

# GOD'S REVIVALIST

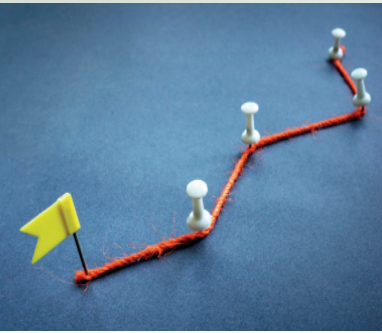
September 2024

*and Bible Advocate*



TIM CRATER

*25 Years of Faithful Service*



# thinking out loud

## MILESTONES

**D**o you ever reflect on the milestones in your life?—high school graduation—wedding—50th birthday—birth of first child or grandchild—retirement. There are so many to consider! This issue of *God’s Revivalist* celebrates three milestones of members of the GBS family.

**Tim Crater: 25 years of service at GBS.** Employees receive special gifts for significant work anniversaries. For 25 years of service, a staff member is featured on the cover of *God’s Revivalist*, the President’s Page (p.3) gives an extended look into his/her life, and tributes from family, colleagues, and friends are scattered throughout the issue. It is always interesting to read through these and learn previously unknown facts. For example, did you know that a paper-wad battle was involved in Tim and Tanya getting together? I didn’t either. However, I *did* know that Tim is a wonderful Christian man who is dedicated to his ministry here at his alma mater.

**Jack and Jane Hooker: 50 years of ministry.** Some of you were probably aware of the recent celebration given to the Hookers for 50 years in Christian ministry. Their daughter, Janna Cressman, was unable to attend, as she and her husband are missionaries in Spain. However, when I read her recollections of her parents’ ministry, I asked for her permission to share an adapted version. Her reflections (p.25) give a glimpse into how the faithful service of a pastor and his wife can have a profound effect on their children, making them proud and happy to follow in their parents’ footsteps. Of note is the fact that Jack is a GBS graduate who returned to work in an administrative capacity at GBS and continues to serve on its board of trustees.

**Dr. Leonard Sankey: Lifetime of service.** Those attending one of Dr. Sankey’s funeral services held at GBS and Faith Mission Church, Bedford, IN, know that it was a celebration of a life spent in total dedication to ministry. Since he was part of the GBS family from 1954 to 2024, we have a tendency to see him as “ours.” However, his influence extends far beyond GBS! Multitudes were touched by this man’s life, and upon reflection, they probably remember that what impressed them most was his kind and caring spirit.

May these tributes remind us to live each day purposefully in a way that reflects Christ so that our personal milestones will also be milestones for God’s Kingdom. —KF ■

## CONTENTS

SEPTEMBER 2024  
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### FEATURES

<b>Considering Tim</b> by Rodney S. Loper	<b>3</b>
<b>Dr. Leonard Lewis Sankey</b> obituary	<b>20</b>
<b>Thoughts On Last Wills And Testaments</b> by Michael Yancey, Jr.	<b>21</b>
<b>Crater Family Tributes</b> by Crater Family	<b>22</b>

### DEPARTMENTS

<b>The President’s Page</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>News From The Hilltop</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Revivalist Family</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Dear Phil: A Biblical Response</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Alumni News</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Letters To The Editor</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Thoughts For The Quiet Hour</b>	<b>27</b>

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COVER PHOTO of Tim Crater by Courtney Collingsworth Metz; image compilation by Kevin Moser.

# the president's page



## CONSIDERING TIM

by Dr. Rodney S. Loper, President

If I had been in the College Choir while I was a student at God's Bible School, I would be in a better position to talk about "Mr. Crater, my choir director." I am sure other tributes will give a "student's perspective" on Tim's musical and spiritual influences. He arrived on staff at GBS about the time I married and moved off campus, so I did not have a chance to interact with him much while I was a student. By the time he had assumed the responsibilities of choir director, I was pastoring a church. I *did* get to see him lead the choir as a member of the congregation many times. It was evident that he was an accomplished director.

Now, from my position as president, I can give a few more specifics. Tim is passionate about creating an atmosphere of worship—both for the choir and for those for whom they sing. I never worry if the music he selects will minister to our constituents. I have never been embarrassed by the selection of songs or the musicality of the choir. When he leads the congregational singing for our chapel services, you can always count on his careful, prayerful selection of music.

Tim's family have been faithful companions to his ministry here. They dearly love this dedicated husband and father. (See "Crater Family Tributes," p.22.) Yes, it is easy to look up to Tim—such a hard worker...and a classy dresser! But ultimately, Timothy Crater is a man after God's own heart. Enjoy this glimpse of his life to this point. We hope that GBS will be blessed by many more years of his dedicated service.

## GBS HERITAGE

The story of Dwight Timothy Crater begins with Dorothy Lawson, born and reared in Rockingham County, North Carolina. Her parents were

photo by Shane Muir

itinerant tobacco farmers of the Baptist faith. Dorothy was the last of 11 children, and she had many wonderful childhood memories, even amidst hardships—she grew up in poverty, and her father died when she was only 10 years old. A hard worker, she was known as the fastest tobacco stringer in Rockingham County!

When Dorothy was 16, she gave her heart and life to Jesus while kneeling by her bedside, and she became a tremendous witness for Him. Later, while she was living with her sister and brother-in-law in Eden, North Carolina, they attended a small Wesleyan church near Martinsville, Virginia. A preacher by the name of Bud Easter suggested she should attend God's Bible School. She enrolled in September 1952 and completed the Christian Workers Course in 1954, after which she served as Dean of Women from 1954 to 1962.

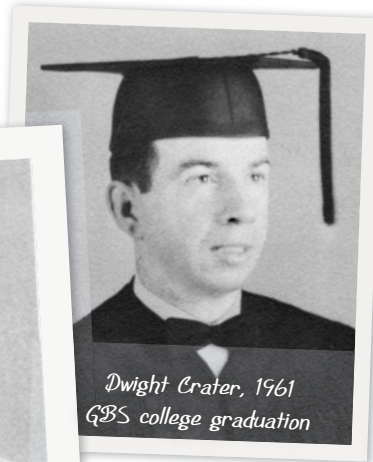
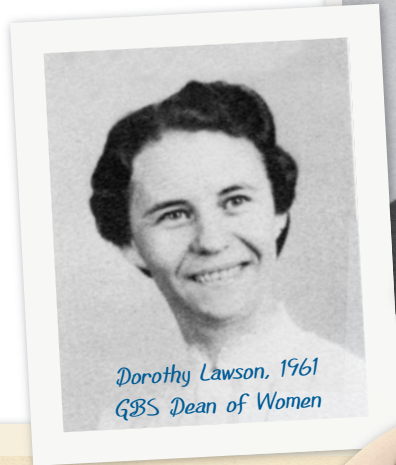
Meanwhile, Dwight D. Crater was also on

his own trajectory to GBS. He was born in Thomasville, North Carolina, and reared in nearby High Point. His father was a holiness preacher who pastored several small churches, eventually founding Trinity Holiness Church in the 1950s in Sophia, North Carolina. Dwight had been saved in High Point at a Youth for Christ meeting when he was 14. During the Korean conflict, he served in the U.S. Army and was deployed for a time in Korea. After his discharge, he worked with his brothers in a couple of different entrepreneurial endeavors.

He made his way to GBS in September 1958 and received a Christian Workers Course diploma in 1959 and a ThB in 1961. He then served GBS in several different capacities, some concurrently: faculty from 1961 to 1966, teaching Bible, theology, and homiletics; Assistant Dean of Men from 1961 to 1964; Dean of Men from 1964 to 1965; and Christian Service Director from 1965 to 1966.

Dwight was very aware of Dorothy, who was Dean of Women. Soon after they began dating, Dwight asked her to marry him, but she turned him down. A couple of years passed before he was brave enough to pop the question again. This time her answer was "yes." On November 24, 1962, at the Dan River Wesleyan Church near Eden, they were married. Rev. E.G. Marsh, president of GBS, officiated the ceremony.

While Dwight continued various jobs at GBS, Dorothy did not, and Dwight Timothy Crater



was born on June 18, 1964. Little Tim's first home was on the GBS campus. Later, Tim was dedicated to God by President Marsh during a GBS camp meeting ceremony. Tim has very few early memories of GBS, but he does remember living in "the middle house with the bay windows" on the west side of the 1800 block of Young Street, and some vague memories of the campus when he returned for a visit in 1968.

## NORTH CAROLINA ROOTS

In 1966, when Tim was two, his parents left Cincinnati to return to North Carolina. They moved into a mobile home on the church property in Sophia—the church that Tim's Grandpa Crater had founded. Tim's dad found a job in High Point at the Picket Cotton Mill working as a foreman in the shipping department. This central North Carolina town was highly industrialized and was known for producing textiles and furniture. Tim recounts some memories from that time:

"The church property was a narrow strip of land bordered on one side by a very busy highway and on the other by a railroad track. Our mobile home sat beside a grove of trees, just yards from my grandparents' house. I spent a lot of time riding a tricycle through the trees and playing on a swing set facing the railroad. Periodically a freight train would pass. I remember watching the train from the top of the sliding board. Some days the kind conductor would throw candy for me and wave.

"I remember a Sunday night service as a child when the Holy Spirit deeply convicted my heart. I remember listening to the recordings of the Bill Gaither Trio at my grandma's house and relishing the sweet harmonies. Many wonderful memories were made at my grandparents' table eating Grandma's delicious fried chicken and mouth-watering biscuits. I would stand by her while she rolled out the dough. I loved to eat the uncooked dough and she would graciously share it with me. Grandpa would tell me that I was going to get cancer."

While in North Carolina, Tim had many opportunities to bond with uncles, aunts, and cousins on his dad's side, as well as some of his mom's family who lived in Eden. It was a blessing for Tim, who was an only child, to be around his relatives, especially those close to his own age.

In 1969, a Christian day school was started at the Free Pilgrim Church in nearby Thomasville. Tim's parents were asked to be two of the four original teachers. Dorothy taught grades 1-3 and Dwight taught Bible, history, and math in the high school. They believed that this was the specific reason God had moved the family back to North Carolina. The Craters bought a larger mobile home and moved to the new campus of Carolina Christian Academy.

"As a child, I realized this was a major move, but I didn't know the impact it would have on my life. Some family members were concerned that my dad was leaving a well-paying job to work fulltime in Christian ministry.



## TIM CRATER 25 Years

It has been a true privilege working alongside Tim as a fellow music faculty team member for the past 15 years. Throughout our time together, Tim has exemplified the qualities of a dedicated and exceptional musician and professor. His spirit-filled attitude of humility, coupled with his remarkable expertise, has consistently shone through in his choral leadership, performance practice, and the classes he has taught. Tim's commitment to maintaining a high collegiate standard of quality has not only enriched our department, but has also inspired all who have had the pleasure of working with him; and for that, we are deeply grateful.

DR. NICK POP  
GBS Faculty, Music Division

Tim Crater loves God with all his heart and it shows. It is a delight to work with him at GBS, and particularly to hear him play the piano, which doesn't happen often enough for my taste. Congratulations on 25 years!

