

GOD'S REVIVALIST

December 2013

and Bible Advocate



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God's Bible School and College seeks to glorify God and to serve His Church by providing higher education centered in Holy Scripture and shaped by Wesleyan conviction, thus preparing faithful servants to proclaim Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness throughout the world.

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BELLS ACROSS THE SNOW

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879)

O Christmas, merry Christmas!
Is it really come again,
With its memories and greetings,
With its joy and with its pain?
There's a minor in the carol,
And a shadow in the light,
And a spray of cypress twining
With the holly wreath tonight.
And the hush is never broken
By laughter light and low,
As we listen in the starlight
To the "bells across the snow."

O Christmas, merry Christmas!
'Tis not so very long
Since other voices blended
With the carol and the song!
If we could but hear them singing
As they are singing now,
If we could but see the radiance
Of the crown on each dear brow;
There would be no sigh to smother,
No hidden tear to flow,
As we listen in the starlight
To the "bells across the snow."

O Christmas, merry Christmas!
This never more can be;
We cannot bring again the days
Of our unshadowed glee.
But Christmas, happy Christmas,
Sweet herald of goodwill,
With holy songs of glory
Brings holy gladness still.
For peace and hope may brighten,
And patient love may glow,
As we listen in the starlight
To the "bells across the snow." ■

From *Christmas: Its Origin, Celebration and Significance as Related in Prose and Verse*, Robert Haven Schauffler (1907)

the president's page



THE INCARNATION

by Michael R. Avery, President

Famous radio and television personality, Larry King, was known for his ability to ask the one question that would not only define the interview but the one being interviewed as well. On one occasion King said that if he could land an interview with God he would ask Him just one simple question, “Did you have a son?” King, who is Jewish, understands that the answer to that question carries with it profound – even eternal ramifications. It has to be one of the most significant questions any seeker of truth could ask. If the answer is yes (and of course it is), then all history, all reality and all true faith come to focus in the incarnation of Jesus Christ – the eternal Son of God!

The word *Incarnation* means “embodied in flesh” and denotes the act whereby the eternal Son of God took to Himself an additional nature, humanity, when conceived in the Virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit. The result is that Christ remains forever unblemished deity, which He has had from eternity past; but He also possesses true, sinless humanity in one person forever. The purpose of the incarnation can be expressed in three key ideas:

EXPLANATION – John 1:18

“he hath declared him” (KJV); “He has explained him” (NASB); “he has made him known” (ESV)

The Greek word “*exégeomai*” (translated as the words “declare,” “explain,” and “made known”) is the word from which we get our word “exegesis.” It means that Jesus came in human flesh to explain God or make Him known. Though God has revealed Himself in various ways, only the Incarnation of Jesus Christ clearly revealed the essence of God. So now

**From the womb of His mother
to the tomb of Joseph of
Arimathea, Jesus identified
with every aspect of our
lives. He has felt every kind
of temptation that you and I
face...yet without sin.**

when we “see” and “know” Jesus (read the divine revelation about the Son in scripture) we can “see” and “know” the Father.

REDEMPTION – John 1:29

“behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”

Without the Incarnation we could have no redemption. Sin requires death for its payment. But the one dying had to satisfy the demands of God’s holiness and justice and that required a sinless sacrifice – one which only God Himself could provide. Since God does not die, the Savior must be human in order to be able to die. However, the death of an ordinary man would not pay for sin eternally, so the Savior must also be God. We needed a God-Man Savior, one without sin, who could die for our sins. That is exactly what we have in the Lord Jesus Christ (Hebrews 10:1-10).

IDENTIFICATION – John 1:14

“became flesh and dwelt among us”

Dr. H.C. Morrison spoke about this aspect of the incarnation like this, “God created man but had never been a man. He had seen men suffer but He had never felt pain. He had seen men bleed but He had never bled. He had seen men toil but He had never blistered His hands with carpenter tools. He had seen men die but He had never spread His omnipotent shoulders on the bottom of a cold sepulcher.” So He became one of us! From the womb of His mother to the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, He identified with every aspect of our lives. He was hungry, weary, needy, and fearful. He has faced every battle and felt every kind of temptation that you and I face...yet without sin. This means that we have a God who fully identifies with us and can help us in our time of need (Hebrews 4:14-16).

A father put his four-year-old son to bed. Having finished prayers, stories, and all the little bedtime things, he kissed his son and turned off the light. The boy started sobbing, “Don’t leave me. I’m scared and don’t want to stay here alone.” The father tried to encourage the little boy by reminding him of God’s presence that was always near. The little boy said, “I know that, but I want somebody with skin on.” What God could not accomplish through any other method, He was able to accomplish through sending His Son as the God-Man. This is the great message of the Incarnation! ■



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I just wanted to commend you on your September 2013 issue. Without a doubt it took great courage to take on such a subject. The topic is extremely relevant for so many striving for Christlikeness. I pray the articles encourage the hopeless, give courage for change, and, ultimately, God gives victory.

BYRON E.
Email

I must say I was surprised or perhaps a little shocked when I pulled the September issue out of my post office box. I trust the postal worker didn’t pay close attention. I am not sure Martin Wells Knapp would approve of the cover and many other things going on in the church world of today.

I am aware of the great problem there is with pornography. After all, we are faced with it everywhere today.... Having read all the articles in the September issue, it seems like the devil has found a way to get into the life of the church, the Bible schools, and church people in general...that being the computer or Internet.... Many, even in the church, have become addicted to the computer.

LAWRENCE ELLIOTT
Broomes Island, Maryland

I really enjoyed the October issue of the *Revivalist*, especially the article entitled, “Caring for the Children.” While I was a student at GBS, I had the privilege of pastoring the Pendleton Gospel Mission for two years. During that time we ministered to many children in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Cincinnati. I’ll never forget two little brothers named Marvin and Sunshine. They were so precious. God’s love reaches everywhere if we allow it.

JERRY READLE (GBS BRE '87)
Westminster, Colorado



The Shepherd Who Seeks

by Don Davison

I understand the importance of Bible-based doctrine. You really *can't* live what you don't know, therefore it is important to proactively seek the Lord – to take the initiative in seeking Him. I understand that.

And yet I have to say that, when I look back over my life, I find that time after time my transformational experiences have not been the result of my successful seeking, but rather the Sovereign Shepherd seeking out His sheep and intervening in my life. Although I didn't know what to be hungry for, or didn't know the extent of my need or even that I *had* a need, He found me. The story of my life has been of the extravagant patience of a Father who loves me too much to let me go.

*O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.*

*O light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.*

*O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.*

—George Matheson

So these days I'm telling God that I am in a headlong rush for His *heart* – and not for another gift or spiritual experience to check off my religious list. I am racing for His heart, with no mask on my face and with nothing in my hand. I really believe that when we get that intimate with God, the next measure of grace we need from Him will flow into our lives as naturally as the sun coming up in the morning. ▀

Rev. Don Davison is the director of public relations at God's Bible School and College.

Image of Jesus by Robert M. Anderson, in public domain



CAMPUS IMPROVE

ROUTINE WORK

Getting ready for a new school year involves a lot of work. Some of it is rather routine, such as stripping and waxing floors, deep cleaning, getting the grounds in good shape, or painting outside railings. Also, every other year we repair, seal, and stripe all our lots. High school alumnus Eddie Day (Edward N. Day III Asphalt & Sealing) is shown here doing that work (1).

