

GOD'S REVIVALIST

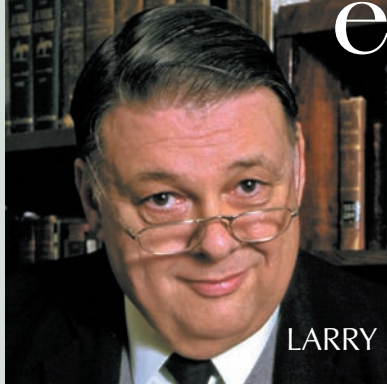
Summer 2012

and Bible Advocate



Sheila Wolf Named
“Professor Emerita”

and honored for 36 years of teaching



the editor's view

LARRY D. SMITH

HOLINESS SEED NEVER ROTS

Holiness seed never rots." In these startling words, "Uncle Buddy" Robinson expressed his supreme confidence in the message God had given him to preach. Indeed, "holiness seed" is so durable, as that sturdy old evangelist insisted, that it "will keep for many years in any climate on earth and grow as well in poor climate as rich." Even when it is neglected or opposed, it will not disappear but in God's time "will produce an abundant harvest in the poorest soil on earth."

This was illustrated May 3 when the United Methodist General Conference, meeting in Tampa, Florida, kept faith with its heritage and voted decisively to reaffirm the Bible's standards for sexual practice. Other major Protestant denominations have sold out to the militant homosexual agenda that includes approval for gay lifestyles, ordination for gay ministers, and ultimately marriage for gay couples. But at Tampa, determined Bible-believing delegates banded together with God's help to turn back the tide.

"Despite a lavish and relentless lobbying effort, United Methodism once again took a stand to be the last remaining mainline denomination to uphold biblical standards in regards to marriage and sexuality," as the Rev. Thomas Lambrecht of Good News, a UM renewal group, has explained. Debate centered around paragraph 161 in the *Discipline*, which condemns homosexual practice as "incompatible with Christian teaching." Amendments that would have gutted this language were rejected three times "in percentages ranging from 54-46 percent or 61-39 percent," as Good News reported.

Homosexual activists and their supporters, charging that the present rule is unloving and intolerant, disrupted a morning business session. But conservatives held their ground, rejecting a "we agree to disagree" substitute which stated that a "significant minority of our church (p22)➡

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COVER PHOTO: Mrs. Sheila Wolf receives a mounted and framed proclamation from Pres. Michael Avery naming her "professor emerita" of God's Bible School. Photo by Kara Moore.

the president's page



LIGHTING A CANDLE IN EUROPE

by Michael R. Avery, President


My trip to Switzerland to speak in a pastor's conference this past April has generated a great deal of interest from the GBS and Revivalist families—enough that I decided to share the experience with you. Rev. Timothy Keep, who traveled with me, and was also a speaker at the conference, assisted me in writing this article.

When I placed the Kwasizabantu Pastor's Conference in Switzerland on my web page speaking schedule, I had a number of people ask, "What kind of Christian minister's conference is there in Europe?" For those who understand the spiritual condition of Europe, the question makes perfect sense. There are many conferences that take place in Europe but not many that are made up of local pastors from Europe. In today's Europe less than 8% of the population attends church with only 3% attending regularly. It is predicted that by 2050 there will be no significant church presence in Europe at all! To make matters worse, the Muslim population has tripled in the last 30 years. This has given rise to the belief that parts of Europe are beyond being Post-Christian and are quickly becoming Pre-Islamic. So it was natural for people to wonder where you could find enough conservative evangelical ministers in Europe to have a pastor's conference. The answer lies in the conference's sponsor.

The conference was sponsored by the Kwasizabantu Mission that is based in the Republic of South Africa. The mission was born out of a revival among the Zulu people that began in the 1960's. The Rev. Erlo Stegen, who is the Director of the Mission, tells the story of that revival in his book *Revival Among the Zulus*. A brief recounting of that story is important to understand the conference in Europe. Rev. Stegen explains that the roots of this revival began with a crisis he faced early in his missionary service. He had been called upon to pray for the deliverance of a young demon-possessed Zulu girl, but after three weeks of intense intercession her condition remained unchanged. He writes:

We prayed day and night for three weeks, but the girl wasn't healed. Instead, I was at the end of my strength and close to a nervous breakdown. The girl sang her satanic hymns incessantly. Someone advised me to plead the blood of Jesus, which the devil would fear and flee, but to no avail. On the contrary, the girl began to blaspheme the blood....

I couldn't understand it. We had done what the Bible taught us, but it didn't work.... What was I to do? Go back to the mother and tell her that her daughter had not been healed? Everyone in the area knew that we Christians were praying for the girl. They had heard me preach, "Don't go to the witch doctors, don't sacrifice oxen and goats to the spirits. Jesus is the answer to every problem, come to Him." They were all wait-



Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Letters should be addressed to the Editorial Office, 1810 Young Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, or emailed to revivalist@gbs.edu. Letters reprinted here do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editor of God's Revivalist nor those of the administration of God's Bible School. Names and locations of writers will be withheld at their specific request or at the discretion of the editor. We reserve the right to edit and condense.

"WHERE TWO WAYS MEET"

I applaud the effort and research [Larry Smith] put into this column [editorial, April 2012]. If every one who claims to be "made perfect" would measure up to the claims...what a difference it would make in the CHM. I intend to try and do just that.

NORMAN UBER
Email

We are grateful for our readers' responses to this series of articles. We interrupt this project for the summer, but we plan to complete it, beginning with the September Revivalist. —Editor

THANK YOU

I...am well acquainted with Miss Ryder. You are getting a jewel [see April God's Revivalist, page 12]. Thank you for the many issues over the years that I have had the privilege and opportunity to read....

J. RANDALL McELWAIN, SR.
Hobe Sound, Florida

[This is] to express my heartfelt "thank you" [to Dr. Phil] for [his] answer to the question, "Does God Always Bring Good from Bad?" [March 2012]. My heart was helped and encouraged as I read and re-read and marked many truths.

FRANCES DENNIS
Nashville, Tennessee

I especially look forward to President Avery's page and Dr. Phil's answer column. The [March 2012] cover depicting the magnificent Arabian horse, three of which God has lent to me to love and enjoy, and the [April 2012] issue showing the beautiful, golden-haired little girl surrounded by flowers—they are just so uplifting. I cannot look at them without smiling.

REBECCA WRIGHT
Email

ing to see what would happen, and now we Christians had failed.

In his humiliation Stegen begged God to send him to another place of ministry, but the Lord would not. For six long years he preached while suffering intense spiritual darkness, even doubting the truthfulness of Scripture. "I deemed it possible that some parts were true and other parts weren't." He struggled to believe the words of Jesus in John 4:13-14, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst." Through his years of ministry hundreds had come forward to accept Jesus Christ, but he knew that most of them still craved the things of this world. "Perhaps Jesus had made a mistake. Or maybe the authors of the New Testament did – for what I was experiencing was different than what was recorded in scripture. I had preached the gospel for twelve years, and there weren't even twelve true Christians to show for it."

Stegen grieved that most of the young people who claimed they had become Christians under his ministry still craved the things of this world and were conformed to its ways. Something was missing – so he and his little congregation arranged to meet twice a day to search the scriptures, confess their sins, and pray earnestly for the kind of revival Isaiah prayed for in Isaiah 64:1-4. They asked themselves what the life of a person who believes in Jesus should be like. In John 7:38 Jesus said, "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." Stegen said that when we asked ourselves, "Are there such rivers of living water flowing out of our lives?" we had to answer, No! This only made Stegen and his Zulu people yearn for these rivers as never before.

Christmas Sunday came, but Stegen's hunger was so intense and his brokenness so profound that he forgot to celebrate! As he and his people continued to meet day after day for Bible study and prayer, the Holy Spirit began to make them very aware of their sin. While God was dealing with him in very specific ways he was also dealing with the Zulu congregation. Church members confessed the sins of bitterness, hatred, and gossip. As their hunger for holiness increased, so did their expectation of revival.

One day, when a handful of his most faithful believers were with him for a time of prayer and confession, there was suddenly the noise of great wind. "Everyone was conscious of the presence of God without anyone saying a word," Stegen says. Sinners began to be drawn to the meeting place as if drawn by unseen hands. People couldn't sleep as they could only think of their sins. Hundreds came! Even thousands! Witches were converted. Hardened sinners wept like children. Unbelieving husbands were so amazed by the change in their wives that they too believed. Children were con-

Pres. Avery and his interpreter,
Johannes Laderach



Rev. Erlo Stegen and the Averys

The town of Rieden, Switzerland



verted and led their parents to the Savior. Stegen said, "God had kindled a fire, and it spread through the valleys and mountains, so that thousands were saved in one week, yes, even in one day."

