

GOD'S REVIVALIST

November 2014

the Advocate



honoring **DON
DAVISON**

GBS Public Relations

Since 1988



about this issue

One important focus of this issue is on the service of Don Davison to the public relations effort at God's Bible School. Beyond simply celebrating his longevity in this position, we acknowledge the quality of his contribution. President Avery rightfully identifies him as the "best out-loud talker in America" (p.3) and notes some of the ways Don has benefited GBS. Amber, one of Don's daughters, gives us a glimpse into how "little Donny Davison" grew up to be a great communicator and a wonderful husband and father (p.5). Other family members offer tributes along with long-time colleague Martha Miller. This section ends with Don's article, "Sensing the Storm" (p.8).

With this issue, we premier another focus—holiness heroines—beginning with Paula Pierpoint's article about Phoebe Palmer (p.12). Periodically we intend to highlight biographical sketches of women who were major influences in the beginning of the Holiness Movement. Additionally, we will continue to present articles written by Christian women of our day. (If you have an article you would like us to consider for publication, send it to kfarmer@gbs.edu.) Two such writers are featured on page 14. In "Don't Forfeit the Grace!" Becky Keep admonishes us to remember that God is our ever-present source of help and that we should quickly run to Him. In "Hearing the Negative," Cathy Parker acknowledges that being able to receive criticism graciously takes understanding on both ends of the communication—speaker and hearer.

Many readers have indicated their enjoyment of the "Day in the Life of a Student" vignettes. In this issue we introduce you to ministerial education student Jeffrey Paulus (p.9). In "Campus News," be sure to read about the new audio visual equipment recently installed in the Adcock Chapel (p.10). And, finally, listen in as Sonja Vernon interviews her brother Brent about creating books for children (p.18). Enjoy! —KF

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

COVER PHOTO: Fall leaves, Don Davison, and the Centenary Walk. Photo by Kevin Moser.

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STAFF

Ken Farmer, *managing editor*

Kevin Moser, *art director, assistant editor*

Shane Muir, *assistant graphic designer*

Jon Plank, *assistant graphic designer, webmaster*

Larry Smith, *editor*

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

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

the president's page



DON DAVISON: THE FACE OF GBS PUBLIC RELATIONS

by Michael R. Avery, President

Don Davison is the best out-loud talker in America. When he steps before a congregation, people are immediately impressed by this sharply-dressed and well-spoken person. His professional, easy manner is evident, but this “package” actually obscures the behind-the-scenes skills needed to do his job.

Some blather on in an attempt to take up the right amount of time. Others mechanically work through their spiel, hitting the right points without ever really engaging their audience. *And then there is Don.* He knows just what to say and, quite frankly, does so in a way that amazes! Each word seems tailor-made for the next one as sentences form, perfectly illustrating his message.

Being a good PR man is more than those up-front talks, however. It is also about building relationships. Don has the ability to mingle with everybody—the 60-year-old camp president and the 18-year-old college kid. He moves easily among all people.

He is also good with details. He knows churches, pastors, and camp meetings—and how many miles it is from one stop to the next. Being on the road is hard work. It takes stamina. Don has that. In any given year he plans around 35,000 miles of road time and participates himself by traveling about two-thirds of that. He is responsible for selling *Revivalist* subscriptions and GBS recordings, for securing new donors and collecting student interest cards. Public Relations typically brings in about \$128,000 and generates 150 new donors each year. This really helps in keeping GBS moving forward.

When Don returns from a trip, he writes an extensive report on each stop that contains not only mundane statistics, but also information about people and prospects—invaluable information for future planning. A tour can generate a report of more than 30 pages with details that are especially important for institutional advancement and student recruitment.

“There is an awe...a mystique about the GBS campus that never fades though you have served here many years. Its hallowed buildings and grounds continually speak to me of its sacred place in God’s kingdom. To be an ambassador of God’s work here has been an unspeakable privilege.” —Don Davison

No one has excelled beyond Don when it comes to church relations; he is the benchmark. His own words give us a glimpse into the reason for this success: "I love people. I have come to love the individuals that make up the congregations in the churches to which we travel. Spending time in individual churches and homes, trying to build a valued and strong church-relations network for the college—one church and home and person at a time—has been my work and my deep honor!"

Although not as conspicuous as his public presentations, Don's involvement in working with the various PR groups (around 135 different groups, in fact, in more than 25 years of service) is a very "rewarding and personal" part of his ministry. He describes "the priceless times of helping, and, on some level, of mentoring students" he spends time with in field ministry as being particularly satisfying, adding that "the by-the-way conversations and shaping moments" have given a "deeper dimension" to his work.

Don credits God with leading him to GBS. "I have never doubted how I got here. God's leadership in my life has been more about His unseen hand on me than lightning-bolt experiences. From a young age, I had a growing sense that I was to go into ministry. It wasn't something I second-guessed. It came to be in God's providence that I took public relations as my calling—my ministry—over these years."

So, we take this opportunity to mark his long tenure at GBS. It was on February 22, 1988, that Don began his service in public relations, working with Larry Jewett, PR director at that time. About a year later, he moved into the position of director and has ably served in that capacity to the present. This means he has traveled 27 summers in a GBS public relations capacity with the exception of one sabbatical in 2001 (and even then he did a few PR stops just "to help out"). During his time at GBS, he has conducted 50 winter and spring tours for the College Choir and Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble.

Our gratitude also goes to his wife Linda (Raines) and his four children—Eric, Amber, Mandy, and Nate—for allowing their husband and father to spend so many miles on the road for GBS.

The entire GBS family gives a hearty thanks to Don and all the Davison family! ■

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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



TRAIN UP A CHILD

I'll be keeping a copy of this issue handy for sure—probably for the next ten years!—as well as the bonus material online. It seems like so much of what is out there that is intended to be helpful ends up sounding more like criticism. You did a great job keeping it positive.

FAITH A. AVERY
email

I certainly agree with Dr. Avery that fostering obedience is a key component to parenting. The question for many young parents is, "How do we do that?" So many young parents have been led to believe that harsh behavior-modification techniques are the best way to command (rather than foster) obedience. We as parents would be further ahead if we modeled our techniques after the "techniques" God uses to draw our hearts toward Him.

DR. ANDREW GRAHAM
Hobe Sound, Florida

The articles were well written and inspiring. However, I was disappointed that there was not a single article devoted to what is one of the most important aspects of training our children—scripture memorization. If our children have not hidden God's Word in their hearts, they will not be able to stand against the evils of this day and age. God's Word has to become a very part of their hearts and souls.

TWILA (TROYER) GRABILL
Olathe, KS

There are so many wonderful articles that new moms and dads need to read...as well as moms and dads who were NOT blessed to grow up in a loving family relationship. Keep up the good work.

BETTE EDWARDS
Paris, KY



the OFFERING of SERVICE

A TRIBUTE TO DON DAVISON

by Amber (Davison) Jones

There are the banana lady stories, fire station stories, and enough bloopers to fill a book. Hundreds of thousands of miles travelled, thousands of homes visited, and hundreds of fast food burgers eaten. At the end of the day, however, my dad, Don Davison, will tell you that the passion for his job as “PR man” boils down to one thing...relationships.

“Little Donny Davison” was born in Normal, Illinois, on November 19, 1960. Growing up, he relished the attention of his Bloomington Pilgrim Holiness Church family. In fact, he considers the love and spiritual passion of his pastor and wife, Rev. and Mrs. Eugene D. Gray, the greatest spiritually formative influences in his life. Interestingly, this little church first saw Dad’s gift for taking up a good offering. Each Christmas, he would be assigned the “offering poem” to memorize and recite before they would take up the church offering during the Christmas program.

Dad’s educational career had an early start at the local university. Around the age of four years, he was sent to their speech lab to receive help with his stuttering problem—not an auspicious beginning for a man who was to make a living by speaking!

In November 1976, while at work as a dishwasher at the Bonanza steakhouse in Bloomington, Illinois, he was gloriously saved. He recounts that time: “We had been in a revival with evangelist Archie Atwell and the Lord came to me at work, back in the dish room, on a Monday evening, and very personally, clearly led me to break ties with sin and made grace look so beautiful and inviting...I gave my heart to Him right there at the restaurant.”

After his high school graduation in 1977, he enrolled in Illinois State University to study business. Two years later, in the fall of 1979, Dad transferred to GBS. It was at this time that he got a taste of his future PR career traveling as a student representative with quartet groups.

He married the beautiful love of his life, Linda Raines, in August of 1980, while still a student at GBS. In February, 1982, their first child, Eric, was born. Later that year, Dad finished his BRE degree, was ordained as a minister in the Pilgrim Holiness Midwest Conference, and accepted a pastorate in Kokomo, Indiana, where more children were added to the “quiver.” In May, 1983, I was born, and two years later my sister, Mandy, joined us.