DR. PHILIP BROWN  
GBS Ministerial Faculty;  
Graduate Program Director

Tim Crater is a friend and faithful minister in God's work. He is gifted by the Lord in leading congregational and choir singing, resulting many times in God's presence being felt. Thank you, Brother Tim, for your service.

MICHAEL YANCEY, JR.  
GBS Director of Development

I appreciate the opportunity to work alongside Tim Crater. His passion to be Christlike and his gracious spirit are an encouragement, and I'm thankful for the influence he has been here on the Hilltop for the last 25 years. May God continue to bless and prosper the many seeds he has sown.

DR. STEPHEN B. SMITH  
GBS Ministerial Faculty

Tim, I admire the way you combine unwavering dedication to excellence with a deep kindness toward your students.

MIKE DeSTEFANO  
GBS Music Faculty; Director,  
Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble



# TIM CRATER

## 25 Years

It has been my privilege to be longtime friends of Tim and Tanya Crater after having been classmates with them in college at GBS. I've also enjoyed a very special relationship with their kids who have called me "Uncle Kevin" since they were first able to speak. Congratulations, Tim, on this milestone!

**KEVIN MOSER**  
Assistant Editor / Art Director, Revivalist Press

In my 14 years at GBS, Tim Crater became a close ministry colleague and friend (although I learned early on at a conference in Texas about his questionable driving skills 😊). He is a real Christian, a true lead worshiper, and he has consistently produced choirs that sound great and minister with Spirit-led excellence. Love you, bro, congratulations on 25 years!

**DAVID HARTKOPF**  
Former GBS SWSE Director; Campus Pastor,  
Smith Mountain Lake Christian Academy, Moneta, VA

I have been blessed to work with Tim Crater for 24 of his 25 years at GBS. During that time, I have come to know him as a fervent follower of Christ, a genuinely kind gentleman, a dedicated and talented musician, a compassionate student advocate, and an invaluable part of the GBS community. I am grateful to call him a friend!

**SONJA VERNON**  
GBS V.P. for Student Affairs

Tim Crater is a man who genuinely loves God and desires that the music he leads will always honor and glorify the Lord. He is passionate about communicating this to his students, as is evident by the prayer meetings he leads before each choir service, but also by the fervency with which he worships His Lord as he directs the choir. Many times I have observed tears of worship flowing down his face as he leads the choir. I also appreciate the prayerful and careful selection of songs for each year's repertoire. I never have to worry if the music will be appropriate or God-honoring. Year after year, Bro. Tim provides a service of music that blesses the churches in which we are privileged to sing. May God continue to use Tim Crater to exalt Christ, inspire students, and bless congregations.

**DUANE QUESENBERRY**  
GBS Director of Public Relations

This certainly greatly affected their financial status, but in retrospect I'm thankful they responded to God's call.

"I spent many days on my bike riding around the campus and playing with the campus kids. I have many happy memories. While I slept one night, a dangerous storm was in our area. My parents were praying as it moved through the campus. It uprooted large oak trees just across the road from our mobile home—literally a stone's throw away from our trailer. The next day the campus children played on the trunks of the downed trees. I'm sure my parents gave God the glory for saving our lives and the campus homes.

"My parents were humble, earnest Christ-followers. They believed deeply in the power of prayer. When Mama prayed, things happened. She was also a strong disciplinarian—driven, dynamic, and resourceful. But, she knew how to make hard work fun! She carried this enthusiasm into the classroom and other ministries. Somehow, she had a talent for inspiring others to greatness.

"My father was a man of sterling character, a quiet southern gentleman who was most happy when reading one of the holiness classics in the evenings. His quiet personality didn't keep him from witnessing and telling people about Jesus. He even started a prison ministry in a local prison. He had taught a class on personal evangelism at GBS, so he was simply living out what he had preached! When I got older and learned how to play the accordion, I would accompany him on many Thursday evenings and play along as he led the prison inmates in singing."

### GRADE-SCHOOL YEARS

Tim was "always the scrawny kid in the class and seemed to be a late bloomer at every stage of life"—something he blamed on being born six weeks premature. He completed all 12 years of grade school at Carolina Christian Academy and was a good student. Grades meant everything to him, and he loved his teachers, many of whom were GBS graduates. He was



usually at the top of his class, but in his senior year of high school, another student pulled slightly ahead, leaving him to graduate as salutatorian in 1982. Tim admits that peer pressure finally caught up with him the last couple of years of high school. "I delighted in being more popular and was proud to be the class president in both my junior and senior years, but those things failed to make me into a better person."

As a kid, Tim had always wanted to be "some kind of musician." He has early memories of riding in the front seat of the family car and enthusiastically singing "Dwelling in Beulah Land" while pretending to play the piano on the dashboard. He started taking piano lessons when he was in the third grade. Mrs. Ellen Hemrick was an excellent teacher/musician who directed the high school choir. His parents bought a used piano for \$300 from a music store in the Westchester Mall in High Point. Looking back, Tim says, "Its brilliant tone sounded like it came straight from a honky-tonk, but this instrument became my dear friend and opened limitless musical doors for me."

Tim learned to sing alto under Mrs. Hemrick's tutelage in the junior choir in about the third or fourth grade. Once he learned to sing a harmony part, he was "hooked for life!" He continued singing in the high school choir, which was also directed by Mrs. Hemrick. "I'll always remember the beautiful arrangement of 'God Knows All About Tomorrow' that we sang at my high school graduation," Tim says.

Tim also sang tenor in a mixed quartet at his church. There was a trio of some renown called The Young Witnesses led by the group's pianist/singer, Paul Beck. When one of its members left for college at GBS, Tim took his place. Tim relishes memories of singing with that group.

"Paul was a musical genius, and at the time I didn't realize the impact he would have on me. Singing with this trio gave me opportunities to sing in churches in the local area and in revivals and camp meetings in Alabama, Ohio, and Illinois. I loved singing, but I wasn't serving the Lord, though I professed to be a Christian. I'm sure that my singing partners wondered about my shallow commitment, but they gave me the benefit of the doubt. We certainly had a barrel of fun. Paul Beck and Randall Crofts were earnest followers of Christ and had a lasting impact on me. One of the most powerful memories I have was singing 'Whatever It Takes' at the Alabama Bible Methodist Youth Camp one night when the presence of Jesus swept over the congregation and the altar lined. I stand amazed at the lovingkindness and tender mercies of my heavenly Father. I can't understand why God chose to use this marred vessel, but I'm sure He was honoring the prayers of my trio members and those of the people working on the Pell City campground."

## **SPIRITUAL ABOUT-FACE**

"For years I had played the part of a hypocrite, outwardly claiming to be something that I was not, but inwardly running from God, full of pride, rebellion, and brokenness. Although I loved my parents dearly, I had lit-

I have great respect and admiration for Tim Crater. His passion for music ministry is contagious, and his love for and dedication to his students is evident. He is a team player who is always willing to help, no matter the task. He understands our context and influence and has been an asset in finding the best repertoire for services and events that represent GBS well and connect with our alumni and friends. He is a dear colleague and friend. Congratulations, Tim, on this accomplishment!

**DR. JANA POP**  
Chair, GBS Music Division

Mr. Crater and our family go way back. We have known him since his college days at GBS as we were on staff at that time. Our families have gone to church together and he was the song leader. We always appreciated his prayerful pick of songs and the genuine spirit of worship he would portray as he led singing. We have worked together at Liberty Bible Academy as he was K-12 music teacher. He was our daughter's first piano teacher as well. We always enjoyed the Christmas and Spring programs that he orchestrated year after year. His programs were always top notch as he worked hard—training, teaching, and modeling Christ to our children as they studied music together. Years later, our son was privileged again to have Mr. Crater as his college choir director at GBS and enjoyed traveling with the choir as well. Mr. Crater will always be remembered as friendly, a man of character, sincere, humble, and Christlike in word and action! Thank you, Mr. Crater, for your godly influence on our family!

**FRANK & CHARLOTTE SMITH**  
Facilities / Maintenance Dir., Liberty Bible Academy (Frank);  
LBA Admissions Director (Charlotte)

I have known Tim Crater for many years. He is a wonderful Christian whose dedication to his work is truly impressive. My wife and I enjoyed our time with him, especially sharing Christmas meals with his family. As I see him working in the music department, leading the choir, having fun at school picnics, I am impressed with his wonderful example of a real man of God!

**FLOYD HYATT**  
GBS Safety Resource Officer

Tim Crater is a dedicated follower of Christ who seeks to encourage others to be dedicated followers of Christ. Not only is he blessed with excellent musical gifts, but he possesses the heart of a caregiver. I have seen him respond to people in need in a way that shows genuine compassion. He has a pastor's heart without being a pastor. He obviously loves and is very committed to his family. I appreciate and admire my friend and colleague, Tim Crater.

**RICHARD MILES**  
GBS V.P. for Spiritual Life

tle-to-no desire to adopt their careful lifestyle, which I was sure would leave me with little of this world's goods."

In his early years his heart had been tender. He had bowed at altars many times but had never made a full commitment to serve the Lord. After graduating from high school at Carolina Christian Academy in 1982, Tim stayed in Thomasville and continued his education at the newly formed Bible college on the same campus. He realizes now that it was the goodness of God that kept him at home for one more year. During the Spring of 1983, he began to come to grips with his sinfulness and lack of purpose. Every year now, he tells those in the GBS College Choir about going to a GBS choir service at the Christ Wesleyan Church in Greensboro during that spring, and the impact that the anointed singing had on his heart.

"I was accustomed to seeing 'old people' loving and serving Jesus, but I was not used to seeing 'young people' sing under the anointing. I didn't give my heart to the Lord that night, but I truly believe God used that choir service to bring me to a place of repentance. Somehow God showed me who I really was, and I got very scared. During the 10-day camp meeting held just across the road from my home, I started getting honest with God and myself, and the Holy Spirit began to put me under deep conviction of sin. I had lied about so many situations to cover my tracks and the Devil told me I could never find Jesus! But on the last Sunday night of the meeting, I determined to get right with God. As Rev. V.O. Agan preached that final service, I was under deep conviction. Providentially, I was sitting near the front because I couldn't get to the altar fast enough. I prayed in desperation, and, of course, Jesus came and forgave me and made me a new creature in Christ Jesus! It was a watershed moment, and I have never forgotten when 'My chains fell off and my heart was free!' My spiritual birthday is June 19, 1983. God gave me the courage to stand up on the next Wednesday night in my home church, confess my hypocrisy, and tell how Jesus saved me."

## COLLEGE TRANSFER

Tim had recently attended the 1983 VIP Day for prospective students at GBS. Now he had a decision to make: continue at CCA or transfer to GBS. He was attracted to GBS because of his parents' history there and the College Choir under the direction of Garen Wolf. He also wanted to take piano lessons from Professor Archie Coons. Several CCA staff with connections to GBS also had an influence on him. "David Stetler [GBS alumnus] had a tremendous influence on my life. Dorothy Bowen [former GBS faculty and College Choir accompanist] gave me voice and piano lessons, and I looked up to her as well."

