

GOD'S

# REVIVALIST

September 2015

*and Bible Advocate*



**Dr. Michael Avery**

Excellent Leadership Since 1995

*preparing for transition*



# about this issue

## TRANSITION AT THE TOP

God's Bible School has developed a solid reputation for navigating transitions. Some involved associations and memberships. Others involved organizational policies and procedures. Some were very public, while others went largely unnoticed.

Of course transitions often involve personnel. GBS has had several of these, some involving fairly high-level positions. All of these have been effected smoothly and seamlessly in recent years. The reason for this can be attributed to the strong leadership team at GBS. From the very beginning of his presidency, Michael Avery was blessed with the right set of skills for the job. In addition to surrounding himself with other strong leaders, he was successful in creating the right climate to make positive change and smooth transitions possible.

But what about a change in personnel at the very top? That inevitably happens, and that is where GBS finds itself now. President Avery has indicated that he is stepping down from the presidency in 2017. In "It's Been Great" (p.3), he explains why he is leaving. The article following that (p.5) lists many accomplishments of the Avery administration and notes that the board has appointed a presidential search committee to assist in identifying candidates. The short bios of these committee members (p.7) should reassure the reader that the committee is well balanced and that all members have a strong commitment to ensure that GBS continues to fulfill its mission in "preparing faithful servants to proclaim Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness throughout the world."

The committee has developed a system which will encourage people to apply for the position or to suggest someone for consideration (p.8). It is worth noting some of the important dates related to this process (p.8), the most important being the submission deadline of January 1, 2016, for résumés and recommendations.

Over this transition process, President Avery will be sharing with the Revivalist Family his "thoughts and burdens for the Church and the holiness movement of which we are all a part," as well as things he hopes we can accomplish together before his departure.

God has blessed GBS with a great company culture (p.9). We are confident that He will guide us through this process of finding the next president of GBS! —KF

## CONTENTS

SEPTEMBER 2015  
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### FEATURES

<b>Presidential Transition</b>	
<b>President Avery Stepping Down In 2017</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Presidential Transition FAQs</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Presidential Search Committee</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>How to Apply/Recommend   Important Dates</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>A Church Plant That Should Have Failed</b>	<b>9</b>
by George E. Bowen	
<b>Savage Grace</b>	<b>14</b>
by Danielle Watters	
<b>Everybody Needs A Betty</b>	<b>20</b>
by Sarah Wolf Fry	

### DEPARTMENTS

<b>The President's Page</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Letters To The Editor</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>News From The Hilltop</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Revivalist Family</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Dear Phil</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Revivalist Pulpit</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>The World To Win</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>World Pulse</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Student Focus</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Alumni News</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Thoughts For The Quiet Hour</b>	<b>23</b>

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

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

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COVER PHOTO by Kevin Moser

# the president's page



**God already has His hand on the person who will follow me. God is forward looking. He is not contemplating the last twenty years but rather is looking toward the development of the next twenty!**

## **IT'S BEEN GREAT!**

*by Michael R. Avery, President*

**I**n this issue of *God's Revivalist* you will read about my decision to step down as president when my term ends in 2017. This information is not completely new for a lot of people since I have freely shared it with the campus family, alumni groups, and some friends of the school. Almost invariably when I talk about it, there are three questions in response: First, why are you leaving? Second, who will ever take your place? Third, what do you plan to do next?

### **Why are you leaving?**

For twenty years I have always asked myself two questions before making any administrative decision of consequence: "Is it in harmony with God's will and Word," and, "Is it good for GBS?" Those are the same questions I have asked about this decision and the answer that I have come to is YES. It is time to step aside and allow fresh leadership at the top. No one is asking or even wanting me to leave—not the board, not the faculty, not the students. I don't really want to leave! But I am leaving because I know it is the right thing to do. The average tenure for a college president is eight-and-a-half years. There is a reason why the tenure is relatively short in comparison to other positions of equal significance. To succeed as the president of a small Bible college like GBS, you must be willing to invest large amounts of time in both the people and the processes that make a school great. You must willingly give huge amounts of physical, emotional, and spiritual energy—this is doubly true if you are concerned about the spiritual development of your students. Your creativity and vision must be fresh, relevant, and forward looking. You must be willing to live with a constant eye toward friend-making and donor development. We have made wonderful progress on all fronts in the last 20 years, and I do not want the pace to slacken, so I

know it is time for a fresh set of hands on the wheel.

### Who will take your place?

When people ask me this question I smile both outwardly and inwardly. I know it is a way of passing on a subtle compliment and I really appreciate their kindness. However, I know that God already has His hand upon the person who will follow me. God is forward looking. He is not contemplating the last twenty years but rather is looking toward the development of the next twenty, and He already has someone in mind to do the job! And in my opinion, it will be someone who can lead GBS in the fulfillment of its mission in ways that I never could! As a matter of fact, I am quite excited about the future of our school!

The school has an outstanding board that is well equipped and well prepared for the task of selecting the next president. The entire board has been praying and fasting and will continue to do so over the next two years. I am anticipating a smooth transition and a great future for GBS!

### What do you plan to do next?

Great question! I just don't know the answer to it yet! But I do know that the God who has led me in every major decision of my life will lead me to what I am to do next. I do know that I am not retiring (I will only be a young 60 when I leave). I want to give the remaining years of my life to Kingdom work of some sort. I love preaching, teaching, solving problems, helping people with strategic thinking and planning, and mentoring. I hope that God will allow me a chance to influence another generation of Christian workers and leaders. The Kingdom needs leaders desperately, and those developing leaders need a mentor and a life coach like no other time in the history of the Church.

As the clock ticks down to 2017, I will be sharing things with the Revivalist Family that I hope we can accomplish together before my departure. I will also be sharing articles that reflect my thoughts and burdens for the Church and the holiness movement of which we are all a part. The days ahead are exciting and filled with promise. I can hardly wait to see what He has in store for GBS! ■



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

### APPRECIATION FOR LARRY SMITH



I have known Larry Smith since the days we served the Lord in Nebraska—Larry as an Evangelical Wesleyan and I as a Reformed Presbyterian. I have known over the years that if I contacted him with a prayer request or need, he would immediately join with me about it before God's throne of grace and mercy. I know he will be sorely missed at the school and as an editor-writer for the *Revivalist*. I cherish him as a friend as well as the fond memories from our past association.

JAMES PERRY  
Centreville, AL

May I add my thanks for your service and congratulations on your retirement. Also thanks to your gracious staff that helped create a lasting memory for Mother [Lenos Bereman Perry] and our large family group that attended the service on May 10, 1999, when she was given her high school diploma for the work she did there in the 1920s. Mother has gone to her reward.

PHYLLIS ORMAN  
Indianapolis, IN

I am grateful for the kind words said about me and my tenure as editor published in the summer issue. Thank you for this and your fine work in continuing this historic publishing ministry. Let me add that Kevin Moser, my associate in the Revivalist Office has made a magnificent contribution to the magazine. His talent, creativity, and faithfulness are outstanding. I regarded him as invaluable both in art and layout work as well as in constant consultation on the *Revivalist's* content.

LARRY D. SMITH  
Cincinnati, OH

*Editor's Note:* As the school year came to a close and Larry Smith was transitioning into retirement, he received a disquieting diagnosis from his doctor and has begun treatment for cancer. Prayers for both Larry and Carol during this difficult time are greatly appreciated. —KF



# President Avery

Stepping Down in 2017

**D**r. Michael R. Avery, who has led God's Bible School and College in Cincinnati, OH, with distinction, plans to step down from this role in 2017 after 22 years of service.

A gifted communicator with a heart for fostering the growth and impact of ministry leaders, President Avery returned to his alma mater in 1995 with a passion to serve God with humility and excellence. His tenure has been marked by his encouraging efforts on behalf of students, faculty, and staff, and tireless work to raise resources for people, programs, and buildings.

"It has been my joy to serve our students at GBS along with an exceptionally gifted team of godly faculty, staff, and administration," President Avery says. "The support and encouragement of the larger GBS family and of our trustees has been an enabling strength. All that has happened has been the result of God's provision and blessing on GBS."

A presidential search committee has been appointed to assist the Board of Trustees in identifying candidates. The committee is led by Trustee Keith Waggoner I of Frankfort, IN.

"It is with reluctance that the trustees accepted the decision of Michael Avery to conclude his presidency," Waggoner says. "During his tenure much has been accomplished. President Avery has made new friends for the college in local churches, among donors, throughout the United States, and in other countries as well. It is with profound respect that I express on behalf of the board our gratitude for his leadership."

## Amazing Accomplishments

During his tenure, President Avery met various challenges with steady resolve, trusting God's help each step of the way. Academic programs were revitalized as faculty were hired and academic divisions developed into strong teams. Consequently, enrollment nearly doubled. At the same time, all debt was eliminated and financial stability was attained.



