



GOD'S REVIVALIST

April 2009

and Bible Advocate

*"The stone was
rolled away."*

MARK 16:4

the editor's view



LARRY D. SMITH

FINAL VINDICATION

In April 2005, journalist and producer Raymond Arroyo was in Rome with the Rev. John Neuhaus, brilliant scholar and conservative activist, to pay respects to Pope John Paul II, who had died a few days before. At St. Peter's Basilica they joined the thousands passing his body laid out in crimson robes beneath the soaring arches. Arroyo, as he tells us, "remarked at how small the pope appeared. 'That wasn't him. He isn't there,' I said."

"No," replied Neuhaus. "He is there. These are the remains, what is left behind of a life such as we are not likely to see again, waiting with all of us for the Resurrection of the dead, the final vindication of the hope he proclaimed."

For believers, hope is confident expectation that God will do all that He has promised, delivering us from sin and bringing us to salvation through Jesus Christ. During life, it is "an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast" (Heb. 6:19); and then when life is over, it is a signpost pointing from death to resurrection, which as Neuhaus said, will be the "final vindication" of our hope—its proof and confirmation.

This is assured by the miracle of Easter, which Christ's Church is about to celebrate again. At all times, but especially now, we bless "the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (I Peter 1:3–5).

Christ's resurrection! Our resurrection! As St. Peter tells us, it is through Christ's resurrection that we are "begotten"—"given new birth" (NIV)—"to a living hope." But, as he also suggests, it is by our resurrection that this hope will be fulfilled in our "inheritance...revealed in the last time." St. Paul is just as emphatic. For as the "firstfruits" of the harvest are the pledge that the rest of it will follow, Christ's resurrection is the pledge that our resurrection will (p22)➡

CONTENTS

APRIL 2009
Volume 121 No. 3

FEATURES

Love Paid The Ransom For Me **5**
by Hal Leary

DEPARTMENTS

The Editor's View **2**
The President's Page **3**
Letters To The Editor **4**
The World To Win **4**
Faculty Forum **7**
Called Unto Holiness **8**
Down Memory Lane **9**
News From The Hilltop **10**
Revivalist Family **10**
Dear Phil **14**
World Pulse **15**
Media Minute **15**
Alumni News **16**
Revivalist Pulpit **17**
Thoughts For The Quiet Hour **23**

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the president's page



GLORYING IN THE CROSS

by Michael R. Avery, President

“As many as desire to make a fair show in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh. But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus” (Galatians 6:12–17).

The primary struggle in the book of Galatians is between salvation by rule-keeping and salvation by grace. But there is another subtle problem occurring right under the surface—the carnal desire to glory in the visible signs and trappings of religion.

The Judaizers were trying to turn the Galatian Christians back to the works of the Mosaic law. Paul’s opponents feared that his talk about salvation by grace alone and freedom from the works of the law was making religion too easy. They worried that if rule-keeping and the outward signs of righteousness were abandoned, the Church would fall apart. They needed their rules and regulations, especially those who had a powerful sense of identity like circumcision. They needed a “mark in the flesh” as their badge of authenticity and spirituality! It gave them something to measure, something to achieve, something to take pride in!

Paul utterly rejects their teaching. Their doctrine was not just a harmless addition to the Christian faith, but a complete undermining of the gospel. Salvation by the law had saved no one. It never would or could. From his own experience, Paul knew that those who attempt to be saved by rule-keeping live in bondage, depend on the flesh, live for self and seek the praise of men. Rule-keeping makes valiant attempts to change the old nature and make it obey the law of God, but it ultimately fails. It succeeds only in stoking the fires of fleshly pride.

The gospel delivered to Paul and declared by him was salvation by grace through the inner working of the Holy Spirit. Its obedience is not motivated by law but by love! To Paul religion was not a matter of satisfying the claims of the law but satisfying the obligations of love—the love of God revealed in Christ by His death on the cross. Hence, man has nothing he can glory in except the cross of Christ.

Man has a long history of trying to earn favor with God by what he does, while at the same time trumpeting his actions before his peers. We don’t have Pharisees standing on street corners praying, or going around looking gaunt from days of fasting, or sounding trumpets when they write big checks for the offering; but subtle boasting of spiritual activity can happen in a thousand other ways. Complicating all of this is the fact that at the very core of man’s sinful nature is the desire to keep his thumb on or have control of his own salvation. This is why “works salvation” still has so many adherents. Paul saw this for what it was—not the freedom of grace as revealed in the gospel, but the enslavement of sinful idolatry as seen in the works of the flesh. If anyone could easily have fallen into this (p19)➡

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

BIBLE COLLEGE EDUCATION

I did not attend a Bible college, but I feel like I'm getting a lot of college knowledge from [God's Revivalist], especially with Brother Larry Smith and the Doctors Brown. I really look forward to your publication.