There were countless accompanying signs and miracles as well. The blind received their sight, the lame walked, the dumb were given a voice, and demoniacs were delivered. The young girl who six years earlier, in spite of prayer and struggle, had not been healed was brought to a meeting and taken home completely whole! The work of God among them now resembled what they had read in their Bibles!

Fifty years later, the flame of revival still burns in South Africa with people being convicted of sin and converted to Christ every day. At the same time the spiritual influence of this revival has spread around the world, particularly to Europe. Rev. Stegen felt he owed something to the continent of Europe. It was from a revival in Germany in the early 1800's that missionaries were sent to South Africa. It was from these missionaries that Stegen's ancestors heard the gospel and were saved. Stegen felt that he must give back to those who first brought the gospel to his family by returning the light of revival to what is now a very dark Europe. Kwasizabantu Mission has established eleven missions in some of the most spiritually barren countries in Europe.

The conference at which Tim and I spoke was held at Stegen's mission in Switzerland. It was attended by 550 pastors from 14 different countries. The majority of these pastors have had very little training in the Bible and almost no contact with the conservative evangelical churches of the West. I was awed by their hunger for the Word, moved to tears by their pleas for discipleship training, and encouraged by their zeal to see a revival spread across Europe.

I was there to share, but more importantly, I was there to witness what the Holy Spirit is doing in and through the Body of Christ around the world. It is vital to my well-being and to that of GBSC and to the movement it serves to witness what God is doing through His Body. Isolationism is the tourniquet that brings suffocation and death to both individuals and churches. In the *Plain Account of the People called Methodists*, John Wesley said,

The thing which I was greatly afraid of all this time, and which I resolved to use every possible method of preventing, was a *narrowness of spirit*, a party zeal... that miserable bigotry which makes many so unready to believe that there is any work of God but among themselves. I thought it might be a help against this, frequently to read, to all who were willing to hear, the accounts I received from time to time of the work which God was carrying out in the earth, both in our own and in other countries, not among us alone, but among those of various opinions and denominations.

I rejoice in the work of the Holy Spirit in these days of both peril and opportunity. I want to humble myself continually before God that the power of the Holy Spirit might rest on my life, this school, and this generation as He has rested on others. Would you join with me in praying the prayer of Isaiah? "*Oh that thou wouldst rend the heavens, that thou wouldst come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence... For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him*" (Isaiah 64:1,4). ■

We pay tribute to Mrs. Sheila Wolf, whose retirement from the college faculty at GBS after 36 years of service was formally announced at this year's commencement, May 12.

SHEILA WOLF AND TRANSITION IN THE FACULTY

by Dr. Ken Farmer, Vice President for Academic Affairs

We are very thankful for the smooth transitions God has given us over the past several years and the transitions He is shaping toward fruition in the next year or two. But our focus now is on the retirement of Sheila Wolf. First, we are so grateful for the 36 years of teaching and service that she gave us. As you read these articles, you can tell how deeply she was loved and appreciated by both her students and her colleagues.

One aspect of this transition is the identification of her successor – Charlotte Frederick. When Sheila began talking about retirement, the General Studies Division chair asked her who would be the best person to take her place. Sheila's answer was Charlotte, a former student and mentoree. The skill set that Sheila has – being helpful to those who need it most – is a strength Charlotte also possesses. Also she has been teaching as an adjunct in the Church and Family Ministry area while completing her graduate work at Cincinnati Christian University. She turned the tassel May 11 and is now fully prepared to step into a full-time position. Just in time. God is good! ■



Pres. Avery honors retiring professor Sheila Wolf

GOD'S BIBLE SCHOOL THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

remarks by President Michael Avery
at Commencement, May 12, 2012

On August 29, 1951, Sheila was born in Kansas City, Missouri, to Charles and Naomi Parsons, the oldest of five children. While growing up, she was always focused on family and education. So after high school it was on to college.

She attended Kansas City College and Bible School several years but transferred to Pittsburg State University because of her desire to concentrate in home economics, and Pittsburg State had a great program. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in education with a major in home economics in 1973. Then it was back to KCCBS where she taught home economics for three-and-a-half years. Of course, she was now married to Garen Wolf, who was also teaching at KCCBS.

In 1976, the Wolfs answered the call to come to GBS. Sheila continued to teach home economics. During this time she received a Master of Arts degree in education with an emphasis in consumer science from the College of Mount St. Joseph. Here at GBS Sheila was instrumental in creating the Church and Family Ministry Program. She liked its versatility, stating that "students can choose areas of study that prepare them for specific ministries."

Sheila also remarks, "The greatest influence in my life is my family. They are my cheerleaders, urging me to be the best I can for God's glory." When asked which class was her favorite to teach, she replied: "That's easy. Marriage and Family Living – because the family is so important to God's kingdom. I love the students at GBS because they desire to touch lives for Christ."

Indeed lives were touched. Here are a few memories by former students in their own words....

"Mrs. Wolf was an energetic, young mother when she first came to campus, I will always remember her big Kansas hair and bubbly personality." —Connie Hilligoss

"Mrs. Wolf was one of my two favorite teachers at GBS. I often recall her words of advice and still have recipes that she distributed in class. Thank you for the contribution/investment you made in my life, Mrs. Wolf! You are loved!" —Susan LeBaron

"Mrs. Wolf's class, Marriage and Family, was the best and primary preparation for my job since college – wife and momma. The practical class helped me to work through the realities of my life now and get ready. Her generous spirit is truly beautiful. I thank God for her influence on me." —Liz Stetler

Proclamation

- WHEREAS:** Sheila Wolf has served with commitment, zeal and excellence as a college professor at God's Bible School and College for 36 years; and
- WHEREAS:** Sheila Wolf has molded the philosophy and practice of two generations of parents in the holiness tradition, challenging them to create homes centered on God and to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of Christ;
- WHEREAS:** Sheila Wolf has opened her heart and home to thousands of students, reaching out to those who were far from home and family, especially international students, seeking to encourage them and support them as they obtained a college education;
- WHEREAS:** Sheila Wolf has propagated a Bible-centered philosophy of ministry in the home that has reached outside of the institutional classroom setting by means of seminars and lectures; and
- WHEREAS:** Her dedicated, often sacrificial service and teaching have inspired her students in their own fulfillment of God's calling in their lives, including carrying the passion they saw in her into their own homes and workplaces; and
- WHEREAS:** God's Bible School and College is aware of its debt to Sheila Wolf for her humble, consistent service and loving care for colleagues and students alike,

THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL R. AVERY,

President of God's Bible School and College,
on behalf of the trustees, faculty, staff, and students,
do hereby confer upon

SHEILA M. WOLF

the title

"PROFESSOR EMERITA"

of the Division of Church and Family Ministry of God's Bible School and College
so long as she shall live.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF,

I have hereunto set my hand and caused
this seal to be affixed this 12th day of May in
the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twelve.

Michael R. Avery, President
God's Bible School and College

So, here we are in the year 2012. Sheila has expressed her desire to retire, and we would like to thank her for 36 years of excellent service to GBS. First we have this proclamation to present. *[At this point President Avery read the proclamation printed above on this page.]*

Additionally, we would like to inform you that the room we currently call GS-2, will be renamed the Sheila Wolf Classroom.

And, finally, Sheila, the school would like to give you a parting gift that will enable you to buy yourself something special in remembrance of this occasion or to go somewhere special to celebrate this occasion.

Sheila Parsons Wolf, God's Bible School and College thanks you for your service! ■

"I so enjoyed your class that I took – so honest and open that it was refreshing. You have been a blessing to many and to me."

—Brenda (Elder) Howell

"While I worked at GBS, I always enjoyed seeing Sister Wolf with her smiling face, bubbly personality, and sweet spirit. You still have an influence on my laundry days. How? Well, I called you one day to ask how to get stains out. You advised me to use dishwasher detergent and hot water. I think of you whenever I need to remove stains. Your advice has kept me from throwing out some of our clothing."

—Cindy (White) Hock

"Thank you for the fun times and cooking information. Spaghetti Squash? Yes, we made it. Thank you." —Christina Williams

"I still remember all the incredible children's books you lined up on your desk every Children's Literature class. Thank you for all the patience and knowledge you gave to me."