REPAIR WORK

But some of the work is far from routine. These projects can be very labor intensive and costly. Consider the recent heating/ventilation/air conditioning problems we have had. This past summer three of our largest HVAC units went down. This included a 40-ton unit that serviced the Student Center, a 20-ton unit that serviced the kitchen, and a 20-ton unit that serviced the library. The units were original equipment installed 37 years ago and 20 years ago respectively. Our own Phil Valentine handled the removal of the old equipment, allowing others to focus on the technical side of installation.

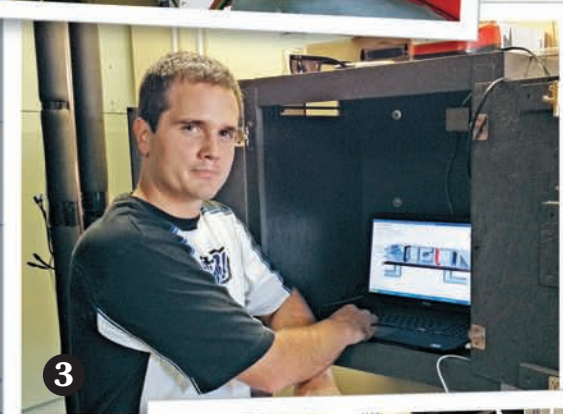
Alumnus Randy Knuth (2)(right) worked with us to install all new equipment at a fraction of the regular commercial cost. The work was done by Knuth LLC, a company owned by Randy's son, Kent Knuth (3). Assisting Randy and Kent were Kyle Knuth (2)(left background), Randy's son-in-law Charles Holden (not pictured), and son-in-law Doug Johnson (4). The hard work and kindness of these men made it possible to install the best equipment in a short period of time, saving the school thousands of dollars. Crews set new units on the Student Center (5) and on the library.



1



2



3



4



5

CONSTRUCTION

SIDEWALK
CLOSED

CONSTRUCTION



6

The main boiler for the Women's Dorm and the Student Center went out this summer and had to be replaced. Phil Valentine did most of the installation work (6).

In March the recently rebuilt wall on Channing Street collapsed due to inferior workmanship by the contractor. The contractor defaulted on his work and the wall had to be built again (7). Special thanks to Guide One Insurance and Luke Gibson.

REMODELING WORK (Staff Housing)

Another part of the labor that never seems to end is the work on staff housing. When employees retire or leave for another job, new staff take their place. Also, when housing becomes available, the Housing Allocation Committee notifies current staff and reviews the resulting requests. Often one creates others. Work on housing usually takes place during the summer months. frequently this includes new carpet, paint, and perhaps a new kitchen and bathroom. It is much easier to complete these renovations when the building is empty.

The house at 1837 Josephine (8) was purchased several years ago to relieve the strain on faculty and staff housing. It has now been completely renovated and houses three families. Renovation has begun on 525 Channing to prepare it for its next occupants. Phil Gant is shown here painting the outside (9). The inside work will begin later. Some time ago we purchased 538 Channing. We are starting a complete renovation (10) that will provide a three-bedroom house for a campus family.

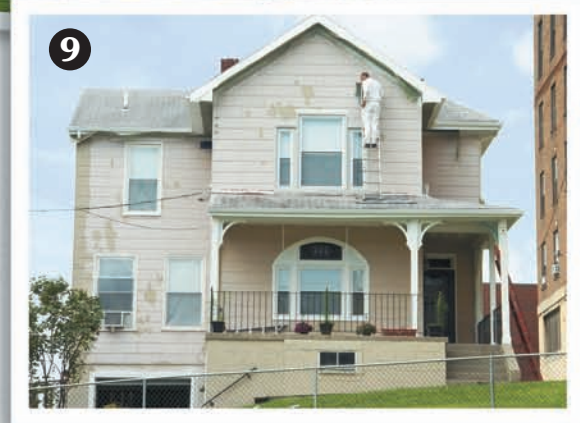
Once in a while, a housing renovation project is also part of the school's strategic plans (see President Avery's discussion of 511 Carmalt on page 9).



7



8



9



10



ON! CONSTRUCTION! CON

AND THE WORK GOES ON...



Even after the school year begins, the work continues. For example, we have been working toward the creation of a Digital Media Center that will provide the studio and the equipment to make our own short videos (for teaching and training purposes), upload sermons and lectures to the web, and do live streaming and podcasting. An area has been designated for this (below the Adcock Chapel in the basement level of the Knapp Memorial Building) and the work on creating this new space has begun. Here (11) GBS Media Specialist Shane Muir (right) is going over plans with Campus Administrator Harry Crouse.



One floor above on the chapel level, another project is underway – installing window sheeting on the outside of five large windows (12). This sheeting will give weather and UV protection to the chapel, stopping the problems caused by water leaks and sun damage. This is the first time these windows have received necessary attention. The three stained glass windows at the front have been protected for a number of years.



Stepping out of the chapel, one can see the motorized lift attached to the Channing Street side of the Women's Residence Hall (13). Repairs are underway to fix a 12-foot crack in the northeast corner of the building, which has caused water damage in several of the rooms. This is a three-step process: fix the crack, repaint and recaulk the windows, and seal the entire side of the building. ■

ONSTRUCTION!



MARRIED STUDENT HOUSING (511 CARMALT STREET)

by President Michael Avery

When I came as President in 1995, I realized a need for married student housing. At the time, all options were beyond our reach financially. As finances improved, nothing was available that would fill this need. Two years ago an 11-unit apartment building on Carmalt Street (1) went on the market. The campus family started praying about that building for our married student housing need. The price slowly dropped to \$200,000. We made an appeal by letter back in the spring to the GBS family for funds to buy it. The letter raised \$80,000. We negotiated for several months, making a final offer of \$175,000. By the time the offer was accepted, a friend of the school gave the remaining \$95,000. This made it possible for us to have the building and it gave the building a name (more on that later).

We are in the process of emptying the building and renovating areas that we can. A new roof (2) and a new heating system (3) have already been installed. Plans are underway to install windows, doors, and completely renovate the apartments. Hopefully it will be ready to dedicate and occupy in the fall of 2014.

As you can see, 511 Carmalt and all the other work described here takes a significant commitment of time, effort, and expense. From the outside, a person might see the married student housing as a \$175,000 project, because that is what the building costs. However, the expense of renovation has just begun. You can easily see how a \$175,000 project is really a \$250,000 project.

We are committed to keeping the GBS campus preserved for future generations. We are also committed to taking advantage of opportunities that are critical to strategic future development. Both involve the expenditure of precious resources. ■



OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

Your financial partnership makes all of this possible. The “Revivalist Family” is made up of faithful “GBS supporters” who have stood behind us and made it possible for us to move ahead for over a century. So many of you have been faithful in giving – and every gift directly or indirectly supports all students on this campus and impacts every future ministry to which God has called them.

A gift of \$25, \$50, \$100, or \$500 would mean a great deal to the school right now. A gift of any amount would be so much appreciated and go a long way in meeting the needs that are facing us at this time.

Maybe you would like to give a significant year-end gift that not only helps GBS, but could also benefit you at tax time.