In June 1986, Dad became a part of the Union Bible College campus team as their PR director. My little brother, Nate, completed the growing family in June, 1987—just in time to move back to the concrete jungle of Cincinnati in 1988, where Dad had been hired to work with God’s Bible School’s public relations department. Commenting on that move, he said, “I have no doubt that the Lord led me to GBS...I have never doubted how I got here. God’s leadership in my life has been more about His unseen hand on me than lightning bolt experiences. From a young age, I had a growing sense that I was to go into ministry. It wasn’t something I second guessed. It came to be in God’s providence that I took public relations as my calling—my ministry—over these years.”



Little Donny Davison

photo by Courtney Collingsworth

Dad is always quick to state that he has been grateful for the resilient support Mom has demonstrated by standing with him during his many years at GBS. Her countless hours of independently navigating the needs of our home as well as working as an emergency room nurse while Dad traveled the country “made it possible for me to serve at GBS,” Dad says, adding that the behind-the-scenes support was “largely unnoticed, but nonetheless deeply appreciated.”

In the last 26 years, Dad has become known as the “Voice of GBS” and has fine-tuned the art of public relations. His practiced voice has become infamous for playfully imitating some of the

great leaders of our movement as well as giving compelling school presentations and heart-felt half-time talks. Dad loves to have a good time and finds it rewarding to connect with his old quartet members, pastor contacts, and friends across the country that have been established as a result of his position at GBS.

His ministry has been more than just reaching out to constituents and friends of the school; Dad’s heart for his job is also seen in his significant influence on those who have traveled under his direction in GBS quartets, trios, and countless other teams—many of them now leaders in various denominations. This is because, through the years, Dad has developed a special interest in making sure the students under his leadership know he sup-



LINDA (RAINES) DAVISON: “God has blessed me with the privilege of standing by a man whose passion for GBS has given our family the gifts of friends, education, and a heritage of relying on God...unique blessings from living on this Hilltop. I take pleasure in Don’s love, laughter, picturesque insights, deep love for our children, and his willingness to admit mistakes. I also appreciate his gift of sharing, speaking, and connecting with people—he’s never afraid to share his faith. He’s not only my husband, but also my best friend.”

—*Linda (Raines) Davison is a registered nurse.*

MANDY (DAVISON) HOOD: “Every now and then, I have heard Dad mention something to the effect that he wished he could’ve given us more during our childhood. We may not have always had brand new clothes and toys, but there are so many priceless gifts that he, most likely, would not have been able to provide were it not for his years of dedication to GBS. One of those gifts is the wonderful smell of diesel fuel. Let me explain...

“I will never forget the excitement of traveling with all the ‘adults,’ like Keith Waggoner, Matt Barnett, and Phil Bishop, in the 15-passenger quartet van over the years; or the anticipation of riding around on the big bus, seeing the vast countryside and so many far-off places, with some of my biggest heroes—Dad, Martha Miller, and

Garen Wolf. I will always remember that tingly feeling that would flood over me when God’s glory came down in so many of the PR services that I was privileged to sit through.

“Eventually, I grew up and had the privilege to be a member of the college trio, band, and choir and was given the opportunity to experience the ministry side of traveling for Jesus. To this day, the smell of diesel fuel brings a smile to my heart; it will be forever linked to so many innumerable memories...life-shaping memories that you just can’t buy.”

—*Mandy (Davison) Hood (GBS HS '03, BA '09) is a stay-at-home mom who lives in Amelia, OH, with her husband Joel and their child.*

ERIC DAVISON: “Even though he was busiest during his traveling, Dad always tried to take one of us kids with him. Whether it happened to be a youth camp, a church, or IHC, we all saw the best of the holiness movement, thanks to Dad. He included me and my siblings even though it meant more work and headaches. Thanks to his sacrifices though the years, all four of Dad’s kids have a firm foundation rooted in the rich experiences of our childhood.”

—*Eric Davison (GBS HS '00) is a corrections officer who lives in Cincinnati, OH, with his wife Sarah and their 2 children.*

ports them and is always available with a listening ear and affirming word.

During the past year, Dad and I have started sharing our family's story of hope and healing around the country. Dad's courage in setting aside his carefully constructed public image in order to bravely share that the grace of God extends not only to us as individuals, but also to families, has been moving to watch. Working closely with Dad in ministry has allowed me to see him at work touching lives for the Kingdom of God. I've listened as he has encouraged fellow dads to "live out God" before their families; challenged young men to passionately pursue God's heart; and comforted hurting young people reeling from dysfunction in broken homes.

Whether he is spending time in churches and homes while on the road,

building a strong church-relations network for the college, counseling students that come through his office, or independently ministering in weekend meetings, my dad, Don Davison, lives out Jesus by valuing the individuals with whom he comes into contact. His love begins first in the ways he strives to "live out Jesus" to his own family, then extends to every facet of his public and personal life. Dad values relationships. And that is seen in the way he lives out his life every day...through his sacrificial offering of service to God's Kingdom. ■

Amber (Davison) Jones (GBS HS '01) is a stay-at-home mom who resides in Hubbardston, MI, with husband Daron and their three children.



NATE DAVISON: "Growing up on the campus of GBS afforded me a lifetime of memories that I will always treasure. I remember being proud that my dad worked there. Attending kindergarten through college, I always knew that my dad was just a few steps away if I ever needed him. The door to his office was always open to me. It was a safe place to go when I just needed to get away. I did homework there. I played there. I cried and I laughed there. And now, even though I am 'grown-up' and no longer live on the campus, I still know that Dad's door is open and he will always be there for me."

—**Nate Davison (GBS HS '05, AA '08, AA '09) is a registered nurse who lives in Cincinnati OH.**

MARTHA MILLER: "Don Davison is Mr. PR. There is no one on the road today that is better at representing his school, period. He represents GBS with class and dignity. He knows basically everyone on the road and is genuinely interested in what is going on in their lives. He is very good at adapting to the situation of the moment and knowing what to say to people, whether many or few. He is an excellent MC and is sensitive to the Spirit and very careful to set the tone for choir services. He is an excellent tour director. His itineraries are works of art. They are very detailed and to read one is to know exactly where you are going to be, and what you are going to

be doing, and at what time you are going to be doing it.

"He is a father figure to the students. I often see him talking with students and he is just very interested in what is going on in their everyday life. He has always been very kind to my children and treats them like they are important people. They have the highest regards and respect for Mr. Davison (they actually helped me with much of what I am writing). Without his kindness and watch care over myself, my children, and the other staff and their families, it would have been extremely difficult, if not impossible, for me to get back on that bus year after year.

"Mr. Davison, Mr. Wolf (now Mr. Crater), and I have probably traveled together longer than any other PR team on the road. I think the secret is that he allows and encourages us to shine at what we do best, and, in turn, we allow him to do what he does best. We each are very careful to use our God-given abilities and stay in the areas where God has gifted us, and Mr. Davison is a big supporter of that. It makes for a very good team on the road.

"Mr. Davison is a man of character and integrity who has everyone's best interests at heart. I feel very safe taking myself and my children on the road when he is in charge."

—**Martha Miller (BSM '82) is a long-term GBS faculty member.**

sensing the storm

by Don Davison

We were driving through the rain up in Canada on one of our summer public relations tours for our college and the subject came up about turning on the windshield wipers. One of my quartet guys told me about a man who fixes up wrecked cars—vehicles that are insurance-write-offs. He had just restored a 2012 model Chrysler Town and Country van, and it had this amazing feature (amazing to me, at least, since I drive a 2004 van). The windshield can actually sense when there is rain and how heavy it is, and adjusts the speed of the wipers to match it.

My mind quickly went to our families. What if we had something inside us that just knew when our family members were going through a storm and how heavy it was weighing down on them, and we were just able to swing into action to respond with support and love and grace? That would be great! But we are not God. And we don't read minds. And the challenge is that for too many of us, family life means spending time alone "together."

THAT is why it is important to step out of our solo worlds within our families and for parents to regularly make times to talk together...to sit down each day as a family and share together...to let each member of the family share that day's highs and that day's lows. I like to think of these times as "Grace Points."

If you don't know your kids' and spouse's highs and lows, you don't know your kids and spouse. And if THEY don't know their OWN highs and lows, THEY don't know THEMSELVES.

It is important that the things that hit us spiritually and emotionally get processed **daily**—in the context of a family and a God who loves us.

Far better to monitor our lives daily...instead of just waiting until a crisis hits; much better to deal with issues

when they are manageable than to wait till our kids or spouses finally scream out from under the mountain of experiences that continually got bottled up and tamped down inside.

Each day should have the closure that family support and love and God's grace can bring. It buttons up the day with grace. As much as possible, as family members share their highs and lows, try to make some scriptural application to it. Sometimes you may not be able to do it. But try.