He decided to transfer to GBS and arrived there in August 1983. He doesn't recall ever considering another degree other than music education. That degree required a primary and secondary instrument. His primary emphasis



Some of the GBS quartets/trios that included Tim Crater, top to bottom—  
 "Fourman Quartet": John Case, Tim Crater, Theresa Fourman (accompanist), Archie Atwell, Frank Ball; "Fourman Quartet": same as previous with Ralph Tuttle replacing Archie Atwell; "Harvest Trio": Ralph Tuttle, Frank Ball, Tim Crater; "Sechrest Quartet": Milton Schaper, John Case, Tim Crater, Ralph Tuttle, Pat Sechrest (accompanist).



was piano, and his secondary was voice. This required him to take four years of piano and two years of voice. The fact that he “squeezed my GBS days into six years” was probably a testament to his extracurricular involvement. For five years, he was in the College Choir and other small, public relations groups. In fact, for each of those years he sang with a different combination of voices in three male quartets and two male trios. He also traveled for the school during those summers.

“My first summer, I traveled with Professor Kenneth Stetler. I found this man to be a spiritually-minded PR representative, but always ready to take us to memorable points of interest. One highlight was visiting the World Trade Center in New York City and standing on the observation deck 1,377 feet above street level.

“My second summer of PR travels was a Western tour with Larry Jewett as school representative. Phil Collingsworth, Ralph Tuttle, John Case, and I sang with Pat Jewett accompanying. We made it all the way to California and the West Coast in a motor home. The Jewetts were so much fun, and I loved traveling in the West. For my last two years of travel, I sang and played the piano with a quartet and a trio. I even traveled a few times with Dr. Ken Farmer, current editor of *God’s Revivalist*, as the PR representative. The Lord allowed me to travel with quartet and trio members who were earnest in their desire to worship and glorify the Lord in our services. I loved it! One of those individuals, Ralph Tuttle, was also my roommate. He became the brother I never had. To this day, I am honored that his parents consider me to be their ‘adopted son.’”

### TANYA’S ENTRANCE

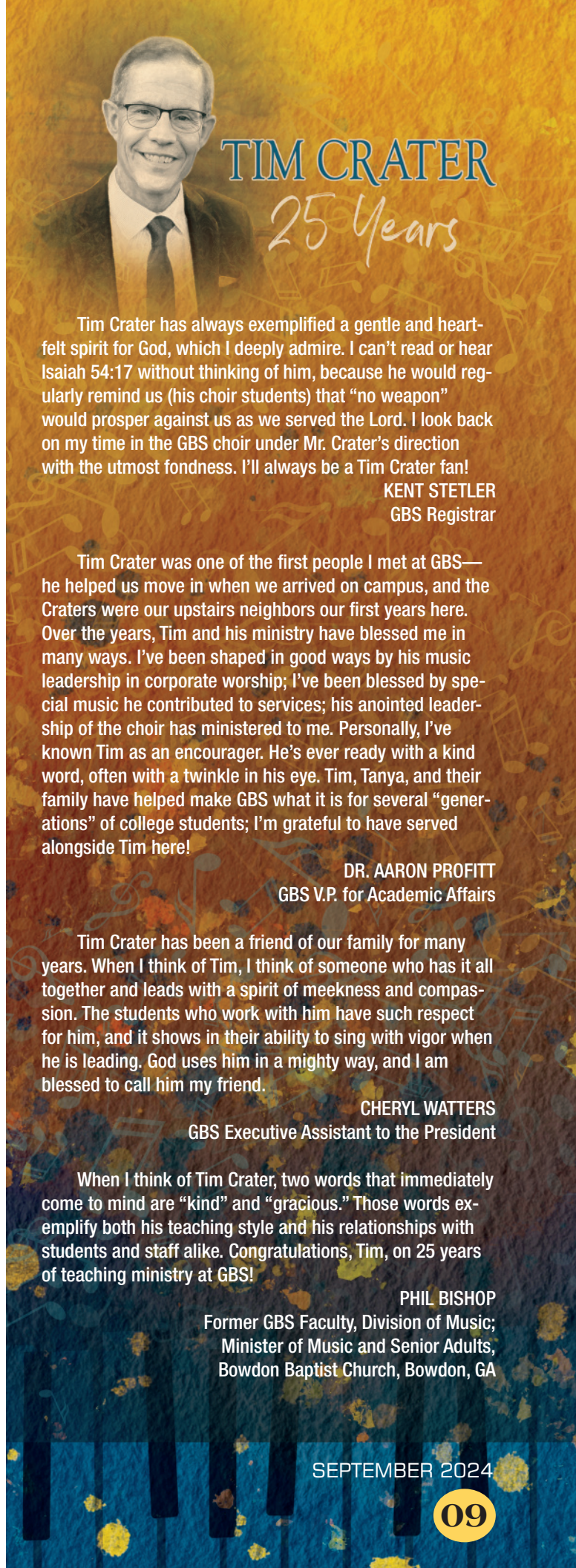
Tanya Cheatham was born and reared in Indianapolis, Indiana. During her growing up years, many GBS music groups came to her home church, Southport Church of the Nazarene. She especially loved hearing the College Choir. “It was wonderful to see so many young people worshiping together and testifying to God’s faithfulness in their lives. At a very young age, I knew that God was calling me to GBS.” She enrolled there in 1984, majoring in music education.

She did not know Tim before arriving at GBS. The first time she noticed him was during the fall revival of her freshman year. “Tim sang a solo on the last night of revival. I remember thinking how passionate and sincere he was about what he was singing.” In her sophomore year, Tanya joined the College Choir. It was during one of her first weekends out with choir that sparks began to fly...or maybe it was paper wads.

Here’s the account from Tanya’s perspective:

“We were en route to somewhere on the big bus when a piece of wadded up paper hit me. I looked up from my seat and saw the guilty one—Tim. Needless to say, I threw it back and the paper wad found its mark. Tim assumed from my response that I was interested in him.”

That seems to comport with Tim’s recollection:



Tim Crater has always exemplified a gentle and heartfelt spirit for God, which I deeply admire. I can’t read or hear Isaiah 54:17 without thinking of him, because he would regularly remind us (his choir students) that “no weapon” would prosper against us as we served the Lord. I look back on my time in the GBS choir under Mr. Crater’s direction with the utmost fondness. I’ll always be a Tim Crater fan!

KENT STETLER  
GBS Registrar

Tim Crater was one of the first people I met at GBS—he helped us move in when we arrived on campus, and the Craters were our upstairs neighbors our first years here. Over the years, Tim and his ministry have blessed me in many ways. I’ve been shaped in good ways by his music leadership in corporate worship; I’ve been blessed by special music he contributed to services; his anointed leadership of the choir has ministered to me. Personally, I’ve known Tim as an encourager. He’s ever ready with a kind word, often with a twinkle in his eye. Tim, Tanya, and their family have helped make GBS what it is for several “generations” of college students; I’m grateful to have served alongside Tim here!

DR. AARON PROFITT  
GBS V.P. for Academic Affairs

Tim Crater has been a friend of our family for many years. When I think of Tim, I think of someone who has it all together and leads with a spirit of meekness and compassion. The students who work with him have such respect for him, and it shows in their ability to sing with vigor when he is leading. God uses him in a mighty way, and I am blessed to call him my friend.

CHERYL WATTERS  
GBS Executive Assistant to the President

When I think of Tim Crater, two words that immediately come to mind are “kind” and “gracious.” Those words exemplify both his teaching style and his relationships with students and staff alike. Congratulations, Tim, on 25 years of teaching ministry at GBS!

PHIL BISHOP  
Former GBS Faculty, Division of Music;  
Minister of Music and Senior Adults,  
Bowdon Baptist Church, Bowdon, GA



# TIM CRATER

## 25 Years

I am privileged to have known Mr. Crater as a choir director, a fellow staff member, fellow churchgoer, and a friend. I have deeply appreciated his consistent sincerity, emphasis on worship, kindness, advice, and passion for prayer. He has been a blessing in my life!

JOSEPH TILLIS  
GBS Business Manager

Tim has been a valuable asset to the music division! His passion for worship, his students, and for working with the college choir is evident. He shares his love for church music with his students.

JESSICA SMITH  
GBS Music Faculty and Engage Ministry Coordinator

I first met Tim in my early years as a music professor at GBS where I was privileged to have him and Tanya as students. We quickly developed a close friendship that has deepened through the years, and we have celebrated many Christmases together—an annual highlight for me and my family. I had the honor of playing the flute in Tim and Tanya’s wedding and later being Katrin, Zachary, and Caroline’s first piano teacher.

Tim, I admire your musical ability, dedication to excellence, accolades you have achieved, and the many hours of preparation, teaching, rehearsals, and performances. Most of all, I am grateful for your sincere devotion to Jesus and the high standard of holy living you consistently seek to achieve.

DR. JEWEL SMITH  
former GBS faculty member

It seems like it was just yesterday that Mr. Tim Crater joined the Music Division faculty. He first came primarily as a piano teacher to help Mrs. Martha Miller, who had a very heavy teaching load. He also brought a first-hand expertise in elementary music to our music and elementary education majors. When it was time for me to pass the torch, Tim was my choice to become the college choir director. He has done well in every area, but choir has been one of his major successes. I have been proud of him as a choir director and for his passion for choral music ministry. It seems impossible that he has taught at GBS for 25 years. Congratulations, Mr. Crater, for 25 great years!

GAREN L. WOLF  
GBS Music Chair Emeritus

“I believe I saw Tanya for the first time in the foyer of the Miller/Deets Student Center. She looked way too beautiful and classy for this southern boy! But things changed after she started singing in the College Choir. On a weekend choir outing, I decided to ‘test the waters.’ She was sitting across the aisle and back a few seats from me on the bus. I threw a paper wad at her, and she immediately returned the ‘gift.’ For some reason, I thought that was a positive response and started pursuing her.”

A few months into the relationship, Tanya “knew that Tim was the one,” adding that “it took Tim a few years” to come to that same realization. Tim eventually came to the conclusion that he could spend his life with “this sweet



Tanya Cheatham and Tim Crater with Tim’s parents, Dwight and Dorothy Crater, GBS Commencement 1989.

girl.” They walked down the aisle together as music education graduates from GBS in 1989. The “other aisle” would come later.

Tanya moved back home to Indianapolis and worked for a local dry cleaner during the day doing alterations. In the evenings she did private tutoring for Sylvan Learning Centers. Tim accepted a full-time position teaching music at Liberty Bible Academy, a new Christian school in the Cincinnati area, founded by GBS alumnus Dean Truesdale, which originally was located at the Kenwood Bible Methodist Church. Tim’s first classroom for grades K-8 was on the platform of the old church sanctuary. Tim’s studies at GBS and his student teaching at Cincinnati Christian Schools proved to be excellent training. However, one thing was lacking. Tim had never taught an official piano lesson until he started teaching private piano lessons at LBA.

“I remember getting out my notes from Professor Bill Lipke’s piano pedagogy class on how to teach your first piano lesson. It worked—the student survived!”

During this time, Tim house-sat in Loveland, Ohio, for some friends while they spent the school year with their daughter on the mission field. Although they acted like Tim was doing them a favor, he says, “In actuality, they gave me a tremendous gift!”

As Tim and Tanya continued dating, they spent a lot of time together on the weekends, and Tanya's artistic talents helped Tim to have outstanding classroom bulletin boards, which were changed monthly.