## Campus Improvements

Numerous on-campus improvements took place under President Avery's leadership, including the complete renovations of the Standley Administration Building and historic Adcock Chapel; renovation of the old Revivalist Press area of the Revivalist Memorial Building for the relocation of the high school, as well as the renovation of the upper three floors of the Women's Residence Hall and guest rooms; major technology additions; renovation of the old classroom/high school floor for the Men's Residence Hall and Professional Studies classroom space; the construction of the Patterson Facilities Building; additions of an archives and an academic resource center in the library; the addition of the Schmul Library and Study Center and the Gale Library and Missions Center; the purchase and renovation of the Allan Clarence Strong Residence Hall, the first residence hall for married students; a range of physical plant improvements, including a new heating system for the main campus buildings, as well as the complete renovation of many faculty residences.

During President Avery's tenure, GBS purchased 23 new properties that increased the size of the campus by one third. This also increased our housing stock,

created green space, removed blight from the neighborhood, and prepared locations for future expansion.

### **Academic Excellence Achieved**

President Avery also assembled the right academic team to take GBS to the next level, attaining regional accreditation, the gold standard of accreditation in the United States. This was accomplished in half the time normally required. At the same time, national accreditation through the Association for Biblical Higher Education was reaffirmed and maintained. The Aldersgate Distance Education Program was created and subsequently expanded to give GBS increased course delivery options through online distance education. Also, several new and reconfigured degrees were developed and the initial permissions were secured for adding the first graduate degrees, MA in Biblical Studies and MA in Ministry.

### **A Strong Future Ahead**

As the search for a new president commences, the trustees are pursuing a plan for continued growth. This includes expanded on-campus enrollment efforts, added resources to grow online education, and the creation of necessary fund reserves for the next president to move forward aggressively. Accomplishing our mission on a broader scope is also a priority.

President Avery agrees with the direction taken. "I have great confidence in the future of GBS," he says. "Our trustees are united and very capable of identifying the next president who will lead in this next chapter. I will be doing all I can during this transition to help position GBS for even greater impact for Christ as we prepare this generation of students to focus on making a difference by thinking biblically, growing spiritually, and serving faithfully."

### **Next Steps For President Avery**

An alumnus of GBS, President Avery earned his Bachelor of Religious Education degree in 1979. He also holds an MA from Cincinnati Christian University and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree by Wesley Biblical Seminary in Jackson, MS, in 1998.

Ordained into the ministry in July 1981 by the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches, he pastored for eleven years and then served as General Missionary Secretary for his denomination for five years prior to assuming the presidency at GBS in 1995. His wife Ruth (BA '80) has been a constant source of strength and encouragement. They have two married sons, Joshua and Jonathan, and four lovely grandchildren.

President Avery is uncertain about his future ministry roles. However, he comments, "Ruth and I are confident that God will let us know what lies ahead for us. With God's help we will rise to the challenges of this next phase of ministry." ■

## **Presidential Transition FAQs**

### **Is GBS preparing for a transition in the President's Office?**

Yes. President Avery informed the board that this would be his last term as president of God's Bible School and College.

### **What is the reason for the transition?**

After two decades of successful leadership and prayerful consideration, President Avery feels it is the appropriate time to begin the transition process.

### **How will the new president be selected?**

The Board of Trustees has appointed a presidential search committee which is handling all aspects of the presidential search. The committee will review all applications. Some candidates will be further vetted and invited to meet with the committee for interviews. The candidates will be rated on their answers to a standard set of questions. Data on the top candidates will be sent by the committee to the GBS Board of Trustees. The board will make the final selection.

### **How does one apply or recommend someone for the position?**

See the information on page 8.

### **Will the constituency be kept abreast of the work of the search committee?**

The institution will periodically give updates on the progress of the Presidential Search Committee. However, the institution and the search committee will not comment on the names or particulars of any of those under consideration.

### **When will the president-elect be announced?**

When the board selects the new president, it will determine all of the particulars of the public announcement and notice will be given to the public through website, email, *God's Revivalist*, and other postings.

### **When will the president-elect begin working?**

The plans call for a transition period during which the incoming presidential candidate becomes acquainted with GBS and its constituents. The length of that period will determine when it will begin. Again, this will be announced through various postings.

### **Will there be a public ceremony for this transition?**

Yes. In fact, there will be two separate ceremonies that will be open to the public: the official celebration of the Avery presidency and the inauguration of the incoming president. More information concerning these two events will be made available closer to those times. ■

## Presidential Search Committee

### **Keith Waggoner I, Chair**, *GBS Trustee since 1998*

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

### **Brenda Herring, Recorder**, *GBS Trustee since 2008*

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

### **Jeffrey Albertson**, *GBS Student / Graduate*

Jeffrey began school at GBS through the Aldersgate Distance Education Program in the fall of 2010 and then moved to campus in the fall of 2011. He served three terms as president of the Intercultural Studies and World Missions (ISWM) Student Organization. He earned a BA in ISWM in the spring of 2015 and continues on the Presidential Search Committee as he begins graduate work.

### **Viola Durr**, *GBS Trustee since 2006*

Viola is an instructional design specialist at TriHealth, a healthcare system in Cincinnati, OH. She served on the GBS faculty from 1980-89. She received a diploma from Aultman Hospital School of Nursing (1974), a BA from GBS (1978) and an MEd from the University of Cincinnati (1980).

### **Ken Farmer**, *GBS Faculty / Staff 1978-89 and since 1999*

Ken came to GBS in 1952 with his parents who attended and graduated from GBS. He returned in 1974 for a BRE (1977) before continuing his educational studies which earned him four graduate degrees, including an MBA and an EdD. He served on the GBS faculty from 1978 to 1989 before returning for a 14-year stint as the vice president for academic affairs in 1999. He retired from academic affairs in 2013 and became the managing editor of the school's periodical, *God's Revivalist*. Ken and Paula (BA '72) have three adult children.

### **Rebecca Kelley**, *GBS Trustee since 2011*

After graduating from the University of Cincinnati's College of Law (1997), Rebecca worked at the Urban League, YMCA, and Knowledge Works before returning to the YMCA to serve as its national director for achievement gap initiatives. Now a GBS trustee, Rebecca previously served GBS (1993-99) as director of development and alumni relations, and taught in the academy, high school, and college. Rebecca and husband Michael and have two children, Alex and Adam, who attend the GBS academy.

### **Joe Smith**, *GBS Alumnus*

Joe was one of seven siblings to attend God's Bible School. His wife Sharon (BA '79), five children, and three daughters-in-law are also all graduates of GBS. He received a BRE from GBS (1980) and an MA in Christian Studies from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (2013). He has pastored the Bible Holiness Church in Shelbyville, IN, for the past thirty-one years. One of his greatest joys is spending time with his eight grandchildren.

### **Monte Stetler, Jr.**, *GBS Trustee since 2008*

Monte is the chief operating officer of On Time Media with responsibilities in business planning, accounting, cash-flow management, sales, and human resources. He serves on the boards of Bible Methodist Missions and Renewation. He served as the vice president for administration at GBS from 1995-2001. Although Monte did not attend GBS as a student, his parents, brother, and many members of his extended family have graduated from the GBS high school and college. Monte and his wife Connie have three children, Abbey, Trey, and Madelynne.

### **Sonja Vernon**, *GBS Staff since 2000*

Sonja was born in 1973 while her mother was the dean of women and her father was the dean of men at GBS. She was a GBS "campus kid" until her family moved away in the summer of 1978. Sonja received a BS in Nursing from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (1996) and is a registered nurse. She returned to GBS in the fall of 2000 to accept the position of resident director for women and is now in her 16th year in this role. ■



## How to Apply or Make a Recommendation

First read “**Job Description**” and “**Ideal Candidate Profile**” at [gbs.edu/presidentialtransition](http://gbs.edu/presidentialtransition). Prayerfully consider whether or not you or the candidate you are recommending is a good fit for the position. While no candidate is likely to embody all of the listed ideals, it is expected that the successful candidate will exemplify many of them.

Click the **APPLY** or **RECOMMEND A CANDIDATE** button on the website menu. Review the required items and collect them for input/upload.

If applying, send the following materials to the search committee through the website form (or mail them to the attention of “Presidential Search Committee” at God’s Bible School).

1. **Résumé:** Make sure to include standard items, such as work history, education, and personal strengths.
2. **Cover Letter:** Include a brief testimony, your church affiliation, and how your skills mirror the needs specified in the job description.
3. **References:** Include three professional references and two personal (non-family member) references. Be sure to include their titles and contact information. (*References will not be contacted until the search committee notifies you in advance of that point in the process.*)

Receipt of your résumé will be confirmed by the search committee. Feedback will be limited to those selected for the initial interview process.

If making a recommendation, send the following materials to the search committee through the website form (or mail them to the attention of “Presidential Search Committee” at God’s Bible School).