MARTHA GORDON
Columbus, Indiana

THANK YOU FOR THE MAGAZINE

"The last article by Mr. Avery ["Change," President's Page, winter] was a masterpiece. Thank you for the privilege of receiving your magazine.

LEVAN KEENE
Adrian, Georgia

For the past 16 years I have received this wonderful publication. I always get so much out of it, but this winter 2009 issue has really reached my heart. [The editorial "Barack Obama and the City of God"] answered so many questions that so many people have been asking about our new President. The article on "What We Sing" [by Randall McElwain] is outstanding, as is President Avery's ["Change"]. Is there any way to get additional copies so I can send it to family and friends? I am a member of an Assemblies of God church and hold many of the same beliefs as does GBS.

P.J. FANNING
Email

Editor's Note: Naturally we're pleased that you find the Revivalist a blessing. We sometimes have extra copies of recent issues on hand; however, you can always go to www.godsrevivalist.com to download current and previous issues of the magazine.

the world to win

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

BELIZE. "Raymond and Alice Shreve (EWM) request prayer for those Christians in Central and South America who are suffering because of the economic turndown. The recent floods hit Belize especially hard because the relief reserve funds were already depleted, and none were coming in. Please remember these Christian brothers and sisters as you would want to be remembered." —Ropeholders

CHINA. "In May of last year, my former three-year multiple-entry visa for China expired. When trying to renew it, I was told, more or less, that it was impossible. Well, this last time in Hong Kong I again applied and did obtain the visa. I then took a short trip over into China at the Shenzhen crossing, passed out tracts and witnessed to a number of young people in their 20s who were VERY open and much moved upon. After reflecting upon this encouraging situation, I realized that the economic downturn in China seems to be causing a spiritual hunger in the hearts of many. When we first entered China with the Gospel twenty-three years ago, the economy was flat but the spiritual hunger was great. Then over the years I personally witnessed with much perplexity and sadness, that as the money came in and prosperity increased, the spiritual condition dropped proportionally." —John E. Knight, Far East Prayer Letter (email)

GUATEMALA. "Our El Carmen church made preparations, and they are now in the process of building their new little chapel in a beautiful rural setting above the town of Palestina de los Altos. A new building for the Santa Rosa church is still at the 'praying and planning' stage. Pastor Hector of the Monrovia Church continues to teach classes by extension for the Bible Institute in Jalapa. So far 15 of his (p19) ➡

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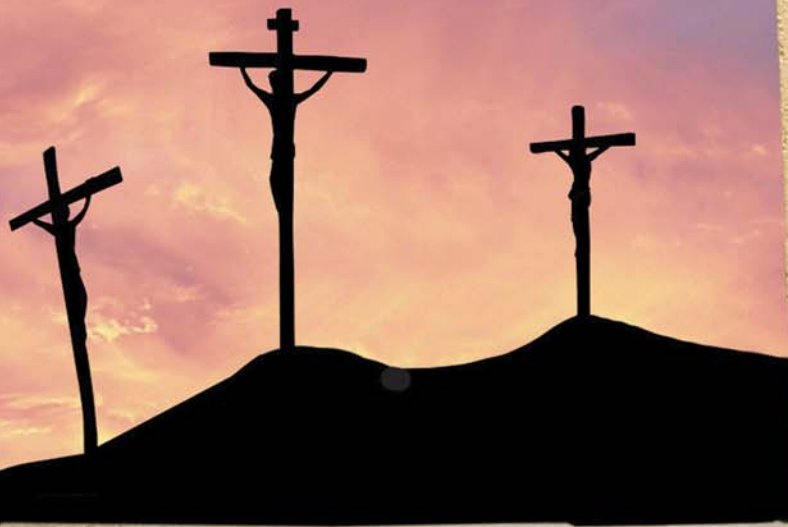
Love Paid An Easter Reverie the Ransom for Me

by Hal Leary

It was one of those beautiful spring days that urges one to get outside. I had driven down to the Shakespeare Theatre, where the sprawling park and lakes make it one of the prettiest places in Montgomery. I had tossed bread crumbs to the ducks, had drunk a Starbucks coffee, and now was “texting” my daughter up at the university. I’m slow at it, so I was bent over the phone, concentrating as I scrolled through the numbers.