"We kept Interstate 74 hot during that last year of courtship. I asked Tanya to marry me on Sweetest Day, October 21, 1989. Of course, at that point I had no idea how much she would balance out this guy! She has kept my feet on the ground when my emotions have soared and brought sanity when I thought I would lose my mind." They were married on June 8, 1990, at the Southport Church of the Nazarene in Indianapolis. Both of their pastors officiated the ceremony: Rev. Arthur



Swaney, Tim's pastor from North Carolina; and Rev. Gene Bennett, Tanya's pastor at Southport Nazarene.

While Tim had been living in Cincinnati, he attended church at Loveland Wesleyan Chapel, pastored by GBS alumnus Ray Campbell, and that became the Craters' church home after they were married. Tim played the piano regularly, and he and Tanya sang a lot of specials.

In the fall, Tanya began teaching grades three and four at Liberty Bible Academy. She continued for two years until they began expanding their family as Katrin was born September 11, 1992. Around that time, Dean and Ona Truesdale were leaving their job as caretakers of a lovely condominium building near Mt. Lookout, and they recommended the Craters for the position. As caretakers, the Craters lived in a basement apartment rent-free for five years with an extra salary. Their son Zachary was born May 19, 1995.

Tim has many fond memories of working with the teachers and students under Dean Truesdale's leadership at LBA. "Dean ran a really tight ship, and I learned so much under his leadership. I worked hard, and I fell in love with the students. There were times that I would direct two musicals in one night, one for grades K-4 and one for grades 5-8. I also fell in love with leading the musical part of the chapel services each Friday. I found that children were easily drawn in by a good dose of

enthusiasm." However, when his pastor, Ray Campbell asked Tim to be in charge of leading the singing for their church services, he was hesitant at first. "But Pastor Campbell wisely told me that he thought I was capable and that he needed me. God used this opportunity to open a new door of ministry."

## NEW ADVENTURES

In the winter of 1999, on a Sunday morning, Tim was praying in a Sunday school room at church. He sensed that God might be asking him to make a change, and he struggled with that. As the school year came to a close, he said, "It became clear to me that God was going to move me away from the institution and group of people I dearly loved. When I think back to that time twenty-five years ago, I still remember the promise God gave me: 'My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.'"

Somehow GBS Music Chair Garen Wolf heard that Tim might be leaving LBA. He told the GBS academy principal, David Crosley, to contact Tim to see if he was interested in teaching music at the academy. He was.

"When I returned to GBS, I worked primarily for Aldersgate Christian Academy (ACA). I was also the piano accompanist for many, if not all, of Mr. Wolf's voice lessons. I spent hours with this great man. Observing his teaching gave me so much more practical experience than I had been able to receive as a student. I also accompanied many junior and senior vocal recitals."

On March, 29, 2000, toward the end of Tim's first year at ACA, Caroline was born. The family was now complete.

Tim initially taught elementary music classes, accompanied the High School Choir, directed several ACA Christmas musicals, and even worked part-time in the learning center. Most of his time was spent in his windowless classroom on the mezzanine floor of the Miller-Deets Student Center teaching general music.

"I was cloistered away in that room on September 11, 2001. Some of the older elementary students told me that a plane had hit a building in New York City and that there was a fire in Washington, D.C. In my ignorance, I told them that there couldn't be any relationship between the two incidents as those two cities were miles apart. When I finally finished my normal routine and went out on campus, I was met with the unthinkable reality of the 9/11 terror attack."

When the high school choir director took a leave of absence due to sickness, Tim filled in. He also took the choir to a couple of competitions that year, including a national competition held at Bob Jones University, Greenville, South Carolina.

In the summer of 2002, Tim began work on a master's degree in church music at Bob Jones University.

"It was amazing how God worked out the details for us to have a place to live in the old parsonage at the

Easley Bible Methodist Church about 12 miles from the BJU campus!"

He made that trip for four consecutive summers and completed the program in 2005. This church music degree gave him a strong focus in hymnology, choral conducting, and vocal pedagogy. He was also required to perform a graduate piano recital.

### INCREASED RESPONSIBILITIES

Garen Wolf had chaired the Music Division since 1976, directing both the College Choir and the Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble (SWSE), producing the annual Christmas Programs, and teaching classes. In 2008, he quietly began discussing retirement and a succession plan with Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Ken Farmer. Tim remembers a conversation Garen had with him around that time.

"We were on the SWSE tour and had just left a church in Thomasville, North Carolina, that morning and were heading to Virginia. For some reason I was sitting up front with Mr. Wolf, and he shared with me that he would be stepping down from his leadership roles in a couple of years. I was honored to have the inside scoop on what God was doing in Mr. Wolf's life. At that point, however, I had no idea that I would be the next choir director, but God was preparing me."



After the close of that school year, spring 2009, a select group of singers from the College Choir spent 10 days in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland holding services in various churches. When Mrs. Martha Miller, the piano accompanist, was unable to participate, Tim, who had substituted for Martha from time to time, was asked to accompany the group.

"This was a trip of a lifetime, and I still have awesome memories of that beautiful land and the presence of God in our services. We had been forewarned that the people there could be a bit stoical compared to worshipers in the U.S. However, our students were warmly and readily received by our newfound Irish friends! On this trip I had opportunities to engage with the students on a new level. I sensed that God was preparing me for something different."

Tim's premonition was on target. During the next school year, he was asked to lead the College Choir upon Garen Wolf's retirement. Dr. Farmer and the administration selected three individuals to fill the three major jobs Garen had held: Dr. Jana Pop, chair of the Division of Music; Tim Crater, director of the College Choir; and David Hartkopf, director of SWSE. During the next academic year preceding Garen's retirement, each shadowed him and was given increasing leadership, assuming complete responsibilities in these areas in 2010.

In addition to directing the College Choir, Tim taught various music classes, advised/coached public relations music groups, and shared the responsibility of directing the Christmas Choir and Orchestra for the Christmas musicals with the SWSE director, David Hartkopf. He and choir accompanist Martha Miller chose the choir repertoire for gospel services, the Christmas program, and the classical oratorio concerts.

### 25-YEAR REFLECTION

That Tim has stayed and taught in Cincinnati all these years is as much of a surprise to him as anybody.

*Ireland: Trip of a Lifetime*



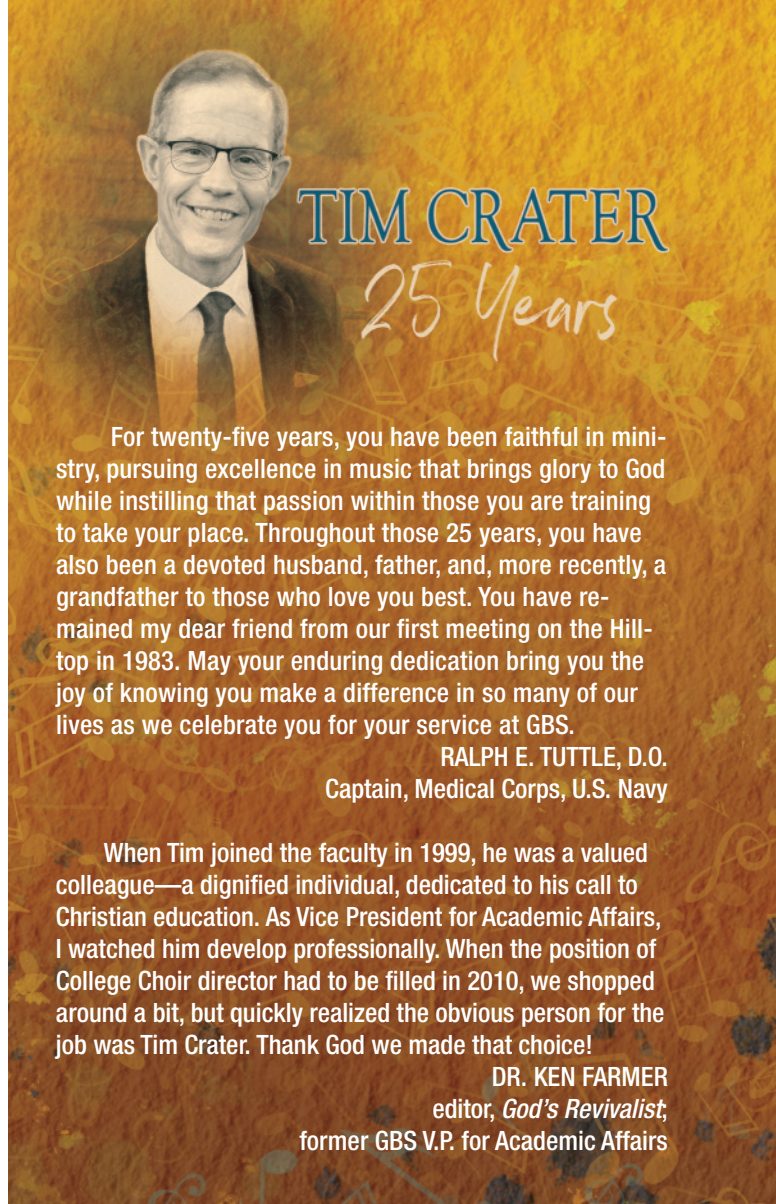
All through college his plan had been to return to Thomsville, North Carolina; but the Lord had other plans. Investing in young lives has been very rewarding, and Tim believes that GBS has some of the best young people in the world!

"Of course, I love my colleagues and enjoy working with talented, spiritually-minded people. Traveling with the College Choir has been a highlight of my career and ministry. Hearing our students sing under the anointing is a joy that will not be eclipsed until we get to heaven.

"All three of our children were blessed to be a part of the campus family along with many spiritual, musical, academic, and athletic opportunities. All three are very loyal to ACA and GBS and love Cincinnati to a fault. Best of all, each of our children has sought Jesus at the same chapel altar where I was dedicated to God by President E.G. Marsh in 1964. They have chosen to serve the Lord and have been mentored by godly friends on this campus. [See 'Family Tributes,' p.22.]

"The Crater family has grown during the last few years. Caroline married Ryan Craig in 2021, and Katrin married Christopher Dean Cravens in 2024. On December 3, 2023, God allowed Tanya and me to graduate to grandparent status with the birth of Emerson Ryan Craig! We are blessed to live on the same street with this boy and report that he has stolen Papaw and Nana's hearts!"

All of us here at God's Bible School offer congratulations to you, Tim Crater, for 25 years of excellent service! I know as you have reflected on these years, and as you move closer to retirement age, you say that you are open to what God has in store for you. We hope that means you will be staying right here at GBS where you belong! 📌



## TIM CRATER

25 Years

For twenty-five years, you have been faithful in ministry, pursuing excellence in music that brings glory to God while instilling that passion within those you are training to take your place. Throughout those 25 years, you have also been a devoted husband, father, and, more recently, a grandfather to those who love you best. You have remained my dear friend from our first meeting on the Hilltop in 1983. May your enduring dedication bring you the joy of knowing you make a difference in so many of our lives as we celebrate you for your service at GBS.

RALPH E. TUTTLE, D.O.  
Captain, Medical Corps, U.S. Navy

When Tim joined the faculty in 1999, he was a valued colleague—a dignified individual, dedicated to his call to Christian education. As Vice President for Academic Affairs, I watched him develop professionally. When the position of College Choir director had to be filled in 2010, we shopped around a bit, but quickly realized the obvious person for the job was Tim Crater. Thank God we made that choice!