The envelope enclosed in this *Revivalist* will make it convenient for you to contribute today. You may also donate online at www.gbs.edu or you may call the school at 1-800-486-4637 and ask for the Advancement Office.

Thank you for standing with us!

GOD'S BIBLE SCHOOL
& COLLEGE

DECEMBER 2013

09





PHONATHON SURPASSES GOAL!

by Faith Avery, GBS Director of Institutional Advancement

During our annual Phonathon held September 16–October 3, over one hundred students from God’s Bible School and College volunteered their time to call nearly 10,000 alumni, parents, and friends of the college to help underwrite the student work program and institutional scholarships. Thanks to the generosity of many, the callers

surpassed their fundraising goal to raise over \$122,000! We are indebted to alumni Steve (BRE ’78) and Kay Vernon (1982-83) for partnering with our fundraising efforts in their local community to raise \$4,500 towards our overall goal. We so appreciate their passion and vision for GBS!

Congratulations to the top student callers of each week: Amberly Albright, Courtney Fourman, Daryl Hunter, and Kyla Tichenor; as well as overall top callers: Kyla Tichenor \$16,910; Amberly Albright \$11,340; and Hannah Frausto \$7,185.

ACA’s 5TH ANNUAL WALK-A-THON A SUCCESS

by Bill Marshall, Principal

Aldersgate Christian Academy held its 5th Annual Walk-A-Thon on September 24 at Beech Acres Park, Anderson, OH. The Walk-A-

Thon is a school-wide activity that assists in raising funds for extracurricular activities such as student conventions, teacher conventions, transportation expenses, field trips, and various other needs. Having raised more than \$14,000 during this event, ACA anticipates purchasing a new sign. Congratulations to all the students for working so hard! Thank



ACA students walk to raise funds.

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.

HITHER AND THITHER

GBS alumni John (BRE ’78) and Cathy (Horrall) (1978) Parker have been invited to be the featured speakers at the Marriage Matters couples retreat, “Love’s Treasures in Earthen Vessels,” held at Carlisle Inn in Walnut Creek, OH, on February 26 and 27, 2014. For more information contact Ruth Dotson at redotson15@gmail.com or by phone at 937-414-5408.

Dr. David Wright was inaugurated as the ninth president of Indiana Wesleyan University on Friday, October 4, in the Chapel Auditorium on the main campus at Marion, Indiana. Wright served as the University’s first provost before acceding to the presidency this July, when

former President Dr. Henry Smith (GBS HS ’69, BRE ’73) retired to assume the office of Chancellor.

The Wesleyan Church in North America set new records in worship attendance, conversions, and baptisms again in 2012-13. More than 1,700 churches in the United States and Canada reported an average weekend worship attendance of 227,692, the highest in the history of the denomination. In fact, for the past 25 years, only twice has worship attendance dipped slightly, and then by less than one percent each time. The past year’s record was 6,357 more than the previous year, a gain of 2.85 percent. Reported conversions for the year totaled 31,792, a gain of 2,659, or 9 percent. The Church reported 11,063 baptisms, up 7.6 percent from the previous year. *(reported by Ron McClung in www.wesleyan.org)*

Evangelical Christian Youth of the Churches of Christ in Christian Union has launched a new youth ministry blog (<http://ccuyouth.wordpress.com/>). As

you to everyone who supported ACA through the Walk-A-Thon!

PHILIP BROWN IS PUBLISHED

Dr. Philip Brown's article "Chrysostom and Epiphanius: Long Hair Prohibited as Covering in 1 Corinthians 11:4,7" was just published in the *Bulletin for Biblical Research*, the technical journal for the Institute of Biblical Research, of which he is a fellow. (Article available at <http://s.gbs.edu/pbrownbbr>.)

OPEN AIR CAMPAIGNERS

by Dr. Mark Bird, professor

The third week of October was packed with a lot of activity and excitement as the Open Air Campaigners (OAC) came to train GBS students to use sketch boards and paints to present the Gospel in public. Many other students were involved as well. OAC leader Eric Briscoe commented later in the



week, "Student participation gets better every year!" We had at least a dozen services to give each trainee a chance to present what he or she had learned. Through these services, hundreds of people were exposed to the Gospel, and some made moves toward God! At Fountain Square on Monday, the school quartets helped prepare the atmosphere for the sketch board messages.

Children's services occurred every afternoon at various places in the city, and adult messages were preached around noon every day at the University of Cincinnati or downtown. Afterwards, people came up and asked for materials; the teams didn't even have to make an effort to hand them out.

Students seemed to really embrace the challenge to get out of their comfort zone and share the Gospel with those around them. Some who tend to be more timid report that God helped them have the boldness they needed. Others had the opportunity to face and overcome the disappointments that open air ministry can present. Overall, it was a great week with a lot of growth and new experiences for GBS students.

ALDERSGATE FORUM

by Dr. Phil Brown, coordinator

With nearly 60 in attendance, the 2013 Aldersgate Forum with ➡

part of the ECY website, the blog provides resources and encouragement for those who minister to and care for young people. The blog is updated each Tuesday with helpful posts for youth leaders, ministry volunteers, pastors, and parents.

Wesley Seminary has begun using its new \$7 million building this fall and dedicated it in a special ceremony on Thursday, October 3. The Seminary offers Master of Arts and Master of Divinity degrees in English and Spanish. It is located at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana.



BIRTHS

To **Elisabeth (Clemens) (HS '02, BA '06)** and **Jonathan (HS '99, AA '03) Avery**, a son, **Elliott David**, born August 28, in Cincinnati. Elisabeth is an adjunct

professor for the GBS Teacher Ed Division, and Jonathan, an adjunct professor for GBS General Studies Division, is a CPA working at the David Jones Company.



DEATHS

Levi Adams (GBS HS '00), 32, of Leawood, KS, died October 8 in a commercial diving accident in southeast Alaska. Adams and another worker were diving in a commercial sea cucumber fishery harvest Tuesday morning near the Mountain Point area of Ketchikan. South Tongass Fire Chief Steve Rydeen says the other man surfaced, noting the "air didn't taste right." Adams didn't surface. He was pulled from the water, and responders attempted CPR. He was taken to Ketchikan Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead. There is an ongoing investigation. ■



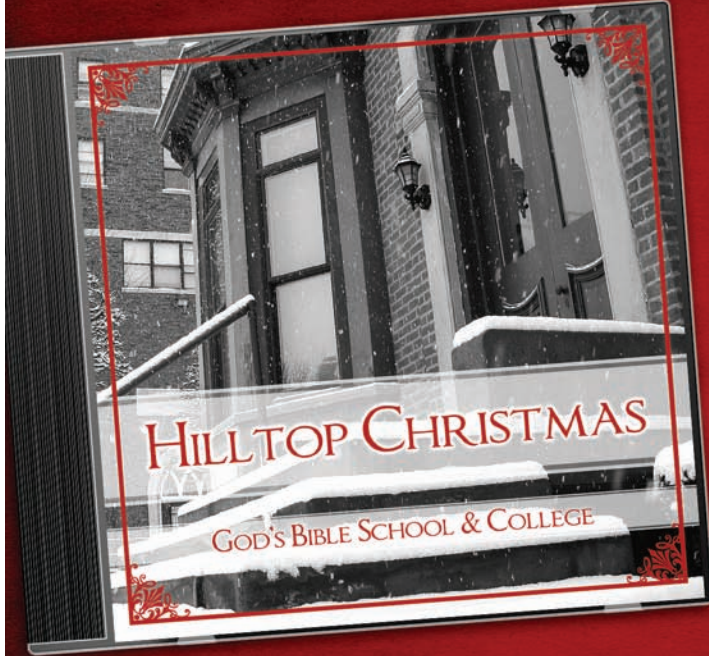
Dr. Patterson leads a session.