1. **Your Contact Information:** Make sure to include your full name, address, email, and phone number where you can be reached if further information is needed.
2. **Letter of Recommendation:** Tell the committee why you think the candidate you are recommending should be considered for the GBS presidency. Include information pertaining to the candidate’s work history, education, and personal strengths.
3. **Candidate’s Contact Information:** Be sure to include as much information as possible: full name, address, email, and phone number.

Receipt of your recommendation will be confirmed by the search committee who will also contact the recommended person and encourage him/her to apply. 📌

## Important Dates for GBS Presidential Candidates

Those wishing to be considered for the presidency of GBS should take note of the following schedule and plan accordingly.

### 2015

September Pertinent instructions and application materials placed on GBS website  
Alumni email/letters/ads sent out  
Notice placed in *God’s Revivalist*

### 2016

January 1 Résumés/recommendations due  
Spring Off-site interviews conducted for selected candidates  
On-campus interviews for finalist/s  
TBD Announcement of president-elect

### 2017

July 1 Incoming president begins term

*Timelines, activities, and events are subject to change. The search committee will update the information on the website accordingly.*

*To assure consideration, résumés and recommendations must be received on or before January 1, 2016. 📌*





# A Church Plant That Should Have Failed

by George E. Bowen

Years ago a church was planted in a large city. By today's standards, there are several reasons why this church should not have survived.

**Poverty of the founder:** The man who started the church had no wife or children and was extremely poor; so poor, in fact, that he was homeless. He had no "money people" to back him. He had no building in which to have services; most meetings were held outdoors.

**Uneducated congregation:** The leader gathered only a few people about him to mentor. They were also poor, had no formal education, and were a rough class of people. They could not afford to support a pastor.

**Suicide of charter member:** This person had been with the church plant from the beginning. He was the treasurer and had possibly misspent some of the meager funds they had. After turning on the leader, he killed himself. This was no doubt a serious blow to the little group.

**Poor attendance at initial gathering:** Of the thousands who lived in the city and had heard the leader speak, only 120 people came to the first organized meeting in a borrowed room. As far as numbers went, the meeting was unsuccessful.

**Past performance of keynote speaker:** The keynote speaker had been a personal friend of the leader. At one time he was known to have used bad language and even told others that he wanted no part of the church.

You realize, of course, that this is about the First Church, the one Christ "planted" in Jerusalem. Jesus, the lowly Galilean, was the founder, and his disciples had not been to any theological

seminary or university. Although Jesus had fed the crowds by the thousands, had healed the sick, given sight to the blind, and raised the dead to life, only a small group gathered in the upper room. Of the twelve disciples, Judas had killed himself, and Peter had denied knowing Christ.

This Church, that by today's standards should not have survived, DID survive and is still a functioning body today with millions of members. Why? What caused the Church to survive in spite of the overwhelming odds? There is only one answer. The Holy Spirit.

Before the Spirit came, the Church could be likened to the creation of Adam before life was breathed into him. He had eyes but could not see, ears but could not hear, a mouth but could not speak. He was an empty shell without feeling, without warmth. If the breath of life had not been breathed into Adam, he would have deteriorated and gone back to dust.

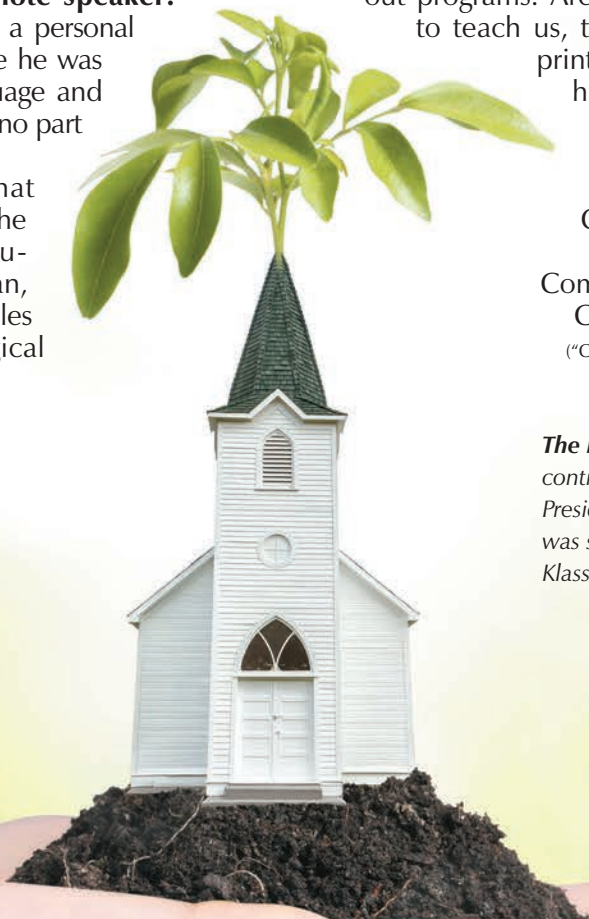
If the Holy Spirit had not come on the day of Pentecost, the Church would never have come to life. But the Spirit came! The Spirit gave life! The Spirit made the difference!

Even as He was needed then to bring life, He is needed today to bring a fresh wind to our tired, worn out programs. Are we inviting Him to breathe on us, to teach us, to show us the individualized blueprint He has for each congregation? He has not changed and will cause our churches to grow and flourish if we will let Him.

Come, Holy Spirit I need Thee,  
Come, sweet Spirit I pray.  
Come in Thy strength and Thy power,  
Come, in Thine own gentle way. ■

("Come, Holy Spirit" © 1964 William J. Gaither, Inc.)

*The late Rev. George E. Bowen* was a Revivalist contributor and ghostwriter for former GBS President Bence Miller. This unpublished article was submitted by his daughter, Dorothy Bowen Klass (BA '76).





### STAFF EARN GRADUATE DEGREES

On May 1, 2015, two GBS employees were among master's and doctoral graduates participating in the University of Cincinnati's Doctoral Hooding and Master's Recognition Ceremony on the UC campus.

**Maria Stetler**, assistant to the director of institutional advancement, completed her MA in Human Resources from UC's McMicken College of Arts and Sciences. In January 2016, Maria will assume

responsibility for GBS's human resources in addition to her work in the Office of Advancement.

**Aaron Profitt**, vice president for academic affairs, completed his PhD in Educational Studies from UC's College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Resources. His dissertation was "Transparent, Accessible Accountability in Higher Education: A Sector-focused Approach," which was a study of accountability in Bible colleges. Congratulations to both!



Dr. Aaron Profitt and Maria Stetler

### NEW DIVISIONAL CHAIR



Assistant Professor Lyle Witt has been appointed chair of the Division of Education and Professional Studies. The former chair, Joshua

Avery, will be continuing his duties as director of library services and as program coordinator for the Integrative Studies Program within the division.

Lyle Witt earned a BA in Religion from Kansas Christian College ('99) and an MA in Curriculum and Instruction from Kansas University ('05). After graduation he taught at KU as well as Johnson County Community College. In 2010 he joined the GBS staff. His wife, Michelle, has an MA in Marriage and Family Therapy from Mid-America Nazarene University and serves as a GBS ad-

# REVIVALIST FAMILY

On these pages, we feature items about GBS alumni, significant events scheduled throughout the "Revivalist Family," and brief news notes from across the Holiness Movement.

### BIRTHS



To **Kinneth (GBS 2007-08) and Jocelyn (Wiseman) Hurst**, a daughter, **Elsie Jo**, born May 29, 2015, at their home in Wichita, KS. Kinneth currently works as an electrical engineer. Elsie was welcomed by her brother, Chantry (1).



To **Jason (ADEP current) and Karalynne (Shiery) (GBS 1999-2000) Watters**, a daughter, **Michaella Grayce**, born May 27, 2015, in Cincinnati, OH. Both parents are former GBS employees (2012-2014), who currently reside in

Cincinnati where Jason owns a business. Michaella was welcomed by siblings: Katie (10) and Chandler (5).



To **Joseph (HS '01, BA '08) and Andrea (Cranor) (BA '13) Ratcliff**, a son, **Jude Harvey**, born July 1, 2015, in Cincinnati, OH. Joey is an assistant branch manager at PNC Bank and Andrea is a substitute teacher. Jude is welcomed by siblings: Ethan (9), Joel (8), Chloe (7), and Zeke (4).

### DEATHS



**Brenda M. Carr**, 63, of Union Township, OH, passed away March 15, 2015. Brenda moved to Cincinnati in the fall of 1963 with her mother, Vertie Jones, and brother, Edsel Jones. Moving from a small rural town to Cincinnati was a huge

junct professor. Lyle and Michelle have four children ranging from three to ten years of age.

## SWSE MINISTRY TRIP TO CAYMAN ISLANDS

Director David Hartkopf and members of the Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble spent a week in Grand Cayman following GBS commencement. During that time they held eleven concerts and worship services, and four school visits. They also completed several work projects on the campus of Wesleyan Christian



Academy, where GBS students gave private music lessons and assisted the classroom teachers. During the Friday “youth night,” GBS students interacted with many high schoolers, and GBS ministerial student Josh Cravens gave a devotional.

