultant and manages a family enterprise. He and his wife Sharon (GBS 1972-75) have three children and six grandchildren. Keith chairs the GBS Presidential Search Committee.



*a* CHRISTIAN  
PHILOSOPHY *of*  
RETIREMENT

*by the late*  
WESLEY L. DUEWEL

Life is God's gift. Life is good. Life is challenging and exciting. Life is worth living when you live for God, when you live in the Spirit—under His guidance and by His help.

For the Christian there can be no retirement from Christian life, nor can there be any retirement from life itself. There should be no retirement from the guidance of the Spirit. We should be more conscious of His guidance and provision for us than of our choosing for ourselves. Thus, we can always be content, challenged, and committed to the task before us.

When life becomes less active because of health reasons, we can greatly increase the intercessory partnership we have with Christ if our mind is clear. We should al-

ready have been heavily involved in intercessory ministry long before retirement time.

There is no retirement from God's plan for us or His expectations of us. We are always to be His salt, His light, His ambassador, His witness.

We are always to be Christ's prayer partner in holy intercession. Our great High Priest does not take vacation or retirement from His intercessory reign at the Father's right hand. We are not only crucified with Christ, but we are raised with

Christ and now seated with Christ. Where is He sitting? On the throne of high priestly intercession. Where are we sitting? We are to share in spiritual reality His intercessory reign. We have no right to take an intercessory vacation or retirement or to neglect our loving prayer concern for His kingdom, our world, our nation, our church, our friends, or from our intercession for all the needs of our broken world.

We are not to retire from any Christian commitment or any aspect of Christian stewardship, and that includes the stewardship of our life, our abilities, our experiences, our time, and our possessions. It is great to know that we never retire spiritually. Eventually we will be promoted to God's new assignments in His glory world in the new and eternal stage of life. We can be sure if we have been faithful here, eternity will be filled with assignments ever more rewarding. God's assignments are what add meaning to life now, and they will add meaning to life in eternity.

At no point in Scripture is retirement portrayed as a goal of Christian living. The provision of Levites ceasing to do temple service at the age of fifty is understandable because, at the time when this was instituted by Moses, the heavy duty of carrying the tabernacle furnishings and utensils was inappropriate for an older person who might stumble, desecrating the vessels in the fall. Great respect was shown to the wisdom and experience of age. There is no indication of a philosophy of retirement for rulers, prophets, or others.

There properly may be a time to retire from administrative leadership and from some forms of involvement. But there is never a time to retire from the principles of the stewardship of life, and Christian life is stewardship.

Health may impose its limitations, which, as a Christian, we must respect. But Christian life should be lived to the full as long

as opportunity permits. Self-giving is the Christian basis of all of life. Self-indulgence, self-coddling, and wasting on one's self is not the spirit of the Cross or of the Christ of the cross.

### 1. The principle of the STEWARDSHIP OF LIFE

Life is God's gift for us to invest wisely for the support of loved ones, for worthy citizenship, for building and extending Christ's kingdom, and for blessing others. All that we do in worthy living, helping others, and serving Christ will be eternally rewarded. Whatever we do with life that does not qualify for eternal reward is, from the standpoint of eternity, a waste and eternal loss. It is the "wood, hay, and straw" of 1 Corinthians 3:12. When physical and mental powers are still strong, it is not Christlike to "spend" life for mere pleasure and personal self-centered enjoyment. Jesus said the concept of taking life easy was the concept of a fool (Luke 12:20). The rich fool had the philosophy of this world—that he had a right to do what he wanted to do with his own life, with his time, and with his possessions.

### 2. The principle of the STEWARDSHIP OF ABILITIES

The Bible knows no chronological limit on the responsible stewardship of abilities. Often these become the most productive at the time some are considering retirement. To change employment at a given age in order to serve Christ and His kingdom more fully is not, in the secular sense, retirement. Retirement is withdrawing from one's position, occupation, or active working life, according to Webster.

The principle of stewardship of abilities does not change by passing a specified age or other limit. Human conscience motivates many to use leisure in productive voluntary activities. Christian conscience should all the more endorse the continuing stewardship of abilities.

### 3. The principle of the STEWARDSHIP OF TIME

Time is one of the greatest gifts of God. The use of time is one of the areas for which we will give an account to God at Christ's judgment throne. Wise use of a needed amount of time for health or needed relaxation is an investment for God, since our bodies as well as our whole being have been purchased by God (1Cor. 6:19-20).

But our culture has conditioned us to trivialize, waste, and literally "kill" time. Squandering time on ourselves in nonproductive selfish interests is a sin against God as Creator and as the Sovereign of time. What regrets eternity will hold for Christians who had not Christian conscience on the stewardship of time!

There is only a small percentage of Christian senior citizens who are investing extra hours or newly available time in intercession. Our evangelical movement and our missionary movement could be revolutionized

if Christians took seriously the investment of time in prevailing prayer. If Christian resources, ministries, and forces were frozen at the present level, we could see multiplied harvest and multiplied revival if only Christians invested hours in intercession. The failure to use time in intercession probably will be the greatest and most universal regret in eternity.

### 4. The principle of the STEWARDSHIP OF WEALTH

The Bible is very clear on the stewardship of means. As never before in history, we have opportunities to invest our means in advance of Christ's kingdom and in the meeting of human need in even distant places. We have a tremendous responsibility for our choice in areas of stewardship. We today are better informed and have greater variety of options in our giving than any previous generation. There is no biblical basis that upon reaching senior citizenship we have liberty to spend more money on ourselves, travel, and hobbies merely for personal enjoyment. We will undoubtedly be more accountable to God than any previous generation for the stewardship of our wealth.

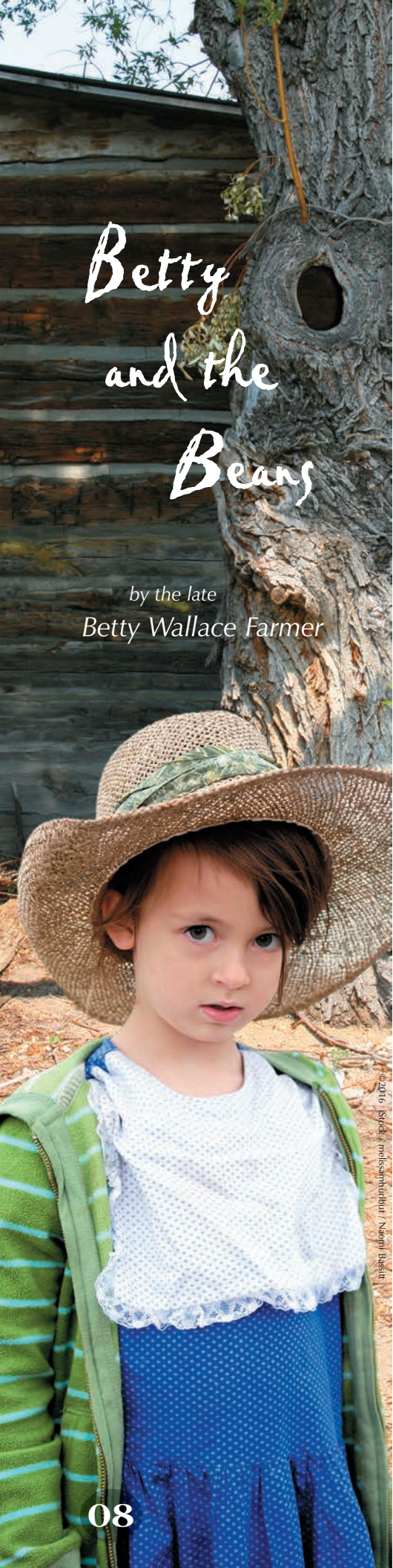
In the light of our opportunities to invest in Christ's kingdom, in the light of our greatly increased knowledge of human need around the world, and in the light of escalating dimensions of that need due to our exploding world population, we have an awesome responsibility.