Sometimes your efforts, or what you have to offer in life-wisdom or from God's Word, may not be understood immediately. But do it anyway. It's like putting money in the bank. One of these days, at the right time, it may make sense.

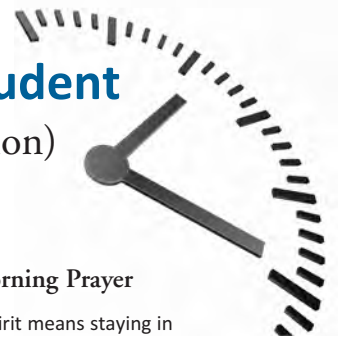
When we do this daily exercise, it is important to end it with some sort of reminder of God's blessing...of His grace, His unconditional love, His peace, His protection, His wisdom. His forgiveness. End the time together with a blessing from the Lord on each life or on the whole family. Point the whole day back to God. Parents don't have to be the source of this blessing. They just become channels through which God's blessing flows to their family.

No, none of us has a built-in sensor like that fancy Chrysler van that automatically knows and gauges the storms. But when we make it a point to affirm, laugh, cry and pray together—to share our highs and lows as a family—we can stay vitally connected.

It gives us the chance to see our life experiences each day through the lens of grace...and put them back into God's hands. And it gives our families a fighting chance to be strong in the Lord as each day closes in the security that their family loves them and that God does, too. ■

a Day in the Life of a Student

Jeffrey Paulus, Spring Grove, Pennsylvania (junior, ministerial education)



2.31

pounds at birth

born prematurely—
in ICU for about 60 days

7

family pets

two dogs, two cats, a gerbil, a
parrot, and a bunny—his
favorite is Lucy, a border
collie/Labrador mix

2

favorite pastimes

four-wheeling and
whitewater rafting

7

hours per week

time spent in GBS libraries—
four hours in the Flexon Library
and three in the Schmul
Ministerial Library

6:00

in the morning

when he occasionally visits his
favorite spot on campus—
The Commons patio—
to relax, think, and pray

15

generations

between himself and his
ancestor William Brewster, who
arrived in America on the
Mayflower and became the
religious leader of Plymouth
Colony and advisor to Governor
William Bradford



7:03 a.m. Morning Prayer

Living a life in the Spirit means staying in
contact with God.

9:35 a.m. Hebrew Language
Study Group in the Commons

The classmates study vocabulary, grammar,
the next lesson, and “try to make Hebrew
conversational.”



10:50 a.m.

Ministerial Plenary
Session

Guest speaker Rev. John
Forsee gives practical
advice on leading a church,
“the best I’ve ever heard,”
says Jeffrey.

6:20 p.m.

Reading in His Room

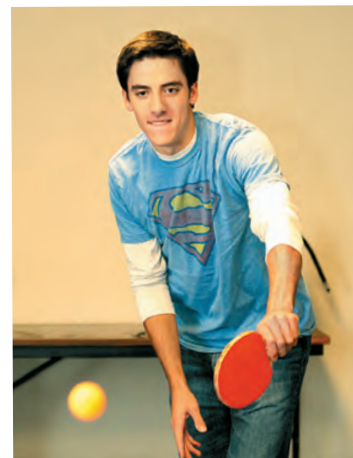
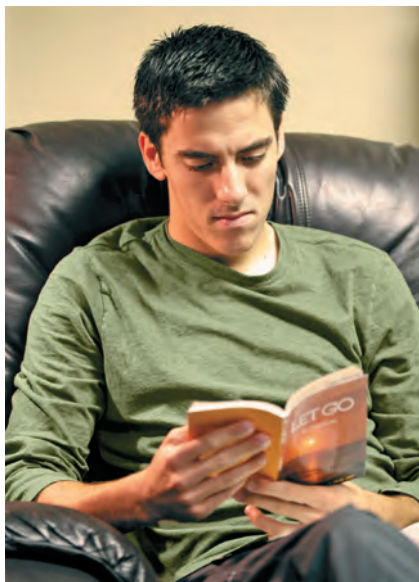
A couple of days after
telling God he really
wanted a chair, he found
this leather one by the
road—in two parts. Five
bolts fixed it!



1:35 p.m.

Staining a Deck

Jeffrey is self-employed.
Painting, minor remodeling,
general renovations, and
property management help
pay his school bill.



7:44 p.m.

Relaxing in the Dorm

Ping Pong helps Jeffrey “relax
and de-stress.” It’s also good
for building friendships with
other guys in the dorm.



honored to have been selected—particularly since the evaluators were our employees!

NEW AV EQUIPMENT

This past summer we purchased and installed a new live-streaming system in the Adcock Chapel. The system includes four HD P/T/Z (high definition, pan, tilt, and zoom) cameras and a Tricaster. The Tricaster is a mobile studio contained within a box. It can take

up to four camera inputs and two network inputs, and it includes a virtual video player. The software also includes virtual sets (with green screen technology) and preset graphics to enhance the content distribution. We are now able to record live video in high-definition (1080p) while also pushing a high definition (720p) live feed to our YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/gbsc1900).

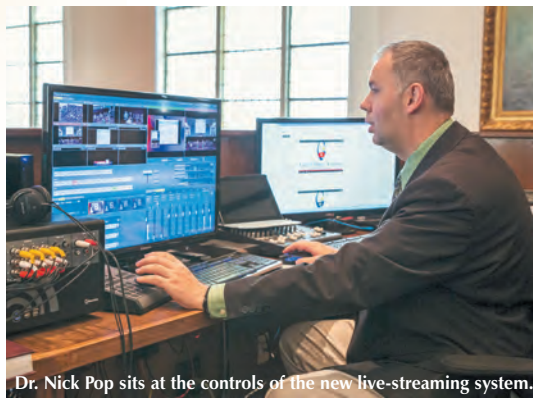
We are excited about the opportunities made possible with this technology, and we invite you to join our campus family for many exciting live events planned ahead.

RESERVE TICKETS NOW FOR 2014 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The King of Light, a musical drama produced by the Division of Music, will be staged in the Adcock Chapel on December 12 (7:30 PM), 13 (3:30 PM), and 14 (6:00 PM). An 85-voice choir, a 40-piece orchestra, and a cast of actors come together in this production.

GBS NAMED TOP WORKPLACE

GBS is a Top Workplaces winner again this year! For the fourth straight year, God's Bible School and College had the honor of being named one of the Top 100 Workplaces in Cincinnati by The Enquirer Media. Top workplaces are determined based on employee feedback via a survey. Employees at these top workplaces are confident in the direction their company is headed, and feel empowered to help lead the way. GBS is



Dr. Nick Pop sits at the controls of the new live-streaming system.

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.

DEATHS



Jewel Lamb Stetler, 84, of Rising Sun, IN, passed away on September 16. Born in 1930 in High Point, NC, to the late John and Cora (Richardson) Lamb, Jewel was the eighth child in a family of 12 and grew up on a farm near Asheboro. In the fall of 1948, she enrolled at GBS, where she met Kenneth P. Stetler; they married in 1950. Kenneth began pastoring and later was hired as a professor at GBS, a position that continued for most of his life. Jewel's "ministry" quickly

became caring for their six children and supporting Kenneth's pastoral and teaching duties. After Jewel's own children were reared, she turned to a "calling" of helping other families by providing day care. In 1997, the Stetlers retired to Rising Sun. Even as Jewel lost mobility, by means of her electric wheelchair she would visit neighbors, stop at yard sales, and talk to people. She was preceded in death (by one month) by her loving husband of 64 years. Jewel is survived by her six children, Daniel, David, Darrell, Frances, Stephen, and Trilinda; 16 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; brother, Frank; sisters, Evelyn and Bonnie; and many nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held at the Bible Methodist Church, Burlington, KY, with Jewel's four sons officiating. Burial followed in Cedar Hedge Cemetery in Rising Sun.

TICKET INFORMATION: Each family may request up to five free tickets for one night only. After the fifth ticket, the cost is \$5 per ticket. For large groups (6+), please send payment by mail along with name of purchaser. **Orders by phone or email are not accepted.** Orders may be sent to the school with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Include the performance date you prefer and the number of tickets needed. Please contact the ticket coordinator at (513) 721-7944 if you are unable to use your tickets. Orders for five or less may also be placed and tickets printed online by going to www.gbs.edu. Please bring tickets for entry.

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

No seats may be saved at any time. Late and re-entries will only be allowed with the assistance of an usher. Prelude music will begin thir-

ty minutes prior to each performance. Child care will be provided. A freewill offering will be received at the close of each performance. Persons wishing to place an advertisement in the program bulletin should contact the Music Division at (513) 763-6546.