I finally raised my head and jumped noticeably to realize that a man was sitting next to me. A little too close next to me. The hair stood up on the back of my neck, and the shot of adrenaline made my heart pound and my muscles tense.

He seemed embarrassed at my reaction and quickly moved to the far end of the bench. “I’m very sorry! I didn’t mean to





alarm you. Please excuse me. It's just that I wanted to talk with someone, and you were sitting here...." He paused, as though to gauge my response.

I just stared, not knowing what to say. To be honest, I was thinking of where I planned to hit him if he came toward me.

"Please, sir, don't be afraid. I just wanted to talk. You can call me Bill."

"Hal—my name is Hal," I responded cautiously. "What do you want to talk about?"

"Hal, I'm an angel."

A prickly sensation washed over my body. "Okay...what do you want to talk about?"

"It's almost Easter. It's the true Christian holiday, you know. It's not for me to judge the way humanity has ruined it, but I would like to put it in perspective for you, if I may."

"Go ahead." At least it was a subject that interested me; and he hadn't moved, so why not?

"I remember when the Son came to this planet. We watched in wonder as the One who had filled eternity became this tiny, microscopic bit of flesh. We could see the sparkle of Divinity in Him, even as a baby.

"His time on this earth flew by. Do you have any idea what a wisp of smoke a human lifetime is? We watched and wondered, but this was not about us; and none of us dared ask what it was all about.

"Then one night I was given the assignment to serve Him. I was totally unprepared for what I found. He was in the garden, alone. I could hear His groans as He twisted on the ground. I moved closer, growing more concerned by the moment.

"Something was terribly wrong! His agony! I had never seen a human in this distress! I bent over Him, wondering what to do next. His face was knotted in torment, and blood seeped from His pores. I was horrified. That's when I noticed it. A smell! A foul, sickening smell. Satan was near! It took me back, back through the ages to the Great War.

"Satan had rebelled. The army that he had raised was rampaging through the Kingdom, wreaking havoc as they went. We fought. We fought hard, but the vicious hatred of that endless throng of thugs was something that had never been experienced before. Then suddenly, from the vicinity of the Throne, there came this tremendous explosion! I whirled to see what had happened.

"The King was there, seated. He had not moved, but from His eyes had flashed this awful wrath—this exploding, unstoppable energy! And that's when I saw Satan and his cohorts. They were toppling through the void of space. End-over-end, flashing like a streak of lightning!

"Satan was exiled to this place, you know. And after he got to Adam—well, every

human from then on was twisted by the curse of sin—but not the Christ!

"I bent over the Son again. Gently, I lifted the collar of His robe from his cheek and drew close, hoping to help. At that moment, the low, scudding clouds broke; and His face could be clearly seen by pale moonlight. His eyes were closed, and tears coursed down the sides of his face, washing a trail (p9)➡

I was totally unprepared for what I found. He was in the garden, alone. I could hear his groans as he twisted on the ground. I moved closer, growing more concerned by the moment.

faculty



forum.

USING TOOLS TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE

by Justin Singleton

Understanding the Bible can be difficult sometimes, but in our tradition there is an old standard that we use to help us. Sometimes called the Wesleyan Quadrilateral, this standard employs four hermeneutical tools—Scripture, reason, tradition, and experience.

Scripture, of course, isn't just one of four tools. It stands alone, and the other three help us understand it. Always we must place primary emphasis on the written Word of God and submit to its authority. Thus, we must make sure that all our doctrines are taken directly from the Bible, and we dare not add to or take from this sacred text. We have learned to speak when the Bible speaks, keep silent when the Bible is silent, and shout when the Bible shouts. We live our lives based on the Bible, for like John Wesley himself, we are committed to be people "of one book."

But we use the other three tools to understand God and His Word. We use the logical faculties to connect Scripture with Scripture in order to develop our doctrinal positions; we use tradition as a guidebook to learn the Church's wisdom through the ages to keep us from making blunders along our way

("What is essentially new is essentially false"); and we use Christian experience to test these ideas in the practical world of everyday living.