➡ Dr. George Patterson was the best Forum yet. Bringing a wealth of personal experience in church planting movements and mentoring, George Patterson opened the attendees' minds to the explosive poten-

tial of reigniting John Wesley's method of church planting. The Forum focused on five essentials for seeing a church planting movement: 1) multiply tiny, interactive, holy bodies within a larger church body;

2) go do field preaching in any way where folk respond, in meetings of any size; 3) assure of God's grace to all who repent and trust Jesus; 4) obey Jesus' orders from the start as a body; 5) mentor apprentice leaders on the job while pastoring and modeling skills.

Also present were three of Patterson's protégés bringing contemporary examples of what God is doing around the world. Jay Pratt reported on the church planting movement God initiated through him in Burma: over 30,000 Buddhists have been baptized within the last twelve years, following Jesus, and leading their Hindu and Muslim neighbors to Christ. Ed Aw reported on what God is doing through him in India: a "2nd track" church planting movement in Assam



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that has seen tens of thousands of Indians baptized and obeying Jesus fully. Dean Davis, who serves with OMS, shared how Wesley's method has produced a church planting movement in Spain among immigrants from South America. If you would like more information about this forum, please contact pbrown@gbs.edu.

“STRENGTHEN FOR GROWTH”

The invitation went out – “Pres. Avery, the Administrative Committee, and the Board of Trustees cordially invite full-time employees and their spouses for dinner and a celebration.” What was not shared in the



invitation was that board members had personally underwritten all charges associated with the event, which was held at the Higher Ground Conference and Retreat Center in West Harrison, IN. Several of the trustees were in attendance and took the opportunity to express their appreciation for the excellent faculty and staff. The main attraction was President Avery's presentation showing the progress GBS has made through the various cycles of strategic planning from 1995 to the present. The grand finale was the first look at the new strategic plan – “Strengthen for Growth” – which has five major goals: *Ensure* GBS's longevity; *Enlarge* our resource base; *Expand* our capacity; *Enhance* our effectiveness; *Extend* our reach. More will be said about these later. Pray that God will bless our efforts. Look for ways you can be involved.

CHARLOTTE FREDERICK RECOGNIZED AS OUTSTANDING TEACHER



Student Advisory Team members Meagan Cravens and Mikah Litchfield accompanied VP for Academic Affairs Aaron Profitt to deliver Holtman's doughnuts to Charlotte Frederick's Introduction to Church and Family

Ministry class. From student-body nominations, Charlotte had been selected for honor during October. Here are a few selected student comments: “I can see her obvious passion for teaching us truth; and her love for her job and for her students is incredible.” “...She works really hard to learn the material and put it into easy-to-understand terms.” “She loves to have fun. She understands students' boredom so she tries to make her classes fun.” Congratulations, Charlotte!

ADEP RELEASES SPRING SCHEDULE

Aldersgate Distance Education Program is pleased to announce that the following blended classes (each having a two-day session on campus) will be offered spring 2014: Math Concepts and Applications, Church Planting, Science Methods, Fundamentals of Biblical Theology, and a dual credit course taught by Dr. Gareth Cockerill of Wesley Biblical Seminary. For this class, one may earn both college and graduate credit (GBS and WBS). Many other courses are available as fully online courses through ADEP. For more information, go to www.gbs.edu/adep or write Dr. Mark Bird at mbird@gbs.edu.

FRIEND & SIBLING DAY

There was a great turnout for Friend & Sibling Day, Friday, November 1. Nearly twenty prospective students were able to make time to come experience GBS campus. Festivities began on Thursday night with some great games of volleyball and basketball in the gym. Then on Friday the visitors had an opportunity to attend classes and chapel with their hosts. That afternoon we concluded the day with a trip to the Creation Museum, courtesy of GBS alumni. Great connections were made with these prospective students, and we're already looking forward to next year! 📌



Pres. Avery with students and their guest siblings and friends

Dear Phil

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF BIBLE STUDY

I have not had the opportunity to attend Bible college. How can I study the Bible to get as much as possible without special training? —Mark

Dear Mark,

There are four basic things that every English speaker can do that will take them a long way down the path of Bible study without knowing the original languages or having formal training in hermeneutics: study context, compare translations, check commentaries, and regularly read all the Bible.

First, **study context.** Every word has the following biblical contexts: word → sentence → paragraph → section → book → author's other works → other books of the same genre → NT/OT. If you are working in the NT, the OT forms the largest context. If you are working in the OT, then you must also consider how the NT interprets your passage. Cross references are your friend for identifying OT backgrounds to NT texts or NT uses of OT texts. It is a lot of work to study things in context, but there is no substitute for it.

For example, in 1 Corinthians 15:31 I read, "I die daily." To find out what Paul means by this sentence, I check the immediate context before and after this verse. In v.30 Paul says he is "in jeopardy every hour." In v.32 he talks about fighting with beasts at Ephesus. Checking the paragraph in which this verse occurs (15:28-32), I see that Paul is arguing

that suffering for the gospel is pointless if there is no resurrection. So, both the immediate and sectional contexts clarify that Paul is talking about being in danger of dying physically. He is not talking about some kind of spiritual death to self.

Second, **compare translations.** While you study the contexts of your passage, you should check your version for footnotes that offer alternate translations and compare your version with other English translations of the Bible. There are three basic types of translations available in English: word-for-word (KJV, NASB, ESV, LEB), thought-for-thought (HCSB, NIV, TNIV, CEB), and paraphrases (NLT, CEV, LB, TM). Regardless of which text you are studying, you should check at least one other version from each of these categories. When you compare translations, you are looking both for differences and for similarities. Similarities assure you that there is general agreement among a large variety of scholars regarding the text's meaning. Differences alert you to three possibilities: (1) there are more precise ways to express the original in English, (2) there is disagreement about how to interpret the original

Greek/Hebrew text, or (3) there is disagreement regarding the original wording in Greek/Hebrew. Let me give you an example of each of these.

In Romans 13:13, the KJV reads, "Let us walk honestly." If I read only the KJV text, I will conclude Paul is admonishing the Romans to avoid being deceptive and to conduct themselves transparently. Checking the KJV margin I see "or, decently." When I check other versions, I see they read "Let us behave properly" (NASB), "Let us behave decently" (NIV), "we must live decent lives" (NLT). Checking the *Oxford English Dictionary*, I learn that the first sense of "honestly" is "in an honorable or respectful manner, honorably, worthily, respectably; in a seemly or becoming manner; decently," but now this sense is obsolete. So, I conclude that the KJV meant "decently" by its use of the word "honestly," and modern versions have chosen words that express that meaning more clearly.