“God’s Spirit was powerfully working through the group as we shared the gospel in churches and Christian schools, and even in two public schools where we unapologetically were able to play, sing, and testify!” Hartkopf reports. “Over the course of our trip we met several GBS alumni who work in

various full-time ministry capacities on the island, including Daniel Bond (BA ‘08) and his wife Amanda (Coppock) (BA ‘08) who organized most of the itinerary for the trip.”

“The hugs from scores of children, teens, and adult host families as we left made me realize that our students by God’s Spirit had made an eternal impact in doing ministry. We praise God for the great things He did through this group during the week!”

## HILLTOP PIANO INSTITUTE

—Dr. Jana Pop, Music Chair

Following three years of planning, Hilltop Piano Institute (HPI), a five-day summer piano camp for pre-college students, commenced June 8-12. The opening evening showcased the versatile HPI faculty (Timothy Crater, Martha Miller, Dr. Paul Peak, Dr. Jana Pop, Dr. Nicolae Pop, Jessica Smith) in an evening concert featuring classical and sacred works for piano in ➡

adjustment for them, but they strongly believed that God was leading them to GBS. They needed to be work students, so they met with President E.G. Marsh. He informed them that there were no more work student positions available. Disappointed, but still feeling GBS was where God wanted them, the family prayed that evening that something would work out. The next morning President Marsh called them to his office and informed them that God had spoken to him and that GBS would be “creating a position for them.” Edsel graduated from high school in 1966 and Brenda attended 1966-69. Brenda married Al Carr. She was a long-term member of the Afton Wesleyan Church, as well as an employee of Ohio Heart and Vascular for 15 years. Brenda is survived by her children, J.R., Angelina and Chris; three grandchildren, Brylon, Erynn, and Courtney; and brother Edsel. A memorial service was held at Afton Wesleyan Church, Batavia, OH.



**Naomi Lee Collins**, 79, passed away June 21, 2015. Born near Osceola, MO, in 1936, Naomi was the fourth child of Agnes Ellen (Wilkerson) and Marion Collins, Sr. She left home at age six to join her three older siblings at their grandmother’s home so they could attend Mt. Zion Bible School near Ava, MO. She completed high school and went on to receive a BA in Missions from Kansas Christian College (1955), then became a registered nurse after studying at St. Luke’s School of Nursing (1960). She taught in Christian schools and worked in hospitals before becoming a missionary teacher and nurse to Jamaica, Virgin Gorda, St. Thomas, and Mexico. Naomi left the mission field in order to take care of her father until his death in 1993. After retiring, the Missouri State Board of Nursing honored her with a fifty-year Certificate of Nursing. She is survived by two sisters, Esther and ➡



➡ both solo and collaborative settings. The fourteen campers and six sponsors benefited from daily instruction in general music classes (theory, history, performance), music exploration courses (anatomy of the piano, music technology), as well as daily private and collaborative lessons in

traditional and hymn-based literature with assigned instructors.

Evening activities, jointly sponsored by GBS recruitment staff, incorporated outings to several beautiful Cincinnati venues. Campers benefited from lodging in the dormitory and meals in the cafeteria. Campers came

mostly as strangers, and left as friends. God has truly blessed this opportunity, and we are all jointly excited about HPI in years to come!

**MUSIC STUDENT RELEASES CD**

GBS music major Ashley Muir recorded her debut album *Who You*



Are at Aire Born Studios in Indianapolis, IN, March 16-18. GBS music professor David Hartkopf helped coach Ashley through the process. This project features heartfelt melodies and lyrics conveying powerful truths about the nature of God and the healing work of the gospel. The CD and downloads are

# REVIVALIST FAMILY continued

➡ Sharon; one brother, Virgil; two sisters-in-law; three nieces; and four nephews. A service was held in the Sheldon-Goodrich Chapel in Osceola, MO, with interment following at Yeater Cemetery.



**Cassandra Suzette "Cassie" (Nelson)**

**Kessen**, 49, of Aurora, IN, passed away May 9, 2015, in Aurora, IN. She was born in 1965 in Princeton, IN, to Gerald and Elizabeth (Sharp) Nelson. In her younger years, Cassie grew up in Oakland City, IN.

After high school, she attended GBS where she met James "Jim" Kessen. They married after Cassie received her BRE in 1988. After Jim graduated (BA '90), they moved to Aurora, IN. Cassie worked as a home health aid. She served as a church musician and church custodian at the Wilmington Hills Wesleyan Church. She homeschooled their four children—three of whom currently attend college and high school at GBS, and one, Crystal, having just graduated (BA '15). Cassie taught private music lessons, working mainly with children. She was known as "Momma K" to her children's friends. Surviving are her loving husband, Jim; daughters, Crystal, Hollie, Heather,



**William "Bill" Vasey**, 97, of Berea, KY,

joined the Church Triumphant May 2, 2015. He leaves behind his wife of 73 years, Norine Ashcraft Vasey; 3 children; 9 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren. Bill (ThB '43) and Norine (1939-41) were

privileged to have worked in President and Mrs. Standley's homes on the GBS campus and in Mt. Washington, and to have sat under such godly teachers as E.G. Marsh and Nettie Peabody. Bill was a pastor with the Primitive Methodist denomination for 40 years. In spite of suffering from Alzheimer's, he still brought joy to those around him. The funeral was held at Pilot Knob Baptist Church in Berea, KY, with Greg Lakes, Kevin Slem, and William Vasey officiating. Interment followed in Pilot Knob Cemetery. Norine would like to hear from anyone who still remembers them. She may be contacted at 117 Walnut Street, Berea, KY 40403. ■

available for purchase online at CDBaby, iTunes, Amazon, and Google Play. Visit [ashleymuirmusic.com](http://ashleymuirmusic.com) to schedule a worship-focused concert or to commission an arrangement of vocals and/or instruments.

## GBS NAMED A TOP CINCINNATI WORKPLACE FIVE YEARS IN A ROW!

The *Cincinnati Enquirer*, in partnership with WorkplaceDynamics, a research firm that specializes in employee surveys and workplace improvement, created the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky 2015 Top Workplaces list.

GBS began participating in 2011 and has placed on the Top Workplaces list for five years in a row! Moreover, GBS was the only institution of higher education to make the list this year. To be a repeat winner indicates that workplace practices “consistently make employees happy and keep their workers believing they are valued.” GBS is indeed a great place, not only for students, but also for its employees! All are valued.

Fatima Hussein of the *Enquirer* interviewed four administrators for an article exploring how a company can consistently maintain its ranking as a top workplace in the region. Our own vice president for academic affairs, Dr. Aaron Profitt, was one of those. Here are excerpts of his responses.



### **What kind of culture are you trying to create, and why have you been successful?**

From my perspective, in President Michael Avery’s 20 years of leading GBS, he has emphasized three key elements of the corporate culture. First, he emphasizes excellence throughout the organization in all aspects of operations; this permeates our campus, from classroom to office to committee room to residence hall to grounds. Second, he focuses us on our students, leading us in making deliberate choices to prioritize changes and projects that benefit the student body, even if these leave some “nice to do” projects out of our plans. Third, he leads us in service—to our students, to each other, to our institution.

### **What advice would you give a young manager about to take on a leadership position?**

First, find a successful, established leader who will serve as a mentor. Second, keep learning, especially through reading deeply and broadly; this reading provides valuable material to discuss with a mentor. Third, develop a good sense of self-awareness, including strengths and weaknesses, vulnerabilities, and tendencies. Fourth, remember that success never happens in a vacuum. Developing the people above, around, and below you in the organization brings success to you and to the larger organization.

### **How do you reinforce to employees the importance of finding the right balance between work and personal life?**

For our organization, families matter immensely. We see a person’s family relationships, especially marriage and parenting, as the person’s first priorities in Christian community. We incorporate families into our campus community. Employee families often eat meals in our campus dining hall along with students, and we hold multiple annual events that include families. ■



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# SAVAGE GRACE

by Danielle Waters



Elisabeth glanced up as her year-old daughter's voice floated to her through the humid, tropical air of the Ecuadorian evening. The young woman was sandy haired and wearing a simple, thin, cotton skirt and blouse, and her almost lanky form was bent over her journal in weary concentration. She allowed her pen to drift from the page as her clear blue eyes followed the bouncing, blond form of her child.

Valerie was gregarious and intelligent with tousled white-blond hair and brow furrowed in concentration, her little lips pursed and her tiny finger pointing intently as she prattled to her pet parrot. Elisabeth smiled absently at the sight, but her quiet eyes were veiled by the trouble and sadness that she'd been expressing through the only means she could—her pen.

She ached everywhere. Her eyes ached from crying (or wanting to), her head ached from thinking, her arms ached with emptiness, and her heart...her heart held the vastest ache of all. Like an endless ocean of grief, waves of pain washed over her ceaselessly during the day and unrelentingly at night.