We must use these tools consistently in all areas of Christian life and belief. But often we fail to do this, and tragic consequences follow. For instance, many Christians begin their study of eschatology—the doctrine of "last things"—from the perspective of the daily newspaper or from their understanding of history rather than from the teaching of Holy Scripture.

Of course, we should study eschatology, for it is given major emphasis in the Bible. But we should study what the Bible says about it and not allow the latest headlines to convince us that everything is about over. I hear this phrase frequently, "I don't know what is happening in other parts of the world; but in this country where we live, the world no longer announces its End but demonstrates it." The problem with this kind of thinking is made clear by the source of the above quote. It was penned by Gregory the Great in A.D. 593!

Is time running out? Yes, of course. Are we seeing the "signs of

the end"? That is a very difficult question. The "signs of the end" seem to appear all throughout church history. For instance, there have been a lot of different candidates proposed for Antichrist—from Nero to the current Pope, from Hitler to Mussolini, and from Obama to Palin. These speculations have hindered some people in their witness for the Lord and have even caused them to be antagonistic to certain ethnic groups. We must be sure that our speculations will not hinder us from fulfilling Christ's call to win the world for Him.

It's not that we should put down our newspapers but that we should turn to our Bibles for what we teach and believe, using, of course, the hermeneutical tools of reason, tradition, and experience to interpret it. In doing so, we must always remember that Christ has called us to do His work. If time runs out before we are finished, then so be it. But always, as our ministerial students sing at GBS, our battle cry is "Souls for Jesus!" ■

Justin Singleton (GBS '07 BA) is a college English instructor at GBS.



— Called Unto Holiness —

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

THE PERFECTION OF GLORY

by Dr. W.B. Godbey

“But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away” (I Corinthians 13:10).

Many sanctified preachers proclaim that this verse speaks of Christian Perfection or entire sanctification. But this is a mistake calculated to do harm by putting the standard so high that none can reach it. For those who honestly seek after that holiness without which no one shall see the Lord become discouraged. Remember that divine perfection belongs to God only and is absolute. Remember, too, that the perfection of glory belongs to the glorified state, including the unfallen angels and glorified humanity.

The body has two ways to enter the glorified state: (a) translation like that experienced by Enoch and Elijah and all the saints who shall be on earth at the time of the Rapture; and (b) the resurrection. In Philippians 3:12, Paul is speaking of the glorified perfection which he had not yet attained; yet in verse 15 he mentions the Christian Perfection which he at that time enjoyed. As you see, he claims the latter but disclaims the former.

When our Saviour was interviewed in reference to the woman who had survived her seventh husband and asked whose wife she should be in the resurrection, he answered, “They will be as the angels of God”—Greek, *isoi aggleloi*. *Isoi* means “like” and it means “equal,” involving the conclusion that we will be like the angels and equal to them in the glorified state.

Hence, while entire sanctification confers on us Christian Perfection, it will be glorification that imparts the perfection of heavenly beings. *Justification takes away our guilt, sanctification our depravity, and glorification our infirmities*. Critics are hard on our doctrine of sanctification, because they sometimes see our peoples’ infirmities, which carnal people think sanctification on this earth will take away. In this they are mistaken. Glorification must do this work.

These infirmities are not sin, but the effects of sin through the collateral influence of the mind and body. Consequently we are in constant liability to do wrong even while we are aiming to do right, thus committing sins of ignorance. These do not bring condemnation, though they need the atonement of Christ, which reaches them in its normal efficacy like infants. God in His great mercy frequently does not reveal these infirmities to us at the time we commit them lest they make us discouraged and somewhat disqualify us for the work He has given us to do.

It is very dangerous to the cause of Christian holiness to try to apply the scriptures describing the perfection of glory in heaven to the perfection of sanctification on earth. John Wesley said: “Putting the standard too high is in the greatest of all errors, as it is calculated to drive the experience [of entire sanctification] out of the world,” by putting it so high that none can reach it. The holiness people need a great deal of instruction on the perfection of glory and the spiritual gifts, as they are so likely to include them both in sanctification.

This not only discourages them themselves, but also others, thus, as Wesley says, “grieving those whom God has not grieved, and perhaps sending them to Hell.” Christian living, i.e., purity of heart and life, is indispensable to admission into heaven; but glorification perfection and the spiritual gifts are not. The spiritual gifts are not necessary to qualify you for heaven, but for usefulness in this world that you may be instrumental in saving others. Remember, though, that glorified perfection you cannot receive in this mortal body, but when you are glorified all your infirmities will be swept away forever. As we have already said, justification takes away our guilt, sanctification our depravity, and glorification our infirmities. ■

The Rev. W.B. Godbey was a vastly influential figure in the early holiness movement. He was a prolific author, well-known lecturer, and world traveler. He loved God’s Bible School and died on campus in 1920. This selection is abridged by the editor.