In Psalm 68:19, the KJV reads, "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits." The fact that so many words are in italics (meaning they were added by the translators) prompts me to check the margin and compare other translations. My KJV has no marginal note here. Other versions read, "who daily bears us up" (ESV); "who daily bears our burden"(NASB); "day after day He bears our burdens" (HCSB, NIV); "you treat us with kindness day after day" (CEV). All my modern word-for-word and thought-for-thought translations agree this verse is about God bearing me or my burdens. That suggests they have a different understanding of the original text.

To be continued...

Philip ■

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



KILLING CHRISTIANS WITH IMPUNITY?

by Jerry Newcombe

November 10, 2013, marks the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. When I was a child, I somehow picked up the notion that persecution against the Christian church basically ended with the collapse of the Roman Empire. But it turns out that the last century was the worst century ever for the persecution of Christians and martyrdom. Dr. David Barrett, a leading church statistician, says there were more Christians martyred in the 20th century than had been murdered in all previous centuries combined.

Persecution today continues to rear its ugly head in various places around the globe, such as in remnant Communist countries, like Vietnam or North Korea. But anti-Christian persecution is especially found in the Middle East and those places where the philosophy of Islamism – a supremacist form of Islam – prevails.

It's a cliché by now, but it's true: The Arab Spring has turned into the Christian Winter.

Dr. Peter Hammond of Frontline Fellowship says that just in the last few years the Christian population in the Middle East has shrunk from about 15 million to 13 million. Most of these have fled the homes their families have occupied for multiple generations – or perhaps even millennia.

More than 100 or so Christian cathedrals, churches, and schools have been destroyed in Egypt just in the last couple of months. One Cairo-based church cancelled the Sunday-morning service in August for the first time in 1,300 years. Recently, American attention has been focused on Syria, though it has somewhat subsided as of late, since a US strike has seemingly been averted for the moment. Thousands of Christians still live in Syria, but their lives and future are in jeopardy, as are the lives of many Muslims who do not buy into the Islamist philosophy of the Syrian rebels.

For *The Daily Beast*, Kirsten Powers, wrote, "A Global Slaughter of Christians, but America's Churches Stay Silent" (9/27/13). She notes, "Christians in the Middle East and Africa are being slaughtered, tortured, raped, kidnapped, beheaded, and forced to flee the birthplace of Christianity. One would think this horror might be consuming the pulpits and pews of American churches. Not so. The silence has been nearly deafening."

It's time to shatter the silence and mobilize the prayer warriors. The least we can do is pray. ■

Dr. Jerry Newcombe is a key archivist of the D. James Kennedy Legacy Library and has written or co-written 23 books, including The Book That Made America: How the Bible Formed Our Nation. His website can be accessed at www.jerrynewcombe.com.



student focus

MATTHEW CLARK is described by other students as "compassionate and friendly," but life has not always been kind to him. On a rainy night in 2002, while his father was returning home from work, his car hydroplaned and collided head-on with another vehicle, killing his father instantly. Only 12 years old, Matthew lost the person he admired as one of the greatest men he had ever known.

After graduating from high school, Matthew began attending a local college and working in the medical records department of a local hospital in his hometown of Selma, Alabama. It was during this period that he began to feel called by God to attend God's Bible School and College.

Matthew is actively involved in local ministry in Cincinnati where he is a member of a team of students who reach out to inner-city children, presenting them with the Gospel. What Matthew especially likes about GBS is the "wonderful spiritual atmosphere on campus and the godly teachers in the classrooms who have a genuine interest in my spiritual development." ■

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

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

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



Christmas Day in the Morning

by Pearl S. Buck

He woke suddenly and completely. It was four o'clock, the hour at which his father had always called him to get up and help with the milking. Strange how the habits of his youth clung to him still! Fifty years ago, and his father had been dead for thirty years, and yet he waked at four o'clock in the morning. He had trained himself to turn over and go to sleep, but this morning it was Christmas, he did not try to sleep.

Why did he feel so awake tonight? He slipped back in time, as he did so easily nowadays. He was fifteen years old and still on his father's farm. He loved his father. He had not known it until one day a few days before Christmas, when he had overheard what his father was saying to his mother.

"Mary, I hate to call Rob in the mornings. He's growing so fast and he needs his sleep. If you could see how he sleeps when I go in to wake him up! I wish I could manage alone."

"Well, you can't, Adam." His mother's voice was brisk. "Besides, he isn't a child anymore. It's time he took his turn."

"Yes," his father said slowly. "But I sure do hate to wake him."

When he heard these words, something in him spoke: his father loved him! He had never thought of that before, taking for granted the tie of their blood. Neither his father nor his mother talked about loving their children – they had no time for such things. There was always so much to do on the farm.

Now that he knew his father loved him, there would be no loitering in the mornings and having to be called again. He got up after that, stumbling blindly in his sleep, and pulled on his clothes, his eyes shut, but he got up.

And then on the night before Christmas, that year when he was fifteen, he lay for a few minutes thinking about the next day. They were poor, and most of the excitement was in the turkey they had raised themselves and mince pies his mother made. His sisters sewed presents and his mother and father always bought him something he needed, not only a warm jacket, maybe, but something more, such as a book. And he saved and bought them each something, too.

He wished, that Christmas when he was fifteen, he had a better present for his father. As usual he had gone to the ten-cent store and bought a tie. It had seemed nice enough until he lay thinking the night before Christmas. He looked out of his attic window, the stars were bright.

“Dad,” he had once asked when he was a little boy, “What is a stable?”

“It’s just a barn,” his father had replied, “like ours.”

Then Jesus had been born in a barn, and to a barn the shepherds had come...