The average Western Christian knows, or has the means to know, the needs he ought to meet. Heaven is keeping record of our stewardship and will condemn us if we claim, "We knew nothing about this" (Prov. 24:11-12). It is all too easy in our culture to compete unconsciously with the luxuries of others and think we owe it to ourselves to indulge our wants that are constantly being expanded through advertising.

Thus, as indulged in our culture, retirement can become the most dangerous period of one's life from the standpoint of the stewardship of life, abilities, time, and means. Our rationalizing of contemporary lifestyle is utterly foreign to the commitment of Wesley, Booth, Cowman, and C.T. Studd.

It seems to me that this is an hour to proclaim the redemption of retirement, to condemn the blatant secularization of our lifestyle and motivations, and to call the Christian conscience once more to a philosophy of commitment, voluntary cross bearing, sacrifice, and intercession, whatever the stage of life. ■

*Wesley L. Duewel (BA '38, ThB '39), President Emeritus of One Mission Society (formerly Oriental Missionary Society), was involved in missions-related work all of his life (see obituary, p.12). This article was written on April 11, 1991, when Norman B. Rohrer of the Christian Writers Guild, Hume Lake, CA, asked Dr. Duewel to share his thoughts about retirement. The photo on page six is of Duewel praying over a world globe.*

A young girl with dark hair, wearing a wide-brimmed straw hat with a green ribbon, a white lace-trimmed top, and a blue polka-dot dress, stands in front of a log cabin. To her right is a large, old tree with a prominent hole in its trunk. The scene is outdoors with natural lighting.

# Betty and the Beans

by the late  
Betty Wallace Farmer

©2016 Istock / melissahubbard / Nancy Bassin

When I was young, probably about eight or nine years of age, my mother and I went to the cornfield to plant beans. It was a large field with an acre or more of corn already growing about six inches high. My mother had saved beans that she had previously grown and dried, storing them in a 24-pound flour sack. Flour sacks back in that day were made out of a very heavy and durable paper; even when wet, they wouldn't tear very easily. I remember that the sack seemed to be about half full. So we planted and planted and planted.

Finally Mom said, "Betty, I am going to go to the house now and start supper. You know your dad will be coming in from work. You finish planting these beans." So I continued with the task.

However, I got tired of planting those beans. It seemed like there still were as many of them in the sack as when I had started. Looking up the hill I noticed an apple tree which appeared to have a big knothole in it; so I decided that I was going to go up there and explore that knothole and see if I could pour beans down that hole and get rid of them a little bit faster than what I was doing by dropping the beans beside the corn hills.

Sure enough, there in that old apple tree was a great big hole. I stood on my tiptoes to be able to reach the hole and let those beans trickle down into the tree. I didn't pour all of them in, however. I saved some in the bag and went back to the cornfield and planted a few more. Again, I quickly tired of this. I thought, "Mom might not have intended me to plant all of these. I'd better save a few on the bottom." So I did.

I made my way back to the house with the remaining beans. Mom was very pleased and said, "You planted that many beans? I wasn't even going to plant that many, Betty. You've done a fine job!"

Well, I have one of those faces that most would consider "easy to read." My eyes just tell what is inside. Since I couldn't very well tell an untruth and get by with it, I didn't look up at my mother. I didn't look at her or say anything about the praise that she was giving me.

Several weeks passed and my father was sitting on the front porch. He said, "Betty, look over there at that potato patch. See all that old parsley growing there between those potato plants? Go over there and pull some out and throw it over into the pig lot. They would be happy to get it." So, off I went—the little farm girl that I was—to pull that parsley and throw it over to the pigs.

While the pigs were enjoying their parsley, I thought, "You know, I'd better go up and look in that old tree stump to see if just perchance those beans might be growing."

I tell you, the sight I saw I did not expect! Bean vines had grown out of that tree, and they weren't just peeking out—they were all the way out and trailing onto the ground! I reached up and pulled all I could pull and hurried back to the pig lot and threw them in. But rather than eating the beans, the pigs just trampled them into the mud. It was almost as if the pigs were aware of the devious origins of this crop. I was so afraid that, when my father fed the pigs later in the evening, those bean vines would be in there and he would recognize them. I had to do something.

I looked around and found a tree limb I could use. I worked so hard trying to rake those beans back out of there so the pigs wouldn't tramp them down or leave any evidence of my misdeed. Every few days after that I would go back over to that old apple tree and pull more bean vines out.

The truth is that I worked harder getting rid of those vines than if I had actually planted the beans around the corn as I had been instructed! Not only that, but we could have benefited from the potential bean crop as a family. Deviously cutting corners to "make life easier" always ends poorly.

The lesson to be learned is never to do wrong. Do right the first time! ■

**Betty Wallace Farmer** (HS '55) ministered with her husband Elmer C. Farmer (ThB '56) for 47 years in churches in West Virginia, Kansas, and Kentucky (see obituary, p.11).



# 10 Things to Pray for Your Wife

by Jonathan Parnell

**O**ur hunger for God will not be confined to our closets. As we know Him and delight in all that He is for us in Jesus, our joy in Him reaches beyond personal experience on a quest to be reproduced in others. One of the simplest ways we realize this is by taking seriously how we pray—by wanting and asking for others the same things we want and ask for ourselves.

It is a beautiful thing—a miracle—when we become as invested in the sanctification of others as we are in our own. And, of course, the best place to start is with our spouses.

So men, here are ten things to want from God (and ask from Him) for your wife:

1. **God, be her God**—her all-satisfying treasure. Make her jealous for Your exclusive supremacy over all her affections (Ps. 73:24-25).
2. **Increase her faith**—give her a rock-solid confidence that Your incomparable power is only, always wielded for her absolute good in Christ (Rom. 8:28-30).
3. **Intensify her joy**—a joy in You that abandons all to the riches of Your grace in Jesus and that says firmly, clearly, gladly: “I’ll go anywhere and do anything if You are there” (Ex. 33:14-15).
4. **Soften her heart**—rescue her from cynicism and make her tender to Your presence in the most complicated details of dirty diapers and a multitude of other needs You’ve called her to meet (Heb. 1:3).
5. **Make her cherish Your Church**—build relationships into her life that challenge and encourage her to walk in step with the truth of the gospel, and cause her to love corporate gatherings, the Lord’s Table, and the everyday life of the body (Mark 3:35).
6. **Give her wisdom**—make her see dimensions of reality that I would overlook and accompany her vision with a gentle, quiet spirit that feels safe and celebrated (1 Pet. 3:4).
7. **Sustain her health**—continue to speak Your gift of health and keep us from presumption; it is by blood-bought grace (Ps. 139:14).
8. **Multiply her influence**—encourage and deepen the impact she has on our children. Give her sweet glimpses of it. Pour her out in love for our neighbors and spark creative ways to engage them for Jesus’ sake (John 12:24).
9. **Make her hear Your voice**—to read the Bible and accept it as it really is, Your word... Your very word to her where she lives, full of grace and power and everything she needs pertaining to life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3).
10. **Overcome her with Jesus**—that she is united to Him, that she is a new creature in Him, that she is Your daughter in Him... No longer in Adam and dead to sin; now in Christ and alive to You, forever (Rom. 6:11).

And then a thousand other things. Amen. 📌

*Jonathan Parnell is the lead pastor of Cities Church in Minneapolis St. Paul, MN, where he lives with his wife, Melissa, and their five children. He is co-editor of *Designed for Joy: How the Gospel Impacts Men and Women, Identity, and Practice*. This article appears on [www.desiringGod.org](http://www.desiringGod.org).*





how the choir members described it. Many of the upperclassmen in the group declared this choir tour to be their best one.

The eleven-day, seven-state tour found the group traveling through Alabama, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Indiana, and Ohio—meeting many alumni and supporters of the school. For instance, In Beech Grove, IN, Don Davison was able to connect with Mr. Norris Teague, whose grandfather attended GBS in 1902.