➡(p6) through the blood specks. His lips quivered feverishly and sobs shuddered through His body.

"Between gasps, He spoke in a hoarse whisper. 'Please!...Please!...If it be possible...Please!...Let this cup...pass from me!'

"For several seconds He just wept. Then seeming to gain His composure, he spoke again. "Nevertheless, not My will, but Yours." He rolled to his knees, and placing His hands on His thighs, He sighed deeply, obviously resigned to whatever was to come.

"The following hours were a blur to me. The arrest. The mockery of a trial. The horrible beatings! I kept watching the sky. Where was Michael? Where were the hosts of Heaven? I fully expected them to come thundering down to destroy this entire sick, twisted race and sweep the Son of God back home. But nothing!

"If I was there to help—well, I didn't do very well. What could I do? I followed the mob to the hillside. I'll admit it. I turned away at the thud of the hammer, the screams of pain and the thump of the cross falling into place.

"He hung there as the hours dragged by. Then, He lifted His face and screamed into the leaden sky, 'My God! My God! Why have You forsaken me?'

"Then, it happened. The Father poured out His wrath—the wrath that otherwise would have fallen on

every single member of the human race—on the hopeless form hanging limp against the spikes."

Bill fell silent, staring away at things I couldn't see. Slowly, he turned back to me.

"Hal, do you understand? Do you have any idea what was done for you?

I hung my head, ashamed. What could I say? There was little in my life to indicate that I had any serious grasp of Calvary. I began to sob.

Finally, I looked up to offer my feeble response—"Yes, you're right."

But he was gone. I looked everywhere for some sign that he had ever really been there at all.

I stood to my feet, feeling weak and exhausted. As I walked to my truck, I sang through my tears:

*Tell me the story of Jesus.
Write on my heart every word.
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard!*

*Come, let me weep while you whisper,
"Love paid the ransom for me!"* ■

Hal Leary is a GBS alumnus (1974–75) from Montgomery, Alabama, where he is a contractor and home inspector. He and his wife, Jennifer, have two daughters.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

"Gospel Tent for Sale: Flame-proof tent, 80 by 150 feet, round ends, three center poles, block and tackle, 8 foot side-walls, with poles. Used five times, fine condition. Seats and seat ends, 100 folding chairs, platform 16 by 20 feet, lighting equipment. Cost over \$6000; will sacrifice for \$2000 for quick sale. Also Hammond organ, church console model, 11 speaker tone cabinet. —Rev. C.S. Parker, 1621 Chesapeake Ave., South Norfolk, VA. Phone: Kimball 53224." (April 9, 1959)

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

Do-Without Band Letters:

"I am a little girl two years old. I send five cents to be used where most needed. If I see this in the paper, will send some more. —Bessie Stammer, NC"

"We are little twin brothers six years old, and want to join 'The Do-without Band.' We send forty cents to be used for some poor little heathen boys and girls who are hungry and do not know of Jesus. —Francis and Paul Cox."

"About one year ago the Lord saved and sanctified my soul, and I have had joy ever since. I have the 'Revivalist' in my home, and it is a blessing to me. As I read it, I feel more encouraged to go all the way with Jesus and work for Him as never before. —Mrs. J.F. Talliet, North Carolina." (April 1, 1909)

Birth Announcements:

"Brother John Knapp and wife are rejoicing over the advent of a dear little daughter, born March 6, 1909." (April 1, 1909) ■

Down Memory Lane



Selections From
The Revivalist Files



NEW FACULTY ADDED TO GBS MUSIC DIVISION

by Garen Wolf, Chair, Division of Music, God's Bible School and College

We are happy to report the addition of three new members to the faculty of GBS's Division of Music. All of them are GBS graduates. (See more information in "Alumni News," page 16.)

Dr. Jana Pop brings to our division a thorough expertise in

Piano Pedagogy and Applied Piano Performance. She has grown up with an understanding of gospel music in the church, and she understands the need for church and school musicians within our musical tradition.