ALLAN BROWN RECEIVES HEBREW AWARD

Dr. Allan Brown has been continuing his education in the Hebrew language for the past three years. This began with two years of Modern Hebrew (conversation and composition) at Hebrew Union College. In the last semester, students had to write a composition in modern Hebrew on a topic from a Hebrew novel being read by the class. The writer of the best composition was to receive a certificate of achievement and a cash prize. Dr. Allan Brown won that award.

Dr. Brown began these studies because of his desire to pursue fluency in modern Hebrew, and to

internalize the ability to understand the nuances of the language. He is continuing this pursuit by taking the third-year modern Hebrew class in the Division of Judaic Studies at the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Brown works diligently and daily on memorizing all the new words he needs for conversation and to gain competence in his aural recognition skills. He tries to model what he asks of his own students. ■



Dr. Allan Brown displays his award.



Gary G. Buckland, Jr., 60, of Adrian, MI, passed away September 11. He was born in 1954 in South Charleston, WV, the only child of Gary and Betty (Arnold) Buckland, Sr. In 1975, Gary married Catherine Cole, and they were blessed with 39 years together. Gary was the shipping manager at Adrian Steel (MI) where he worked since 1981. He served for many years as a lay minister and was a faithful member of the Adrian First Church of the Nazarene. He was a member of the Adrian Police Department reserves and also worked for ADA Security. Gary was a regular visitor on the GBS campus, especially during alumni functions. Gary's wife (HS '72) and son Stephen (HS '97, BA '02) and daughter-in-law Mandy Mimier (BA '03) were all graduates. Both Stephen and Mandy

also served on staff at GBS. In addition to his wife, Gary is survived by sons Shawn and Stephen. The memorial service was at Adrian First Church of the Nazarene, Dr. David Fulks and Rev. Michael Dunson officiating.

Ruth Knipmeyer Wilson, 89, died on May 11. Born in Bellflower, MO, in 1924, the youngest of three children, she attended GBS (1942-43) where she met and married Warren Wilson. She later graduated from Asbury College in 1947, and moved with Warren first to Ridgebury, NY, then to several parishes in Ohio. She taught English in two different Zanesville schools and also served as a Sunday school teacher. Ruth is survived by her husband of nearly 70 years; five children; 12 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren. A graveside memorial service was held at the Nimmo United Methodist Church in Virginia Beach, VA. ■

Phoebe Palmer: Mother of the

It was a Tuesday afternoon in New York City, and the parlor of the Palmer-Lankford home was quietly filling with men and women. Why had they come? Was this a meeting of the local bridge club or a fashionable assembly of the social elite? No, this group of earnest-hearted guests were meeting for the purpose of prayer and the cultivation of a holy life.

Who was their leader? It was not a bishop nor a rector from one of the auspicious churches of New York. Rather, their co-leaders were two sisters, Sarah Lankford and Phoebe Palmer. This afternoon parlor assembly eventually would become known as the Tuesday Meeting for the Promotion of Holiness. It was not a short-lived series of shallow sessions, but would continue to thrive for nearly 60 years, impacting hundreds of lives and bearing fruit even down to our day.

Phoebe Palmer had not always known a life of full consecration nor “liberty of spirit.” But on the morning of July 26, 1837, a day which Mrs. Palmer would often refer to as her “day of days,” the Spirit of God drew near. Phoebe sensed that He was calling her to a full surrender of all her earthly loves. Three of her children had already been taken from her, and now what else could the Lord be requiring? Phoebe counted the cost, and made the complete consecration. It was a commitment which would transform her life. The following day, Phoebe affirmed her new-found resolve.

“From that hour my course was onward and upward. I also covenanted with God that I would be a Bible Christian, and most carefully seek to know the mind of the Spirit, as recorded in the written Word...my highest and all-engrossing desire was to be a Bible Christian.”¹

Following this full surrender, Phoebe experienced a divine energy, and a wellspring of holy activity poured forth from her life. As an author, public speaker, teacher, spiritual guide, and humanitarian worker, Phoebe Palmer played a significant role in the shaping of American Methodism in the nineteenth century.

After some time, the Lankfords moved out of New York, and Phoebe, along with her husband Walter, assumed the full responsibility of conducting the Tuesday Meetings. The gathering initially consisted only of



women. In due time, the spouses of these ladies and other men became interested in the meetings, resulting in a diverse group of men and women. Methodists, Baptists, Episcopalians, Quakers, Presbyterians, and others united in pursuit of a spiritual power. The atmosphere of these meetings was described as “...invigorating, healthful, and heavenly.”² From its humble beginnings, the Tuesday Meeting expanded until hundreds would convene for this weekly assembly.

Mrs. Palmer’s teaching was characterized by simplicity and clarity. Yet many theologians and noted professors came to glean from her spiritual wisdom. Such individuals were aspiring to an understanding of the “way of holiness.” These weekly sessions served an invaluable purpose as an important means of instruction,

Holiness Movement by Paula Pierpoint

encouragement, accountability, and stimulus to spiritual growth. For Mrs. Palmer, it was essential that disciples of Christ develop a solid foundation for their faith and experience its reality in their daily lives. The Tuesday Meeting continued for 34 years under her leadership, attracting as many as three hundred people weekly. Eventually, similar gatherings sprang up in various cities in America and in other lands, including Australia and India. Countless lives were impacted by the spiritual influence of these holy convocations, which were conducted for over 20 years following the death of their leader, Phoebe Palmer.

The ministry of Mrs. Palmer continued to expand so that, along with her husband, she was mightily used of God in leading camp meetings and genuine revivals across the United States and around the world. The Palmers did not feel personally responsible for bringing the revival. They were merely there to assist; yet revival came. Mrs. Palmer's manner of speaking was described as calm, quiet, and deliberate, yet there was a convincing authority. In America, her preaching launched a moving of the Spirit which resulted in the salvation of approximately one million souls. In the British Isles, Mrs. Palmer and her husband gave direction to a four-year revival effort in which over 17,000 people confessed to being saved or entirely sanctified. In England, William and Catherine Booth, founders of the Salvation Army, were deeply impacted by her ministry. The anointed labors of the Palmers were a part of a spiritual awakening which resulted in an increase of 1.5 million people in the churches of England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland.

Phoebe Palmer was also the visionary and aggressive force behind the establishing of the Five Points Mission in New York City. In the 1800s, New York City became overrun with immigrants. Many of these became poor laborers whose income was barely enough for survival. The Five Points Mission was developed in a very dangerous slum section of the city. Disease, drinking, filth, and crime characterized this section of the city. While the primary purpose of the mission was to lead people to Christ, Mrs. Palmer felt strongly that desperate physical needs must likewise be attended to. Furthermore, she believed that spiritual transformation would bring about the necessary personal and temporal reformation.

It would be impossible to calculate the far-reaching influence of the life of Phoebe Palmer. She exerted a remarkable spiritual influence over the preachers and leaders of nineteenth-century Methodism. As a revivalist, she

engaged in itinerant ministry throughout the British Isles. In an era when the role of women in public life was limited, Phoebe spoke to thousands who attended their holiness meetings. As an author, she likewise communicated very effectively. The intellectual powers of women in the nineteenth century were considered to be inferior to their male counterparts. Yet Phoebe Palmer was the editor of a periodical, *The Guide to Holiness*, for ten years. Her theological essays, articles, and books continue to bear fruit two hundred years after they were written. As a leader in social reform, she risked her life to champion the cause of womanhood and the downtrodden of society. Secular historians likewise acknowledge that her life and labors enlarged the sphere of women in society. As a gracious role model and mentor, she counseled hundreds of individuals who came to her for spiritual guidance. It has been said of this valiant servant of the Lord, "Few women have ever traveled so extensively, addressed so many audiences, or brought so many to the foot of the cross."³

The life of Mrs. Phoebe Palmer was one of surrender, selflessness, and service. She demonstrated that holiness was not simply a "state of the soul," but a life to be lived every day. Her emphasis on practical holy living, through discipleship, fellowship, instruction, and service to others is a beacon of light and truth for our generation. For her complete consecration, her compassionate caring, and her outstanding contributions to the cause of Christ and American Methodism, Phoebe Palmer is considered by some to be the most influential woman of her time. She was a woman whose life radiated a pristine purity, a clearly defined purpose, a holy passion, and spiritual power. She was a model example of the beauty of holiness.

May we twenty-first-century women find inspiration and strength from this life well-lived, and follow in her footsteps. ■

Paula Pierpoint currently serves as an adjunct faculty member for Hobe Sound Bible College, Indian River State College, and Indiana Wesleyan University. She resides in Hobe Sound, Florida.