—Beth Avery

"I always loved your classes. You always made me smile. I remember your reading a little book *The Paper Bag Princess* to us. I loved to hear you tell the story with all of the different voices and actions. Today I read that story to my teen Sunday school class. And they love it, too. Thank you for taking time to make each class special and all the time you spent showing us you cared."

—Abigail Ward

"Thank you most of all for your lovely demonstration of Christian womanhood. You are a true role model. I always enjoyed your genuineness. You inspire me."

—Wilma (Betty) Lavy

"Thank you for your passion for God and prayer in your classroom teaching. And thank you for being such a sweet person. We appreciate you!" —Ron and Sarah Cook

"You were one of my favorite teachers. You were passionate about your classes, and your enthusiasm was catching!"

—Kyndra (Tichenor) Sickler

"In spite of your wonderful teaching, I still can't cook! Good thing I married someone who can!" —Joe Tillis

AN OPEN LETTER TO SHEILA WOLF My Dear Friend, Mentor, and Footstep Maker

May 2012

Dear Sheila,

Congratulations on your retirement! Thirty-six years of giving yourself to ministry, specifically at God's Bible School and College, is something to be admired; and you are more than deserving of the honors being given to you at this time. Perhaps this event in your life is so meaningful to me because of the bond we share.

I do not exactly remember our first meeting or the first class I had with you when I arrived as a student here on the Hilltop thirty years ago, but I believe I took every class you taught!

I vividly recall the Entertaining Foods class where you had us each invite a guest, plan and prepare a meal, have a decorated table setting, and then sit with the guest and act as hostess. My invited guest could not attend, and you so casually said, "Oh, don't worry. I'll just call my husband. He can be your guest." I can still feel the vibes of nervousness that coursed through me as I prepared the meal, placed my meager offering on the table, and then sat across from Brother Wolf to act as hostess. The entire time I prayed desperately that I had not forgotten any ingredients, that he wouldn't choke, and that we would have something to talk about!! (By the way, he was very gracious, and I discovered that entertaining and serving others brought its own little package of joy.)

After all these years, I continue to congratulate myself when I cook the vegetables with just the right amount of water left, so as not to "throw out the vitamins" before serving. However, I never did get all the cuts of beef memo-

rized; to this day I wish I had paid closer attention to that detail when I stare at the meat selections in the grocery store! Before couponing was actually popular, you taught us how to use the grocery sales flyer and combine it with coupons in order to plan a menu on a very frugal budget. Your insistence that we budget and spend wisely – not just on food, but also in wedding planning and homemaking – has served me well. "It's God's money you have been entrusted with. It is your responsibility as one of His children to spend it wisely and to give generously!" How often you must have repeated that sentence or similar ones in the classroom! I learned by just simply following your footsteps.

After my graduation, our lives separated for a time, and then in God's providence He moved me back to the campus of God's Bible School. By this time I was a wife and mother of three (soon four) young children. The relationship that we had established as student and professor nine years earlier now became an anchor for me. During the many times when I thought that raising my own children on an inner-city, college campus was too difficult, you became more than a professor – you became my friend.

Only God knows how much your "normal daily living" impacted me. I watched you as a model of mothering, of being a strong support for your husband midst your responsibilities of teaching, and during your many times of planning and hosting campus-wide dinner events. I watched how you involved your children in the ministry of the school, showing them by example the delight of serving Jesus in any capacity, and how you taught them to respond to the "daily grind" of GBS living. I watched as you loved students and brought them into your home or carried care packages across the campus. I learned and did the same, simply following your footsteps.

This past Saturday, Commencement Day at God's Bible School and College, I had what I believe to be the highest honor and privilege. On that day we walked down the commencement aisle side-by-side, this time as colleagues. Most of the audience had no understanding of what was happening, but during those moments I felt much like Elisha must have felt as he walked with Elijah on their last day of ministry together. As we celebrated your years of service and gave tribute to the beautiful woman of God that you are, I prayed, "O Lord, let a double portion of her strength and wisdom fall on me. I cannot even begin to take up her mantle without Your help." And then, all too soon, it was time to walk back out of the chapel. But this time we walked single file, and I just simply followed your footsteps.

I repeat the words of the song, "Thank you for giving to the Lord. I am a life that was changed." And I add the words of Solomon, as he ends his reference to a virtuous woman, "Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain; but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised."

My dear friend, you are worthy of all the kind words and commendations as you step into retirement. With the passing of years you have become more beautiful.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Frederick
Charlotte Frederick





— Called Unto Holiness —

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

SANCTIFICATION AS CHRISTIAN PERFECTION

by Rev. Leslie Wilcox

When describing the work of entire sanctification, the words *perfect* or *perfection* are used in the sense of completing or making perfect the grace begun in regeneration. It does not mean that one is made infallible, or that he is placed beyond the possibility of falling back into sin, or that he is free from mistakes, error, or human frailty. What it does mean is that the heart is cleansed so that its attitude toward God and His will is no longer imperfect.

A. The terms *perfect* and *perfection* are applied to Christian experience. “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect” (Matt. 5:48). “Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded....” (Phil. 3:15). “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God” (Hebrew 6:1).

B. One phase of perfection is perfect love. This phase of the subject covers the whole range of the experience of holiness so well that the term *perfect love* has been chosen by some holiness writers as the best description of this experience and of its results in the soul:

- Perfection of love is required as the sum total of the law. “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind” (Matt. 22:37).

- Love begins at regeneration. “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous” (1 Jn. 5:1-3).

- Love may be made perfect. “But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him” (1 Jn. 2:5).

- Many passages which speak of love in the heart evidently describe it in its perfected condition. “And above all these things put on charity [love], which is the bond of perfectness” (Col. 3:14). “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (2 Tim. 1:7). “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 Cor. 7:1).

C. The theme of perfection runs through the Scripture. It begins in the Old Testament. Beyond the direct and specific use of the term *perfect* or *perfection*, we find it in the demands for love toward God and our neighbor. This importance given to love shows that the Old Testament requirement was more than mere keeping of the Mosaic law.

The high ethical standards held up by the prophets further prepare the way for the New Testament development of this theme. Thus the ideal of perfection consisting in love is begun in the Old Testament and reaches full declaration in the New.

O glorious hope of perfect love!
It lifts me up to things above,
It bears on eagles' wings.
It gives my ravished soul a taste,
And makes me for some moments feast
With Jesus' priests and kings!

—Charles Wesley ■

Leslie D. Wilcox (1907–1991), well-known theologian, writer, and church administrator, served on the faculty at God's Bible School and College for many years. The above is abridged from his book *Be Ye Holy*.



2012 CAMP MEETING ENDS SCHOOL YEAR

Held May 9-13, camp meeting at GBS included a variety of activities that brought conviction, blessing, and challenge to those who attended. Speakers included Rev. Randy Brown, Rev. Blake Jones, Rev. John Manley, Rev. Darrell Lee Stetler, and Dr. Bill Ury. Morning sessions were led by Mrs. Elizabeth Stetler, Rev. Darrell Lee Stetler, and Dr. Phil Brown.

One well-attended, special event was the baptismal service on Thursday morning in which six students were baptized by the campus pastor, Rev. John Manley. Holy communion was celebrated Sunday morning by Rev. Larry D. Smith, with Rev. David Fry giving the homily. The student ministries service on Sunday afternoon featured testimonies and reports from areas of student ministry.

DR. BILL URY ADDRESSES 2012 COMMENCEMENT

Challenging his audience to heroic Christian witness in a decadent culture, Dr. Bill Ury, professor at Wesley Biblical Seminary, Jackson, Mississippi, gave the address at this year's commencement exercises at God's Bible School and College, May 12.



Dr. Bill Ury addresses GBS Commencement.

President Michael Avery conducted the service, Rev. Steve Stetler delivered the invocation, Rev. Tim Keep read the scripture lesson, and Rev. Daryl Muir offered the benediction. Organist was Mrs. Martha Miller, and special music was by a trio consisting of Esther Hough, Bethany Mills, and Alanna Smith accompanied by Mrs. Miller.

Aldersgate Christian Academy principal Mr. William Marshall presented 14 high school graduates with diplomas. Special recognition

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 **Andrew (GBS BA '05) and Morgan (Litchfield) (GBS ADEP '08-'09) Street**, a son **Justice Wesley Street**, born May 20, 2012, in Tocsin, Indiana. He is welcomed by his parents and older brother, Amos, 2. Andrew has served as pastor of Trinity Bible Methodist Church, Tocsin, Indiana. He and Morgan are preparing for missionary work in India.