Jana will be the Assistant Chair of the Music Division and will become the Music Division Chair in May 2010. She is a self-starter and an organizer. I am excited about her return to GBS this fall.

Dr. Nick Pop brings to the Music Division a diverse multicultural approach to music since he was raised in Europe. He is a singing language specialist with an understanding of German, Romanian, Italian, French, Italianized Latin, and English.



Nick also brings an understanding of gospel music since he and Jana have been involved in music ministry while studying at the doctoral level. During his undergraduate studies at GBS, Nick traveled with our Men's Quartet, the College Choir, and the Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble. We welcome him to our division with great joy.

David Hartkopf is a fine trumpet player and is finishing a Master's Degree in Trumpet Performance at Miami University. David (pictured here with wife, Jessica) will bring a wealth of brass-performance knowledge to our division. He will be giving lessons on several brass instruments this fall.

David will be the co-director of the Symphonic Wind and String Ensemble for this coming year and will become the senior director of



REVIVALIST FAMILY

On these pages, we feature items about GBS alumni, vital statistics, significant events scheduled throughout the "Revivalist family," and brief news notes from across the holiness movement. An item for inclusion in the "Revivalist Family" must be submitted within four months of the event which it reports and should be addressed to the Editorial Office, 1810 Young Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202; or revivalist@gbs.edu.

BIRTHS



To **Paul (GBS '04 BA) and Jennifer (Robison) (GBS '05 BA) Eckert**, a daughter **Kallie Renee Eckert**, born August 12, 2008. Kallie has one sister, Katrin Michelle, aged 2.

The family lives in Harrisonville, Pennsylvania, where Paul is pastor of a Bible Methodist congregation.

MARRIAGES



SPC Ryan Mills (GBS '06 AA) to Joanna Lambeth, January 10, 2009, at the Clifton Springs, New York, United Methodist Church, Rev. Steve Mills and Rev. Jerry

Lambeth, officiating, with reception at Phelps, New York. Ryan is currently stationed at Fort Drum, New York. He has served 14 months in Iraq.

DEATHS

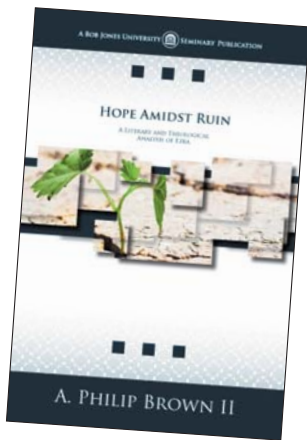


Rev. Albert A. Barr, 65, Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania, died March 2. A graduate of Clemson University and Anderson College, he traveled worldwide in Christian ministry for over forty years. He was a fine speaker, artist, inventor, and teacher. He was a beloved evangelist, known widely for his faithfulness, compassion, and transparency. Rev. Barr taught at Hobe Sound Bible College for 17 years. At the time of his death, he was pastor of the Pilgrim

the organization the following year. He will also become the band director for the four bands in our academy this fall. It is with great joy that I welcome Mr. Hartkopf to the music faculty.

BJU PRESS PUBLISHES PHILIP BROWN'S BOOK ON EZRA

Dr. A. Philip Brown II, faculty member in GBS's Division of Ministerial Education, has been notified that his book *Hope Amidst Ruin* has been published by Bob Jones University Press. In the work, originally his 2002 PhD dissertation entitled "A Literary and Theological Analysis of Ezra," as the book's cover blurb notes, Dr. Brown "frankly addresses various interpretational challenges" in the Old Testament book of Ezra. "Brown's research and analysis



make *Hope Amidst Ruin* an essential resource for Old Testament theologians and all students of Scripture. Ezra's focus on hope and holiness is just as appropriate for our world as it was for his."

The book can be purchased either from Bob Jones University Press (bjup.com) or through Amazon.com.

GBS PLANS "NEW AND IMPROVED" WEBSITE

Thanks to an alumnus who has donated the necessary funds, GBS is planning a "new and improved" website. Some of you have already been asked to complete a survey to give us your ideas about how www.gbs.edu should look. The Website Revision Oversight Group is

charged with making this happen in a timely fashion.

Committee members will begin their task by creating a website mission statement and a set of measurable objectives before beginning to determine website sections and content. While we are just beginning this process, we are determined that the finished product will be more inviting and include better information and other content that changes frequently.

Again, this is made possible by an alumnus who saw a need and did something about it. I feel impelled to say to all GBS alumni, "Go thou and do likewise!" Find a project and take the initiative to make it happen!