DR. KEN FARMER  
editor, *God's Revivalist*;  
former GBS V.P. for Academic Affairs



Tim Crater directs the combined high school and college choirs along with the Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble on the Hamilton County Courthouse steps for the National Day of Prayer, May 1, 2014.



## HILLTOP PIANO INSTITUTE

The annual GBS Hilltop Piano Institute (HPI), a 5-day summer piano camp for pre-college students, always scheduled the week of Memorial Day, was held May 27-31.

A highlight of the camp was the Tuesday evening faculty showcase (Jana Pop, Timothy Crater, Michael DeStefano, Martha Miller, and Jessica Smith) featuring classi-

cal, sacred, and wedding works for piano and organ in both solo and collaborative settings.

Twenty campers benefited from daily instruction in general music classes, music exploration courses (Collaborative Piano and Organ, Muse on Art, Intro to Dalcroze Eurhythmics, Intro to Conducting, Collaborative Piano and Song Leading, and Intro to Vocal Accompanying), as well as daily private and collaborative lessons in traditional and hymn-based literature with assigned instructors.

Evening activities, led by the HPI Social Team Lead, Dr. Matthew Hallam, and assisted by Eli Albring, included dodgeball, ul-

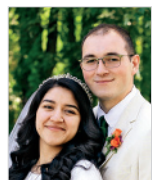


timate frisbee, art challenges, and an outing for two treasure hunts in beautiful Eden Park and Mt. Adams.

# 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.*

## WEDDING



**Jocelyn Martinez to John Williams**, July 19, 2024, at New Life Community Church, Cincinnati, OH, Rev. Rafael Martinez and Rev. Chris Cravens officiating. John graduated from Aldersgate Christian Academy (GBS) in 2022 and is in his junior year of college at GBS working toward a BA in Bible and Theology. His goal is to be a youth pastor within the Heartland Conference of the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches. Jocelyn attended GBS in 2021 for her freshman year while studying at Christ College through the Greater Cincinnati Collegiate Connection

(GC3) to become a registered nurse. The Williamses live in Cincinnati.

## DEATHS



**Billy ("Bill") L. Sankey**, 82, of Greenville, PA, passed away surrounded by his family on Thursday morning, March 14, 2024, at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Passavant-McCandless. He was born in Greenville on March 10, 1942, to William Paul "Pete" and Leona Mae (Adams) Sankey.

A 1960 graduate of Greenville High School, Bill served as both active duty and reservist for 20 years in the U.S. Air Force. On June 15, 1962, he married Rosalie Lenora Schreiner. He retired in 2002 from the Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad, where he was employed in the Transportation Department for 37 years. Bill was

The seven sponsors enjoyed outings to Roebing Points Book and Coffee, with a stroll across the Purple People Bridge and through the Cincinnati Art Museum.

Both campers and sponsors benefited from lodging in the dormitories and meals beautifully prepared by Martha Loper and her team in the cafeteria. The finale of the week was the Friday student recital, where campers performed both solo and collaborative selections in a casual and supportive environment. The success of HPI was demonstrated through a great balance of learning, having fun, and reflecting on God's goodness.

Many of the campers were strangers and left as lasting friends. Next year, HPI 2025, is scheduled for May 26-30, and will be our 10th Anniversary Camp. God has truly blessed this opportunity, and we are all jointly excited about years to come! —**Dr. Jana Pop, chair, music division**

## THE WITTS AT WORK

Dr. Lyle Witt and his wife Michelle had an idea about how they and their family should spend their summer vacation. Lyle, who chairs the Division of Professional Studies, and his wife Michelle, who is a college adjunct, spent two months away from campus with their children Bryan, Landon, Emily, and Julie. They enjoyed seeing many sights out West in addition to serving for five weeks at Northwest Indian Bible School near Missoula, MT.

While spending their summer on the campus in Montana, they helped in a variety of ways. The guys worked together on several projects, including the finishing of the school chapel, which had undergone extensive foundation work over the past school year. The guys also installed three sets of stairs on recently built decks, plus constructed a fourth deck. They also

helped with grounds maintenance, doing some mowing and grass re-seeding and watering. ➡



then employed as a coach driver for Anderson Bus and Coach, served as a driver to the Amish community for 12 years, and served as a driver for the Greenville Chrysler dealership and Thiel College.

He attended First Church of God and was the missions treasurer. He and his wife hosted international students for 20 years, and Bill had been very active in Celebrate Recovery at Hope Center Ministries. Bill also wrote and mailed encouraging cards to many people each month.

In addition to Rosalie, his wife of 61 years, Bill is survived by his two daughters, RoseMarie (Barry) Lang and Sherri (Rob) Robinson; a son, Bruce (Rachelle); seven grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; a sister Betty McCartney; and many nieces and nephews. Also surviving at the time of Bill's death, was his brother Leonard Sankey (ThB '60) who recently passed away (see page 20). Bill was buried in Shenango Valley Cemetery, Greenville.



**Loretta Rose (Mayle) Turner, 66,** passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on Saturday, May 11, 2024, following a sudden illness. She was born November 17, 1957, in Grafton, WV, to Lynn Edmund and Helen Bernetta Mayle. Loretta worked as the Director of Transportation for ABCD Transportation for over 15 years. She was a devoted member of the Women of Worth Canton-Massillon Chapter as well as the Massillon Wesleyan Methodist Church. Loretta was an avid Louisville Leopard fan and former member of the Louisville Band Boosters.

She met her husband, Charles William Turner, in 1975 at Crystal Park Church. She leaves behind three daughters, Cutia Turner, Julie (Byron) Leavell, and Katie (Antonio) Michaelis. She was a proud grandma to grandchildren Mason Leavell, and Catalina and Cecilia Michaelis. She is also survived by her brother, Lonnie ➡

The girls worked together on several projects, too. They painted the kitchen and did some deep cleaning, including the president's house, a staff apartment, and the chapel. Michelle also helped to organize curriculum in the upper learning center.

The Witts enjoyed getting to know many of the staff members at the school and appreciate their sacrificial service for God's Kingdom. They encourage others to pray for, support, and visit the ministry to native youth at NIBS.

### P.R. SUMMER TRAVELS

Summer is always a busy time for the various Public Relations groups and the school representatives who widely travel to present

music, lead worship and other activities, and promote GBS at camp meetings, youth camps, and churches. This year we had three groups active during the summer.

**Anchored Quartet.** This group was comprised of Blake Castle, Chris Castle, Isaac England, Bradley Thomas, and Samantha Castle (accompanist). Chris Castle served as the school representative.

Anchored traveled from June 1 through August 5, logging approximately 12,000 miles on their tour which had stops in 11 states. They ministered in 27 churches and camp meetings.

The folks at the Pilgrim Family Camp in Frankfort, IN, made the quartet feel welcome. PR Director Rev. Duane Quesenberry, who also hap-

pened to be at this venue, took a "selfie" with the group. They also had a great week at the Ochelata Youth Camp in Oklahoma.

Anchored continued on with services in New Mexico and Arizona. Note the picture the quartet took with some future GBSers while they were at Gospel Center, Phoenix, AZ. Another beautiful pic-



Anchored takes a selfie at Pilgrim Family Camp.

# REVIVALIST FAMILY continued

➡ Mayle; two sisters, Lorena (Lane) Glick and Lois (Leon) Glick; and many nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held at Crystal Park Wesleyan Church, Canton, OH, Pastor Gabriel Norris officiating. Burial followed at Union Cemetery, Louisville, OH.



### **Leila Lillian Carol (Price) Pierpoint,**

93, transitioned to her heavenly home on the morning of June 12, 2024, following a brief illness. She was born on Christmas night, 1930, in the village of Trappe, MD, to Graham and Adaline Price. At ten years of age, Leila gave her heart to the Lord, and she served him devotedly for 83 years.

She was a graduate of Easton High School, Easton, MD. Leila earned a bachelor's degree in English education with a minor in Latin from Washington College, Chestertown, MD (1951). She taught various levels of elementary education in schools in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Kansas, and Florida. While still single, Leila was the organist for a local funeral home and played for the radio broadcast of St. Paul's Pilgrim Church, Oxford, MD. Her life's calling and primary mis-

sion, however, was that of a pastor's wife. For 66 years she served alongside her husband, Rev. Paul Pierpoint, as they pastored churches in Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Kansas, and Florida. She served often as church organist and Sunday school teacher. Leila was a *God's Revivalist* subscriber.

Leila was survived by her husband (who has since passed); daughters Evangeline (Rodney) Addison and Paula Pierpoint; a sister, Jane (Paul) Dieter; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and many beloved nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held at Hobe Sound Bible Church, Hobe Sound, FL, with burial following at South Harlem Memorial Gardens in Harlem, GA.



### **Rev. Robert W. Pelton,**

92, departed this world on June 27, 2024, surrounded by his family in Anderson, SC. He was born November 20, 1931, to Earl and Erma (Snyder) Pelton. Robert lost both his parents at a young age and was reared by family and neighbors within the farming community surrounding his place of birth. He graduated from high school in Springport, MI, attended Fort Wayne Bible



ture is of the sunset over Phoenix. The group was also able to see the Pacific Ocean before their service at the San Bernardino Bible Holiness Church in California.

**Inspiration Trio.** This group was comprised of Kaley Quesenberry, Elizabeth Horton, Jaqui Norris, and Kiley Tichenor (accompanist). Stewart Quesenberry served as the



Future GBSCers pose with Anchored.

school representative. Inspiration logged approximately 7,700 miles on their tour, which had stops in eight states. They ministered in six family camps, nine youth camps, and 14 churches.

GBS always enjoys being at Locust Grove Wesleyan Tabernacle, Peebles, OH, with Pastor Richard Williams and congregation.



A beautiful sunset at Phoenix, AZ

After their stop at Mountain View Bible Church, pastored by Rev. Paul Case, the group enjoyed the hospitality of the Cases and took a day to sightsee around Lake Placid, NY, and beautiful Whiteface Mountain. Then they traveled to the New York Pilgrim Holiness Family Camp in Albany. The trio is pictured with some of the ➡



Inspiration has quite a view from Whiteface Mountain.



Institute, then transferred and graduated from Kentucky Mountain Bible Institute. He received his bachelor's degree with a double major in Biblical Literature and Greek from Marion College (now Indiana Wesleyan University), and a master's degree in education from Indiana University. Robert was united in marriage to Marsena Ruth French on July 18, 1958, in Central, SC.

Robert dedicated his life to the service of others in full-time Christian ministry. He served as a pastor to eight congregations, a professor at Bible colleges and universities, and a missionary on several mission fields. His pastorates included Wesleyan Methodist Churches (Sylvania and Bloomfield, IN; Atwood and Louisville, KY); Hobe Sound Bible Church, Hobe Sound, FL; Trinity Holiness Church, Iva, SC; Allegheny Wesleyan Methodist Churches (Titusville and Isabella, PA; Doaktown, New Brunswick, Canada; and Alberton, MT) as well as an interim pastorship at the Free Wesleyan Church, Easley, SC.