Night was perhaps the worst of all, because that's when he'd come to her in her dreams. Her Jim. Laughing and lively and intense as ever, he'd bend to kiss her and she would begin to melt into his arms, but then she'd pull back and realize that it wasn't real. It was only a dream, and Jim was dead, and if she let him kiss her it would rend her heart even more to leave him when she awoke. It was odd that she knew this, even in her dream, but knowing she was dreaming didn't make it any easier to resist the comfort of her husband's phantom arms.

It didn't make it any easier to awaken and leave him there in her memory—to rise and go throughout the motions of a normal day in the home she and Valerie now shared with another missionary family—the home Jim

himself had made for her, for them to live in together as a family of three. He had also built the solid wood table—which the other family's daughter had carelessly burned with a tabletop fire—and all the memories made here were meant to be shared with him, not without him.

Jim and four of his missionary colleagues were murdered on the sandy banks of the Curaray River by the unreached people group with whom they were trying to establish friendly contact. Jim and the other men—Ed, Pete, Nate, and Roger—had carried a deep burden for the salvation of “Auca” people. They had spent months carefully planning and executing what they hoped would be a successful attempt to befriend the tribe. Their ultimate goal was to be able to share the message of Christ's love with them. Instead, they had been ambushed.

“We just came to meet you. We aren't going to hurt you. Why are you killing us?” one of the missionaries had begged using the few broken Auca words he had learned. His pleas were silenced as a nine-foot, hardwood spear impaled his chest. The ruthless spears silenced each of the men's voices forever; their remains had been found the next morning, floating in the river. Five widows and nine fatherless children were left to grieve.

“Auca” is a contemptuous Quechua Indian word meaning “savage,” or “enemy.” If any word on earth described Elisabeth's relationship to these hostile, mysterious savages, it was that. Their spears had killed not only her husband, but also the hopes and dreams they had shared—the beautiful little missionary family in the humble, hand-built home and all the vision, happiness, and security that Jim's lusty love of life and passion for his God



had offered. She had no reason to love them and she had every reason to hate them, or at least dismiss their memory.

In our world, where small differences or niggling offenses merit a person's being written off as anathema, Elisabeth would have been free to walk away from Ecuador, the Aucas, and all the painful associations there without any judgment from her fellow missionaries or the Church stateside. She expressed her desires very differently though. "[Jim's death] gives me a much more personal desire to reach them. The fact that Jesus Christ died for all makes me interested in the salvation of all, but the fact that Jim loved and died for the Aucas intensifies my love for them."

When the opportunity presented itself, Elisabeth jumped at the chance to learn the Auca language and, less than two years after the murder of her husband, she was journeying with Valerie and a nervous group of Indian guides to the settlement of the Aucas. There, with God's aid, she penetrated the wall that her husband could not. "And so," Elisabeth later wrote in her book *The Savage, My Kinsman*, "We had come—to these who have been called one of the most savage tribes on earth. We were in their homes. We were outsiders, however, and we had come to show them The Way.... We knew that we must earn that right. We must live with them, love them, try to understand them."

The story of Jim, Elisabeth, and the Auca people is saturated throughout and eternally watermarked by droplets of Grace. Grace: love, mercy, and favor given to one who can't earn it. Jim incarnated Christ's grace to us as he offered his life and love to those who could just as easily kill him as accept him—those who had done nothing whatsoever to earn Jim's love and sacrifice.

Roman's 5:6-10 describes how strikingly parallel each believer's story is to the story of the Aucas:

*For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.... For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. (ESV)*

Elisabeth incarnated the grace of God, too, as she reached out to those who had killed the one she most loved on earth. Like the Father, she chose to love

those for whom her loved one had died instead of holding his death to their account. She offered them a chance at redemption, and in time many of them eagerly grasped it. Grace. For the first time perhaps in the history of their people, they saw it and understood that it was for them.

If you search for the Auca tribe today on indigenous people group lists, you may be hard pressed to find much official information about them. Look instead for the Huaorani tribe. As Elisabeth came to know these "Savage enemies," she learned that their actual name is "Huaorani," meaning simply, "The People." Grace revealed to the world that the tribe's identity was not in their sin and shame (Auca), but rather in their intrinsic value as people made in the image of God and designed to glorify Him through their collective culture and individual lives.

How strikingly this name change parallels our own identity shift once we've encountered the grace of Jesus!

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. —1 Peter 2:9-10 (ESV)*

Perhaps, if you've heard the story of the Huaorani and the Elliots before, you've identified more closely with Jim and Elisabeth—the American missionaries already enlightened by God's truth—than with the savages to whom they gave their love and offered their lives. Maybe our stories follow the Huaorani more closely than we realize, though—enemies offered love and becoming a treasured people. May we, too, be grace-bearers to our brothers and sisters and to those in the world who don't deserve it and can't earn it.

After all, we are all "Aucas" saved by grace. ■

**Danielle Watters** is the wife of GBS Dean of Men Ryan Watters. She has a degree in home healthcare and is a nurse aid. She lived with Elisabeth (Elliot) Gren in Massachusetts for a year serving as her caregiver.

**Elisabeth Elliot**, 88, passed away June 15, 2015. Her husband was killed in 1956 while attempting to make missionary contact with the Aucas in eastern Ecuador. She later spent two years as a missionary to the tribe members who killed her husband. After many years in South America, she returned to the U.S. and was well known as an author of over twenty books and as an accomplished speaker. She toured the country, sharing her knowledge and experience well into her seventies. Her funeral was held at the A.J. Gordon Memorial Chapel at Gordon College.



## Dear Phil

case: sacrifice and forgiveness. In the OT, the obedient believer's sacrifice was said to make atonement for him and his sin was forgiven (e.g., Lev. 4:26). But Hebrews 10:4 says, "It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins." Which is correct? Both! Sacrifice alone achieved nothing. But sacrifice offered as faith's obedience brought forgiveness on the basis of the person's faith. In other words, offering sacrifice expressed the faith by which they were forgiven.

When Peter says, "Baptism now saves you," he is comparing our salvation to the salvation of Noah in the ark through the flood waters (1 Pet. 3:20). We might ask, "When was Noah saved? When he got in the ark or when he came through the flood?" The answer is both. Noah was saved when he entered the ark by faith, and he was saved by the ark through the death-dealing waters of the flood. In the same way, we are saved when we enter Christ by faith, and we are saved through the death-dealing waters of baptism by Christ's resurrection.

Notice that Peter completes his statement "baptism now saves us" with the words "through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." Just as it was not the flood waters but the ark that actually saved Noah, so it is Christ who is our "ark" that saves us, and not the waters of baptism themselves. Peter says "baptism saves us" because baptism expresses our saving faith in Christ through whom we die to sin and rise to walk in newness of life.

If you haven't been baptized, then in obedience to Christ's command you should be baptized if physically possible. ■

Blessings,  
Philip

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

## BAPTISM

***Just how important is baptism? Do we really need to be baptized today? —Ray***

Dear Ray,

In both the Gospels and Acts, we see a consistent pattern. Jesus was baptized (Matt. 3:15-17) and his followers were baptized (John 4:1-2). As soon as a person accepted Christ as their Messiah, they were baptized (cf. John 3:22; Acts 8:12; 9:18; 10:47; 16:15; 18:8; 19:5). Their baptism was a sign of their renunciation of all other masters, their identification with Jesus as their Savior and Master, and their incorporation into the Body of Christ.

Jesus left his disciples with this command-promise: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:19-20).

Jesus' central command is "make disciples." All the rest—going, baptizing, and teaching—are means by which that central command is completed. The necessary implication of this command is that those who are being made disciples must be baptized. So, the answer to your question is a definite "Yes." If we are committed to obeying Jesus because we love him, then we will

baptize our disciples. We will also teach them that they are to disciple other disciples and baptize them. In other words, Jesus views baptism as one of the essential components of fulfilling the Great Commission.

In a way, baptism is similar to circumcision. Abraham was saved by faith alone (Gen. 15:6) before he was circumcised (Gen. 17). Circumcision was the external sign of God's covenantal ownership of his life. Abraham's descendants often confused relationship with God and the sign of that relationship. They thought if they were circumcised, they were right with God. In the same way, people today think if they are baptized, they are right with God. Both are wrong. Circumcision saved no one. Baptism saves no one. Only faith in Christ alone saved or saves anyone. But, as James points out, the faith that saves obeys (James 2:17-28). Saving faith in the OT obeyed God's requirement that His covenant people be circumcised. Saving faith in the NT obeys God's requirement that His covenant people be baptized.

If baptism saves no one, why does Peter say "baptism now saves you" (1 Pet. 3:21)? Before explaining this text, let's consider a similar





## THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

### Centerpiece of Christianity and Foundational Truth of the Gospel (Part 2 of 2)

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

**Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:1-28**

In part one of this sermon I began with the question, "Why should I or anyone believe the Bible?" The answer I posited was: "We should believe the Bible because Jesus told us to believe it (Luke 24:25-27), and we should believe what Jesus says because His bodily resurrection from the dead proves He is who He claims to be." He is, as He claimed to be, "the way, the truth, and the life" and no one comes to the Father except by Him (John 14:6). Indeed, Jesus is the Son of God, God of very God. We have already spent time reviewing the historical facts that irrefutably establish Jesus' bodily resurrection from the dead.