The College Choir at Pell City Bible Methodist Church

### CHOIR TOUR—“SPIRIT-FILLED AND UNIFIED”

The Late Winter Tour of the College Choir took place February 25–March 6, supervised by GBS Public Relations Director, Rev. Don Davison. Mr. Tim Crater directed the choir, which was accompanied by longtime music faculty member Mrs. Martha Miller. Rev. Andy Cooley capably served as the bus driver.

It started out like every other tour, but God had special plans for this one. “Spirit-filled and unified” is



Norris Teague and Don Davison

The annual tour gives GBS the opportunity to raise vitally needed financial support. It strengthens relations with alumni and establishes new relationships. It has been a great encouragement to many through the passionate singing and testimonies of young hearts on fire for God.

GBS alumna, Dorothy Bowen Klass (BA '76), former accompanist for the GBS College Choir, shared this about the choir service at Thomasville, North Carolina: “As a musician, I was thrilled with the perfect diction, flawless cutoffs, and lovely harmonies. As a Christian, I

# 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 **Jackie (Pearce) (AA '06) and Brad (HS '02) Bishop**, a daughter, **Breanna Nichole**, born March 16, 2016, Cincinnati, OH. Brad is the Information Technology Systems Administrator at GBS. Breanna is welcomed by her three siblings: Kelsie (7), Austin (4), and Alissa (2).



To **Elisabeth (Clemens) (HS '02, BA '06) and Jonathan (HS '99, AA '03) Avery**, a daughter, **Hannah Beth**, born April 6, 2016, Cincinnati, OH. Elisabeth is a GBS adjunct professor and Jonathan is

senior financial analyst for Luxottica. Hannah is welcomed by her siblings Aviah (4) and Elliott (2). Paternal grandparents are GBS President and Mrs. Michael and Ruth Avery.

### DEATHS



**Micah Joy (Colburn) Bucalo**, 52, passed away February 24, 2016. Micah graduated from the GBS high school in 1981. She was the owner and operator of her own business. Micah is survived by sons, Jonathan DeBolt and Edward Bucalo; daughter, Nicole Eppert; four grandchildren; and two sisters, Nancy and April. A memorial service was held at the Kenwood Bible Methodist Church in Cincinnati, OH, officiated by Rev. Travis Johnson and Rev. Kenneth Cox, with interment following at Arlington Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

was spiritually refreshed by the joyous praise and inspiring sight of young people committed to follow Christ. As a minister, it was incredibly wonderful to be ministered **to** and just soak in the presence of the Lord. Indeed, He was moving among us.”

Services were blessed with a very real sense of God’s presence, and spiritual victories were won, including seekers at the altar.

### ABHE 10-YEAR REAFFIRMATION VISIT

GBS hosted an accreditation review team from the Association for Biblical Higher Education’s Commission on Accreditation March 16-18. The team was chaired by Paul Willard and included Rick Cramer, Dr. Marty Harris, Dr. Angelita Howard, and Deborah McConkey. Accompanying the team as the ABHE Commission representative was Commission Director Dr. Ron Kroll. The team conducted interviews with board members, students, and various personnel while on campus, seeking to validate the self-study documents GBS had produced. The visit outcome was characterized by Dr. Kroll as very positive: GBS received multiple commendations for excellence, as well as a few helpful suggestions and recommendations for continued improvement. We are deeply thankful for God’s blessings on this visit!

### HILLTOP IVORIES

The Division of Music again hosted Hilltop Ivories, a piano ensemble concert, on March 22. The event is unique in that it brings a wide range of pianists and varying playing skills to the stage. This year, 50 performers, including elementary, junior high, high school, and college students—piano majors and non-majors—alumni, friends and faculty, came together to perform gospel, classical, and a variety of other piano ensemble selections. The division extends special thanks to Mrs. Martha Miller for her outstanding work organizing this event, preparing and programming music, and coordinating with groups and teachers. ■



**Gail Ramona (Rines) Watson**, 79, of Leominster, MA, died February 27, 2016, surrounded by her family following a courageous battle with Lewy body dementia and Parkinson’s disease. In 1936, Gail was born in Fitchburg, MA, to the late Earl Mark and Ellen Agnes (Crimm) Rines. Gail attended GBS (HS ’55), and while there, she and her roommate Joyce (Highley) Watson (HS ’53) became best friends and made an agreement to marry brothers, so they would always be sisters. They did—Gail married Robert Lee Watson and Joyce married Billy Watson. Gail then worked for AT&T Cincinnati and owned and operated Gail’s Grocery Store on Reading Road, Cincinnati. She returned to Leominster to own and operate Dunwoody’s Mobile Home Park for over 45 years. Gail was a trustee at Worcester State Hospital and a member of the Worcester Executive Club. Gail was predeceased by her husband of 58 years in

2014. She is survived by her daughters Ronda Lee and Kimberly Gail; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Adeline and Naomi. A celebration of Gail’s life was held at the First Baptist Church of Holden, MA, Pastor Rob Woods officiating, with burial following at the Hillside Cemetery in Sterling, MA.



**Betty Louise (Wallace) Farmer**, 86, passed away March 7, 2016, at her home in Point Pleasant, WV. She was born in 1929 in Blaketown, WV, to the late Harry Listen and Catherine Lelia (Garvin) Wallace. Betty married her next-door neighbor, Elmer Clayton Farmer, on his return from WWII. On Mother’s Day in 1948, both Betty and Elmer gave their hearts to God and Elmer felt a call to the ministry shortly thereafter. While Elmer completed ministerial training at GBS (ThB ’56), Betty completed her high school education (’55). She also took classes in child evangelism and was able to ➡

➡ use the knowledge gained to work with the children in each of their pastorates in Kentucky, West Virginia, and Kansas. Betty again returned to school and completed LPN training when she was in her mid-40s. She used this training to care for her invalid mother.

Betty was full of life and loved to make others happy through entertaining and storytelling. While others begin to slow down in the later years of life, Betty became very involved in her community through various organizations, such as the quilt guild, writers' group, Community Education Outreach Services, and seniors' center. On a number of these, she served in various capacities at the local, county, and state levels.

Betty was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, Rev. Elmer C. Farmer, and all ten of her siblings. She is survived by her children, Harry, Ken, Sam, and Kitty Lou; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held at the Deal Funeral Home in Point Pleasant, WV, Rev. John Parker officiating, with interment following at Spring Hill Cemetery in Huntington, WV.



**Joan Arlene Young**, 82, of Middletown, OH, passed away March 10, 2016, at Hospice of Butler-Warren Counties. She was born in 1933 in Greenville, PA, the daughter of Luton and Ethel (Basford) Hyde. Joan was formerly employed as an RN for 40 years.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jarrette (J.D.) Young, who served as chairman of the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches, president of its Ohio Conference, and chair of the Interchurch Holiness Convention. Joan is survived by her three sons, Kenneth, Stephen, and Ray; ten grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Ethel, and Jean. The funeral service was held at the Bible Methodist Church in Franklin, OH, Pastor Jack Hooker officiating, with interment following in Springboro Cemetery.



**Dr. Wesley L. Duewel**, 99, of Greenwood, IN, passed away on March 5, 2016. He was born in St. Charles, MO, in 1916 to the late Louis and Ida (Luelf) Duewel. His heart for missions began early when, at the age of 5, he received his call to India. His preparation for his life of ministry began with his studies at GBS (BA '38; ThB '39). It was also there that he met and married a fellow student, Elizabeth Dolly Raisch (BA '39). He has maintained a deep love for his alma mater and was a founding member of the Alumni Association of GBS. He furthered his education with an EdD from the University of Cincinnati.