Robert taught at the following schools/colleges: Hobe Sound Bible College; Sheng-te Christian College, God's Bible School and College; and Tianjin Institute of Foreign

Trade. Robert also served as president of the Brainerd Indian School and Northwest Indian Bible School.

His missionary endeavors included work with the American Indians in Prescott, AZ; Brainerd Indian School, Hot Springs, SD; and Northwest Indian Bible School, Alberton, MT. He served with the Bible Holiness Church in Taiwan and with various missions in China, Ghana (West Africa), Canada, Belize, Russia, and Romania.

While the Peltons were on staff at GBS (1991-93), Robert served as a member of the faculty and Marsena served as assistant librarian. They have been longtime *God's Revivalist* subscribers.

Robert loved spending time in nature and had a passion for cooking. He enjoyed studying the Bible and diligently kept an active prayer list. He was a member of the Allegheny Wesleyan Methodist Connection and faithfully attended the Free Wesleyan Church, Easley, SC, in his retirement years.

Robert is survived by his loving wife, Marsena; a sister, Jeanie Elder; and many nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held at Dillard Funeral Home, Pickens, SC. ➡

➔ GBS alumni who were in attendance there.

**Assurance Trio.** This group was comprised of Abigail Peck, Kristen Ryan, and Briana Epp (accompanist). Duane Quesenberry served as the school representative. They traveled

part time, logging approximately 2,200 miles on their tour to four states, ministering in a family camp and three youth camps, including memorable services and activities at the Central Friends Youth Camp, Muncie, IN.

**Public Relations Director.** While Duane Quesenberry did travel with Assurance, he also traveled most of the summer by himself, visiting camp meetings in the eastern half of the U.S. He enjoyed meeting many GBS alumni who were present



GBS alumni pose with Inspiration at the New York Pilgrim Holiness Family Camp.



Assurance sings at Central Friends Youth Camp.

# REVIVALIST FAMILY continued



**Ronald E. Moore**, 85, of Valencia, PA, formerly of West Deer Township, passed away June 28, 2024, at St. Barnabas Home in Gibsonia, PA. He was born in 1939 to James and Nellie (Hunter) Moore of Pittsburgh, PA.

Ron served eight years in the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Coast Guard during peacetime. He was a member of the Bakerstown American Legion. Ron had been a tool grinder for Herr-Voss Corporation in Callery. He was a member of Allegheny Wesleyan Methodist Church, Butler, PA, and was a board member of the Tri-State Holiness Association, Clinton, PA. He was a *God's Revivalist* subscriber and founder of the Ronald Moore Scholarship.

Ron was preceded in death by his son, Scott E. Moore, and is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Sarah E. (Kimball) Moore, whom he married on November 25, 1967; sisters-in-law Ruth Hoak, Shirley Sandreth, Alice Johnston, Carol Karas; brother-in-law James Kimball; and numerous nieces and nephews. A funeral service was held at the McDonald-Aeberli Funeral Home, Mars, PA, with Revs. Paul Cope and Paul

Fish co-officiating. Burial followed in Bakerstown Cemetery, Bakerstown, PA.



**Rev. Barry J. Arnold**, 82, of Lebanon, PA, went home to heaven on Friday, July 26, 2024, from his home. Born in Cocolamus, PA, on July 16, 1942, he was the son of John W. and Mary P. (Snyder) Arnold. For over 60 years he faithfully

served in ministry. He pastored churches in Henderson, MD, and Mount Pleasant Mills, PA, and he retired after 35 years as pastor of the God's Missionary Church in Lebanon, PA. Following his retirement, he also pastored in Salunga and was currently pastoring at the Lebanon Gospel Center.

Over the years he served as Conference Vice President of God's Missionary Church and a member of the Penn View Bible Institute board and World Mission board. He played a key role in founding the God's Missionary Church Youth Camp and was co-founder of the Bus and Outreach Convention. His life was spent in ministry, but in his free time he enjoyed working on his farm. He was a *God's Revivalist* subscriber.

at this year's Cumberland Grove Wesleyan Camp of the Kentucky-Tennessee District of The Wesleyan Church. On Sunday night, GBS Alumni Bob and Sue Lower were honored by the camp president for their years of service.

At the Southern Bible Methodist Camp Meeting in Pell City, AL, alumni Daniel and Kendra Brandon were the song evangelists and Dr. Michael Avery, former GBS president and current chancellor, was one of the preaching evangelists. Pictured here are the GBS alumni who were in attendance.

Duane doesn't just attend services and

large gatherings; he also meets with individuals. God's Missionary Conference leader Rev. Jacob Martin had lunch with Duane and spent an hour and a half talking passionately about ministry.

We thank God for safe travels and His help in ministering and representing GBS to all the people we were blessed to meet. Preparations are already underway to do it all again in 2025! 📌



Barry was preceded in death by his wife, Lois J. (Hess) Arnold. He is survived by his sons Thomas (Yolande), Daniel, Nathan (Heidi), and Matthew (Lorinda); daughter Dorcas (Philip) Bishop; a brother Lester; eleven grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held at the God's Missionary Church, Lebanon. Interment followed at Wenger's Meeting House Cemetery, Jonestown, PA.



**Brittany (Brander) Hoffpauir**, 35, of Wasilla, AK, died unexpectedly on July 7 following a sudden illness. Brittany was born in Florida on June 24, 1989. Much of her childhood and teen years were spent in Grand Rapids, MI, where she developed her love of snow, water, and cold weather. She later moved to Cincinnati, OH, and attended GBS (BA '12), where she met Kurtis Hoffpauir (AA '13), her husband of 10 years. In 2021, Brittany and Kurtis fulfilled a mutual dream by moving to Alaska and starting a small homestead.

Brittany was a deeply devoted disciple of Jesus Christ. Her unwavering commitment to Him through

adversity and painful losses was a testament to His grace in her life and an inspiration to those who knew her. Brittany's husband and children were her pride and joy. She gave birth to three children: Ellie (8), Granger (6), and Nehemiah (who died shortly after premature birth). She was also a passionate foster mother to two baby girls and fervently advocated for their welfare. With Kurtis' support, she homeschooled Ellie and Granger. Brittany found great joy in pursuing a sustainable and functional lifestyle, and she and Kurtis passed on that love to their children. Living in Alaska where she could raise goats, ducks, and chickens and spend time in her garden was a dream come true. She loved learning and became proficient in animal husbandry along with other skills necessary to their new life.

Brittany is survived by her husband, Kurtis; her children, Ellie and Granger; two foster children that were in their care at the time of her passing; and a host of loving family and friends. A memorial service was held at Creekside Church, Wasilla, AK. A private graveside service followed at a later date. 📌

**DR. LEONARD LEWIS SANKEY**, 88, of Union, KY, passed away July 23, 2024, after a lengthy illness. He was born on April 7, 1936, in Greenville, PA, to William Paul Sankey and Leona Mae (Adams) Sankey. Leonard attended public schools and graduated from Penn High School in 1954. He enrolled at God's Bible School, Cincinnati, OH, graduating with a bachelor's degree in Bible and theology in 1960. While a student at GBS, he worked in the composing room of the Revivalist Press and as an orderly at The Christ Hospital. He traveled extensively in music ministry while a student and was a member of over 30 different quartet combinations.

Leonard was influenced by the school's steady emphasis on missions and was entirely sanctified during the mid-winter revival of 1959. Leonard also became involved with the fledgling GBS National Alumni Association, singing specials as a soloist or in groups and leading congregational music. During this time, Leonard was asked to lead the singing for the InterChurch Holiness Convention. Thus began his long association with that organization.

It was at GBS that Leonard met and dated Janet May Ferguson (HS '59). On September 17, 1960, they were married, and the couple traveled for a year in singing and preaching ministry. In June 1961, they began pastoring the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Clarksburg, WV.

In June of 1962, they affiliated with Evangelistic Faith Missions (Bedford, IN) and sustained ministry with EFM until May 1979. During that time, they were missionaries in Guatemala and Honduras. They returned to Bedford in 1975 and continued serving EFM in deputation work and home office responsibilities, and Leonard served a term as interim director of the mission.

In September 1979, Leonard began pastoring Faith Mission Church in Bedford and continued in that capacity for 30 years. During that time, he served as founder and administrator of Stone City Christian Academy (1980-2009). In 1978, Leonard was elected president of the GBS National Alumni Association and held that position for two three-year terms, which also afforded him an ex-officio seat on the GBS Board of Trustees. He was then elected to the board on his own right. He retired as its longest

serving member—45 years, of which 25 (1991-2016) were as chair. During that time, Leonard was honored with a Doctor of Divinity degree from GBS during the school's 100th anniversary in 2000.

Leonard became involved in leadership of the InterChurch Holiness Convention. At the request of its general secretary, Harold Schmul, Leonard ably served as Schmul's assistant until elected to succeed him in 1998. He served the IHC with distinction for 19 years before stepping down in 2016. He remained passionately involved until the days preceding his death.

All through these years, Janet served faithfully by Leonard's side. When they returned to the States from the mission field, Janet attended nursing school from 1975 to 1978 and spent the next thirty years as a nurse, eventually earning a master's degree. She retired as an adult nurse practitioner in 2007.

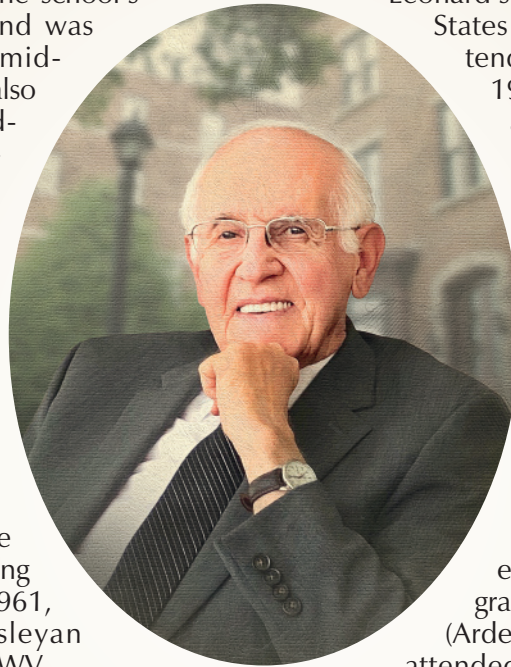
The Sankeys were blessed with three children: (Pamela) Beth (Stetler), (Anita Lavonne) Vonnie (Bryan), and (Leonard) Marc. These three also brought spouses into the Sankey family: Steve Stetler (who passed away in 2021); Edgar "Andrew" Bryan II; and Melodie (Miller) Sankey.

Surviving Leonard are his wife, Janet; his three children; eleven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and a sister, Betty Mae (Arden) McCartney. Many of his family attended and graduated from GBS. Four

have worked or are currently working for GBS: Marc Sankey (BRE '94), V.P. for Constituent Relations (2017-19); Maria (Stetler) Robledo (AA, BA '12), Director of Institutional Advancement (2012-17) and Director of Human Resources (2013-20); Kent Stetler (BA '15), Registrar (2017-present); and Beth (Sankey) Stetler (BA '85), V.P. for Finance (2022-present).

Funeral services were held July 27, 2024, in the J. Wesley Adcock Chapel, God's Bible School, Rev. Marc Sankey officiating; and July 28 at Faith Mission Church, Bedford, IN. Burial followed at Green Hill Cemetery, Bedford.