In this second part of the sermon, we will examine the logical conclusions that follow if one refuses to believe that a bodily resurrection after death is possible. The Apostle Paul addresses this subject because some of the Christians in the Corinthian church were denying the possibility of a physical resurrection after death.

#### IV. The Logical and Theological Consequences of Denying Jesus' Bodily Resurrection (1 Cor. 15:12-19)

Paul asks a rhetorical question of those in the Corinthian church who denied the possibility of a physical resurrection after death: "Now if Christ be preached that He rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?"

(1 Cor. 15:12). Paul then lists seven logical and theological consequences of such denial.

**1. If bodily resurrection after death is impossible, Christ could not have risen from the dead.** "But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen" (1 Cor. 15:13).

This first conclusion is based upon the biblical revelation that Jesus, although the Son of God and truly divine, was also fully human and as a human was crucified and died. At Pentecost, after the resurrection of Jesus, Peter proclaimed that "Jesus of Nazareth" was "a man" (Acts 2:22-23), and as a man was delivered up "by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God," and was put to death. The historical records of the Gospels document that Jesus was born to a human mother, ate, drank, slept, and grew in wisdom and the knowledge of God as a true human (not a super-human). Peter tells us that it was this human Jesus that God raised up from the dead (Acts 2:31-32).

**2. If Christ did not rise from the dead, the gospel message the Apostles preached was meaningless and spiritually worthless.** "And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain" (1 Cor. 15:14a).

Paul taught that the heart of the gospel was Jesus' death and resurrection. He wrote, "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures" (15:3-4). Apart from Jesus' physical resurrection, Jesus could not have conquered sin, death, or hell. But the resurrected Jesus testified to John, "...I am the first and the last: I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death" (Rev. 1:17-18).

**3. If the gospel message of the Apostles was meaningless and spiritually worthless, those who placed their faith in Jesus Christ believed a lie and their faith was worthless.** "...And your faith is also vain" (1 Cor. 15:14b).

The word "vain" (*kenos*) carries the sense of "empty, fruitless, void of effect, to no purpose." As John MacArthur so aptly noted in his commentary on 1 Corinthians, "If there were no resurrection, the hall of the faithful in Hebrews 11 would instead be the hall of the foolish. Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Rahab, David, the prophets, and all the others would have been faithful for nothing. They would have been mocked, scourged, imprisoned, stoned, afflicted, ill-treated, and put to death completely in vain. All be-

lievers of all ages would have believed for nothing, lived for nothing, and died for nothing.”

**4. If there was no resurrection from the dead, all of the people who claimed to be witnesses of His resurrection and all those who preached His resurrection were liars.** *“Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ: whom He raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not” (1 Cor. 15:15).*

Some people who reject the historical record suggest that the people who claimed they saw the resurrected Jesus were either hallucinating, dreaming, or sadly mistaken. However, when one examines the historical testimonies of the witnesses to Jesus’ resurrection, one finds that the accounts are too consistent for such testimony to be naive or mistaken. Rather, such corroboration would suggest that if a resurrection from the dead is impossible, the Apostles and other witnesses of Jesus’ resurrection must have conspired together in order for their testimonies to be so consistent.

**If Christ did not rise from the dead, then death won the victory over Christ and He was wrong when He predicted His own physical resurrection. If Jesus remained dead, then we do not have forgiveness of sins through Christ.**

The person who denies the possibility of a resurrection from the dead should understand the charge they bring against the Gospel writers and indeed the whole New Testament. For if the Apostles, the prophets, and the New Testament writers lied about the heart of the gospel, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, why should they be believed about anything else? It would be foolish to speak about the lofty moral teachings of the New Testament if the writers of the New Testament so blatantly falsified their teaching about Jesus’ resurrection.

**5. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, all living humans are still in their sins and without hope of salvation.** *“For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins” (1 Cor. 15:16-17).*

**6. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, those who died trusting in Christ as their Savior have died in their sins and are eternally damned.** *“Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished” (1 Cor. 15:18).*

The fifth and sixth logical conclusions, if there is no resurrection of the dead, are obvious. If Christ did not rise from the dead, then death, which is the consequence of sin, won the victory over Christ and establishes that Jesus was wrong when He predicted His own physical resurrection. If Jesus remained dead, then we do not have forgiveness of sins through Christ, and because the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23), and because all have sinned (Rom. 3:23), death and eternal punishment are the only prospects of believer and unbeliever alike. However, if Jesus did rise from the dead, all who put their faith in Him are granted forgiveness of sins and are reconciled with God (Acts 5:30-31).

**7. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, Christians are the most pitiable people on earth.** *“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable [most to be pitied]” (1 Cor. 15:19).*

To have hope in Christ “in this life only” means that Christians preach, suffer, sacrifice, and are persecuted for their faith to no purpose. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, where would be our source of joy or peace or lasting satisfaction? Paul asserts that apart from Jesus’ resurrection from the dead, the Christian life which calls for separation from the sinful pursuits of this world, would be a mockery. We would deserve nothing but the pity or compassion reserved for fools. But Christians are not to be pitied, for Paul triumphantly declares, “But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep” (1 Cor. 15:20).

#### **Conclusion:**

The resurrection is not just important, it is of *ut-most* importance because all that Christians believe and teach hinge on it. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the centerpiece of Christianity and the foundational truth of the gospel. It is because of the historical facts that establish the truth of Jesus’ resurrection, that one can believe what Jesus says, and Jesus says that people should believe the Scriptures (Luke 24:25-27). ■

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

**BRAZIL.** Evangelical Wesleyan missionary Delbert Howard requests prayer for the process of renewing the Howards’ Brazilian permanent residence status and for protection during some troubling times brought on by extreme governmental corruption, political turmoil, and rampant inflation—with some prices doubling since the beginning of the year.



**GHANA.** The Church of God (Holiness) is making strides toward building a medical clinic in Gurumbelle. They now have a nurse, Oleta Witt, who has committed to administering the clinic. In May a team traveled to Ghana to lay some further groundwork. While



there they providentially met a contractor building a medical clinic in another village. This clinic had been specifically designed for the climate in northern Ghana by a Japanese architect. That contractor shared those building plans with the team and gave them an estimate for building the clinic in Gurumbelle. The team thanks God for “guiding their steps” and for “preparing the way for a new medical clinic in Ghana!”

**INDIA.** Andrew Street, Bible Methodist missionary, is interested in making “real workaday disciples just like Jesus did.” The idea is that, in addition to training church leaders, training leaders in general who are followers of Christ is important. If people can be given real-life training in how to handle money and use their skills to operate a business, they can become profitable, bi-vocational pastors who will be respected, and hopefully followed, by others in their communities. Andrew encourages people to pray with an open mind because whatever skills, practical or professional, they might have are probably needed somewhere in India or other field.



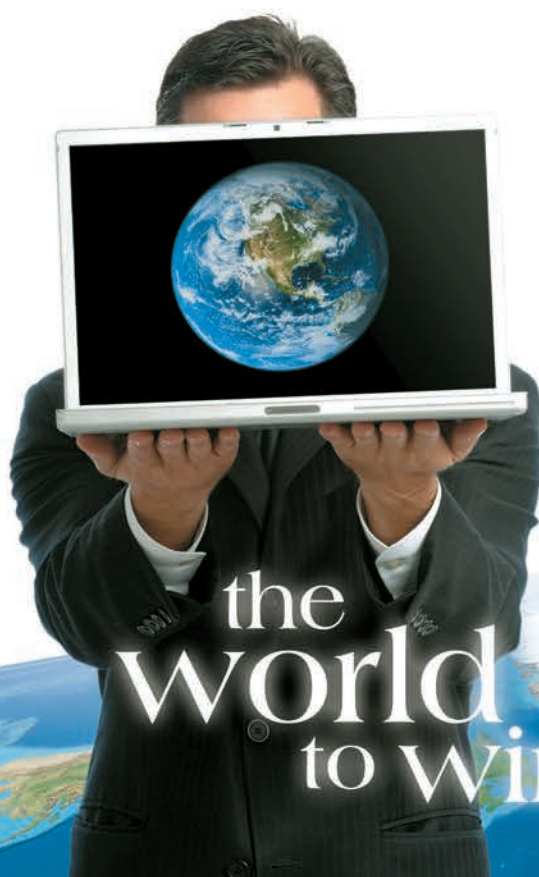
**MEXICO.** Nathan and Charity Brown from Tuscaloosa, AL, were guest speakers at discipleship workshops held in San Gabriel. Nathan has developed around 40 excellent discipleship lessons, which Charity has translated into Spanish. Several of the pastors also gave sessions, along with the Bible Methodist missionaries and GBS graduates Brennan and Ivon Muir.