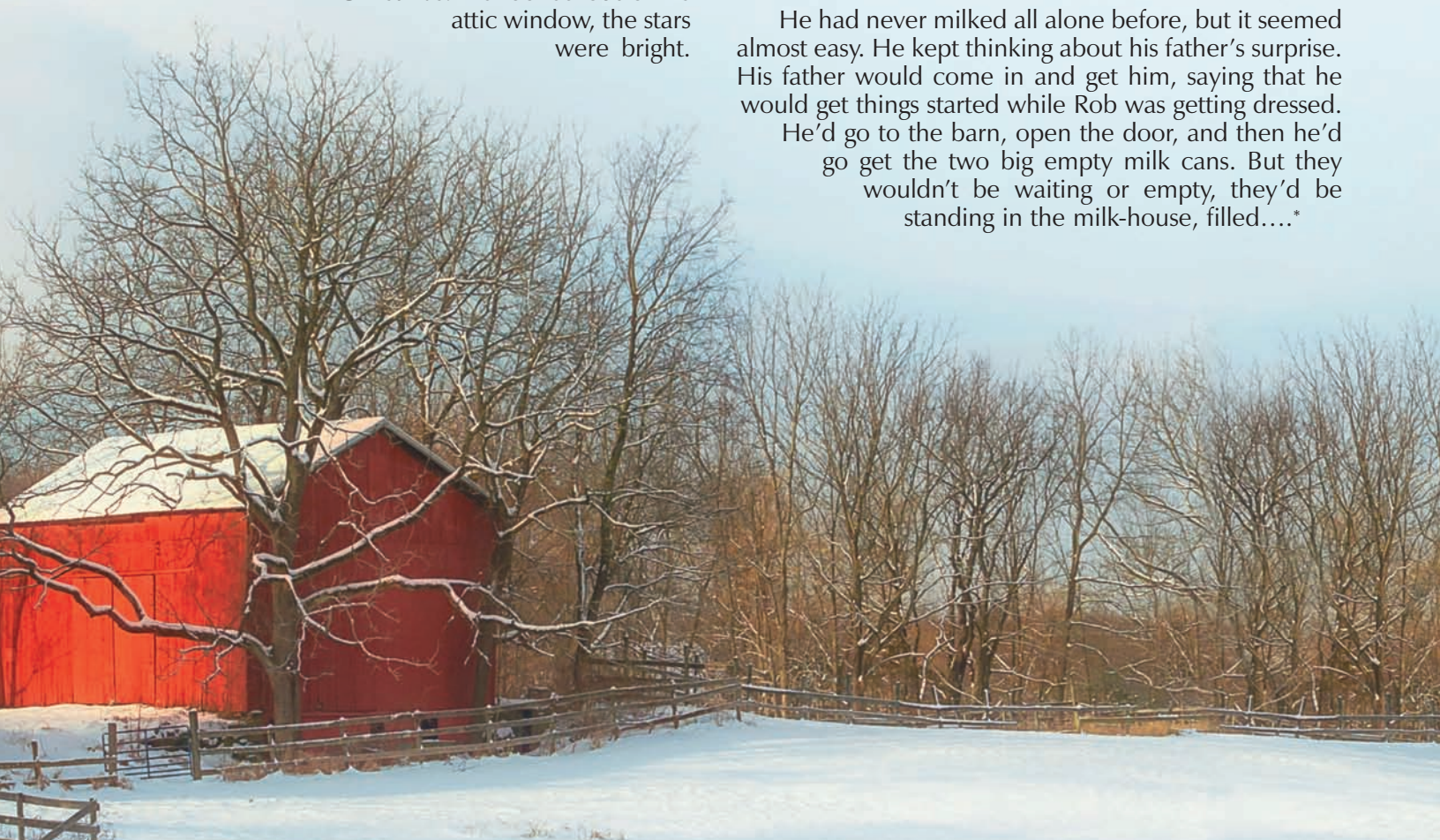
The thought struck him like a silver dagger. Why should he not give his father a special gift too, out there in the barn? He could get up early, earlier than four o’clock, and he could creep into the barn and get all the milking done. He’d do it alone, milk and clean up, and then when his father went in to start the milking he’d see it all done. And he would know who had done it. He laughed to himself as he gazed at the stars. It was what he would do, and he mustn’t sleep too sound.

He must have waked twenty times, scratching a match to look each time to look at his old watch – midnight, and half past one, and then two o’clock.

At a quarter to three he got up and put on his clothes. He crept downstairs, careful of the creaky boards, and let himself out. The cows looked at him, sleepy and surprised. It was early for them, too.

He had never milked all alone before, but it seemed almost easy. He kept thinking about his father’s surprise. His father would come in and get him, saying that he would get things started while Rob was getting dressed.

He’d go to the barn, open the door, and then he’d go get the two big empty milk cans. But they wouldn’t be waiting or empty, they’d be standing in the milk-house, filled....*



He smiled and milked steadily, two strong streams rushing into the pail, frothing and fragrant.

The task went more easily than he had ever known it to go before. Milking for once was not a chore. It was something else, a gift to his father who loved him. He finished, the two milk cans were full, and he covered them and closed the milk-house door carefully, making sure of the latch.

Back in his room he had only a minute to pull off his clothes in the darkness and jump into bed, for he heard his father up. He put the covers over his head to silence his quick breathing. The door opened.

“Rob!” His father called. “We have to get up, son, even if it is Christmas.”

“Aw-right,” he said sleepily.

The door closed and he lay still, laughing to himself. In just a few minutes his father would know. His dancing heart was ready to jump from his body.

The minutes were endless – ten, fifteen, he did not know how many – and he heard his father’s footsteps again. The door opened and he lay still.

“Rob!”

“Yes, Dad...”

His father was laughing, a queer sobbing sort of laugh.

“Thought you’d fool me, did you?” His father was standing by his bed, feeling for him, pulling away the cover.

“It’s for Christmas, Dad!”

He found his father and clutched him in a great hug. He felt his father’s arms go around him. It was dark and they could not see each other’s faces.

“Son, I thank you. Nobody ever did a nicer thing...”

“Oh, Dad, I want you to know – I do want to be good!” The words broke from him of their own will. He did not know what to say. His heart was bursting with love.

He got up and pulled on his clothes again and they went down to the Christmas tree. Oh what a Christmas, and how his heart had nearly burst again with shyness and pride as his father told his mother and made the

younger children listen about how he, Rob, had got up all by himself.

“The best Christmas gift I ever had, and I’ll remember it, son, every year on Christmas morning, so long as I live.”

They had both remembered it, and now that his father was dead, he remembered it alone: that blessed Christmas dawn when, alone with the cows in the barn, he had made his first gift of true love.

This Christmas he wanted to write a card to his wife and tell her how much he loved her, it had been a long time since he had really told her, although he loved her in a very special way, much more than he ever had when they were young. He had been fortunate that she had loved him. Ah, that was the true joy of life, the ability to love. Love was still alive in him, it still was.

It occurred to him suddenly that it was alive because long ago it had been born in him when he knew his father loved him. That was it: Love alone could awaken love. And he could give the gift again and again. This morning, this blessed Christmas morning, he would give it to his beloved wife. He could write it down in a letter for her to read and keep forever. He went to his desk and began his love letter to his wife: My dearest love...

Such a happy, happy Christmas! ■

Pearl S. Buck (1892-1973) was born in West Virginia and reared in China. She received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1938.

* Slightly adapted from the original, which is in the public domain.





JESUS CAME TO TEACH US HOW TO HAVE "THE MIND OF CHRIST"

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

Scripture: Philippians 2:1-11

God's Son takes on humanity! He leaves the glories of heaven, He lays aside the display of His glory, He humbles himself and is born in a manger. As he grows, the King of glory chooses the role of a servant. Further, He willingly lays aside all His self-rights and becomes obedient even unto death! Why does He do this?

Philippians 2:1-11 gives us one of the many reasons. In addition to providing deliverance from our sins (Mat. 1:21), Jesus came to liberate us from our self-centeredness. Such liberation is known as having "the mind of Christ."

Paul tells us that our heavenly Father has provided all the resources we need in order to adopt the "mind of Christ" (Phil. 2:1-2d). Then, after describing the characteristics of "the mind of Christ" (Phil. 2:2e-4), Paul illustrates "the mind of Christ" by describing Jesus' decisions to humble Himself, to surrender His self-rights, and to obey fully the will of His Father (Phil. 2:5-11).

I. The RESOURCES God provides to enable Christians to develop the mind of Christ (Phil. 2:1).

Every Christian, because of his new relationship with God through Jesus Christ, receives four resources designed to enable him to develop "the mind of Christ" (to be tender, loving, and kind in all personal relationships).

A. We receive encouragement from Christ (2a):
"If there be therefore any consolation in Christ" [the "if" clauses are assumed to be true].