1. Wheatley, Richard. *The Life and Letters of Mrs. Phoebe Palmer*. W.C. Palmer, Jr., 1876, p. 36.

2. Hughes, George. *Fragrant Memories of the Tuesday Meeting and Guide to Holiness*. Palmer and Hughes, 1886, p. 39.

3. Wheatley, Richard. *The Life and Letters of Mrs. Phoebe Palmer*, introduction, p. vi.

don't forfeit *the Grace!*

by Becky Keep

Tim and I were enjoying a peaceful night of sleep, blissfully unaware of the fact that across the hall one of our young daughters was in the middle of a terrifying nightmare. Suddenly we were awakened by her desperate, "Mommy! Daddy!" and before we knew what hit us, 70 pounds of pure fear hurled itself into our bed. We held our little girl close and felt the pounding of her heart against us. She planted herself right in between the two of us and allowed the safety of that place to displace her fear, confident in the fact that whatever it was that had so terrified her moments before was not able to reach her here. Her heartbeat slowed and she slept.

The next day, I thought about what had happened and how natural it had been for our daughter to throw herself upon the two people who had the power to protect her. She didn't lie in her bed for even one minute trying to "slay the dragon" of fear that gripped her. She didn't try to reason it away. She did not bother to awaken her younger, weaker sister. She did not lie there and endure the torment. She fled to her refuge!

I began to see that so much of my own weakness and fears paralyze me, not because there is no help, but because I'm too slow to go to the source of that help. Jonah 2:7-8 reads: "When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you oh Lord, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple." The next verse brought deep conviction, and yet joy, as I read, "those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs."

I realized with those words that worthless idols of pride and self-sufficiency have sometimes provided sub-

If someone needs to say something negative to me, how can I best hear it?

I have been giving some thought to why it is important for us to know ourselves. And this question came to me: "If someone needs to say something negative to me, how can I best hear it?"

For the sake of our relationships, I would suggest that all of us need to be able to answer this question. Furthermore, we need to share our answer with those we love. That knowledge allows both to communicate more effectively, and not just revert to old habits of emotional reaction!

I'll answer for myself. From living life and from learning from different authors, I've finally

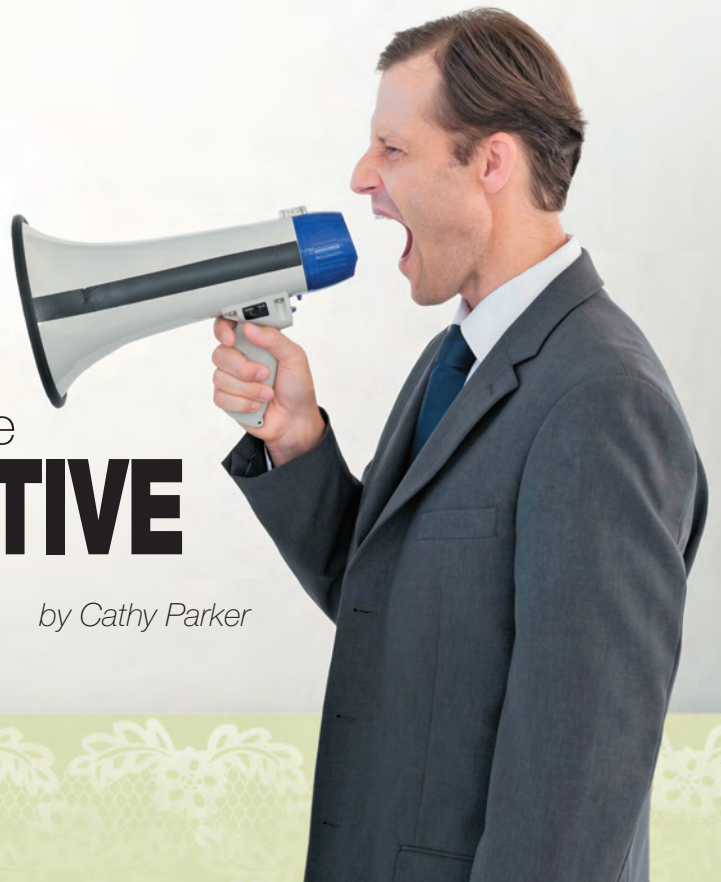
understood two facts about myself that are foundational to communicating with me.

1. My deepest core fear is the fear of emotional abandonment.

Although this wasn't something I really thought about during childhood, the fear was there. As an adult, I finally started realizing that this fear had been a very real factor in probably all my relationships. Of course the "fear of emotional abandonment" was present at the death of my dad, but seeing that as



HEARING NEG^{the}ATIVE



by Cathy Parker



stitute and counterfeit solutions to my problems. These have sometimes kept me from experiencing the boundless grace that God has for every situation in my life. Why am I so often reticent when it comes to casting myself upon the grace of God? Why do I too often feel the need

to “figure things out,” and consequently walk through life forfeiting the peace of God, when all the while He is only “across the hall;” when He is only a prayer away?

Unlike my husband and me who were caught off guard by our daughter’s middle of the night cry for help, God never sleeps, and He knows the exact moment that I am ready to relinquish control; and He is always poised and waiting to receive me.

Nothing on earth would have stopped Tim and me from cradling our terrified daughter and calming her fear. And had her nightmare not been just a nightmare, we’d have given our very lives to protect her. Our Savior has already given His life, but how much more might our Heavenly Father do for us if we will only throw ourselves upon His mercy and grace? ■

Becky Keep is a freelance author, speaker, and part-time nurse. She and her husband Tim live in Cincinnati, OH, and have five children.

an “act of God” made it easier to accept. However, I also observed several relatives living in what appeared to me to be emotional abandonment from their husbands. That involved human choices and behaviors, making it more painful. It became a fear of mine. Would history repeat itself in my own relationships?

2. Anger expressed by others always feels like rejection to me.

Growing up in a phlegmatic family meant that anger was seldom felt and rarely expressed. One author says that “phlegmatics have such a high boiling point that they almost never become angry.” That described my family. Therefore, I did not understand anger as a natural part of a personality, especially the choleric personality. Learning about temperaments has helped me greatly in my relationships with other people. I have come to understand that we all have a natural reaction of either fear or anger (or maybe both). Putting anger into its proper context allowed me to begin to learn not to take anger personally. However, I must still admit, my immediate gut reaction to the anger of others is to feel painful personal rejection.

So how do these two facts play out in real life? If someone needs to say something negative to me, here is how they can help me hear it.

First, remind me that you are committed to our relationship and that you love me. That statement relieves my fear of abandonment. You are not using this as a pretext to walk away or to cut me off. Now I can actually listen to what you want to say.

Second, do whatever you have to do to work through your feelings of anger before you talk to me. It may mean that you will have to give yourself some time, talk it out with someone else, or journal about it. This will allow you to communicate calmly with me. The good news is that I am a pleaser. I want to hear you. I want to know what is hindering our relationship and what will help strengthen it! I may not always change something to “please,” but it is my nature to try to please! However, things communicated in anger may be hard for me to hear.

Lastly, finish with restating your commitment and your love.

I think this process will work for any and all my relationships. I can vouch for its effectiveness in my marriage. When I realized that my husband was not going to emotionally abandon me no matter how dark the relationship valley we were walking through, I started feeling safer and more secure. I could relax and think and grow!

Have we arrived? Oh, no! We will always have our opposite temperaments and gender differences. We are still amazed at how quickly we can find ourselves on a crazy cycle! However, those conflicts happen much more infrequently now, and when they do occur, if we practice the good habits we’ve learned, they’re usually much shorter in length.

I know I have a lot of growing yet to do...but nevertheless, I’m not where I used to be! I am also very thankful for a husband who has learned and matured along with me! ■

Cathy Parker (BRE '78) is a speaker, writer, and pastor's wife in Westfield, IN. This article was adapted with permission from her blog at www.ajournalofthejourney.wordpress.com.

Dear Phil

WHAT IS ARMINIANISM?

What is Arminianism? I've heard you mention the term, but I don't really know what it means. —Adam

Dear Adam,

First let's get the spelling issue out of the way. **Armenians** are people from the country of Armenia. **Arminians** are people who share the beliefs of a Dutch theologian named Jacobus Arminius who taught at the University of Leiden from 1603-1609.

In grad school, I had a fabulous Church History professor, Dr. Edward Panosian, who was an Armenian. He was humorously concerned to let us know that being Armenian didn't make him an Arminian!

Jacobus Arminius (his real name was Jakob Hermanszoon) was a Dutch Reformed Protestant Christian who lived from 1560-1609. He studied theology in Geneva, Switzerland, under Theodore Beza, one of the greatest Calvinist scholars of the post-Reformation period. All of his life, Arminius believed himself to be an uncompromising supporter of the Reformed Protestant faith. He had the highest regard for John Calvin's commentaries, and recommended them as the finest commentaries on scripture since the early church fathers. Arminius also had a high regard for John Calvin's *Institutes of Christian Theology*, one of the most

widely read systematic theologies of his time.