Dr. Duewel gave himself to world missions for 75 years. After ministry in India for nearly 25 years, he was president of One Mission Society from 1969 to 1982. As an author, more than 2.5 million copies of his ten books are in 58 languages worldwide. He edited *Revival*



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## GBS Alabama Alumni Rally

**July 8, 2016, Bible Methodist Campgrounds**

1355 Chula Vista Drive, Pell City, AL 35125

*in the Dining Hall immediately following the evening service*

**Reserve this date and plan to attend for a great time!**

*Magazine*, published in 12 languages. He ministered in 45 countries. Dr. Duewel served on many boards and was a life trustee of Asbury Theological Seminary. He was honored by GBS by his inclusion on the institution's Alumni Wall of Fame and Centenary Monument.

Dr. Duewel was preceded in death by Elizabeth, his wife of 68 years, and is survived by one son, John Wesley; two daughters, Christine and Darlene; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and current wife of seven years, Hilda Mae Johncheck. A Celebration of Life service was held at the West Morris Street Free Methodist Church in Indianapolis with burial following at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens, Greenwood, IN. 📌

**Dr. Bence C. Miller**, 87, formerly of Columbus, IN, died April 8, 2016, in Clapps Nursing Center, Pleasant Garden, NC. The funeral service was held at the Jewell-Rittman Family Funeral Home in Columbus, IN, Rev. Mark Eckart officiating, with interment following at Garland Brook Cemetery.

Bence was born February 11, 1929, in Indianapolis, IN, the son of Bernard and Ruth Atwell Miller. As the family's sympathies did not lie with those of the holiness movement, he "made his own way" after his conversion at age sixteen.

He began holding revival meetings, and it was at a youth revival in Bloomington, IN, that he met Cordelia Deborah Robinson, one of the revival singers and a graduate of God's Bible School (HS '44). She had been involved in song evangelism for four years.

Subsequent to that meeting, Cordelia's duet was scheduled to sing in revival services in Kentucky. As it turned out, the intended evangelist had to cancel, and Bence, having an opening in his own preaching schedule, took his place. He and the ladies' duet traveled together down into the hills of Kentucky, and God gave a great revival. It was then that Bence and Cordelia became interested in each other. On August 20, 1949, they were married at Brooksbury Wesleyan Methodist Church, Brooksbury, IN.

Pastoring would become the focal point of Bence's ministry, while metal fabrication would be an occupation that provided him with his primary income, allowing him to take small churches and build them up. In fact, he spent seventeen years with the firm Brad Snodgrass, Inc., of Indianapolis, IN, where he held the positions of shop foreman, head of drafting and engineering, and chief estimator.

These two occupations were melded together as the Millers were involved in pastorates from 1953 through 1975. Each of his churches was in need of a "builder." The Millers would move into the less than favorable situation and take steps to reconstruct the physical plant and build the congregation. In each instance they left behind a vibrant, united congregation, financially stable and structurally sound.

It was during his pastorate in Greenfield, IN, that the Millers began supporting GBS in a definitive way. Frankfort Pilgrim College, their own denominational school, had recently closed (1972), so the Millers began to invite GBS

singing groups to their town and church. They caught the vision of the need for a new building on the GBS campus. Ultimately, Bence was responsible for helping to raise nearly \$20,000 toward that project. Additionally, through the contacts he had as a businessman and because of his own abilities, he began to serve as a consultant on the kitchen and dining room equipment that was being installed in the new Student Center, saving GBS around \$50,000 on the equipment alone.

So when Bence answered the call to go to GBS in 1975 to become its new president, Chairman of the Board J. Byron Crouse was able to say that the Millers "did not come as strangers into our midst. They came as burdened and concerned friends."

Recalling his arrival on the Mt. Auburn campus, Bence said, "First, I looked over the hill into a deep hole. Earth moving equipment was still removing dirt. What I saw was a familiar sight to me, having been in heavy construction for 28 years. But I saw something beyond the hole. I saw a building."

Bence Miller's "knowledge of buildings and building" fired by his "burning intensity to accomplish his commitments" was the combination that enabled the new president to advance the campaign to renew the school's campus and infrastructure. This was to include construction of two major buildings (Miller-Deets Student Center and the R.G. Flexon Memorial Library), as well as extensive renovation of existing structures.

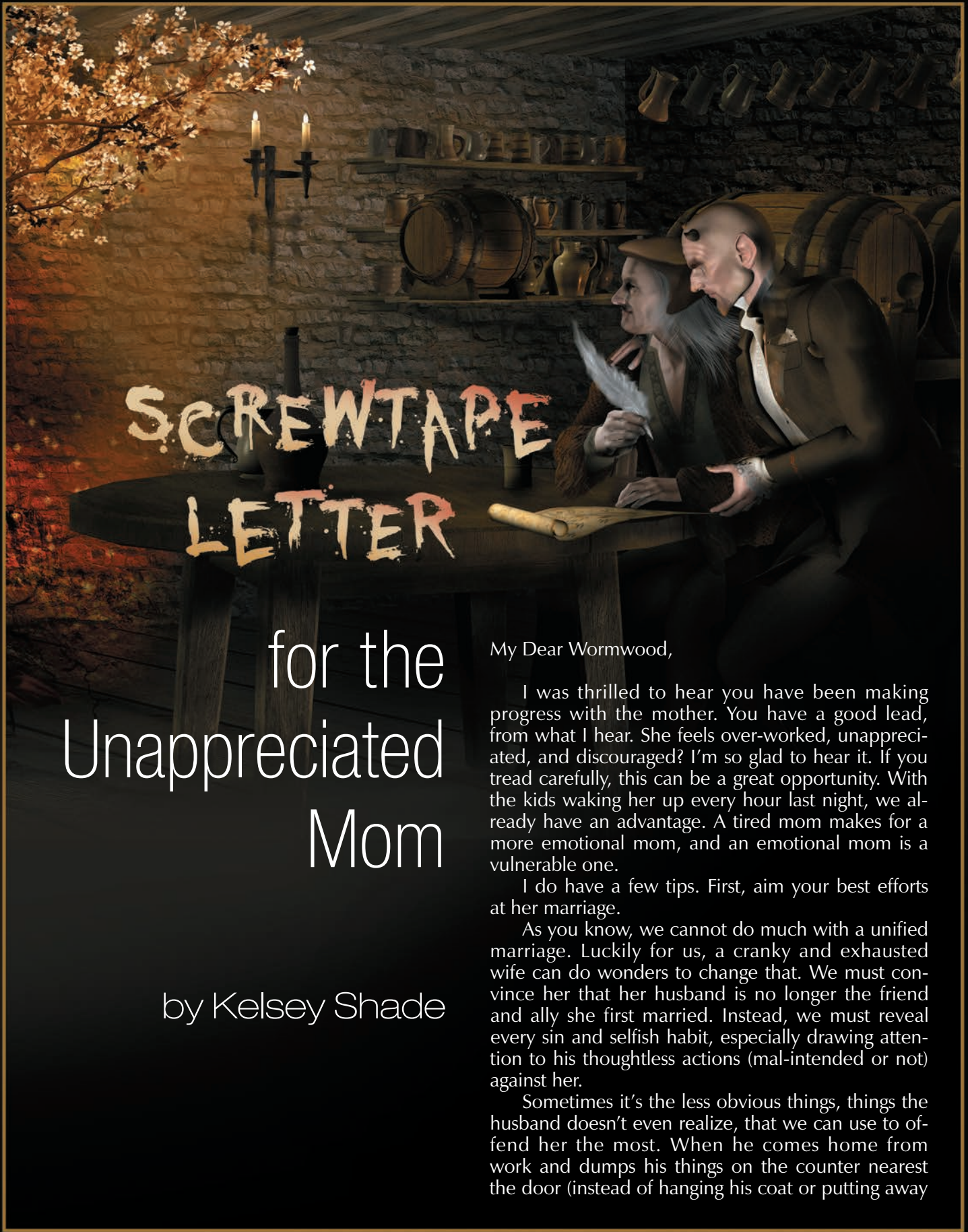
Attaining accreditation through the Association for Biblical Higher Education was certainly another high-water mark for the Bible college and one of its most significant accomplishments during the Miller administration.