To each of us is given the consolation (or encouragement) that comes from being united with Christ ("consolation in Christ"). As our Savior, Jesus demonstrates the value He places upon each Christian by adopting us into His own family (Gal. 4:5; Eph. 1:5). Meditation on this gracious act of kindness should bring great encouragement and a godly sense of our value as children of the King!

B. We receive comfort from Christ's love (2b):
"if any comfort of love."

Each of us has received personal comfort from His love for us. His love to us is without limit. He loved us when we were unlovely. He loves us though we are often slow to learn how to return such wondrous love. The more we meditate on His unconditional love, the more He can help us to learn how to love others like He loves us.

C. We receive the help of the Holy Spirit (2c):
"if any fellowship of the Spirit."

Each of us has entered into partnership (koinonia) with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit's strength and transforming power is now available to us ("fellowship of the Spirit"). We are not asked to develop "the mind of Christ" through our own willpower or strength. Rather, we are to draw continually from the inexhaustible resources of the Holy Spirit so we can demonstrate Christlike attitudes and behavior toward others.

D. We receive gentle treatment from God (2d):
"if any bowels and mercies."

Each of us receives and continues to receive tenderness and compassion ("bowels and mercies") from God in spite of our weakness, our ignorance, our slowness to "catch on" to what God is trying to teach us, and our periodic stumblings. His goodness to us is designed to teach us, likewise, to be patient and kind to others.

God provides every Christian with these four spiritual resources to enable them to develop "the mind of Christ."

II. The CHARACTERISTICS of the mind of Christ (Phil. 2:2e-4).

The "mind of Christ" is developed by choosing to view other Christians with an attitude of cooperation, rather than one of competitiveness or combativeness, and to develop both a compassionate concern and a positive attitude toward them.

A. The mind of Christ is cooperative (2:2):
"Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."

The “mind of Christ” requires that we learn to think about one another with understanding compassion rather than irritation or criticism. Paul told the Philippians that he was modeling “the mind of Christ” (Phil. 3:17;4:9) by “thinking” (*phronein* Phil. 1:7) charitably toward them. He looked for and majored on their strengths, not their weaknesses or shortcomings. The verb for thinking (*phroneo*) is used twice in verse 2, stressing the need for proper thinking about others as a prerequisite for the “mind of Christ.” Could it be that some of us are too quick to express disagreement?

B. The mind of Christ is not competitive or combative (2:3): “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”

The “mind of Christ” is not self-centered. Apart from the grace of God, each of us automatically focuses on our own feelings, likes, dislikes, and preferences. We too quickly forget that as servants of the Lord, we are forbidden to strive or quarrel with each other (2 Tim. 2:24a). Rather, we are to esteem others highly and treat them as we wish to be treated. We are to choose to be patient when wronged and to be long-suffering when dealing with difficult people (2 Tim. 2:24b, 25). The “mind of Christ” refuses to do what the world teaches us to do – to stand up for our rights and to assert our own feelings and views. Yes, we have a right to our views, but we must learn how to avoid strife and not come across as “combative” or as a “know-it-all.”

The “mind of Christ” seeks to avoid “vainglory,” which is the desire for personal recognition and credit. Our goal is to seek God’s approval, rather than man’s approval (2 Cor. 10:18). Everything we do is to be for His glory, not our own glory (1 Cor. 10:31). In lowliness of mind (genuine Christlike humility) we are to esteem others more highly than we esteem ourselves (2:3b).

C. The mind of Christ has compassionate concern for others (2:4): “Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.”

One of the greatest obstacles to developing the “mind of Christ” is self-centeredness, which shows itself by our being more concerned that others understand what we think and feel than what they think and feel.

We are commanded to put other people’s feelings and their good above our own feelings and our own good. Paul said, “Don’t think only of your own good. Think of other Christians and what is best for them” (1 Cor. 10:24).

III. Jesus: the greatest example of what the “mind of Christ” looks like (Phil. 2:5-11).

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Phil 2:5). To understand the impact of this command, we need to think about who Jesus was before He was born as a babe in Bethlehem.

A. Jesus’ position prior to His incarnation (2:6a): “Who, being in the form of God....” As the eternal Son of God, Jesus enjoyed the glory and praise of all the angels of heaven since in majesty he was co-eternal with the Father and with the Holy Spirit.

B. Jesus’ decision to become the God-man (2:6b-8): “thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

Because of His love for fallen mankind, Jesus willingly laid aside His glory, and also laid aside His “form” as God, and took upon Himself the “form” of a servant.

This does not mean that Jesus laid aside His deity. He could not do that! Rather He chose to set aside all of his “self-rights” – His right to be recognized as the Creator of the world, His right to be treated with honor and respect, His right to be loved – and “became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

Paul calls Jesus’ self-humbling and His refusal to demand His “rights” as “the mind of Christ.” Jesus pleased not himself (Rom. 15:3). He put the needs and concerns of others above His own personal needs and concerns. And by virtue of the bond that exists between fellow-Christians who are united in Christ Jesus, we are to think about each other and treat each other as Christ treated us.

As an incentive to be Christlike in our attitudes and behavior, Paul reminds us of Jesus’ post-resurrection exaltation and glorification by the Father. The implication is that if we take the road of humility with Christ, and develop the “mind of Christ,” someday we will also be exalted and glorified with Him (1 Pet. 5:6; Rom. 8:17; 2 Tim. 2:11).

Conclusion:

Charles Wesley penned, “Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity; Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel.” Will you, like your Savior, humble yourself and surrender to God your “self-rights”? Will you obey the command to “let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus”? ■

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

CAMEROON. Through contacts with children in Sunday school and Good News Clubs at Evangelical Bible Mission's Ministry Center in Limbe, Cameroon, missionaries Victor and Claudine Chamberlin saw that the children were unable to read even first grade material. This fact, along with low moral living among the youth and older adults, and corruption everywhere, impressed upon them the need for teaching young children. As a result, EBM School was launched in 1999 with five students. By 2004 enrollment had grown to over 300! Every year since, they have had to turn away many children due to lack of funds, lack of space, lack of teachers. If you would like to help them reach the hurting, needy people of



Cameroon you may do so through www.ebminternational.com/donate.

CANADA. The Sunchild and O'Chiese Reserves, located 35 miles from Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, in the foothills of the Canadian Rockies, were formed in 1945 and 1950 when various families of Cree, Saulteaux, and Chippewa Indians, who were living in the area but had never signed treaties with the Canadian government, came together to form these reserves. After about four years of outreach work, Karen and Rodger Rinker (Evangelical Bible Mission) moved into the Sunchild Reserve and established the only church and mission of any kind on these two reserves of about 3,000 people. They have had an outreach ministry to this area of the Arctic since the early 1980s.



CHINA. Bob and Kay Bickert have temporarily relocated from Wilmore, Kentucky, to Greensboro, North Carolina, to help launch a discipleship ministry at the Wesleyan Church pastored by their son-in-law Tom Raven. This doesn't mean they are rooted there, however. These long-term missionaries have recently seen their ministry to China expanded for February and March of 2014. Also, both will be teaching a 2014 term at the Cordillera Wesleyan Bible College in the Philippines. Bob served on the GBS faculty 1987-90 and 2004-05 and Kay was Dean of Women 1987-89 and their four children attended GBS.