**UKRAINE.** From 1996 to 2011, Church of God (Holiness) missionaries Gordon and Nancy Snider worked in central Ukraine at Zaporozhye Bible College and Seminary. Although that area is not where fighting is taking place between Ukrainian military and rebels backed by Russia, the city is seeing an influx of refugees from the war. Vlad, a former student of Gordon, supervises drug rehab centers in the city and now also supervises the city’s refugees—some 35,000. He also makes trips into the hardest-hit areas in eastern Ukraine, distributing food, medicine, clothes, and toys. Together with local volunteers, Vlad and his team also distribute Christian literature and invite people to local church services. Pray for Vlad and his team as they minister in very dangerous places.



**UNITED STATES.** Over thirty years ago, Mary Lou Brown and her team prayed that God would shut down the Anderson Gardens Bar, which was a den of iniquity and included a brothel and lots of drug and gang activity. In 1980, after a dramatic police raid, the bar was closed, arrests were made, and the doors were padlocked. The owner offered Mary and her team the property for \$64,000, but they felt impressed to wait. Three years later, the owner gave them the property. In 1985 they began using it for their church fellowship hall and recreation center. On March 22, 2015, Brown Evangelistic Ministries officially donated this 4,400-square-foot building to Victory Inner-city Mission! Pray with Eric Himelick, VICM executive director, that God will continue blessing this ministry in Detroit. ■



the world to win

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# Everybody Needs a Betty

by Sarah Wolf Fry

I think it was the summer after my fifth baby was born. I was still adjusting to the new baby. I was managing a large family. I was dealing with some life changes. I'm sure I felt like a lonely failure. I'm not even sure what all the reasons were, but I was in a discouraging time that I just couldn't seem to kick.

One day I was working over some tables at a church event and Betty and I got to talking. She gently asked me if I had been struggling with discouragement. I admitted that I had, and we talked awhile. She was kind and understanding and listened well. It was the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

I have since told her that I am so thankful that she had the courage to come up to me and ask that personal question. I had wished for a mentor—someone to encourage and walk alongside me who had been there before me. Sometimes we talk in the pew after church. She shares with me when she is especially missing her late husband. I pray for her when she is struggling physically. She has mopped my floors, scraped old wallpaper in my new house, and helped me put together my chandeliers and clean the crystals until they sparkle rainbows. (She's "cool" like that. We both have a weakness for beautiful, sparkly things.)

She doesn't say, "Call me if you need anything." (It's so HARD for me to ask for help!) Instead she says, "I'll come over tomorrow morning and help you scrape that wallpaper." (And she comes.)

She listens and responds and shares and doesn't judge. She was a pastor's wife for years and years—and she did it well. She has been there; but she doesn't try to act like she always had it together. It reminds me that mentoring is only effective if mentors are willing to be open about their own weaknesses and struggles. She makes me feel normal. I know I can go to her if I am struggling or need support and she will be kind and understanding. She has become a treasured mentor. Simply put...she is my friend.

I have talked to women of different ages about the subject of mentoring. Sometimes it seems like a mystery. "How do I find one? What should a mentor do? Do I really need a mentor? Should I just whip myself into shape and



carry on alone?" I have had one trusted friend share with me that perhaps it is a little scary to reach out as a mentor. There is a very real possibility of rejection. "What would I say if I mentored someone? What do I have to offer?"

And then I got to experience that feeling firsthand. Someone asked me to be her mentor—but after our first meeting, she seemed to have a struggle with meeting at our scheduled times. It seemed silly that I felt rejected. She was the one who asked me! But I had made myself vulnerable to her by accepting. Had I said the wrong things?

Had I talked too much and listened too little? I felt hurt that I had made time in my very full schedule to meet with her and she didn't seem to be committed to our meetings. And as I struggled through those thoughts, a light bulb went on in my head. I understood a little more why mentoring doesn't happen as often as it could and should. It's just a little risky. For both. We both want to preserve ourselves and not look like failures. "How much do I share? What if I don't have the right things to say? What if I am honest about my own struggles and she loses confidence in me?"

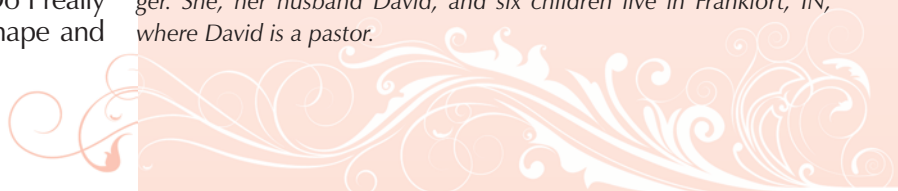
I learned a lot from the imagined mentoring failure of my younger friend. And since then I have grown to understand that particular mentoring situation better and we have a wonderful relationship. We talk and share often as she goes through various seasons of life. I'm glad I didn't run away from mentoring. Turns out we needed each other. I don't do anything "cool." I'm just available—and she comes over and we sit and talk. And sometimes we eat something yummy.

It is true that mentoring comes in various forms and at various intensities. Sometimes it involves working together weekly through a methodical plan for spiritual growth. Sometimes it involves gut-honest accountability and soul-searching questions. Sometimes it is providing a listening ear, a safe place and understanding spirit.

But my mentor Betty has taught me something very precious. Whether you schedule weekly meetings and work a strategic plan together or just chat in the pew after church—a mentor is a friend. It's really pretty simple. You can't go wrong with that.

Maybe someone needs you to be her Betty. ■

*Sarah Wolf Fry (BA '00) is a private music teacher, writer, and blogger. She, her husband David, and six children live in Frankfort, IN, where David is a pastor.*





## student focus

### TOP 100 CHRISTIAN BOOKS

The world's leading Anglican newspaper has published its list of the "100 Best Christian Books." The paper's stable of book reviewers first suggested over 700 titles which were then ranked in accordance with the number of mentions they had received. A resulting shortlist of 120 titles was sent to a panel of eight judges who did the final work. An influential phrase from early on was "enduring value"—books whose impact has been tested by time. The list can be viewed at [www.ct100books.co.uk](http://www.ct100books.co.uk).

### PP = PLANNED PARENTHOOD OR PEDOPHILE PROTECTION?

Mark Crutcher, president of Life Dynamics, a national pro-life organization, has compiled over 60 court cases which reveal that girls as young as 10 were taken to Planned Parenthood facilities and other clinics for abortions and birth control by their sexual abusers, but because staff failed to report the crimes, the girls were subjected to years of ongoing sexual abuse. In fact, some girls were even taken back to the same clinics for repeated abortions by the pedophiles who were abusing them. Crutcher said that among all these cases of child sexual abuse, they couldn't find a single example where staff at any of these facilities had faced criminal charges for not reporting these crimes to authorities.

### BIBLE MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

Construction has officially begun on the Museum of the Bible, a longtime project spearheaded by Hobby Lobby president, Steve Green, which is scheduled to open in Washington, D.C. in 2017. According to the it's fact sheet, the Museum of the Bible will include eight floors and a basement that will house more than 500 biblical texts and artifacts; one rooftop biblical garden; permanent exhibits on the history, impact, and narrative of the Bible; and libraries and museum galleries. The museum will be open to 60 seminaries and universities worldwide whose students will be conducting research on the Green family's collection.

### PRESBYTERIANS SPLIT OVER GAY MARRIAGE

The National Black Church Initiative, which purports to represent 34,000 black churches with 15.7 million African-American and Latino members, has ended its connection to the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) to protest the church's "arbitrary change of Holy Scripture," according to *Charisma News*. PCUSA endorsed same-sex marriage in June. The church decided this month to constitutionally rephrase marriage to include a "commitment between two people." ■

God's Bible School and College has always been a huge part of the life of **COURTNEY FOURMAN**, as both her parents and her older brother are alumni of the school. Growing up in a pastor's home on the beautiful waters of Lake Erie in Port Clinton, OH, Courtney has always had a desire to love and serve Jesus. Since being here at GBS, though, her desire to intimately know God and His Word has grown.

As Courtney is pursuing a BA degree in secondary English education, she has enjoyed the lasting friendships she has made at college. She finds it exciting that she can surround herself with people who have the same common goal of preparing for the lifework to which God has called them.

Courtney's dream is to become a high school English teacher and to win students for Christ! Already active in ministries related to this goal, she currently tutors young people in a downtown mission on Saturday mornings. ■

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

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

*or give online anytime at  
[www.gbs.edu/givenow](http://www.gbs.edu/givenow)*



**DAN STETLER HONORED FOR  
“FORTY YEARS OF  
FRUITFUL MINISTRY”**



Hobe Sound Bible College recently honored Rev. Paul Daniel Stetler for “forty years of fruitful ministry as an outstanding pastor, connectional

chairman for the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches, president of Hobe Sound Bible College and Christian Academy, and as a faithful and passionate evangelist.”