To **Lyle and Michelle Witt**, a daughter **Julianne Eliana Witt**, born May 23, 2012, Cincinnati, Ohio. Lyle is a member of the GBS faculty, and Michelle is an adjunct professor. Their other children are Bryan, Landon, and Emily.

DEATHS

Charlotte Louise Jeffries, 90, of Westerville, Ohio, died April 24, 2012, after a long illness. She is survived by her husband of 66 years, Rev. Walter W. Jeffries, whom she met while they both were students at Marion College (now Indiana Wesleyan University). To this union were born Marilyn Brown and Roger Jeffries, both now deceased. Charlotte taught school for years throughout Ohio while also sharing with her husband in church ministries with The Wesleyan Church. Charlotte leaves a sister Janet Oswalt and a brother Donald Shreve; three grandchildren; and many other friends and relatives who rejoice in her victory and await a glorious reunion in heaven. Funeral services were held in Westerville, Ohio, with interment at Blendon Central Cemetery.

Rev. Charles A. Tryon, 81, co-founder of the Aldersgate Distance Education Program (ADEP) at GBS, died June 5, 2012, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He spent 67

was offered to Andrew Chadwick Smith, valedictorian, and Patrick Spencer Reagan, salutatorian.

Presenting college graduates was Dr. Ken Farmer, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and conferring degrees was Dr. Leonard Sankey, president of the Board of Trustees. Charity Lachelle Frazier and Diane Elizabeth Wood were recognized as college co-valedictorians, and Alanna Christin Smith as salutatorian. Alanna was also presented with the college's Educated Christian Award. Mr. Joshua Avery, Director of Library Services, presented the Association of Christian Librarians Research Award to Charity Frazier. Other honors included an honorary doctorate to Rev. Melvin Schaper, the Excellence in Teaching Award – a new award with a largely student-driven selection process – to Dr. Philip Brown, and a special presentation to Mrs. Sheila Wolf, retiring faculty member.

The chairs from GBS's five 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 Greek*, Thomas Ridenour; *Zondervan Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Study of Biblical Hebrew*, Sarah Kathrine Stillwell; **Division of Teacher Education** (Dr. Marcia Davis, Chair): *Excellence in Student Teaching Award*, Sarah Rachelle Roach; **Division of** ➡



ALDERSGATE FORUM

October 23-25, 2012

Higher Ground Conference and Retreat Center,
West Harrison, Indiana

Plenary Speaker: Dr. Michael Barrett

**"Christ and the Old Testament:
Seeing and Savoring the Messiah's Glory"**

**The Aldersgate Forum is open
to members and registered guests**

Membership and Registration Info:
<http://s.gbs.edu/aldersgateforum>



years in Christian ministry, serving as pastor of churches in Colorado, Iowa, and Oklahoma, and as a missionary in the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Guam, Saipan,



Japan, and Hawaii. He founded Bible schools for training pastors and lay people and also established the International Association of Bible Fellowship Centers and Asia Orient Missions. His ministry was complemented and supported by his faithful

wife Lottie, and together they made a powerful team for the advancement of Christ's cause.

At a regional IHC in Tulsa in 2001, they shared their "burden to educate workers for the kingdom" with GBS President Michael Avery, who recalled, "Lottie talked and Charles cried and I listened. And out of that discussion, the Aldersgate Distance Education Program was born. The Tryons moved to Cincinnati and launched the program. The rest is history." After four years at GBS they returned in 2005 to Tulsa where they continued to develop college curricula for use on mission fields.

Before they left, GBS honored both Charles and Lottie with the honorary degree Doctor of Christian Ministries.

Dr. Tryon is survived by Lottie, his wife of 60 years; his sons Charles, Jr., Henry, Mark, Tom, and Steve; 14 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

"We will always cherish Charles Tryon's memory, deeply grateful for his faithful service to GBS and to the whole Church." —GBS President Michael Avery

HITHER AND THITHER

Dr. Jo Anne Lyon (GBS HS '58) has been elected sole General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church at the denomination's General Conference held June 2-6 in Lexington, ➡



➡ **Intercultural Studies and World Missions** (Dr. Dan Glick, Chair): *Charles Cowman Missions Leadership Award*, Diane Elizabeth Wood; **Division of Music** (Dr. Jana Pop, Chair): *Academic Excellence and Outstanding Musical Achievement Award*, Katlyn Michelle Butcher; **Division of General Studies** (Mr. Aaron Profitt, Chair): *Oscar Johnson Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Service*, Brittany Brander.

GBS PRESENTS MELVIN SCHAPER WITH HONORARY DOCTORATE

Rev. Melvin Schaper, GBS alumnus, teacher, missionary, school administrator, and church leader, was given the honorary degree Doctor of Christian Ministries at commencement exercises, May 12. Schaper enrolled as a freshmen at GBS in 1941, staying until 1943, working three semesters



for the Revivalist Press, and the fourth as secretary to Dean James Robertson. He completed a Bachelor of Arts degree at Greenville College in 1945, then spent the next four years doing graduate work at Asbury Theological Seminary, The Biblical Seminary of New York, and Princeton Theological Seminary, completing the degrees Master of Divinity and Master of Theology. He later added another master's degree in education in 1962. Schaper has served GBS as teacher (1986-91)

and as member of the Board of Trustees since 1998. His wife of 62 years, Carol Joy (Firkins) Schaper, died November 12, 2010.

FALL ADEP CLASSES ANNOUNCED

The GBS Aldersgate Distance Education Program announces the following "blended" classes (online courses with a single block session) offered this fall:

- **Marriage & Family Counseling** (Mandy Buckland, 2 hrs): Sept 21-22
- **Cultural Diversity** (Stephen Gibson, 3 hrs): Sept 24-25
- **Religions of America** (Mark Bird, 2 hrs): Sept 25-27
- **Discipleship and Spiritual Formation** (Matt Friedeman, 3 hrs): Sept 28-29
- **Introduction to Homiletics** (Meredith Moser, 3 hrs): Sept 28-29
- **Open Air Sketchboard Seminar**

REVIVALIST FAMILY continued

➡ Kentucky. She had served as a General Superintendent since 2008, the first woman to do so, and is "the founder of World Hope International, the official relief and development partner of The Wesleyan Church," according to Wesleyan Information Network. "Her passion for reaching out to the last and the least has taken her around the world. She has been instrumental in mobilizing many from within and without The Wesleyan Church to help provide opportunity, dignity, and hope for the poor and those who need someone to speak for them." Dr. Lyon's husband, Rev. Wayne Lyon, is also a GBS alumnus.

NOTICES

Rev. Andrew Street (GBS BA, '05) is currently available for revival services, weekend seminars (holiness, missions, apologetics), and pulpit supply. He may be contacted through the following means: (260) 597-7585 (home), (260) 273-5472 (cell), or pastoradstreet@gmail.com. ■

(Eric Briscoe, 1 hr): Oct 15-17

• **Leadership and Meeting**

Management (Allan Brown, 1 hr):
Nov 8-9

• **Language Arts Methods** (Kristin Bird, 2 hours): Nov 9-10

The Discipleship and Spiritual Formation class is a dual credit course (undergraduate and graduate) offered jointly by GBS and Wesley Biblical Seminary. For more information, contact Dr. Mark Bird at mbird@gbs.edu. For a list of classes available as completely online courses, go to www.gbs.edu/adeq.

GBS MUSIC DIVISION ENDS YEAR WITH CONCERTS

The Music Division ended the spring semester with several presentations. At noon on May 3, the college and high school choirs along with the Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble (SWSE) performed for the National Day of Prayer service at the Hamilton County Courthouse. That same evening, the Oratorio Choir, under the direction of Mr. Tim Crater, performed an eclectic program of mostly classical pieces at the Newport, Kentucky, Church of the Nazarene. On May 8, Mr. David Hartkopf led the SWSE in its annual spring concert in the GBS Adcock Chapel. Performing Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21 with the orchestra at this concert was GBS sophomore Ashley Muir, winner of the 2012 GBS Piano Concerto Competition.