After completing 20 years at the helm of GBS in 1995, the Millers spent four-and-a-half years as missionaries in Belize, Central America, before returning home to Indiana; but even in retirement they were involved in pastoral work until Cordelia's death in 2010. Then Bence continued to remain active in ministry until 2011, when he moved to North Carolina to be close to his son, Jonathan.

Dr. Miller is survived by two sons, David L. (Martha) Miller of Cincinnati and Jonathan E. (Barbara) Miller of Greensboro, NC; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and three siblings: Lee, Joyce, and Wayne. ■

—Michael Avery, President of God's Bible School





# SCREWTAPE LETTER

## for the Unappreciated Mom

by Kelsey Shade

My Dear Wormwood,

I was thrilled to hear you have been making progress with the mother. You have a good lead, from what I hear. She feels over-worked, unappreciated, and discouraged? I'm so glad to hear it. If you tread carefully, this can be a great opportunity. With the kids waking her up every hour last night, we already have an advantage. A tired mom makes for a more emotional mom, and an emotional mom is a vulnerable one.

I do have a few tips. First, aim your best efforts at her marriage.

As you know, we cannot do much with a unified marriage. Luckily for us, a cranky and exhausted wife can do wonders to change that. We must convince her that her husband is no longer the friend and ally she first married. Instead, we must reveal every sin and selfish habit, especially drawing attention to his thoughtless actions (mal-intended or not) against her.

Sometimes it's the less obvious things, things the husband doesn't even realize, that we can use to offend her the most. When he comes home from work and dumps his things on the counter nearest the door (instead of hanging his coat or putting away

his keys), let her think of it as a direct assault on her work as a homemaker. When he treks mud in with his shoes, let her think it is because he does not love her. Such extremes of thought may seem ridiculous to you or me, but to the exhausted mortal woman, it can seem possible. Your goal is to make her think the husband does not notice, or even better, that he does not care about her efforts at home.

Secondly, do what you can to keep her focused on her troubles and pains. Remind her how much her back aches, how draining the children were all day, and how many undone tasks still beckon her. Do not let her wonder what difficulties her husband faced that day or whether his back might also be aching. Valuing others above oneself is one of those silly, though strangely effective, tactics of the Enemy. If she stops to make him a cup of coffee, the next thing you know she'll be rubbing his shoulders and flirting with him on the couch. It can progress out of your control if you're not careful.

Along those lines, be sure the mother starts to value productivity above everything else. Have her wake up early and work non-stop until bedtime. If the husband relaxes in the evening with an hour of computer gaming, be sure the wife notices the pile of unfolded laundry or unswept floors. Do not let her grab a book and relax alongside her husband. Diligence, often one of the Enemy's virtues, when overdone can be used to our advantage as well. Convince her that as long as there is a shred of work to be done (and there always is), no one should be resting. Then, as she folds and sweeps and he sits, you can introduce the sweet bitterness of resentment.

A word of caution here. Remember, the love of a husband can be dangerous to our cause. If he senses her unhappiness, he may begin to help or (even worse) show her affection. This is where previously planted seeds of resentment can be guided into full bloom. Make her think that his displays of affection are because he "only wants one thing." Do not let her view his help with the dishes (or kisses or cuddling) as having pure motives. If he shows his desire for her, convince her that she is being used, not loved. As we both know, the ultimate act of marriage can bond them together in a way that can undo much hard work on our part. Because of this, do not allow her to prioritize that act on her mental to-do list. It is in our best interest to keep the wife busy, busy, busy and be sure she's far too exhausted to consider it by the end of the evening.

Now, on to the children. Lovely little opportunities for us, the children, especially the little ones. We all know that children are a favorite tool of the

Enemy. He calls them Blessings and Gifts and calls parents to lay down their lives for them, just as His Son did. Insane, I know. We must convince her that the obnoxious little people she has charge of are not really worth her sacrifice. When the mother first dreamed of having children, she probably imagined large, innocent eyes and chubby, happy grins taking up the majority of her days. Do your best to shatter those expectations.

Instead, draw attention to how much they take from her. Let them take and take and take.... And need and need and need, until the mother feels totally spent. Let them start crying at the same time for the most irrational of reasons. Let the noise bother her. Let their bad behavior surprise her. Do your best to make the day-to-day monotony of diaper changes, meals, and baths seem simultaneously overwhelming and beneath her. Let her think of all the better, more important things she could be doing with her life, if only she didn't have the children.

Don't let her think about the future responsible, faithful adults she is raising... Society changers, friends, workers, husbands or wives.... Don't let her think of them as life-long companions who will love her, converse with her, and care for her in her old age. Oh, and definitely don't let her think about the grandchildren she might be able to see in their little grubby faces if she looked hard enough now. No, no, no.... Thinking ahead to when her work "bears fruit," as the Enemy calls it, is always a bad idea. Keep words like "heritage" or "legacy" far away from the runny noses and jelly stains of the day-to-day.

If there is any last piece of advice I have for you, Wormwood, it is to keep the mother looking to her husband or family for her fulfillment and comfort. We know that the Enemy is always watching and willing to take the burdens of His children, but if we divert the mother's attention well enough, this fact can be forgotten. Make her look to her husband for worth and affirmation. Then, when he lets her down (as he is sure to do), she will be ours to torment. Yes, the worst thing that could happen would be for her to turn to Him with her needs and inadequacies. Once she realizes that the Enemy offers a peace that transcends her situation, our work could be utterly compromised.

Your Malevolent Uncle,  
Screwtape ■

*Kelsey Shade* is a Christian mom of three boys (ages one, three, and five) who blogs on home organizing and mom encouragement at [OrganizingLifeWithLittles.com](http://OrganizingLifeWithLittles.com).

Dear Phil



DIVINE GUIDANCE

**What do you think about the book by Jim Samra, *God Told Me Who to Marry, Where to Work, Which Car to Buy...And I'm Pretty Sure I'm Not Crazy? Do you think it a helpful work on divine guidance?* —Jeremiah**

Dear Jeremiah,

Thanks for alerting me to this book! And thanks to Baker Books for promptly dispatching a review copy. The author, Jim Samra, earned a NT PhD from Oxford University and a Master's of Theology degree from Dallas Theological Seminary. He currently pastors Calvary Church in Grand Rapids, MI.

A thorough evaluation of everything Samra says is beyond the scope of this column, but a short review is possible. *God Told Me* has two parts: (1) The four big questions, and (2) The process of listening. Part 1 covers "What is guidance from God?" "Why listen for guidance from God?" "How does God speak to us?" And "How do we distinguish God's voice?" Part 2 covers preparing to listen, actively listening, lessons learned, and telling others.

Let me begin with a big-picture comment: Samra is spot-on when he notes that God is a communicator. God both wants to guide and promises to guide His people. That God has spoken to people in many different ways is obvious from Scripture and has a great deal of supporting anecdotal evidence.

There is one hitch, however. God works with different people in differ-

ent ways. God told Joshua, "As I was with Moses, so will I be with you" (Josh. 1:5), but Joshua never had a burning bush experience or a leprous hand. There are no set formulas. People are prone to read stories of God's leading in others' lives and expect God to do the same things for them. God doesn't work that way. I wish this warning had greater prominence and clarity in the book.

Given that caveat, *God Told Me* does an admirable job of offering principles and illustrations of those principles at work in the lives of the author and others. Samra gives many Scriptural examples of people seeking and receiving guidance from God. I found myself in agreement with most of his treatments of Scripture. I particularly appreciated his cautions regarding how to talk about God's guidance (chapter 8). That chapter would have been stronger, however, if he had noted the warning in Deuteronomy 18:20-22.

In his valuable chapter on "How does God speak to us?" readers would have been better served (a) if Samra had explicitly rejected a "Bible roulette" approach, aka, flop-stop-and-read. He doesn't recommend it, but a few of his examples seemed close to it; (b) if Samra had

emphasized that guidance through Scripture comes primarily through its authorially-intended, contextual meaning, not from verses isolated from their context; and (c) if Samra had distinguished making application of Scriptural principles from treating words that pop out to us, regardless of their context, as a means of discerning God's voice.