Dan, the oldest of the six children of Kenneth and Jewel Stetler, grew up on the campus of GBS where his father was a long-time faculty member. It was at GBS that Dan earned three bachelor degrees: Music, 1974; Education, 1975; and Theology, 1976. During this time he travelled to many churches and camp meetings ministering as a member of The Stetler Trio with two of his siblings, David and Darrell.

In 1975, Dan married Joan Caine (BA '76) and together they have raised five children who are all serving the Lord in ministry.

After graduating from GBS, he was called to pastor the Franklin Bible Methodist Church in Franklin, OH, a position he held for 20 years. While there, he earned an MA de-

gree at Cincinnati Bible Seminary and also taught at GBS.

In 1996, he was called to be the president of Hobe Sound Bible College. He has been faithfully at the helm now for these 20 years. As if that weren't enough, *The Torch* notes other activities in which he manages to get involved:

“President Stetler also serves as an ex-officio member of the FEA Ministries board and the Hobe Sound Bible Church board. He travels extensively representing the interests of Hobe Sound Bible College, as well as preaching in churches and camp meetings around the country. When he is in town, on Monday afternoons he can be found playing softball at Olsen Field with the campus children, an appointment they do not let him forget.”

God's Bible School is proud of its alumnus and what God has helped him to accomplish. We wish him many more years of productive service!

For a listing of his accomplishments at HSBC over the last 20 years, the summer 2015 issue of *The Torch* is available at [www.hsbc.edu](http://www.hsbc.edu).

**ROBERT SMITH, JR.  
APPOINTED TO CHAIR AT  
DIVINITY SCHOOL**



The trustees of Samford University in Birmingham, AL, have named Dr. Robert Smith, Jr., to the Charles T. Carter Baptist Chair of Divinity

at Beeson Divinity School. Of the appointment, Dean Timothy George said, “Robert Smith, Jr., has been a beloved professor at Beeson Divinity School since 1997 and is one of the most consequential preachers in American religious life today... Through his love for the gospel and his passion for preach-

ing, Dr. Smith has had a shaping influence on several generations of faithful proclaimers of God's Word.” Smith is known for spending hours outside of the classroom with students as they prepare to preach in his class. He received the divinity school's award for excellence in teaching in 2005.

Smith began his education at GBS, receiving a Christian Workers Course diploma in 1970. Over his distinguished career in ministry, he has spoken at more than 100 universities, colleges, and seminaries in the United States, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, and countries of the Middle East, Africa, and the Caribbean. His book *Doctrine That Dances: Bringing Doctrinal Preaching and Teaching to Life* was selected as the winner of the 2008 Preaching Book of the Year Award by *Preaching* magazine and 2009 Preaching Book of the Year Award by *Christianity Today's* [preaching.com](http://preaching.com).

**JORDAN LITCHFIELD  
COMPLETES MASTER'S DEGREE**



Jordan Litchfield (BA '11) completed his MA at Left Union Theological College in Belfast, UK. His culminating project was an ex-

tensive paper: “Yahweh is a Warrior: An Exegetical, Literary, and Theological Study of Exodus 15:1-21 in Its Literary Context.” He graduated with “First Class Honors.” Jordan pastors the Independent Methodist Church in Dromore, Northern Ireland, where he lives with his wife Naomi and their two children. ■

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

# GALATIANS NO OTHER GOSPEL

Aldersgate Forum 2015  
October 27-29

Hosted By

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PRACTICAL TOOLS | FELLOWSHIP | GOOD FOOD  
GIFTS FOR ALL ATTENDEES | DEEP THOUGHT

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

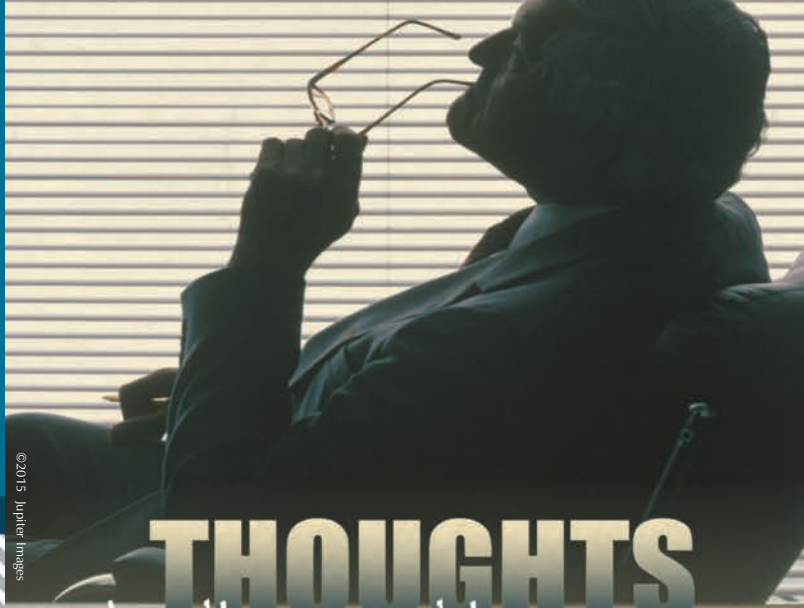
**\$100** prior to September 1

**\$150** after September 1

Cost covers meals, lodging, and forum membership.

Forum begins at 7:00 PM on Tuesday and ends with lunch on Thursday.

TO REGISTER AND TO SEE A COMPLETE SCHEDULE, VISIT  
**WWW.GBS.EDU/ALDERSGATEFORUM**



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## THOUGHTS *for the quiet hour*

by Sonja Vernon

### SILENCE

*“My soul waits in silence for God only; from Him is my salvation.... My soul, wait in silence for God only, for my hope is from Him.” —Psalm 62:1,5 NASB*

The alarm shatters your slumber. On the way to the shower, you turn on the radio to catch the day's news. You sit down with your Bible, but first you peek at social media and some favorite news sites. Much later you turn back to the Word, but your mind continues to race—financial pressures, family problems. It's hard to focus on what you're reading. You start to pray, but that leads you to begin problem solving. Perhaps you could shuffle money from one spot in the budget to another, or maybe a bit more pressure would change that family member. And you go through your day with a cluttered mind and an empty spirit. King David understood this struggle. At the beginning of Psalm 62, he declares that his soul is in repose; he is waiting to hear from God. But by verse five he is telling his soul to be quiet, reminding himself that intruding thoughts and other diversions are poor substitutes for the only source of true help and salvation. Our best laid plans can quickly unravel. Our self-sufficiency is laughable in the face of real need. Our penchant for noise will only drown out the voice of the One who actually has the answers. The only logical response is to acknowledge our helplessness and purposefully quiet our spirits in the presence of a God who is the source of all help and the giver of all good things. Sometimes silence really is golden. ■

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

SEPTEMBER 2015

# ALUMNI VOTING 2015

Cast your vote in the Alumni Executive Council elections at: [GBS.EDU/ALUMNIBALLOT](http://GBS.EDU/ALUMNIBALLOT).  
Absentee ballots must be cast online by October 7.

# Phonathon **2015**

September 14-17

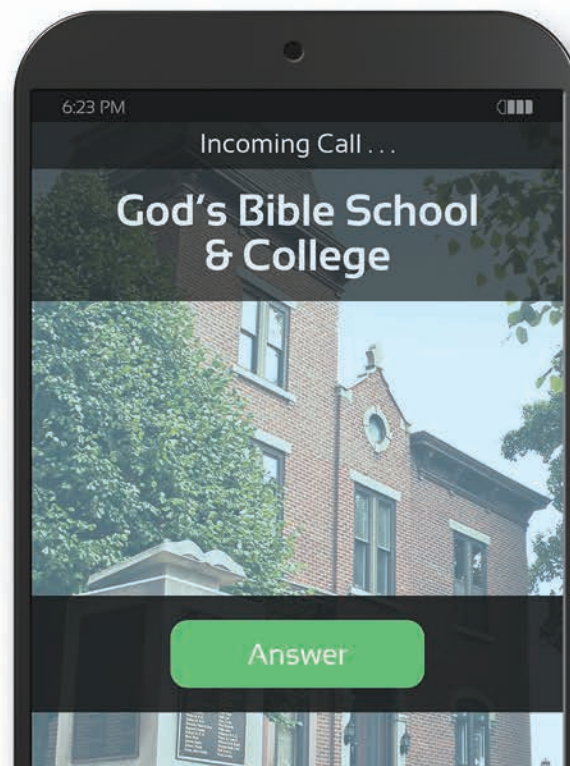
| September 21-24

| September 28-October 1

We've met our goal of **\$120,000** for the past five years!  
Help us reach our goal again this year!

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

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



Don't want to wait for a call?  
Send your gift for Phonathon to:

**God's Bible School & College**  
Office of Advancement  
1810 Young St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Office of Advancement  
513.721.7944

Track our progress at  
[gbs.edu/phonathon](http://gbs.edu/phonathon)