—Dr. Ken Farmer, Vice President for Academic Affairs

NEW STRATEGIC PLAN AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

Much hard work has transpired since the 2008 Strategic Planning Summit brought together 31 ➡

Holiness Church, Tunkhannock, as well as administrator of the Endless Mountain Christian Academy. He was preceded in death by his first wife Olene Christmas Barr in 2000. Survivors include his wife, the former Sandra Price Miller; his sons Allan and Phillip; two daughters Karen and Cindy, many grandchildren and other relatives. Funeral services were held first in Pennsylvania, then at Faith Community Chapel, Thomasville, NC. Interment followed at Faith Community Chapel Cemetery.

Brent Andrew Bigger, 33, Liberty, South Carolina, died February 20, 2009. He was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia, and their children Caroline Rose, age 7, and son, Anthony Brent, age 4, as the result of a tragic accident on January 9, 2009. Brent and his family were members of the Easley, South Carolina, Bible Methodist Church. They were a very close and loving family who loved serving God. Funeral services were held in West Terre Haute, Indiana, with the Revs. Terry Going and Bill French, officiating. Burial was in Bethesda Memorial Park.

Klaus B. Dautermann, 92, Farmington Hills, Michigan, died February 20, 2009. He received his BA degree from God's Bible School and College in 1940, and remained deeply devoted to his alma mater, which he faithfully supported. He worked for more than 30 years for the Conveyor Engineering Company as a hands-on structural steel "layout man," translating blueprints and drawings directly to steel. "Klaus translated into action the admonitions of the Bible," as his son David writes. "He is now most certainly with his wife, Jeanette, and with the rest of his family in heaven rejoicing in the Lord and enjoying the mansion the Lord has prepared for his faithful servants."

Myrna A. Deal, 95, died November 21, 2008. For 85 years she walked with her Saviour. At the age of 18, she met and eventually married William S. Deal. Together they served as pastors of several churches in North Carolina; and in 1934 she became one of the first women ordained in the Pilgrim Holiness Church. She and William collaborated on several published ➡

➔ representatives from GBS's Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, staff, and students. Their work resulted in a general consensus as to what initiatives GBS should adopt to better fulfill its mission.

Over the course of several months, the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) and the responsible departments fleshed out these broad initiatives with detail and



placed them on appropriate timelines. Finally, the SPC met with responsible parties to explain the process of recording and reporting their progress.

We are proud to announce that the GBS new Strategic Plan is available on the college website at <http://strategic.gbs.edu>. This will allow our various constituencies to keep track of our progress on these important initiatives. Pray with us as this work continues! —Dr. Ken Farmer, Vice President for Academic Affairs

LATE WINTER CHOIR TOUR FEBRUARY 19 – MARCH 1

In a long-established and much-loved tradition, the 2009 Late Winter Tour of the College Choir represented GBS in eight states, February 19–March 1. Tour director was Don Davison, Public Relations Director, who reports that 15 different services were held in 14 locations throughout the southeastern part of the United States. Directing the choir was Prof. Garen Wolf, veteran chair of the Division of Music. Accompanist was Mrs. Martha Miller, also a member of GBS's music faculty. Davison commented, "It was an honor to conduct my 39th tour of a large group for the school."

In addition to the choir concerts so enthusiastically received, choir members did extensive promotional work for the school, raising funds, distributing promotional materials and recruiting students. President and Mrs. Michael Avery joined the tour in Easley, South Carolina and Thomasville, NC.

MINISTERIAL DIVISION CALLS FOR PRAYER PARTNERS

The Ministerial Education Division is continuing in its 109 year passion and commitment to produce capable and Christ-centered servants for the Kingdom. However, we acknowledge that without the prayer

REVIVALIST FAMILY

continued



GBS Alumni Reception at IHC

Wednesday, April 15

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Dayton Convention Center, Dayton, Ohio

Room 106

➔ books, as well as articles in church periodicals. She served The Wesleyan Church as pastor, evangelist and missionary. Later she taught junior high level students at El Monte Christian School. She eventually moved to Vancouver, Washington, to

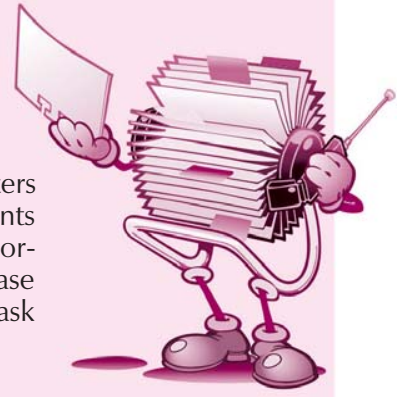
be near her daughter and grandchildren. Preceded in death by her husband, a former contributor to *God's Revivalist*, she leaves behind her daughter Evangeline, two granddaughters, three great-grandchildren, and a host of friends.