In his handling of Gideon's fleece, Samra didn't note that a visible angel had personally given God's message to Gideon (Judg. 6:11-21), that Gideon had heard God's voice audibly (Judg. 6:23), and that there was no question about *what* God had told him (Judg. 6:36). Gideon wasn't asking if this was God's voice. He was asking God to help his fear and reconfirm His already clear direction (Judg. 6:36). These elements of Gideon's story make it, in my estimation, unhelpful as a model for seeking divine guidance. On the flip side, Samra does note the story of Jonathan seeking God's direction regarding whether or not to attack the Philistines. That, I think, is a more helpful biblical example of seeking God's guidance through confirming circumstances (1 Sam. 14:10).

In his chapter on "How do we distinguish God's voice?" I really liked the following statement: "The key to recognizing Jesus' distinctive voice is to train our minds using His known patterns of communication." Samra goes on to rightly prioritize Scripture over experience, calling the Bible "voice recognition enrollment."

If you're looking for the last word on God's guidance, this isn't it. If you're looking for a good word on God's guidance, *God Told Me* is a good one.

Blessings,  
Philip

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

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## student focus

### COURT VICTORY FOR ANSWERS IN GENESIS

Answers in Genesis (AIG), a religious group that founded the Creation Museum in Petersburg, KY, in 2007, has been building a massive Noah's ark tourist attraction nearby. The project was scheduled to receive tax incentives from the state through a provision that allows major tourism projects in Kentucky to recover 25% of development costs through sales tax rebates. The state initially celebrated the project but reversed course in late 2014 and withdrew access to the incentives. AIG appealed the ruling. A federal judge recently ruled that Kentucky officials violated the ark builders' First Amendment protections by blocking it from the sales tax tourism incentive that could have been worth up to \$18 million.

### OLD TESTAMENT COPY A WORLD TREASURE

The oldest surviving copy of the Hebrew Bible—the Aleppo Codex—has been officially added to the International Memory of the World Register, a list of the most important discoveries in human history. While there are older manuscripts which contain portions of the Old Testament, the Codex remains the oldest, most complete manuscript. All current versions of the Old Testament are thought to originate from this ancient manuscript, which was written

around the year 930 A.D. The manuscript has been housed in the Israel Museum since the mid-1980s.

### CHINESE STUDENTS IN THE U.S. ACCEPTING CHRIST

*Foreign Policy* magazine estimates that thousands of Chinese students studying in the U.S. are embracing Christianity. In fact, between 1,600 and 1,800 of the 5,000 international students ministered to by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA, are Chinese. Some are predicting that China, which had over 58 million Protestants in 2010 according to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion and Public Life, will have around 160 million by 2025.

### TRENDS FOR AMERICAN CHURCHES

Ken Ham, the founder and president of Answers in Genesis (AIG), recently shared his list of the top five trends for American churches over the next year: (1) more watering down of the Word to accommodate our culture's lies; (2) increasing pressure to conform to the culture's thinking on marriage, gender, and sexuality; (3) increasing pressure in regards to the sanctity of life; (4) even larger numbers of young people leaving the church as they embrace the culture and reject God's Word; and (5) an increasing number of liberal pastors. ■

**RUTHU (RUTH) KATIKALA** was brought up in a Christian home in India. She went to a Hindu school and was confused by the many religions. God helped her to seek Him, and He brought her out of all confusion so that she accepted Jesus Christ at age 15. She was very active in outreach ministry—visiting orphans, drug addicts, and prostitutes. During that time God opened doors for her to come to GBS where Ruth learned that the purpose of living a holy life was to please and glorify God. She learned practical truths about family life, managing finances, and rearing Godly children. In fact, she says that GBS has helped her to view everything she does from God's point of view. Ruth has a burden for helping people who have been abused sexually, physically, and emotionally, and she plans to return to India to start a ministry working with street children, prostitutes, widows, and families. ■

*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:*

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## — Called Unto Holiness —

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

### HOLINESS AND OUR HUMAN PROBLEMS

*by W.T. Purkiser*

**H**oliness does indeed have a bearing on our human problems. But it does not automatically solve them all. Basically and essentially, it solves the greatest: the problem of inner sin—that “law of sin and death” that is “hostile to God” and “does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so,” about which Paul writes in Romans 8:2-7.

This in itself is a tremendous victory. But it isn’t the end of the war. Sin within may be destroyed by the stroke of the heavenly Executioner’s sword; but sin without is still very real, and the devil does not die when we are sanctified.

To borrow terms from the logic of science, perhaps we should say that the experience of entire sanctification is a **necessary** condition for the best solution to our human problems, but a **sufficient** condition only for the sin problem. A necessary condition is one that must be present for the desired result to occur. A sufficient condition is one that always and without fail produces the given result.

To illustrate: Gasoline in the tank is a necessary condition to run an automobile, but it is not a sufficient condition. One may have gas in the tank and still not be able to run the car if the battery is dead. On the other hand, a hole in a tire is a sufficient condition for a flat. You don’t need anything else. Whenever there is a hole in the tire, it goes flat—however good the valve or the tread may be.

It must be admitted that a necessary condition is indeed necessary. You can have all the gas your tank will hold and still be stalled if you have no spark. But you may have all the spark that high-powered plugs will deliver and still not move an inch if the tank is dry.

To claim that holiness is a necessary condition for spiritual victory means that if it is neglected or rejected, defeat is certain. No Christian can win his spiritual warfare if he must fight on two fronts—the enemy on the outside, and the fifth column of a carnal disposition on the inside. But we must face the fact that there are some human prob-

lems for which holiness is not the sole answer. The best of saints still have a long road to travel. There are rough places to be smoothed, kinks of mind and personality to be straightened out, infirmities to be faced, and weaknesses to be strengthened. Weakness is not necessarily wickedness. One may have the fullness of the Spirit and still need help with personal problems of emotional adjustment....

We must also clear away our own false expectations. It is probably not possible to expect too much from the experience of fullness in the Holy Spirit; but it certainly is possible to expect too sweeping results. We may be hoping to see in full salvation (sanctification) what can only rightly be anticipated in final salvation (glorification). We could be expecting in a moment of time what really comes only from a lifetime of growth. Then when the expected results do not occur, disillusionment, discouragement, and depression set in. More spiritual fatalities occur through discouragement and depression than through pride or deliberate disobedience.

We have had heroic models of the sanctified life. Many of its advocates have been men and women of unusual dedication and outstanding gifts. One unexpected result is our tendency to feel that if we had what they had in the measure of the grace of God, we should be as outstanding as they. But this is not necessarily the case.... Peter preached in Jerusalem on the first Christian Day of Pentecost and 3,000 were converted (Acts 2:14-41). Paul preached there on the same spot 30 years later and they almost killed him (Acts 22:1-25). The difference was not in the measure of grace possessed by the speakers. It was in the circumstances and condition of the hearers. ■

*W.T. Purkiser (1910-1992) was a Nazarene preacher, scholar, and author. He was editor of the Herald of Holiness for 15 years prior to his retirement in 1975. This is a selection from These Earthen Vessels (Introduction, pp.13-16), Beacon Hill Press, 1985.*



## THE NURTURE AND CARE OF NEW CONVERTS

by Allan P. Brown, Chair

GBS Division of Ministerial Education

*Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-20*

Paul enjoyed a fruitful ministry of preaching the gospel and seeing lives transformed by the power of God. However, when God is working, Satan is fighting! This meant Paul also had to cope with the opposition his preaching generated, while at the same time trying to nurture and care for his new converts. His description of caring for those at Thessalonica provides wisdom for us today. A person whose life has been transformed has a lot to learn about walking with God and pleasing Him, and it takes a combination of skills to guide and care for these new believers. Paul likens these skills successively to those of a faithful steward (2:3-6), a loving mother (2:7-8), and a godly father (2:9-12).