HUNGARY. Ed Durham (GBS 1975-79) is pleased with the success of the

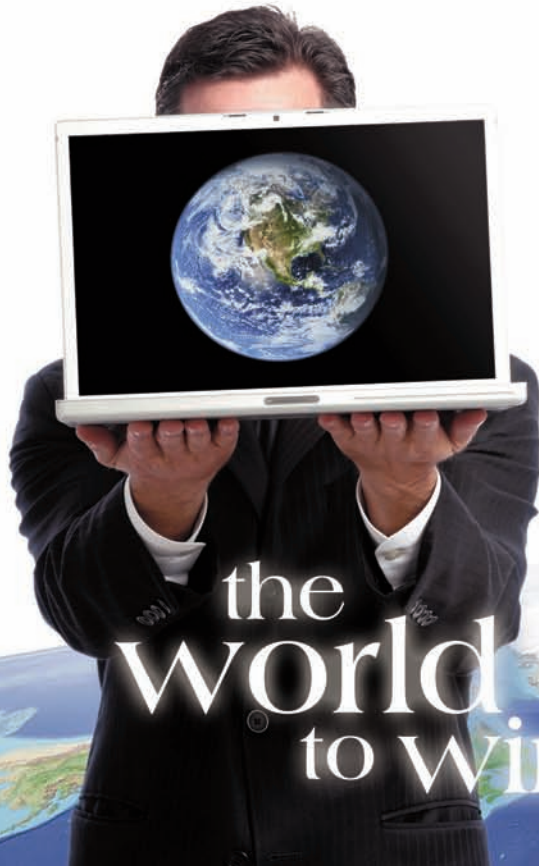


Summer Outreach Ministry, passing out Christian literature on the streets of Budapest, Hungary. The Gospel message was spread to thousands of people around bus stops and metro stations. In preparation for this effort, 20,000 tracts were designed and printed which included a simple Gospel message, phone numbers to call or a website to visit (www.behindtheface.org) which has been enjoying a good number of visitors. Pray that this outreach will continue to bear fruit.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA. Bible translation has started for the 10,000 or so Solos speaking people (Buka Island, Papua New Guinea). This effort involves Lawrence and Christy Dole, Church of God (Holiness) missionaries, and Bible translators in partnership with COGH World Mission Department and Wycliffe Bible Translators. Nine Solos men and women participated in the six-week Translator's Training Course which equipped them to actually do Bible translation in the village. This will be a long process. Pray with them.



RUSSIA. Richard and Judy Grout (Hope International Missions) report from Vyborg, Russia, that the Christian Center continues to host many guests, the greatest number coming to the young people's meeting on Friday nights. There are also several other Christian youth groups that have sprung up as local church leaders are seeing the vision of reaching young people. Twenty years ago, the congregations in the established evangelical churches were mostly elderly grandmothers. Now almost all the churches are "buzzing with wee ones bouncing back and forth and with teenagers and young adults actively involved." ■



the world to win



A "NEEDY STUDENT" IS PROMOTED:

Helen Wallace Weaver Peterson

How many "needy students" have attended God's Bible School and College? Over the years GBS has opened its doors to students who needed financial assistance to attend. To this day the Student Work Program makes it possible for young people to attend college who otherwise would not be able to afford it. I have met many alumni who share their thankfulness for an outstretched hand of support through the Student Work Program. One such alumnus recently was promoted to heaven. Here is her story in the words of her son, Mike:

My mom, Helen Wallace, born in 1917, was raised by a loving family. She grew up loving flowers, art, and music. At age 16 she was saved and committed the rest of her life to doing whatever she could to follow His way. At age 23 she attended God's Bible School (1940-41). GBS was a transformation for her in many ways and she remained loyal to GBS throughout her years. That is where she met my father, Frederick Mott Weaver (GBS 1940-41). "Poor as a church mouse" was often the way she described her time at GBS and were it not for the "needy students" fund and a chance to work in the book binding area, she would not have managed her year at GBS. That is why she tithed monthly to GBS to help today's "needy students" as best she could.

Mom and Dad were in the GBS environment almost a year before WWII really broke out. Dad had made his interest known to Mom while they were at GBS, but Mom was not "sure," so Dad left when he was drafted into the Army Air Force where he served as a conscientious objector medic after basic training. Meanwhile Mom moved temporarily to Chicago to work for a time after her year at GBS. However, she told us, "It finally dawned on me that I really did love Fred and wanted to marry him." So she contacted him while he was finishing up basic training and they agreed to meet in Biloxi, Mississippi, where they married August 16, 1942.

Dad served at Eglin AFB, Florida, throughout WWII, then for a few years in Civil Service before both he and Mom relocated to Enon, Ohio, to be closer to their family. Both took Civil Service jobs at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, until their retirements in the early 1970s, after which they relocated to Freeport, Florida. After Dad passed away in 1984, Mom lived alone until she met and later married Luther Peterson, a retired preacher who passed away in 2001.

Mom was a strong "pioneer woman," able to do most things on her own. She had some good role models in her involvement with missionary work, many of whom she corresponded with by long, handwritten letters over the years; and later, when Mom was in her 80s, after she learned about the Internet, she kept current via emails. For the last three years of her life, Mom moved in with Karen

and me, understanding that her health was progressively failing. Mom passed March 26, 2013, less than a week after an operation to repair a broken femur. We all miss her but know she was ready.

Mom fondly remembered until she passed the visit by President Avery and Ruth in May 2011. It meant so much to Mom to touch base one last time with her treasured GBS roots.

Helen, Bill, Agnes, John, Eldon, Paul, Dale, Sara.





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THOUGHTS for the quiet hour

by Sonja Vernon

A LESSON FROM THE MAGI

“After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” —Matt. 2:11 NASB

The Magi were students of the heavens, scholars that followed starry signs on a long and difficult journey to find a King. How odd it must have been to arrive in Jerusalem expecting celebrations only to be greeted by confusion. A hasty check with resident scholars gave the name of a town, and so they journeyed on to Bethlehem. At last the star led them to the place, and again it must have been a strange sensation to see a humble home instead of a palace. They were searching for a King; and they found a poor carpenter, his new wife, and a young child – no fanfare, no signs of royalty, just a house with a family inside. But I love their response. They didn’t pack up and go home in disappointment. They fell down and worshiped the Child and gave Him their finest gifts. They knew they had found the One. All over the world the same signs were visible, but very few recognized Him. A King was in their midst, but they couldn’t see Him. Are we purposefully seeking Christ this Christmas season? Will we perceive His presence if it appears, if it interrupts our agenda in a form we aren’t expecting? Will we fall down and worship or will we miss Him altogether? God is with us! Let our hearts be ready for His appearing. ■

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



A visit by Pres. and Mrs. Avery in 2011.

Helen is survived by her brother, Eugene; sister, Yvonne; two sons, Mike and Stephen; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

* * * * *

If you are a GBS alumnus, especially one who benefited like Helen from the on-campus work opportunities and needy student fund, why not consider giving something back to your alma mater? There are several giving opportunities that will make a difference in the lives of young people attending GBS today. A donation to the Student Work Program or an endowed scholarship in your name is an excellent way to say thank you for the support you received as a student. Please contact Faith Avery, Director of Advancement, at favery@gsb.edu. ■



Merry Christmas!

from the students and staff of God's Bible School