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, 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. Pop at jpop@gbs.edu or (513) 763-6547. ■



2012 GRADUATES OF GOD'S BIBLE SCHOOL, COLLEGE, AND MISSIONARY TRAINING HOME

HIGH SCHOOL

Tommy Andrew Butcher
Isaac Daniel Creech
Frederick Jeremy Davison
Daniel Adam Dilbert
Andrew Ross Elam
Mark Anthony Jones II
Timothy Robert Keep, Jr.
Eric James Martin
Brooke Anne Rauschenberger
Patrick Spencer Reagan, Salutatorian
Lindsay Caitlin Rose
Andrew Chadwick Smith, Valedictorian
Callie Rose Vance
Scott Everett Witt

COLLEGE

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN BIBLE AND THEOLOGY
Dana Renae Paxton

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN GENERAL BUSINESS
Janene K. Fiala
Charity Ann Gardner
David Andrew Hawn*
Joseph Haylock
Maria R. Stetler**

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN GENERAL STUDIES
Katrina Joy Behm*
Chad A. Bladen
Bethany Fay Clifford
Sharlenae Faith Dotson*
David James Olson
Roanna Joy Thawley***

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN INTERCULTURAL STUDIES AND WORLD MISSIONS
Kandice Clark Collins
Kadia S. Constant
Abigail Ann Crissinger
Sarah Rachelle Roach*

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN ELEMENTARY TEACHER EDUCATION
Heather Marie Moore**

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN MUSIC MINISTRY
Esther Ruth Hough*
Samuel Lee McConkey II*
Bethany Amber Mills
Stephen Mills
Alanna Christin Smith, Salutatorian***

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CHURCH AND FAMILY MIN.
Lauren Rene' Barger***
Laura Renee Boyd***
Brittany Brander
Charity Lachelle Frazier, Co-Valedictorian***
Joseph Haylock
Sherolyn Martin
Ricki Lynn Ross
Jennifer Lee Simpkins
Regina Faith Thawley

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN INTERCULTURAL STUDIES AND WORLD MISSIONS
Melissa Nichole Barr
Sonia Kaye Beck
Laura Renee Boyd***
Jonathan Coleman**
Jessica Hartman*
Angeleen McVey
Bethany Amber Mills
Dustin E. Muir
Karla Zamira Rivera
Amy Nichole Weddle*
Diane Elizabeth Wood, Co-Valedictorian***
Janeane Carol Yaryan

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MINISTERIAL EDUCATION
John F. Case, Sr.
Michael Shane Craycraft
Samuel Lee McConkey II
John William Price

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CHURCH MUSIC (NON-PERFORMANCE)
Nancy J. Lambeth

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MUSIC EDUCATION WITH A MAJOR IN K-12 (NON-PERFORMANCE)
Katlyn Michelle Butcher**

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN TEACHER EDUCATION WITH A MAJOR IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION
Sonia Kaye Beck
Emily Sue Eavey
Sarah Rachelle Roach*
Alanna Christin Smith, Salutatorian***
Breanna Nicole Wilhelm

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN TEACHER EDUCATION WITH A MAJOR IN SECONDARY ENGLISH EDUCATION
Maria R. Stetler**

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

Dear Phil

2 Corinthians 1:20. He had been accused of being vacillating and unstable because of some changes in his plans. In verses 18-19 Paul affirms that while his plans may have changed, his heart for their good in the gospel had not changed. In fact, he and Timothy were preaching the changeless Christ in whom God's promises of salvation are unfulfillment.

QUOTING THE BIBLE'S PROMISES

I would like to respond to [your] reply to the question, "Which Bible promises can we claim?" I too struggled with this question years ago, but I am happy to report that God cleared up all the question marks when He reminded me of II Corinthians 1:20, "For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us." Then I began to find other confirmations such as Romans 15:4, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."

These great verses not only encouraged my faith but inspired me to believe all the great promises God has given us in His Word. I do not need to "pick out" which ones I feel may apply to my need or scan the pages with a fine-tooth comb, trying to decide which ones are for Israel, and which are for me! Another real "gem" is I Corinthians 10:11, which reads, "Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition...." That one brought great joy to my heart, as I recalled the powerful stories from the Old Testament....

May I say that in all my 93 years of life on this planet, God has never failed yet! His precious Word has been my closest, dearest friend, and every word is true!
—(Mrs.) Ferne Cooper, Wake Forest, N.C.

Dear Sister Cooper,

Thank you for highlighting several key issues in your letter. You are absolutely correct that God is faithful to all His promises. I could not agree more that "all" Scripture is relevant and profitable for believers (2 Tim. 3:16-17). I was delighted to see you too have discovered Paul's affirmations that the Old

Testament is not irrelevant to NT believers (Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:11). In fact, it continues to function as an inspired guide for our learning and admonition.

As you point out, we should believe all the great promises God has given us in His word. The unswerving faithfulness of God is at the heart of Paul's point in

I understand 2 Cor. 1:20 to underscore one of the points I was making in my column: that when we are in Christ, all that God has promised us is sure. The issue at stake in determining whether I can claim a specific promise in Scripture is not its relevance, its profitability, or its certainty. Rather the issue is my eligibility. Do I meet the conditions needed to receive the promise?

Take for example the promise God gave to Phinehas in Numbers 25:11-13. God promised him and his seed a covenant of peace and a perpetual priesthood. There is much I can learn about God and about pleasing Him from Num. 25. However, I am not a descendent of Phinehas nor was Jesus, so I am not eligible for this promise. That there are promises given to specific people for specific times should in no way diminish our enthusiasm for the exceeding great and precious promises that are ours.

I join you in affirming that God never has and never will fail to keep His word. Praise His name!

Blessings,
Philip

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



ANNIVERSARY OF 1662 PRAYER BOOK MARKED IN ENGLAND

Special commemorative services marking the 350th anniversary of the 1662 version of the *Book of Common Prayer* were held February 5 in St. Paul's cathedral. Widely acknowledged for its scriptural integrity, its linguistic beauty, and its influence upon English-speaking people, the prayer book was the result of careful revision after the Anglican Church and the monarchy were restored following the end of Puritan rule. "It remains a doctrinal standard for the Church and an indispensable part of our identity," commented the Bishop of London in his address at the cathedral service.

SEXUAL REVOLUTION CAUSED BY DECLINING RELIGIOUS INFLUENCE

"In the 1950's it was a crime to look at the equivalent of a *Playboy* magazine or R-rated movie – or for stores to open on the Sabbath – or to buy a cocktail or lottery ticket – or to sell birth-control devices in some states – or to be homosexual – or to terminate a pregnancy – or to read a sexy novel – or for an unwed couple to share a bedroom. Now all those morality laws have fallen, one after another. Currently state after state is legalizing gay marriage despite church outrage."

These words from James A. Haugh's recent book *Fading Faith*:

The Rise of the Secular Age have been included in a review posted by reporter Peter Smith on the online website of the Louisville *Courier-Journal*. Smith's purpose was to examine "how churches are coping with a half-century of revolutionary change in Americans' family structures and sex lives," as he writes.

RICK WARREN CRITICIZES NEWSWEEK ARTICLE

Pastor Rick Warren has used the term "insulting" in describing a *Newsweek* article, "Christianity in Crisis," published during Holy Week. The author, Andrew Sullivan, who argues that "Christianity has been destroyed by politics, priests, and get-rich evangelists," suggests "that Christians should walk away from the church altogether and follow the teachings of Jesus individually," according to Luiza Oleszczuk, reporter for *The Christian Post*.

Not only Warren, but other Christian leaders were dismayed by the article. "Churches and institutions are always going to be flawed," responded Brett McCracken, "a Los Angeles-based writer, theologian, religion journalist," according to the *Post* article, "But it's important to have a community. Jesus didn't come to establish individual Christians who have sort of a privatized relationship with Him. He came to found the Church." ■



student focus

A sweet-natured gal from the small town of West Blocton, Alabama, **LAURA BOYD** recently graduated with dual BA degrees in Intercultural Studies & World Missions and Church & Family Ministries.

Her story is shaped by the challenges of living in Kiev, Ukraine, away from her American lifestyle and friends during her formative high school years. Amidst tests of language and cultural barriers, Laura saw rewards. She saw her family depend on each other and witnessed how much easier it was to hear God without all the clutter of the American way of life.