### **I. Paul faced opposition at Thessalonica (2:1-2).**

Before arriving at Thessalonica, Paul ministered at Philippi and received both personal injury and insult from the city leaders. Journeying on to Thessalonica, he again faced opposition and contention because of his gospel message. Yet he refused to be discouraged. Rather, he boldly declared the gospel of God. As a result, God gave him spiritual fruit in the form of new converts. We learn from this that a spiritual caregiver (a "discipler") must not let opposition stop him from sharing the gospel. He must be courageous and share the good news about Jesus Christ with a holy boldness.

### **II. Paul explains his motives and methods of discipling new converts (2:3-12).**

#### **A. A spiritual caregiver should see himself as a faithful steward of God's gospel (2:3-6).**

Paul asserts that his message to the Thessalonians was true and pure (2:3). He was open and honest in all his dealings. He recognized that God had entrusted him with the gospel, and, as a faithful steward, he did his very best to please God, knowing God would examine his motives (2:4). As a result, Paul refused to use flattery (2:5)—attempting to win friends and influence people by appealing to their egos. Paul was loving and kind, but he always spoke the truth. He did not allow concern for popularity or financial gain to influence his treatment of new converts. Nor did he seek glory or praise from people (2:6a). Evil ambitions, such as pride, greed, or popularity, were resisted and never allowed to gain a foothold in Paul's heart. And, although an apostle, Paul did not throw his "weight" around by asserting his authority (2:6b).

#### **B. A spiritual caregiver should treat his converts tenderly as a mother does her baby (2:7-8).**

A spiritual caregiver must be gentle. Paul likens new believers to a baby needing the care of its mother (2:7). Just as babies take time and energy, so new converts require lots of time and energy. They must be taught how to receive the milk of God's Word so they can grow spiritually (1 Pet. 2:2), and they need to be protected from false teachings. Paul explains that spiritual caregivers must not only be gentle, but also be sacrificial. He says, "being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us" (2:8). This means that a spiritual caregiver must beware of becoming self-centered and autocratic, and must not allow the desire to protect their new converts to turn into the desire to "control" them. He must teach his new converts how to apply Scripture to their own lives and how to live by biblical principles, no matter how other professed Christians may live.

#### **C. A spiritual caregiver should treat his converts as a father does his children (2:9-12).**

Paul now changes the metaphor and says that spiritual caregivers must care for their new converts as a father does his children. Paul said, "Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you" (2:9). Here we see just as a faithful father works hard in order to provide for his children, so Paul

worked hard in order not to become a burden to his spiritual “children.” Paul was a tent-maker by trade, and it is likely that he made use of this skill while ministering in Thessalonica. He did this in order to be able to care for his new converts without being a financial burden to them. Paul knew the difficulty and stress of being a bi-vocational caregiver, yet he gladly worked hard to be able to give his new converts the care and attention they needed.

Another reason Paul was willing to preach the gospel and make tents at the same time was that he wanted to be a good example to his new converts. He says, “You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers” (2:10). Here we see that a spiritual caregiver personally provides a godly example for his spiritual children to follow. There should never be a “do as I say, not as I do” attitude. Instead, there should be a record of dependability and good conduct that serves as a lasting illustration of what it means to be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. Just as children profit from the life of a godly father, so new converts profit from the godly life of their spiritual caregiver. This means that we are called to live in such a way that new believers can imitate us as we imitate Christ (2 Tim. 1:13).

Paul explains the correct motive and actions: “For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory” (2:11-12). Here we see that like a faithful father, spiritual caregivers exhort and encourage their spiritual children to walk worthy of their high and holy calling. Paul knew that, like all children, his new converts needed much encouragement. Children are eager and enthusiastic, but they tire easily and lose interest quickly. So it is with new converts—they need lots of help and support as they take their first steps in following the Spirit. Spiritual caregivers should be quick to praise their new converts and always ready to offer a hand of encouragement and friendship.

### **III. Paul praises his new converts and exhorts them to steadfastness (2:13-20).**

Chapter two ends with Paul praising his new converts for how they received God’s message “not as a human message, but as it truly is, God’s message, which is at work among you who believe” (2:13). He also praises them for becoming “imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea” (2:14a). Then, Paul seeks to encourage them by letting them know they are not the only ones who face opposition and persecution. He tells them

that Jews in Israel who have accepted Jesus as their Savior are being persecuted just as they are. Paul says, “For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews, who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all mankind by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved—so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them at last!” (2:14-16).

It was not easy to be a Christian in Thessalonica, for the believers faced much persecution and suffering. Yet in the midst of suffering, they experienced “joy of the Holy Spirit” (1:6). They not only heard the Word of God, they took it into their hearts and made it a part of their lives. As a result, they experienced the keeping power of God’s Word.

Paul states that the religious Jewish leaders killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove Paul out of the country. As they continued to oppose the gospel of Jesus Christ, they were filling up “the measure of their sins” and consequently “the wrath of God has come upon them” (2:16). Note that Paul is not encouraging us to be anti-Semitic. Nor is he accusing all Jewish people of killing Jesus. Most of the Jewish people who heard Jesus appreciated His ministry and loved Him. It was the few Jewish religious leaders who felt threatened by Jesus who plotted His death. We should always remember that Jesus said no man could take His life. Rather, He would lay it down of His own free will (John 10:18). We should not blame the Jews for killing Jesus. We should blame ourselves, for it was our sins that nailed Him to the cross (Isa. 53:6-7).

Paul explains to his new converts that he did not leave them willingly; rather he left them under duress. It was like being “orphaned” from them (2:17), since he was their spiritual mother and father (1 Thess. 2:7, 11). He says, “Since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us” (2:17-18). He had made every effort possible to return to them, but could not. This information must have been very comforting to his new converts.

Paul closes chapter two with an implied exhortation to be steadfast in the faith. He says, “For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at His coming? Is it not you? For you are our glory and joy” (2:19-20).

The nurture and care of new converts is both a privilege and a responsibility. May God help all spiritual caregivers to model their lives after the example of Paul who modeled his life after Jesus Christ. ■

What is the most important thing you will do today?

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# the Moments of Motherhood

by Christina Fox

*“Mommy, will you snuggle with me and read a story?”*

It was the middle of the afternoon. My boys were playing nicely together, so I decided to sit down and get some work done. That’s when my youngest came in and asked me to read to him.

## The Way Time Flies

My oldest is almost as tall as I am. But when I look at him, I still see a toddler who wanted to sit on my lap every morning and drink his milk from a sippy cup. My youngest is quickly catching up to his brother but still asks for hugs and sleeps with his favorite blanket. It seems like just yesterday they were learning to talk and walk. But those little legs have grown and can now fly through the air and kick a wooden board in martial arts class. Their once halting speech, spoken in one word sentences, now discusses matters of theology, history, and logic. And at the rate they are going, it won’t be long before they both stand a head taller than I.

There were times when my children were babies that I wanted time to speed up. I was so tired and longed for a few moments of peace by myself. I looked forward to days when my kids could entertain themselves and allow me time to get things done.

Yet the problem with the highway of time is that you can’t get on and off anytime you’d like. There are no return exits, slow lanes, or stop lights. There aren’t even any pull-over stops on the side of the road. We all move forward at the same rate, moment by moment, day in and day out. And as the psalmist wrote, the time we have here is brief. “Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath!” (39:5 ESV).

When my children were babies, everyone said, “Enjoy these moments with your kids. Time goes by all too quickly. You blink and they’ll be grown and out of the house.” This truth is hard to comprehend in the moment when the days seem to run one into another,

filled with diaper changes, laundry, wiping up spills, and picking up toys. When time feels like it is elongated, and even at a standstill, it’s hard to realize that we will look back and miss this season of life.