As he studied scripture, however, Arminius became convinced that God had not predestined some men to be saved and some to be damned. Calvin taught that God had by an eternal decree, "determined with himself whatever he wished to happen with regard to every man.... Some are preordained to eternal life, others to eternal damnation" (Institutes 3.21.5). Arminius argued that God foreknew who would respond to his grace and who would not. On the basis of God's foreknowledge, He then predestined those he foreknew would believe to be saved.

Along with a good many other theologians of his time, Arminius also disagreed with Calvin on the details of the doctrines of original sin, human inability, the extent of the atonement, and perseverance of the saints. After Arminius died, those who agreed with him worked out their beliefs in a document titled *Five Articles of Remonstrance*.

At their core, these articles taught the following five things:

1. The divine decree of predestination is not absolute, but conditioned upon God's foreknowledge of faith.

2. God intended to provide an atonement that was sufficient for and available to all men, not just the elect.

3. Man cannot exercise a saving faith on his own, but must have God's grace to enable him to do any truly good thing.

4. Though the grace of God is a necessary condition of human effort, it does not act irresistibly in man.

5. Believers are able to resist sin but are not beyond the possibility of falling from grace.

Arminius and his followers were not the first to read scripture this way. Most of the early church fathers affirmed these doctrines. However, these doctrines came to be associated with Arminius' name through the controversy that arose when he and his followers began teaching them.

One hundred years-or-so later, John and Charles Wesley both became convinced that scripture teaches these doctrines. Thus all Methodist descendants of the Wesleys are Arminian. (Methodist descendants of George Whitefield are Calvinist). Wesley's key theological contribution was his doctrine of entire sanctification or Christian perfection. Because Arminius did not clearly teach that believers may be entirely sanctified in this life, Wesleyan-Arminians are regarded as a distinct subgroup of Arminians.

Non-Wesleyan Arminians are sometimes called Classical Arminians or Reformed Arminians. Arminian denominations that are non-Wesleyan include the Free Will Baptists, Christian Churches, Churches of Christ, General Baptists, some Anglicans, some Evangelical Free Churches, most Pentecostals, and others.

Blessings,
Philip 📖

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

pbrown@gbs.edu



student focus

PIZZA SHOP DISCOUNTS FOR CHURCH BULLETINS

Despite pressure from the Freedom From Religion Foundation and a bomb threat, Bailey's Pizza, a Christian-owned pizza parlor in Arkansas, says it will continue offering a discount for diners who bring in a church bulletin. The owner makes it clear that Bailey's is a Christian business. The restaurant features a "scripture wall" with a plaque that reads, "God is the center of our lives, so our scripture wall is at the center of Bailey's Pizza!" Customers are encouraged to read the scripture written on the wall or ask a server for a marker to write their own.

GATES FOUNDATION AND ABORTION

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation currently has an endowment of \$40.2 billion, supporting programs and providing grants in the United States and more than 100 other countries. Most of the foundation's work is done in developing countries and focuses on improving people's health and combating hunger and extreme poverty. Melinda Gates announced in June that "the Gates Foundation has decided not to fund abortion." Melinda Gates was reared a Catholic. The Gates have three children.

JUDGE STRIKES DOWN POLYGAMY LAW

In August a federal judge struck down part of Utah's polygamy law. This was a victory for the Brown family from the TLC television show "Sister Wives," which chronicles the lives of Kody, Meri, Janelle, Christine, and Robyn Brown and their children. Utah County authorities began their investigation of the polygamous family after the show debuted. The lawsuit, filed by the Browns in 2011 and arguing that Utah's law violated their right to privacy, primarily relied on the 2003 U.S. Supreme Court decision that struck down the Texas law banning sodomy, a decision celebrated by gay rights advocates.

CVS ENDS TOBACCO SALES

On September 3rd, the CEO of CVS announced that "The sale of cigarettes and tobacco at CVS pharmacy stores ends today. By eliminating the sale of cigarettes and tobacco products in our stores, we can make a difference in the health of all Americans." His announcement is expected to pressure Walgreens, Rite Aid and Wal-Mart to adopt similar measures. The company has estimated that it could lose about \$2 billion in annual sales, a fraction of its revenue which totaled \$126 billion in 2013. Much of their revenue comes from healthcare services such as walk-in clinics and prescription drug coverage. ■

Growing up in a Christian family in Excello, MO, **SARAH BOND** felt like she "knew it all," until she began to realize that she didn't have a real relationship with God. At age 10, feeling all alone, she confided this to her mom and they prayed together. Since then, Sarah has been growing in Christ and is committed to doing His will.

Sarah attended public schools through high school, which gave her an opportunity to learn how to be a witness and stand strong in her faith. However, one of the things she has enjoyed most about GBS is the chance to sit under Christian professors who challenge her to focus on doing her best for Christ. She credits GBS with helping her get out of her comfort zone and realize that "everyone has something to do for the Lord, whether big or small."

After graduating from the Music Division, Sarah plans to become a music teacher. GBS is giving her the tools to fulfill her dream of teaching others to "love music and love the God that created it." ■

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

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not all giraffes have long necks!

Interview with an Author/Illustrator of Children's Books

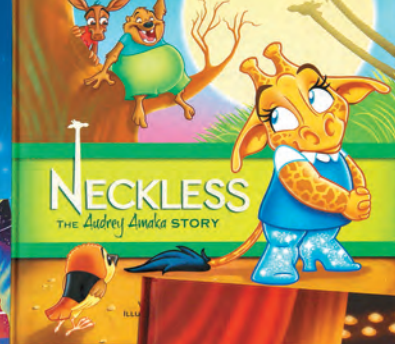
Brent Vernon is a singer, songwriter, ventriloquist, and the author and illustrator of three books for children. This ministry of writing for children was the subject of a recent interview conducted with him.

Recently you completed another children's book. Tell us about your work as a writer.

Sure. All three of my books are about a little giraffe named Audrey Amaka who, despite the high hopes of her parents, was born without a neck. In the first book, *Neckless*, Audrey really struggles with her appearance. But through an unexpected act of bravery, she discovers that she has a good head on her shoulders. It's a sweet and funny story with an important message for children and adults alike: Take what you have and do something good.

My second book, *Curiosity Crescent*, finds Audrey on a camping trip to a part of the country known for its brilliant natural wonders. In this story, Audrey discovers that it's one thing to have a good head on her shoulders; it's quite another thing to use it wisely. *Curiosity Crescent* emphasizes the importance of obedience and responsibility.

My most recent release is called *The OkapiCat*. Audrey's young cousin, Ornela, is an okapi—a reclusive animal from the rainforests closely related to the giraffe. She comes for an unannounced visit and wears out her welcome. *The OkapiCat* is probably the funniest of all three stories, but I love the message: it's important to be a good example.



How did writing for children become an interest for you?

I have always enjoyed creating characters and dreaming up "worlds" in which my characters can live out their adventures. It's only been within the last few years, however, that I've gotten serious about the craft of storytelling.

You also do all your own illustrations. How important is that aspect?

In a children's book, the illustrations often drive the story. And the stories I tell always reinforce biblical principles in some way. I consider it a privilege to bring a visual component to the story. A picture is a powerful thing. Children are more perceptive and appreciative of this than some would believe.

Do you have any advice for young people or parents of children who love art and/or writing?

I would urge parents to take a genuine interest in what their child is producing. It is important for those children to have guidance and, at the same time, feel supported in their unique efforts. Provide opportunities in healthy ways and safe environments for them to create.

I would also encourage parents and even churches to be patient with the artists and dreamers among us. Creative people are

often emotional people. Never forget that we are all on a journey together. God can use unique people to accomplish great things for His Kingdom.

To the artistic child, I would say to keep drawing, keep writing! Take your craft seriously. Study great art and great writing. Don't be afraid to explore, to venture outside of the genre you find most comfortable. The more skill you acquire, the more equipped you are to make a meaningful connection to your audience. It's also important for young artists to recognize that it doesn't have to take a lot of money to do something creative. Part of being creative is learning better ways to use your own talents and resources.

What are your goals for this facet of your ministry?

I have sketchbooks filled with ideas for future books, characters, and children's events. We don't have the space here for me to go into specifics!

On a deeper level, I intend to keep telling stories with a Christocentric world view. Kids still need to know this simple fact: God has a plan for their lives. ■

The Audrey Amaka storybooks by Brent Vernon are available at www.amazon.com and www.brentvernon.bigcartel.com.



SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND THE CHRISTIAN (PART 2)

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

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-20

In our first message, we saw that Christians are engaged in spiritual warfare against the forces of darkness and Satan, the prince of the power of the air. The Spirit of God issues a "call to arms" to every Christian. And, thankfully, God provides spiritual "armor" and spiritual "weapons" to ensure success and victory in this warfare. However, success is not automatic. The Christian must "put on" the armor God provides; and as we saw in our last message, this armor begins with the belt of truth (Eph. 6:14a).