With great appreciation, God's Bible School and College takes note of what God has accomplished through this surrendered servant whose life has been poured out in ministry. He is now gone from us, but he will never be forgotten. His impact for God's Kingdom is immeasurable and will last throughout eternity. ■



The May 2023 issue of *God's Revivalist* was dedicated to Dr. Sankey upon his retirement from the GBS board of trustees (archived at [www.godsrevivalist.com](http://www.godsrevivalist.com)).



## Thoughts on Last Wills and Testaments

In September of the year 2000, a precious saint from Huntington, West Virginia, sat down with her advisor to prepare her Last Will and Testament. She wrote provisions for the care of her mother in the event she preceded her mother in death. Several lines down, she made it clear that if her mother and several other interests were not in existence at the time of her own death, God’s Bible School and College would be the beneficiary of a third of her estate.

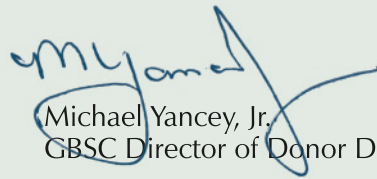
Jane (not her real name) passed away in March of 2023, almost 23 years after she wrote her will. She is not here for us to thank personally. We are deeply grateful and indebted to have been the recipient of her generosity.

Some things stand out to me, which I would like to share with you:

- God blessed GBSC, His school, through the generosity of Jane 23 years later! God plans for the future, and His clock keeps perfect time!
- Jane had the *foresight* to plan ahead. Because she did not procrastinate, she did not by default leave her earthly goods to the courts of the state to dispense however they saw fit. Otherwise, GBSC would probably never have seen this gift.
- Last of all, Jane left her estate in the hands of someone who was trustworthy. This does not happen every time. People can become greedy and not follow through with what was written in the will. I highly encourage you to pick someone who does not have a vested interest in the will, or at least someone who has proven to you to have high integrity. Then you can rest easy, knowing that they will do their best to follow your expressed wishes.

There is no better time than NOW to write out your wishes in a will or trust for the sake of your loved ones and your beloved causes. **Your greatest gift could be the estate you leave behind.**

If you need assistance in any way to locate competent help for such a task, feel free to reach out to us for suggestions. Email us at [advancement@gbs.edu](mailto:advancement@gbs.edu) or call us at 513-721-7944 and ask for me. I’d be glad to help. 🇺🇸

  
Michael Yancey, Jr.  
GBSC Director of Donor Development



## Stories from the Front

### GBS Missionary Convention Sunday–Tuesday Oct. 20-22

featured speaker  
Danny McCain



# Crater Family Tributes

I am so very proud of Tim. It has been exciting to see how God has led him through the years into His Kingdom service.

I remember the senior prophecies being read the night of our college senior banquet. I don't recall what my prophecy was, but I distinctly recall Tim's. It was predicted that some day he was going to direct the GBS college choir from the piano, which he would then have to play with his toes. Thankfully only part of that prophecy came true!—though we had never dreamed that God would eventually lead us back to GBS. Tim is a direct product of his godly parents, Dwight and Dorothy (Lawson) Crater, who both attended and worked at GBS. Tim inherited his parents' love of teaching and great desire to influence young people for good. He is a naturally talented teacher and choir director. His classes are informative, his choirs amazing, and his vocal exercises amusing.

While I am so proud that Tim uses his God-given, musical talents to teach and train young people, I am grateful foremost for the heart he has for his students. He loves them deeply and takes time out of his busy schedule to show them that he cares. He has always been available to talk to or pray with students in need, and he prays much for those who don't see their need.

As a very young child, I remember praying for a godly husband when I grew up. Tim is every bit of that godly husband, father, and grandfather. I have never doubted his love and devotion to God or family. He has been a wonderful leader in our home, making God the center of all that we do. After giving God first place, Tim is sure to put family next. He loves to spend quality time with us. When our children were young, he worked hard to be at home in the evenings as much as possible, even while working a second job. Tim is a prayer warrior; he prays unceasingly for each member of our home. His greatest joy is to know that his children walk in truth. Tim also carries a heavy burden for his extended family. Through the years, I have heard him praying many



The Tim Crater Family

times on the phone with an aunt, uncle, or cousin whom he loves deeply and desires to be in a right relationship with God.

God truly answered a young girl's prayer and blessed me with a wonderful soulmate. Tim is my best friend, my greatest encouragement, and my laughter when life becomes too serious. He is my inspiration, my faithful prayer warrior, and hero of the faith. Tim has been a true reflection of Christ in my life!

Tanya Crater (wife)

To some, he's Mr. Crater; but to me, he's dad. I'm so glad he followed God's calling to GBS 25 years ago. I couldn't have asked for a better childhood. There's nothing like being part of the GBS family!

As I grew up, Dad was a great example of what it looked like to use your musical talents in the church. He was devoted



Tim & Tanya

Christopher Dean & Katrin Cravens



to his job as music minister at Loveland Wesleyan Chapel. He was careful to lead with a heart open to the Holy Spirit. You can't find a more Spirit-led, passionate, and caring director!

Dad's heart for ministry led our family to travel around the U.S., and even into Canada. Dad made God his first priority, but he also made sure his family was the next priority. We would sometimes enjoy a mini vacation after a week of ministry at a camp meeting. A few of those highlights included Niagara Falls, Mackinaw Island, and the St. Louis arch.

A special memory that stands out to me is of my dad receiving the torch passed down to him by Mr. Wolf during his retirement ceremony. Then my mom held the torch while my dad directed the choir. It was such a powerful moment!

Another favorite memory I have is of Dad taking me along with him to the University of Cincinnati for music recitals. It always inspired me to become a better musician!

I enjoy attending the late-night service at Knox Presbyterian Church on Christmas Eve with my dad. Another favorite yearly event of mine is Dad's spring choir concerts at GBS.

Some characteristics I inherited from Dad are a love for music, especially choral music; shopping for good deals; and a fondness for exploring cities, such as Washington D.C. and New York City.

I am thankful that God chose me to be the daughter of Tim Crater! I couldn't have asked for a better dad!

Katrin Cravens (daughter)

The GBS choir was to the Crater household what the Ohio State football team is to Ohio State University. So, when my dad was chosen to succeed Mr. Wolf as director, it was a huge deal and a proud moment. Dad has done a terrific job of continuing the long legacy of excellence with the choir and ministering to so many lives throughout the United States. It was an honor to travel and sing in the GBS choir under my dad's direction. We made countless memories from Florida to Idaho...including, of course, the best-rated CHM annual choir Christmas party at our house! I'm sure there must be a photo or video somewhere of my dad in a Santa hat, wearing my Christmas jacket, and singing Feliz Navidad with the choir around his living room piano!

I sincerely appreciate Dad's passion for God, primarily through his song leading at church and through the ministry of the college choir. He is revered and respected by many.

My parents knew how to shop for deals. Our family didn't have much extra money for summer vacations, so we took advantage of sightseeing opportunities in areas of the country where we traveled for camp meetings. My parents did their best to make the most of what they had.

Dad has stayed up late many nights to talk me through struggles or just hear my opinions, and I know he has done this with many students over the years. He also never allowed any time or place to keep him from praying with me when I needed

prayer. I appreciate Dad's godly leadership. He has led his children on the path toward spiritual and life success. Dad blazed a trail, and we can stand on his shoulders.

Zach Crater (son)

I'm so proud of my dad and the 25 years that he has worked at GBS. My parents brought me home from the hospital to a house on campus, and I have loved every minute of being part of the GBS family. All of my childhood has been on campus. I met some lifelong friends and my husband at GBS. Now that I'm grown, my little family lives on the campus of GBS, and now my little boy is experiencing the same things I did as a little girl. If I could, I would live at GBS forever. It will always be home to me.

One of the earliest memories I have of my dad took place after an academy Christmas program that he had just directed. He was carrying me across Channing Street to our house. It was snowing, and he slipped and fell in the middle of the street. Upset that Dad had fallen with me, Mom came running out and slipped and fell next to us. All three of us were lying out in the street in front of the president's house!

When my dad became the College Choir director, I was so proud. I loved getting to ride on the big bus, travel on tour, and have a front row seat at all the choir services. I couldn't wait until I was old enough to be in college and sing in the choir! I loved every moment of the four years I was a member. I loved seeing my dad in action.

Dad is fun and energetic. His love for Christ just radiates through him. I couldn't be more proud to call him my dad!

Caroline Craig (daughter)

A portrait of Zach Crater, a young man with a beard and short brown hair, wearing a light blue button-down shirt and white pants, standing outdoors in a grassy area with trees in the background.

Zach Crater

A family photo of Ryan and Caroline Craig. Ryan is on the right, wearing a light blue shirt, looking down at a baby. Caroline is on the left, wearing a white shirt, holding the baby. The baby is wearing a blue and white checkered dress and is smiling.

Ryan & Caroline Craig

and Emerson

## Dear Phil

the Christ, had the greater guilt for his sin of unbelief.

In sum, every time John uses the phrase “have no sin” it means “to have no guilt for sins committed.” That raises the question, “Who would say that we have no guilt for the sins we have committed?” The answer: the “deceivers” John warns about (1 John 2:26; 3:7; 2 John 1:7). The deceivers denied that Jesus was the Christ (1 John 2:22). The deceivers denied that fellowship with God requires walking in the light (1 John 1:6; 3:7). Only deceivers would say that they do not need Christ’s redemptive work to cleanse them from sin. True believers have confessed their sins. True believers have admitted their guilt. And, as a result, true believers can testify that their sins have been forgiven. The formerly guilty are now right with God (cf. Rom. 5:1).

Regarding the present tense, it isn’t either of the options you suggest—acknowledging our state of past guilt before God or acknowledging sin as it comes up in our lives. Rather, in 1 John 1:6–10, John contrasts the claims of unbelievers with the practice of believers. Unbelievers say, “We can walk in darkness and have fellowship with God” (1:6). Believers walk in the light (1:7). Unbelievers say, “We have no guilt for our sins” (1:8). Believers confess their guilt and sin and receive God’s forgiveness (1:9). Unbelievers say, “We have never sinned” (1:10). Bottom line: believers can and should say we practice righteousness; we do not practice **willful** sin (1 John 3:6–9).

Blessings,  
Phil ■

*Dr. A. Philip Brown II is the Graduate Program director and a member of the ministerial faculty at God’s Bible School and College.*

### WHAT DOES JOHN MEAN BY “HAVE NO SIN”?

*“In Sunday School today, we discussed 1 John 1:8, and I suggested that ‘have sin’ means ‘having guilt,’ based on similar language in John 9. However, I had trouble explaining the present tense of ‘have sin.’ Is it an acknowledgment of the state of past guilt before God, like a continual state of confession? Or is it just referring to acknowledging sin as it comes up in our lives? —Jorden*

Dear Jorden,

You’re right. The phrase “have no sin” means “have no guilt for sins committed.” Let’s look at the other three places besides John 9:41 where John uses the phrase “have no sin.”