At GBSC, Laura fostered her love for children's ministry – earning a cognate in that field while directing Laurel Homes Kid's Club in a public housing project in Cincinnati. Described as "compassionate and kind," it would seem her ministry of choice was well-suited to her gifts. When she graduated *summa cum laude* in May, Laura handed off the baton of the Laurel Homes ministry, but hopes to pick up a baton where she can continue sharing God's truth with children. With conviction she says, "Where God leads, I will follow." ■

Seventy-five percent of our students receive some form of financial aid which enables them to attend GBSC. If you would like to support a student like Laura, 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.gbsgift.com



from the Classics

OUR HEARTS ARE RESTLESS UNTIL THEY REST IN YOU

by St. Augustine

Y*ou are great, O Lord, and greatly to be praised [Psalm 145:3]. Great is Your power, and Your wisdom is infinite [Psalm 147:5]. We long to praise You – we who are but a particle of Your creation; we who bear mortality, the witness of our sin, the witness that You resist the proud [James 4:6; I Peter 5:5]. Yet we long to praise You – we who are but a particle of Your creation. You awaken us to delight in Your praise; for You made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.*

Grant me, Lord, to know and understand which is first: to *call* on You or to *praise* You? To *know* You or to *call* on You? For who can call on You, not knowing You? If he does not know You, he may call on You mistakenly believing You are other than You are. Or, is it rather, that we call on You that we may know You? *But how shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? Or how shall they believe without a preacher?* [Romans 10:14] and *they that seek the Lord shall praise Him* [Psalm 22:26]. *For they that seek shall find Him* [Matthew 7:7], and they that find shall praise Him. I will seek You, Lord, by calling on You; and I will call on You, believing in You; for to us You have been preached. My faith, Lord, shall call on You – that faith which You have given me, with which You have inspired me, through the Incarnation of Your Son and the ministry of the preacher.

And how shall I call upon my God, my God and Lord, since, when I call for Him, I am calling Him into myself? And what room is there within me that my God can come into me? How can the God who made heaven and earth come into me? Is there, indeed, O Lord my God, any place in me that can contain You? Can heaven and earth – which You have made, and in which You have made me – contain You? Since nothing which exists could exist without You, is it possible for anything that exists to contain You? Since, then, I also exist, why do I seek for You to enter into me – I who cannot exist if You were not already in me? As of now I have not descended into hell, and yet You are even there, also! *For if I go down into hell, You are there* [Psalm 139:8]. I could not exist, then, O my God, could not exist at all, were You not in me; or, rather, unless I were in You, *of whom are all things, by whom are all things, in whom are all things* [Romans 11:36]. It is true, Lord, it is true! ■

Augustine, Bishop of Hippo (AD 335-430), one of the most influential of the ancient Church fathers, lived in northern Africa during the closing years of the Roman Empire, cheering fellow believers during great turmoil, defending the Faith against opponents, and leaving a powerful legacy of theological reflection that has influenced Christianity for centuries. This selection is taken from the opening paragraphs of his famous *Confessions*, which details his early spiritual quest and conversion.

is no neutral ground. This is why Paul exhorts us to “fight the good fight of faith” (1 Timothy 6:12), and to endure hardship “as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (2 Timothy 2:3).

Learn who is the enemy. Paul makes it clear who is and who is not our enemy. People and circumstances are not the enemy but are only tools that the enemy uses. Our enemies are the demonic forces of hell which are categorized as principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12). Behind visible sinfulness, behind all human conflicts and problems, lies the invisible influence and work of our true enemy, Satan himself, who is called the “prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working in the lives of sinners” (Ephesians 2:2).

Be strong in the Lord. Every Christian must learn how to be “strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might” (Ephesians 6:10). To be strong, a Christian must maintain a close personal relationship with God, for it is only as we remain “in the Lord,” that we have protection from Satanic attack. We strengthen our relationship with God through daily prayer, Bible-reading, faith, and obedience to His Word. Through these sources we derive the strength necessary for victorious spiritual warfare.

As we stay strong in the Lord, we have access to “the power of his might.” Paul explains in Ephesians 1:19-20 that he is speaking of resurrection power. Such power was demonstrated “in Christ, when God raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.” This mighty resurrection power is available to every Christian for daily victory over temptation and sin!

Conclusion

Memorize verses that promise victory to Christians over the power of temptation. Luke 1:37 reminds us that with God nothing is impossible. Romans 8:32 promises that “He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all,” will “with Him freely give us all things.” Whatever you need to have victory over temptation God promises to provide. Luke 10:19 says, “Behold, I give unto you power...over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” Remember always that no Christian needs to be defeated by temptation!



—sermon by DR. ALLAN P. BROWN

“COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE
IN PREACHING”



FACING TEMPTATION (PART 4)

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

Scriptures: James 1:12-14.

In our message “Facing Temptation (Part 3), published in the May issue of *God’s Revivalist*, we studied the last three steps in the temptation process and then began our study on “How To Combat Temptation Successfully.” Remember that Step One in doing this was “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provisions to gratify the desires of the flesh outside the will of God” (Romans 13:14). In this message we will conclude this series by suggesting several more tactics for successfully combating temptation.

Step Two. Learn to love Biblical light (John 3:21; 1 John 1:7)

Christians must be taught from Scripture what is sinful and what is pleasing to God. Paul, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, had to tell the Corinthian Christians to stop arguing and bickering among themselves. Such behavior is divisive, contentious, and wrong (1 Corinthians 1:10-11). Further, he had to rebuke their spiritual pride, their lack of humility, and their abuse of spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12-14). He had to tell them to stop suing fellow Christians (1 Corinthians 6:1-7). He had to tell both the Corinthian and the Thessalonian Christians that sexual relationships outside the bond of marriage is forbidden by God (1 Corinthians 6:18-19; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; 1 Peter 1:13-16). Further, Paul had to tell the Ephesians that Christians must not lie, steal, or express unChristlike anger. They must stop listening to and telling coarse, sensual jokes, and they had to stop any behavior that was unkind to others (Ephesians 4:17-32; 5:1-9).

Light is Biblical truth. The need to teach new Christians that they are to stop lying, stop stealing, stop all immoral behavior, stop cursing, stop getting drunk, and that they must be kind and loving to all others may be a surprise to biblically enlightened people. However, one must remember that people who have been immersed in an ungodly culture do not intuitively know God's standards for holy behavior. Christians must be taught the Bible. What is learned from the Bible is called "light." The Apostle John tells us that a Christian must walk in all the light he receives if he wishes to maintain fellowship with God and stay cleansed from all sin (1 John 1:7).

Stop all known sin. There is no Biblical list of sins that God guarantees to remove automatically from a person upon his or her conversion. However, God does provide abundant grace to enable Christians to walk in whatever light they do have. On the other hand, God does give a list of sins that a Christian cannot knowingly do and be saved. We read in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10: "Do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God."

Again Paul writes in Galatians 5:19-21, "Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

Walk in the light! God expects every Christian to walk in all the light he receives from Scripture (1 John 1:7). The Corinthian Christians were walking in all the light they had. This is why Paul can address them as "saints" and "those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus" (1 Corinthians 1:2). They were not knowingly doing wrong. They were simply acting as their culture had taught them to act. Therefore, they needed more light from God and that is the reason Paul wrote to them. And Paul expected his readers to walk in the new light he gave them. Are you walking in all the light God has given you?

Whenever a Christian becomes aware that there is something about his attitude, his speech, his interpersonal relationships, or some other aspect of his life that is not in harmony with either a command or a precept of Scripture, he must submit to God and walk in the new light God gives him. A Christian must commit himself to do whatever it takes to obey God fully and to change whatever needs changing in his life.

Step Three. Flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart (2 Timothy 2:22).

Paul tells us that everyone who claims to be a Christian must depart from iniquity (2 Timothy 2:19). Further, if a Christian wishes to be a vessel of honor, qualified for the Master's use, he must be separated from anything that would defile him (2 Timothy 2:21). And in order to depart from iniquity, and be separated from that which defiles, it is sometimes necessary to do more than simply "resist the devil" and expect him to flee from us (James 4:7). Instead, we must flee from some forms of temptation.

In addition to fleeing from some forms of temptation, there are also things a Christian must pursue. We are to "pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart" (2 Timothy 2:22). Be careful about the people you continue to have as your friends, especially if they weaken you spiritually. Seek to develop new friends who share the same spiritual goals that you have and who value the importance of having a pure heart.

Step Four. Learn the importance of putting on and keeping on the whole armor of God.

Paul issues a warning about the reality of spiritual warfare and calls every Christian to arms. He says, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:10-12).