## Investing in the Moments

We have a limited amount of time. How we use it says a lot about what we value and what matters most to us. We all know that. Yet in the course of our days, much of our time is spent on the temporary, frivolous, and material. Too often, things take precedence over people. We prefer to check items off our to-do lists rather than reach the heart of another person.

When it comes to our children, a simple request like the one spoken by my son is a crucial moment. They often come when we aren’t prepared. Such moments are unplanned and usually inconvenient. But they are moments that can show more than words how much we love our children. These moments go far in uniting one heart with another. And such moments, if invested in, are priceless. As we take the time to love our children with the love of Christ, showing them their identity as a child of God, and pointing them to their daily need for gospel grace, such moments linger long into eternity.

Because as important as our work or chores are, the phone calls we have to return, the meals we have to make, or the bills that need paying, the hearts of our children matter even more. Much of what we think is important can wait. But our children won’t. The truth is, time waits for no one.

“Yes. What do you want me to read?” I responded to my son that afternoon. I shut down my computer and followed him to his room. It was just a moment. But it was an important moment I didn’t want to miss. Because soon enough, that moment will be just a memory. And one I want to cherish. ■

*Christina Fox* writes for Christian ministries and publications including *Desiring God Ministries* and *The Gospel Coalition*. This article is from [www.FortheFamily.org](http://www.FortheFamily.org) and used with permission.

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# ALUMNI news

## INTERVIEW OF RICHARD MILES

**N. Keith Waggoner:** Thank you for letting us sit down with you a little while this afternoon. Let's begin with a quick bio. Tell us a little bit about yourself.

**Richard Miles:** I grew up primarily in the New Castle area of western Pennsylvania, one of four boys. We were not a Christian family. However, my aunt was a wonderful Christian lady, and she invited me to go to church with her. I consented.

So, around age 10, I started going to church. I like to say I was "loved into the kingdom." People really cared for me. Although I gave my heart to the Lord back then, I eventually let things slide; but then I got back to the Lord in my junior year. My mom and dad were eventually converted as well.

One Sunday my pastor, Calvin Sones, an alumnus of GBS (ThB '61), asked me where I planned to attend college. I told him I was considering one in the Midwest. He asked, "Have you considered God's Bible School?" I said, "Where?" I had never heard of the place. When Pastor Sones asked if I would at least pray about it, I agreed. In praying, I was confident that God wanted me to go to GBS. Although I had never been there and didn't know anybody there, I filled out the application and, in short order, I was at GBS.

**So when you came here, what were your career aspirations?**

I always felt that God had called me to full-time ministry. I wasn't



clockwise, beginning left: Rev. Richard Miles; young Miles children Brent and Amy; young Richard the cowboy; wedding day, August 4, 1973; the lovely and gracious Brenda Hodge Miles.



always sure what that meant. I felt like it did include preaching. As I look back now, I see it has been quite a variety.

**So what years were you at GBS?**

From 1970 to 1974. It was here that I noticed Brenda Hodge (BA '73). At first we just hung out with a group of friends, but eventually we became more than that. She was from Glencoe, Alabama. We went to a banquet together, and, from there on, we just started dating. On a date at Mt. Airy Park, I asked her to marry me, and to my delight, she said "Yes." We were married in 1973. So, I was a married student in my last year at GBS. I graduated in 1974 with a Bachelor of Religious Education degree.

**Did you go immediately from GBS into the pastorate?**

No. I could not get clear on any churches. Brenda's father had mentioned a Christian school and church in Chattanooga. The pastor was looking for some help. When I discussed it with Brenda, I called the pastor down there and was basically hired during that phone call. We had four years there, teaching in the junior high and high school and helping in the church.

After Chattanooga, I pastored the Bible Methodist Church in Glencoe, Alabama, for 10 years. Four years into that pastorate, I became the principal of the Christian school in Pell City, Alabama, and was there for 15 years prior to coming back to GBS in August of 1997.

**Talk about that. What brought you back?**

I began to realize it was time for a change. In 1995 I received an offer to take a Student Affairs position at GBS. But it just did not seem right for my family at the time. When I turned it down, I actually felt sick. I wanted to be at GBS so badly. So we waited. Then, two years later, the invitation to join the staff as Vice President for Student Affairs came again, and now the timing was right.

**In a way you were picking up where you left off because I remember you were the assistant dean under George Vernon.**

Yes, and we do have a great team in place: Ryan Watters, Sonja Vernon, and Daryl Muir. They are doing a great job in running the day-to-day operations in Student Affairs. I have complete confidence in them. This has freed me to be of

assistance to GBS as the campus administrator for the last year and a half.

### **Did you further your education?**

Yes, I got a master's degree in counseling from Liberty University. At first I wasn't focused on getting a degree. I just wanted to study counseling in order to help people. But when I took the position at GBS, obviously the degree was essential, so I had to finish it.

### **Tell us a little bit about your family.**

I couldn't do what I have done in ministry without Brenda—and that is not just cliché. She is not a person who likes to be up front in ministry, but she works hard in the background and makes life easy for me to be in ministry in so many ways. She is a fabulous wife and mother!

My son, Brent, attended GBS for two years and transferred to the University of Cincinnati to study computer software engineering, receiving both a BA and an MA degree. He is doing software development for a company now. He and his wife Rhoda live close by, and two of their three children are in Aldersgate Christian Academy at GBS. They attend the Kenwood Bible Methodist Church.

Amy graduated from GBS (BA '04) and got a job with the Industrial Commission of the State of Ohio. The job was very good, but she had only one goal—to be a wife and a mother. So, when she and her husband Kyle Weddle were financially able to do so, she quit her job to be a full-time homemaker for her husband and two children. They live in Erlanger, Kentucky, and attend the Burlington Bible Methodist Church.

### **So you have worked at GBS for how many years?**

I have been back here 18-and-a-half years. I have the best job on campus because I am paid to work with students, and I REALLY like working with our students. But equal to that is the great privilege of working with my colleagues—to be able to work with people that are committed not only to God, but also to excellence in Christian education in preparing people to serve the Lord. It is just a close group.

**Dick, I consider you to be very representative of the quality of product this school strives to produce. You have been focused on ministry—on others. You have been a man of the highest integrity. And you have not forsaken the principles you were taught at this institution. I want you to know that we are proud of you. Because of the lives you have invested in, there are generations of students who are going to be impacted forever by your leadership, by your mentoring. We are proud to call you an alumnus! ■**

*Alumni are encouraged to email updates and pictures of their lives and ministries to Keith Waggoner I at [w.ministries@comcast.net](mailto:w.ministries@comcast.net).*



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# THOUGHTS

for the quiet hour

by Sonja Vernon

## SOMEONE IS WATCHING

*“So a young man ran and told Moses and said, ‘Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.’ Then Joshua the son of Nun, the attendant of Moses from his youth, said, ‘Moses, my lord, restrain them.’ But Moses said to him, ‘Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD’s people were prophets, that the LORD would put His Spirit upon them!’” —Num. 11:27-29 NASB*

Moms, I have a question for you (and anyone else who mentors in any capacity). Have you ever heard a child or young person say something that you knew came from you? How did it make you feel? Every day in a thousand ways we are being observed...and often emulated. Moses understood that, and Joshua was the beneficiary of his wisdom. God had given Moses men to help him with the great task of leading the Israelites. He assembled them at the tent of meeting, placed His Spirit on His chosen ones, and they began to prophesy. Two men also selected by God failed to show up at the tent and began to prophesy in the camp. This deeply disturbed Joshua, but Moses' response is powerful. Moses wasn't threatened by God's blessing of others—even under unusual circumstances. Instead he celebrated it and, in doing so, taught Joshua a valuable lesson.

How do we respond when God blesses and uses others? Are we threatened and jealous? What message are we sending those we influence? Will they be big hearted because of what they see in us, or will we teach them to be suspicious of anything they don't understand? Someone is watching. How are we influencing them? ■

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

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