1. In John 15:22 Jesus says, “If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.” Jesus proposes a hypothetical. “If I had not come...they would not have sin.” In context, this means that unbelieving Jews would not have been responsible for rejecting Jesus as Messiah if He had not come and told them who He was. But since Jesus did reveal the truth, “they have no excuse for their sin.” They knew the truth. They were responsible for their sin against the truth. To put it theologically, a person is culpable—held responsible or blameworthy—for what they know (cf. Rom. 5:13).

2. In John 15:24, Jesus gives a second reason his persecutors have no excuse. He did works among

them that testified to His identity. Lazarus had been dead and buried for 4 days. Jesus raised him to life. How did people respond? They hated Him for it. And in hating Jesus, they hated His Father who sent Him. Jesus’ works proclaimed for all to see, “This is the Christ, the Son of the living God.” If Jesus had not done such miracles, they would not have been guilty for the sin of rejecting Him. But His works plainly showed who He was. They were without excuse. They were culpable—guilty—for their sin of unbelief.

3. In John 19:10 Pilate asks Jesus, “Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?” Jesus responds, “You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin” (John 19:11). Most commentators identify the “one who delivered Me to you” as Caiaphas. Both Caiaphas and Pilate were guilty of sin. But Caiaphas, who knew more and should have led the way in accepting Jesus as





*GBS alumni are encouraged to submit updates on their lives and current ministries. —KF*

## MY PARENTS' LIFE OF MINISTRY

by Janna (Hooker) Cressman

Ministry began for Dad as a young teen when he was given the opportunity to preach in his home church—Wesleyan Methodist, in Vero Beach, Florida. Born September 3, 1952, in Marion, Indiana, he was saved at age four and received his call to preach as a ninth-grader, becoming a district-licensed preacher at about age 16 or 17.

Prior to this, his intentions had been to become a medical doctor, and he had even written a paper about this “future career.” But God had a different plan for him. While Dad and his mother attended church, his father did not. In fact, his non-Christian father did not even allow a preacher to step foot into the Hooker home. When dad approached his father for his signature granting permission for him to attend GBS, a miracle happened. Grandpa signed the paper! The fall of 1970 found Dad making his way to a college he had only read about because his mother was a *God’s Revivalist* subscriber. It is interesting to

note that, sometime later, when Grandpa was asked what his son Jack was doing with his life, he responded, “He is a preacher and a pretty good one, too.” If you knew my grandpa, those words were golden.

The other half of this ministry team is my mom—Jane Theroff. She was the first of her family to leave home in southern Indiana. She had learned about GBS from academic dean L.D. Wilcox, who had been the evangelist at one of the camp meetings Mom attended. So, in 1973, Mom decided to leave for Bible college in the big city of Cincinnati! By the grace of God her life was forever changed! It was there that Dad and



Mom met, fell in love, and purposed in their hearts to follow God completely. They were married on June 22, 1974. This is the story of their ensuing 50 years of ministry.

Their first appointment was to Trinity Gospel Tabernacle in Washington, Ohio, in 1974. There dad served as assistant pastor of the church as well as principal of Trinity Holiness Academy. They lived on “next to nothing” and fought intense battles that later would prove to make them

stronger leaders. A year later they moved to St. Petersburg, Florida, to pastor the Bible Methodist Church in nearby Pinellas Park. It was an interesting church to pastor for many reasons, not the least of which was that the former pastor still attended the church; but God used her to aid their endeavors. It was at that stop that my



left: The Hookers celebrate 50 years of ministry. top: Jack and Jane at GBS—Jack’s graduation in 1974. bottom: Jack (right) served as an EMT, Fairmont, WV, Marion County Rescue Squad.

sister and I were born, and the Hooker ministry team grew from two to four. Dad did the preaching and Mom ran junior church, with me joining her for quality time in a baby swing! Mom and Dad actively threw themselves into bus ministries, each one driving a route. I have a vague,

childhood memory of being strapped in the front of one of those vehicles—along for the ride! One of the things I appreciate about my parents is that ministry was a family affair. As daughters, my sister and I learned to serve, and this is what made us who we are today.

In 1984, our family moved to Stanton, Alabama, to pastor the Bible Methodist Church. Dad was also actively involved in Stanton Christian School as both a teacher and a member of the board. Mom began her teaching career there. It was also there that Dad found his love for the world of emergency medicine and fire fighting, which was a great community connection as well as a ministry tool. Mom developed her amazing teaching skills during this time and perfected the art of making southern sweet tea! Dad also took on the huge project of building a brand-new sanctuary. As a child I thought it was super cool to help carry 2x4s to assist him. One thing which characterized Dad's ministry was his knack for assessing cosmetic or building-related needs at each stop, and working to improve the physical structures.

The next ministry stop was in 1988 at the Bible Methodist Church at Fairmont, West Virginia, which was part of the Heartland Conference. The people of Fairmont were amazing! Every Monday, Dad volunteered for the Marion County Rescue Squad. His crew was affectionately called the "God Squad." I remember a specific prayer that God answered during our time in Fairmont that was a faith builder for our family.

My parents had a deep desire for their daughters to be in a holiness Christian school. When they received a call in 1990 to pastor Emmanuel Wesleyan Church in Gratz, Pennsylvania, they accepted. It was there that Dad was able to start a Christian day school with his associate pastor. He was also fully involved in bus ministry, hosted various ministerial interns, co-labored with associate pastors who are still dear friends (which speaks highly for his leadership style), and began the early stages of building a new church facility. He was also involved in the community through volunteering as an emergency medical technician for the local ambulance, over which he eventually became chief. Mom served faithfully beside him in children's ministry in both the church and the Christian school.

In 2001, Dad and Mom shifted to a time of service at their alma mater—God's Bible School. Dad served as Vice President for Advancement, and Mom faithfully supported him while teaching in the Cincinnati area. Dad, with the Lord's help, made a huge financial impact at GBS, which continues today through scholarships, and other long-term investments. He also worked in the area of alumni relations, which he continues to do on a volunteer basis. Dad couldn't give up his desire to be involved in the community, so he joined the Mt. Auburn Chamber of Commerce as well as the Mt. Auburn Community Council and stayed consistently involved while at GBS.

My parents then served at Franklin Bible Methodist Church from 2008 to 2017. What a joy it was to see the building of the Family Life Center there! When Grandma Hooker moved from Florida to Ohio, it was one of the biggest blessings in Dad's life. She had always been his biggest prayer warrior. The people of Franklin "loved on her" very well! Dad continued his involvement with the Heartland Conference, enjoying the youth camps and Bible Bowl quizzing. Mom continued working loyally to support Dad, praying faithfully for the people of the church.

After leaving Franklin, Dad became an interim pastor for two Bible Methodist churches in Ohio: Findlay (2017-18) and Danville (2019-21). Some people do not realize how critical this position can be for the continuance of a church. At each place they fell in love with the people, and the people fell in love with them. These were times of blessing and encouragement that God granted to my parents.

At present, my parents are serving at the Bible Methodist Church, Westfield, Indiana, where Dad is senior pastor. Our family has been amazed at what God continues to do in the lives of my parents who are completely sold out to Him. Dad loves his life as a preacher. He communicates effectively from the pulpit and connects personally with people. One parishioner recently commented, "Everyone wants to talk to Jack." Mom is content to stay in the shadows and faithfully support Dad, but her most powerful ministry is her prayer ministry. If she knows about your need, you are probably in her prayer book.

As their daughter, I can tell you that their 50 years of marriage and ministry is not something that is just a performance—it is years of devotion and dedication to God. I have had a first-row seat to see how God has blessed them and brought them forth as gold. However, this was only made possible by two things: God's faithfulness and that commitment they made long ago that they were going to serve God completely—no matter the cost. Now, 50 years later, their ministry continues. ■

**Janna (Hooker) Cressman (BA '01)** was a teacher in Aldersgate Christian Academy (2001-07), and a GBS college adjunct (2007, 2009-24). She currently is the GBS distance education (ADEP) Education Program Coordinator and an instructor in the Division of Professional Studies. After serving as missionaries in Honduras from 2017 to 2022 under Hope International Missions, Janna and her husband Wesley are now serving as HIM missionaries in Barcelona, Spain, with their two children, Ella (10) and Carter (5).

**Editor's comments:** Much more could be added to this story, including Jack's membership and leadership roles on numerous boards. However, let me comment on his GBS involvement. From his earlier ministry, Jack served as president of the Florida and Alabama chapters of the GBS Alumni Association. He later served two terms as national alumni president, which came with an ex officio seat on the GBS Board of Trustees. He continues to serve as a trustee and currently chairs the Alumni Affairs Committee. —KF

# Letters

## TO THE EDITOR

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

I found a "statement due" for God's Revivalist in 1910. I am 89. I don't know when my parents started taking God's Revivalist. I only know it was always present in our home.

BETTY RUTH DUNN  
Connersville, IN

I read the editor's article on making restitutions (GR May 2024) and it reminded me of my post-salvation restitutions. One was confessing to a man from whom I stole several two-cent (redeemable) pop bottles. His response? Forgiveness, and an exclamation—"What a man!"

DAVID DeSTEFANO  
Lewisburg, PA

Thank you for such a fine, biblically-based, and practical publication. While I enjoy all the articles, the "conversion stories" have been a special blessing. I am amazed at the marvelous grace and power of God to change the heart, life, and destiny of any individual who will come to Him in repentance and faith in the glorious blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

LARRY RHOAD  
Jamestown, TN

Autumn (Quesenberry) Zeigler (BA '21) took a picture of her daughter, Elsie, enjoying God's Revivalist and sent it to her parents—Duane (BRE '94) and Valorie (BSM '94) Quesenberry. They both work at GBS and were kind enough to share it with us. Elsie, albeit rather young, is another dedicated reader!



DR. KEN FARMER  
Revivalist Office



by Sonja Vernon

## PERSPECTIVE

*"Then Job answered the Lord and said: 'I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.... Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand.... I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.'" —Excerpts from Job 42:1-6 (ESV)*

God is self-giving love at His very core. However, those of us who believe in a loving God may begin to form Him in our own image. We substitute our puny, weak view of love for His robust, well-rounded, infinite version. God is love, but He is not tame. I can't put Him in my little box and carry Him around. In His mercy and kindness, He is patient with my ignorance, allows my questions, and walks me through the difficult emotions accompanying grief and loss. But that doesn't mean He will let me stay there, wallowing in my wrong thinking.

Though God allowed Job to voice his frustration and anger, He eventually brought Job into an encounter with Him, and everything changed. Job's words remind me of times my whole perspective shifted after I came face to face with who God is. Job says, "I have uttered what I did not understand." In the light of God's presence, I am struck dumb by my lack of understanding and realize that some of my questions don't matter. This should in no way minimize the reality of grief and the necessity of walking through the process of loss and dealing honestly with its accompanying emotions. However, I must never forget that God is bigger, wiser, and better than I can imagine. He is worthy of my trust. I can rest in Him. ■

Sonja Vernon is Vice President for Student Affairs at God's Bible School.





# GOD'S BIBLE SCHOOL & COLLEGE HOMECOMING

OCTOBER  
2024

**EVENTS**  
Bonfire  
Basketball/Volleyball  
Carriage Rides  
Kids Zone  
Benefit Auction

**FUN FEST FEATURING**  
Food  
Fellowship  
Benefit Auction

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