Stay alert. Peter warns, "Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). Satan is the implacable foe of every Christian. He is personal, aggressive, intelligent, and cunning. He is termed "the strong man" (Luke 11:21), who has his strongholds (2 Corinthians 10:4), and his own army (Ephesians 6:12). In light of these facts, it would be absolute foolishness to underestimate or ignore the power of the devil. Christians are to take the warnings about him seriously.

Every Christian is to be alert, informed, and ready for both defensive and aggressive warfare. There is no place for the spiritual pacifist. Christians are engaged continually in warfare against the world, the flesh, and the devil. No one is exempt from the conflict. We either fight against temptation and sin, or we become captives of the enemy. There



the world to win

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

CHINA. Our recent teaching ministry in China was “a marvelous experience.” “Kay felt good about covering all 66 books in the 20-hour weekend. Students commented how much they appreciated grasping a biblical overview.... Robert taught a class in Biblical Principles of Discipleship.... Our hosts expressed their desire for us to teach these courses next year.” —Robert and Kay Bickert, *China Alive*

COLOMBIA. “God gave us a great week of excellent classes with Pastor Edgar A. Bryan teaching through the Pastoral Epistles! For most days, about 15 pastors and wives and key laymen were present from our churches and three other churches here in Colombia. We were blessed to have the Bryans in our home again. [We thank those] who gave sacrificially to make this happen.” —Phillip Dickinson

ERITREA. “Faith Hemmeter asks prayer for the pastor in Eritrea who is still in prison for the crime of holding a prayer meeting. He is the father of nine children. Please pray also for his wife and children. Violence is escalating in Egypt, and Christians are sometimes the targets of that violence.” —*Ropeholders*

FRANCE. “We enjoyed a deep sense of the presence of the Lord, worshiping with our Filipino congregation in Paris. As Rev. Avery and I preached Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, we were touched by the hunger for the word of God and for Christian fellowship. We were encouraged by testimonies of spiritual transformation over the past months and by God’s restoring grace to others during the brief time we spent together. As many as 50,000 Filipino workers

live in France, and the number increases daily. Many are drawn to Christian communities of faith like ours through loneliness and despair and are consequently exposed to the message of the gospel.” —Tim Keep, *Bible Methodist Missions*

HONDURAS. “Daniel Melton requests prayer that the funds needed to complete drilling for a new well will be supplied. The new well is desperately needed. Many times the clean water pipe lies in the same ditch where the sewer drains, and if it gets broken, the sewage can get into the clean pipe. This is the water that flows into the medical clinic and mission houses.” —*Ropeholders*

HUNGARY. “Ed and Heather Durham left for Budapest, Hungary, on April 3. They were commissioned at Hobe Sound Bible Church on March 4. Please keep them in your prayers as they adjust to their new home and ministry.” —*World Update (FEA Ministries)*

MICHIGAN. “On April 25, 2012, Victory Inner-City Ministries finalized the purchase of a five-bedroom house in the city of Detroit! This is the beginning of a community of faith and has the opportunity for a far-reaching urban ministry center. The city of Detroit offers great challenges – a city of nearly 800,000 people beset with poverty and unemployment – but also offers great opportunities. The median housing value in Detroit is \$100,000 less than in comparable cities nationwide.... With move-in-ready houses available for under \$12,000, huge tracts of vacant land, and still a large population, Detroit offers great opportunities to make Christ visible through evangelism, affordable housing, urban farming, and education.” —Eric Himelick, *Victory Inner-City Ministries*

SOUTH AFRICA. “Johan and Hess Van der Merwe...are busy with planting churches, training the people, children’s work, and Bible studies. The Gaults had 30 people baptized in February. Praise God for 30 converted souls. In Lesotho, they have been holding weekend revivals in a church in the mountains. They had good attendance.” —*The Flaming Sword*.

UKRAINE. “[In July] we plan to return to Ukraine for two months. Our objectives are to conduct the second annual Carpathian Youth Camp and also teach several seminar classes in local churches.... It will also be important for us to determine what course to take concerning the new visa law. We would be so blessed and grateful for your prayers.” —Tim and Cheryl Boyd, *Boyd’s Ukraine Update* ■



by Rev. Jack Hooker, President,
National Alumni Association of GBS

contact: jhooker@gbs.edu

ALUMNI RECEPTION, DAYTON, OH

Over 300 GBS alumni gathered in the Dayton Convention Center for our annual Alumni Reception held during the Interchurch Holiness Convention. It was great to see so many former GBS students coming together for fellowship and to hear and see what is happening on the Hilltop! This year, along with our meal together, we enjoyed the music of *Adoration*, the GBS mixed quartet. A preview of Homecoming 2012 was presented by a special guest, Joe Emert.

For several years, Joe was “the voice of God’s Bible School” on the radio. He shared some interesting trivia and encouraged everyone to join us at our *Alma Mater* this fall on October 12 and 13 for “Radio Days,” a tribute to the great history of GBS radio broadcasts. President Avery then shared with the attendees recent events and progress on campus. A highlight of the reception was the testimony of a current student, Darnell Wilson, and a short video

documentary of recent graduate Alfonso Chen. The reception closed with a challenge by Faith Avery, Director of Institutional Advancement, to support and pray for GBS. It is always a special time when the GBS family gets together! 📌



Joe Emert



PHONATHON 2012

We're calling about a worthy cause.

September 24-27 October 1-4 October 8-11



"Hi, my name is Mark,
and I'm a junior at God's Bible School & College
calling tonight on behalf of Phonathon..."

If you're a member of the GBSC community, you may have received a call like this before. Or your parents have. Or your pastor has. That's because Phonathon is a vital part of our fundraising efforts.

**We have met our goal of \$120,000 for the past two years!
Help us reach our goal again this year! Be a part of success.**

Your donation will increase academic excellence by providing
scholarships and facilitating our student work program.

When a student calls, please consider a donation to this worthy cause.

If you'd rather not wait for a phone call, you may send your gift for Phonathon to:
God's Bible School & College, Office of Advancement, 1810 Young Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202
Office of Advancement 513.721.7944 Track our progress at www.gbs.edu/phonathon

➡(p2) views the scriptures that speak to same-sex intimacy as reflecting the understanding, values, historical circumstances and social ethics of the period in which the scriptures were written, and therefore do not reflect the timeless will of God."

"I am a lesbian and a child of God," one delegate announced, "and I strongly urge the body to support this compromise language so that gay youth...will recognize that the church loves them and God loves them and the violence and pain and suicide will stop." Bishop Rosemarie Wenner, seemed apologetic. "Dear sisters and brothers who are gay and lesbian people," she said, "you have been hurt by actions of the General Conference...I feel your pain. We see your pain."

But in contrast, Maxie Dunham, former president of Asbury Seminary, reminded delegates that Christians "are called to holiness," adding, "I know holiness without love is not God's kind of holiness. But love without holiness is not God's kind of love." Rev. Jim Cowart of the South Georgia Conference also defended traditional standards, informing his gay opponents that "we love you just like you are, and we love you enough to tell you what the scriptures say."

This should cheer the heart of everyone who loves God and His Holy Book. "It now remains United Methodist policy that marriage is the union of one man and one woman," W. James Antle III of *The American Spectator* emphasizes; "clergy cannot solemnize same-sex unions, and ordained ministers must be celibate outside of a marriage between a man and a woman or monogamous within marriage." Once almost totally marginalized in the church's authority structures, American evangelicals, augmented by overseas comrades whose numbers are rapidly increasing, are rallying to the task described by one of their leaders, Mark Tooley, in his 2008 book, *Taking Back the United Methodist Church*. Tooley is convinced that "the ongoing empowerment of millions of African United Methodists" – will salvage "what otherwise would be another dying American mainline denomination."

Put what is happening in perspective. So far as its academic and governing elite are concerned, the UM Church has been liberal for over a century; and in some places it's probably been that long since the Bible's message of personal holiness has been clearly sounded. Far too often heresy has shamed its pulpits, "social gospel" schemes have preempted its testimony to salvation through the cross, and contempt for scriptural authority has blighted her seminary classrooms. Long ago the denomination seemed hopelessly married to the Zeitgeist – the decadent spirit of the age.