In this message we continue a description of each piece of a Christian's armor.

Breastplate of Righteousness (Eph. 6:14b)

This piece of armor protects the back as well as the front and, in addition, gives protection to the neck and the hips. It could easily be described as "a coat of mail" because it was a vest made of small metal plates overlapping one another like shield upon shield (Jowett, *Ephesians*, pp.45-46).

The breastplate is designed to protect the Christian's heart, which is the "control panel" for our thoughts, choices, values, goals. We must exercise diligence to guard our hearts from the attacks of the enemy (Prov. 4:23). It is the "breastplate of righteousness" that enables a Christian to live a devout and holy life, and let's remember that in this context the word "righteousness" means "measuring up to the standard of God's Word." If our thoughts, attitudes, and actions are not in harmony with the teaching of

God's Word, they are not "righteous." With the help of the Holy Spirit, we must evaluate our thoughts, choices, values, and goals. If they do not align with God's Word, we must repent and seek God's help to make whatever course changes may be necessary. Without the breastplate of righteousness, there will be no victory over sin.

Shoes of Gospel Peace (Eph. 6:15)

Why worry about our spiritual "feet"? Our feet control our mobility and balance. Nothing is more important in the Christian life than spiritual balance. The enemy is continually trying to push us off balance. Someone once said, the surest way to distort the truth is to exaggerate the truth; and someone else said, error comes in pairs: opposite extremes.

Why do some Christians find it so hard to get along with other Christians? Why are some Christians so dogmatic and opinionated? Why do some Christians find it so easy to "unchristianize" other Christians? Could it be that the enemy has pushed them off-balance in their thinking or in their speaking? Our feet must be shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. Peace! The Gospel brings the good news that humankind can have peace with God and can and must pursue peace with their neighbors. Christians should be known for being peacemakers and for being kind in what they say about others. Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall see God" (Mat. 5:9). No, not peace at any price! Not peace at the price of compromise with truth. But most of the conflicts Christians have with other Christians are NOT over what the Bible calls "heresy." Rather it is the result of not having on the "shoes" of gospel peace!

Shield of Faith (Eph. 6:16)

When the apostle says, "Above all taking the shield of faith," he is not saying the shield is the most important piece of armor. Rather, he is saying, "in addition to" the other pieces, don't forget the shield of faith. Faith is crucial!

Borrowing from imagery of the Roman soldier, we are to understand that this shield was large, often four feet in length and two-and-a-half feet wide. It was an excellent means of protection from the attack of the enemy. For the Christian, the shield is designed to "quench the fiery darts of the wicked."

In this period of history, the fiery darts were like arrows. A material was soaked in some flammable substance and wound around the dart very tightly until it was firmly in position. When soldiers were ready to attack, they lit the substance and shot the fiery dart at their foes.

By application, Paul is telling Christians to be prepared for what the devil will shoot at them. Don't be surprised and caught off-guard by the fierce and fiery darts of the enemy that come our way. For example, some of the fiery darts are negative thoughts—negative and critical thoughts about ourselves, about others around us, or about life in general. Other fiery darts come in the form of “fiery trials.” Such trials include the rejection and criticism thrown at us because we are seeking to please Jesus in everything we do (Col. 1:10). Some of the most hurtful darts are those hurled by our friends or family that we love, or by other Christians who misunderstand us and falsely judge us.

The secret for overcoming everything the world throws at us is our faith. We must ask God to help us know how better to use the shield of faith.

To protect ourselves from these fiery darts, we must learn how to use the shield of faith. The Bible tells us that our faith is strengthened by scripture (Rom. 10:17). We must read and memorize scriptural promises that speak of God's provisions for daily victory, and about His grace to enable us to keep sweet under pressure. Also, we must remember that the ultimate focus of our faith is our Savior, Jesus Christ. Friends may hurt or forsake us, family may misunderstand and reject us, but Jesus will always be faithful, kind, and loving to us. We must keep our spiritual eyes on Him and cry out to Him for help. The Epistle of John tells us that the secret for overcoming everything the world throws at us is our faith (1 Jn. 5:4)! We must ask God to help us know how better to use the shield of faith.

The Helmet of Salvation (Eph. 6:17a)

The helmet worn by the Roman soldier was a kind of cap that was made of leather; but this leather had been strengthened with plates or bosses of metal to give it protection.

In spiritual warfare, the helmet is the piece of armor designed to protect our head (our mind and understanding). The enemy seeks to corrupt our minds by his craftiness and to lead us away from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ (2 Cor. 11:3). To put on the helmet of salvation means we must deliberately guard our minds and be careful of what we accept as “truth.”

The enemy sends people into our lives who appear to be genuine Christians. However, as we all know, not everyone who claims to be a Christian is a true Christian. We are told in scripture that spiritual “wolves” come disguised in all types of “sheep” clothing, claiming to be Christians. Such wolves subtly deny the validity of Biblical teachings on all types of subjects and, if listened to and believed, will lead us off the straight and narrow pathway that takes us to heaven (Mat. 7:13-14). We are to listen to what other people say, but then we are to search the scriptures diligently to see if the teaching matches God's Word in its entirety. Then, and then only, after we have asked for divine help and grace to understand scripture, and have checked our findings with qualified spiritual leaders whom God has placed in our lives for our protection, are we to decide what we are going to believe about a particular teaching or viewpoint.

The Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17b)

The sword of the Spirit is the last piece of armor and differs from all the other pieces of armor in that it is designed for offense, for attacking the enemy, and not just defense. It is identified as “the word of God.” To wield this sword properly, one must have the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit because it is extremely sharp and powerful and can do a lot of damage to people if used unwisely (Heb. 4:12).

Yes, we must learn how to scripturally defend our faith (1 Pet. 3:15). But we must understand that “winning” a theological debate or argument is not the primary purpose of knowing scripture (using this sword). It is possible to win a theological argument and at the same time severely wound the person with whom we are debating. Therefore we must be kind, gentle, loving, and seek graciously and wisely to explain the truth as we see it. We must not be quarrelsome, pugnacious, or arrogant in using the sword of the Spirit (2 Tim. 2:24-25).

God provides a sword for all Christians. We have an open Bible, but we must learn how to use it. We must know the whole of it. We must be soaked in scripture so that when vain philosophies attempt to twist or distort the truth, we can turn to the Bible for knowledge, strength, and guidance. Then, in our time of need, we will have an appropriate and scriptural answer to give to others, and the enemy will not only be repelled, but we pray that God will open his mind and give understanding of the truth. Let's ask God to help each of us to be more aware of our need for the Holy Spirit to help us use this sword carefully and wisely. ■

In our next sermon, we will conclude this study with the role of “all prayer” in the Christian's spiritual warfare.

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.

AFRICA. Every year Pieter Marias, Hope International Missions missionary in South Africa, organizes a trip to various countries to the north in order to distribute Bibles. So far this has included Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Angola. The vision of "Bibles For Africa" is to place Bibles in the hands of those who have no scriptures in their own language. This year, the focus is on two countries, Zambia and Namibia, and Pieter will be assisted by five visitors from the United States.



BRAZIL. Delbert Howard of Evangelical Wesleyan Church Missions reports that moving the Santiago church from the center of the city, which was filled with the more well-to-do



people, to a suburb of the city, which is filled with the poorer and more needy people of Santiago, is already producing fruit. The various neighbors around the new location have been open, friendly, and eager to learn about the Gospel.

CHINA. Paul Troyer reports that he is discovering more and more about those who are following Christ in China. It is a dynamic, complicated picture indeed. Growth is real; continued harassment is real; lack of training is real. Unfortunately, there are many strange doctrines and cults, and he gets asked difficult questions. Because of these issues and wanting some English relief while studying Chinese, he has enrolled in some online courses from the GBS ADEP program. He asks for prayer as he meets with friends to do some planning for the future.



JAMAICA. Former GBS staff members Robert and Kay Bickert report that God is answering their "Jabez" prayer ("expand our territory") by opening a discipleship and teaching opportunity in a new location—the Caribbean Wesleyan College in Jamaica. The academic dean sees their arrival as an answer to prayers for a way to incorporate discipleship into the curriculum of the college. Dr. Bickert's plan for implementing discipleship in their evangelism/church planting class was the practical application they needed. In addition to teaching at the college, the Bickerts will hold Saturday morning discipleship lessons for laymen in the area. The Bickerts look forward to similar ministry engagements in 2015 in the Philippines and Asia. Keep them in your prayers.



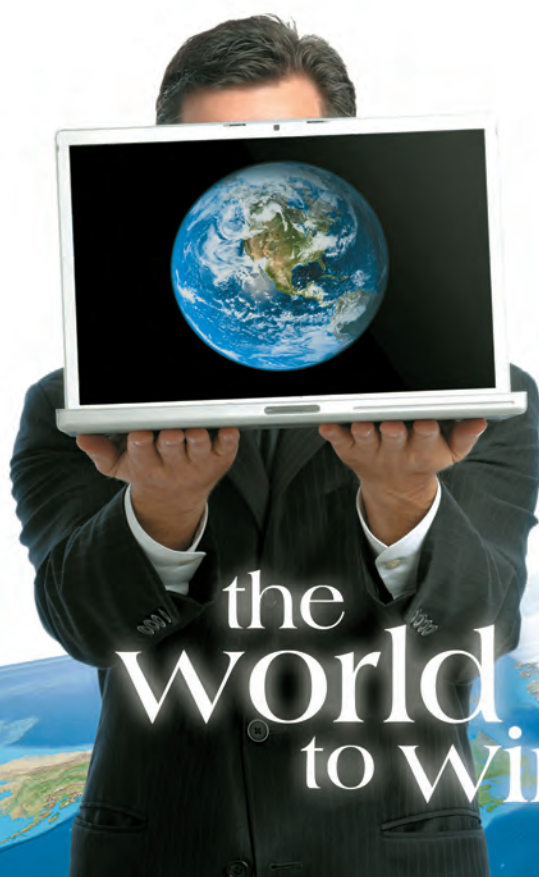
MEXICO. Brennan and Ivon Muir graduated in May 2014 from Rio Grande Bible Institute where they underwent nearly ten months of intensive language study. In mid-September they moved to San Gabriel, Oaxaca, Mexico. Within a couple of weeks, Brennan began to speak in Wednesday prayer services and Ivon started Thursday night Bible studies. They are trying to "dig deep" and remember all those grammar rules. Please pray that God will supply their needs and give them wisdom and strength as they make this transition.



UKRAINE. Many people are asking Tim and Cheryl Boyd about the conflict in Ukraine. They labor in the western portion of Ukraine where it would seem there is no conflict in the country at all. This is in stark contrast with what is happening in the east where there is plenty of fighting. Similarly, workers returning from summer ministry at the Carpathian Christian Youth Camp reported that it was also unaffected by these geopolitical tensions in the east. The camp focused upon the Fruits of the Spirit, presenting those values to the campers.



USA. No longer physically present on a foreign mission field, Irene Maurer and Faith Hemmeter are faithfully serving God in prayer ministry. Both were sent by Evangelistic Faith Missions to the countries of Egypt, Eritrea, and Bolivia, together accounting for about 100 years of missionary work! They continue serving at the mission headquarters in Bedford, IN, through their prayer ministry. ■



the world to win

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25-Year Graduates (clockwise from top left): Larry Dinkins, Sr., Tim Crater, Rick Herring, Kevin Ellers, Monica (Webb) Whitaker, Tonya (Cheatham) Crater, Cheryl (Metcalfe) Carpenter, Loretta (Hawbaker) Durst. Rev. Monte Stetler, Sr., was named "Alumnus of the Year."



Ms. Sonja Vernon receives the Staff/Faculty Award.



Homecoming on the Hilltop

Homecoming 2014, October 10 and 11, was a very special time of reunion and reflection for GBS alumni. The weekend began with the annual golf tournament and the Friday night Fellowship Dinner.

It was my pleasure to be the master of ceremonies at the Friday night service of music and memories. This year's emphasis was on the public relations ministry of GBS. A number of former quartets came back together to sing. Mr. Don Davison was honored for his 26 years of service as public relations director. A number of very humorous stories were shared by alumni who traveled with Don, and President Avery made some remarks, including thanking the entire Davison family for their dedication to God and to GBS. The College Choir closed the night with two wonderful songs, one of which featured a solo by Mandy (Davison) Hood. The alumni then gathered in the Miller-Deets Student Center for a Graeter's ice cream social.

Saturday breakfast gave an opportunity for reunion and fellowship. Saturday morning service began with a devotional by Rev. Mark Stetler followed by the recognition of the 25- and 50-year graduates. The Alumnus of the Year Award was given to Rev. Monte Stetler, Sr., in recognition of over 45 years of pastoral ministry. The Staff/Faculty Award was presented to Sonja Vernon for her 15 years of service as dean of women.

Homecoming concluded with a great Homefest picnic on campus. Plenty of food, games, and even a bounce house and dunk tank, attracted many alumni to spend the afternoon on the Hilltop. Special thanks for our business sponsors and our corporate sponsor, Christian Healthcare Ministries. We invite all of our GBS alumni to come back home for Homecoming 2015. 📌

—Jack Hooker, President,
National Alumni Association



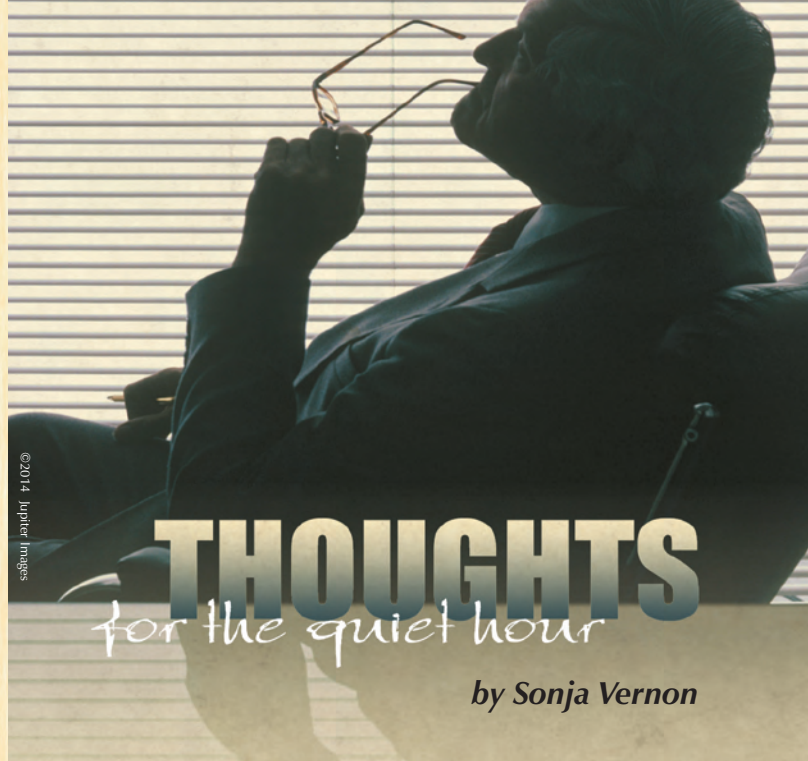
left: The “reunion choir” was composed of all those alumni who had ever been a member of GBS quartets or trios.

below: A reunion quartet: Donny Quales, Steve Mills, Roddy Puckett, and Marlin Betts.

below, center: Don Davison receives special recognition for his 26 years of service to GBS.



50-Year Graduates (front row, left to right): Mary (Tilley) Stetler, Emma (Stetler) Highlander; (back row, left to right): Jack Hambrock, Lyle Birdsall.



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THOUGHTS

for the quiet hour

by Sonja Vernon

THE BEAUTY OF CONTEXT

“But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ‘The LORD is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I will hope in him.’ The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.” —Lam. 3:21-25 ESV

Most of us have heard the “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” verse all our lives, but take a closer look with me at its almost ironic setting. Jerusalem and its beautiful temple have been gutted by fire, homes have been pillaged, many have died, most have been carried off to Babylon, and a few poor and beleaguered individuals are left in the rubble. God’s judgment is no longer just the warning of countless prophets. And in the middle of the destruction Jeremiah laments for his people, his city, and their great loss. But in the midst of his sorrow his heart remembers, and we hear the beautiful, familiar words of our scripture lesson. I don’t know what you are facing today, what devastation you feel either inside or around you. Perhaps your troubles are self-induced, and you are struggling with guilt. Or maybe the destruction came out of nowhere even though you have been a faithful servant of God. The glorious reality is that these verses stand true—no matter what your circumstances. He is always faithful! We can always “hope in Him.” If that isn’t a reason for gratitude in this Thanksgiving season, I don’t know what is! Rejoice with me today! His love never ceases and His mercies never end. 📖

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

NOVEMBER 2014



GOD'S BIBLE SCHOOL & COLLEGE



Dear SBS Family,

Thank you for your generous support of our annual Phonathon! Your gifts enabled us to exceed our goal and raise \$126,000. These funds help provide student scholarships and facilitate our Work Study Program - making it possible for many of us to attend God's Bible School and College. Thank you for investing in a worthy cause!

Sincerely,
SBS Students