It's still "a long way from becoming the Southern Baptist Convention," as James Antle concludes – or of

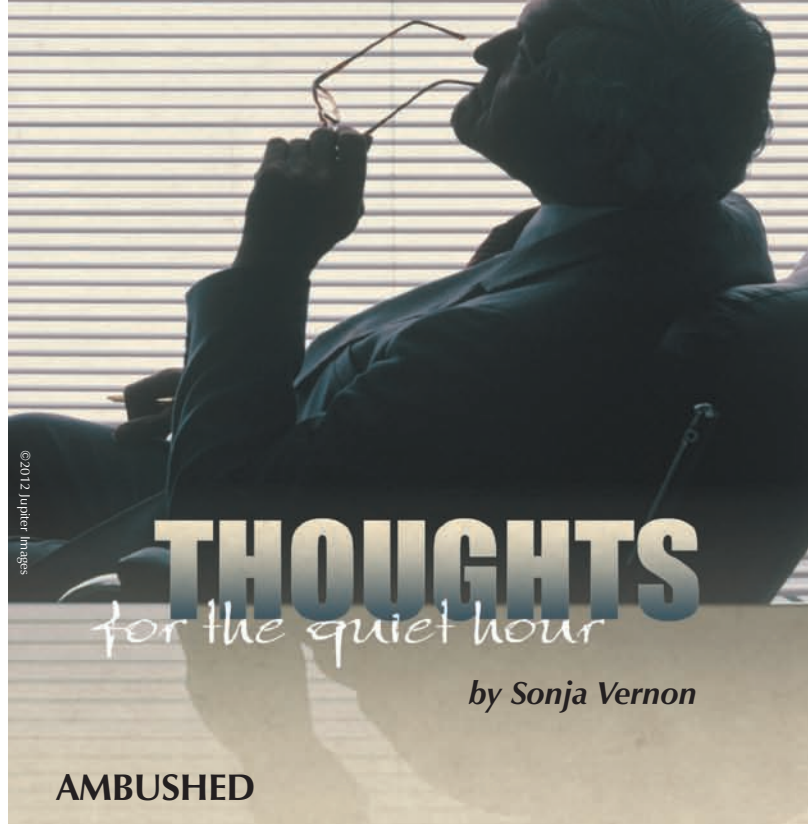
becoming the great revival movement it was once, as we might add, "and the denomination's bureaucracy still leans left." But as he reminds us, "among the historic Protestant churches, the Methodists are marching to the beat of a different drum." While other "mainline" denominations are plunging to catastrophe, the UM Church – however belatedly – now seems to be drawing back from the brink.

To the distress of bishops and district superintendents, reform groups such as Good News, the Confessing Movement, and Tooley's Institute for Religion and Democracy, have vigorously sounded the alarm. Evangelical congregations are winning people, and evangelical delegates are changing politics. Liberal observers are clearly alarmed. "Since the early 1980's the general conference has repeatedly passed legislation that has chipped away at the foundations of what was once one of the most progressive denominations in North America," laments Christopher H. Evans of Boston University School of Theology. For as he adds, "the combined delegates from the African nations and conservative Americans have created a base that will likely control the United Methodist Church for several years." Evans is afraid that the door to the "legacy" of theological liberalism "is closing rapidly."

Yes, "holiness seed never rots." We who find our home in the holiness movement should rejoice at any sign that this long-buried seed is sprouting again in the Methodist Church, for she is our spiritual grandmother, and we owe her an incalculable debt. Founded in 1784 to "spread scriptural holiness over these lands," she sent out thousands of intrepid "circuit riders," who raised up congregations everywhere as they claimed our opening frontier for Jesus. They preached holiness with purpose and with power – holiness in regenerating grace, holiness in perfecting love, holiness in expanding development! God crowned their message with marvellous success.

But there is no more tragic story in our history than Methodism's gradual surrender to the forces of compromise and enculturation. To perpetuate the church's original focus, devout men and women formed the holiness movement, which finally eventuated in many new and separated denominations. Yet there has always been a faithful remnant left in Methodism to remind her of the glory that once crowned her altars. Thanks to those brothers and sister who remained to "speak the truth in love," the holiness message never entirely disappeared from the church of our forebears.

But what about the future? We know that the liberal establishment is determined to revoke General Conference's stand for Biblical morality and derail the resurgent evangelical movement that defends it. If they



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succeed, this will be the death warrant for the church, and thousands of evangelicals will finally leave it, as so many have already done. In any case, the same conflict that rages in the UM Church is being fought on a thousand other battlefields. Everywhere the increasing secularization of Western culture is eroding the Christian foundations upon which that culture is built, and it is why it is crumbling all around us. In Europe and North America, the church has its back to the wall, as it has so many times in the 20 centuries of its life. Politics, economics, education, as well as religion are reeling from the onslaught.

Yet the Spirit still breathes new life upon His shattered creation and sends beams of grace through the dark and gathering clouds. Tens of thousands of orthodox and committed Christians of diverse traditions – Episcopal, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Methodist, and others, some inside their old denominational structures and some outside of them – are taking forthright stands for the “faith once and for all delivered unto the saints.” For it is the Faith itself that really is now at stake, and the crisis over homosexuality is only one face of the massive struggle. We cannot be neutral. Everyone of us is called to valor and fidelity. *“The cross before us; the world behind us! No turning back!”*

Renewal in the culture must begin with revival in the Church, and that is why we rejoice in those encouraging signs of spiritual awakening in Christ’s visible body where once there seemed only barrenness and death. “Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it!” Remember how God used Athanasius to rescue it from ignorance and heresy in the fourth century, Luther to save it from superstition and corruption in the sixteenth, and Wesley to reclaim it from coldness and infidelity in the eighteenth.

In the most unlikely places Christians are accepting sacrifice and suffering to take their stand for what is right and against what is wrong. As Bishop Robert Duncan, one of the sterling heroes in the present conflict, has observed: “We are in the midst of a reformation of the whole of Christianity.” Numbers, prestige, and endowments may disappear, but out of the present struggle will emerge a body of more faithful, more muscular, and more determined believers to lift the cross in triumph above our dying world.

Uncle Buddy was right – “holiness seed never rots.” It’s sending up new shoots throughout United Methodism. God grant that it shall do the same among us – and indeed throughout all the world – “to produce an abundant harvest” that will revive the Church and renew the culture. “The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth!” Alleluia! ■

THOUGHTS

for the quiet hour

by Sonja Vernon

AMBUSHED

“But Jeroboam had set an ambush to come from the rear, so that Israel was in front of Judah and the ambush was behind them. When Judah turned around, behold, they were attacked both front and rear; so they cried to the Lord, and the priests blew the trumpets. Then the men of Judah raised a war cry, and when the men of Judah raised the war cry, then it was that God routed Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah.” —II Chron. 13:13-15 NASB

God’s people were at war, and the kingdom that G had rejected His laws seemed to have the upper hand. Jeroboam’s army of Israel had twice the men and a savvy battle plan, but Abijah and his troops came armed with the knowledge of their obedience to God and their dependence on Him. When the armies of Judah realized they were surrounded, they cried out to the Lord. And instead of running or giving up, the surrounded, outnumbered army raised a war cry; and when they did so God routed the troops of Israel before them.

Judah raised a war cry in the face of certain defeat because they were confident that God was on their side, and God honored their trust and obedience. Has Satan ambushed you and left you feeling there is no way of escape? Is your spirit cowed by his attacks? Perhaps it’s time to remember for Whom you fight. You’re on the winning side! So, my embattled friend, take heart! Lift your head and raise a war cry! Watch God route the enemy as you march forward in the strength of the Lord. ■

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

SUMMER 2012

Homecoming 2012

"Radio Days"

Friday, October 12

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

The Hilltop Classic

GBSC's fourth annual golf scrambler
Preregister with payment online @ www.gbs.edu

5:00 - 6:30 pm

Family Fellowship Supper

Choice of Cincinnati style chili or
traditional Italian spaghetti & meatballs

7:30 - 9:00 pm

Radio Days Concert

Featuring music and a simulated radio broadcast!

7:00 - 9:00 pm

B.L.A.S.T.

Fun for Children, ages 3-10

9:00 pm

Ice Cream Reception

Enjoy an ice cream social featuring
Graeter's famous ice cream

Saturday, October 13

8:00 - 9:30 am

Reunion Breakfast Buffet

Reunite with friends while eating a delicious breakfast

9:30 - 11:30 am

B.L.A.S.T.

Fun for Children, ages 3-10

10:00 - 11:30 am

A Time of Reflection

Devotional in Adcock Chapel
Special recognition of 25 and 50 year graduates

11:30 am - 2:30 pm

Homefest Picnic

Food, fun, & fellowship for the whole family

*Relive the days of radio
broadcast from the Hilltop!*