Kenneth Alfonso Gerner, 93, died December 5, 2008. He was an accomplished carpenter, and from 1960–1997 built 126 houses, remodeled others, and built churches, banks, schools, and other buildings. He was married to Lydia Ann Troyer in 1934. Kenneth gave tirelessly of his amazing talents



to many Christian organizations and traveled to Brazil, Haiti, and Hawaii, building churches and pastors' homes for the Missionary Church. He also worked on many building projects at God's Bible School. He is survived by his son,

**ATTENTION! REVIVALIST FAMILY
and friends of God's Bible School:**



support of God's people, we labor in vain. If you would like to be made aware of specific areas for which you could pray for the division, please join our prayer partner mailing list and band with hundreds of other believers as they faithfully lift the students and faculty of this division up in prayer. You will receive a letter once a year which includes an update on the

In order to serve our friends and supporters better, we will be calling all our constituents over the next few months to update and correct our address files. If we miss you, please call us at 1-800-486-4637, ext. 1211, and ask for Mandy Buckland.

division, and a picture of a student for you to pray for specifically

throughout the coming year. If you would like to stand with us by joining this prayer list, please send an email to schmulcenter@gbs.edu, or simply call the school at 513-721-7944 ext. 1281. Thank you for your continued prayers, as we train effective servants for Christ.

Briefly Noted: On January 24 six GBS ministerial students traveled south to Alabama for the annual weekend preaching and singing ministry trip. The Lord was faithful to move in the services, and many were encouraged. Please pray that God will continue to use our ministerial students in powerful ways throughout the coming years. ■



Ministerial Education Division of GBS

Barry; daughter, Karen; grandson, Kirk; and sister, Betty Jean. Memorial services were held at First Methodist Church, Santa Paula, California.

Rev. Marvin L. Hughes, 74, Mount Vernon, Indiana, died December 22, 2008. For 51 years he served the Lord in ministry in the South Indiana District of The Wesleyan Church. He served as pastor, assistant district superintendent for five years, and then as district superintendent for eight years (1995–2003). Rev. Hughes is survived by his wife of 51 years, Roberta; his four daughters, Jewell, Acacia, Marlissa, and Jennifer; and by his grandchildren. Funeral services were held at Forest Hills Wesleyan Church, Evansville, Indiana, with Dr. Earle Wilson and Rev. William Oden officiating. Burial was in Memorial Park Cemetery.



Nancy M. Goodrich, 66, Elkland, Pennsylvania, died February 16, 2009. She was a member of the Wesley

Chapel of the Holy Covenant, where she was an active pastor's wife, taught Sunday school, and played the organ. She is survived by her husband of 48 years, Bob; her children Nanette, Alan Robert, John, Mark, and Steve; 14 grandchildren; and other relatives. Funeral services were held at her church, the Rev. Robert Goodrich officiating, assisted by his son and grandsons.

Lillian Mae (Sadler) McVey, 83, died February 25, 2009. She was a committed Christian and beloved mother who faithfully shared the ministry of her husband, the Rev. Kenneth McVey, to whom she was married in 1946. Preceded in death by her husband on October 28, 2008, she is survived by her children, Andrew, Mary Beth, and Gordan; her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Funeral services were held at Shoals, Indiana.

Pearl (Hawk) Norton, 92, Schererville, Indiana, died January 22, 2009. She was the loving (p19)➡

Dear Phil

DOES GOD HARDEN PEOPLE'S HEARTS?

What did God do to Pharaoh when He hardened his heart, according to Romans 9:18? —Marty

Dear Marty,

I took Old Testament Theology from a 5-point Calvinist who is an excellent Hebrew scholar and committed to the authority of Scripture. We both agree about what the text says:

1. God was responsible for this Pharaoh coming to power. This accords with Rom. 13:1–3.

2. God's purpose for bringing this Pharaoh to power was to display His power in him and that His name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth (Exod. 9:16).

3. The first mention of hardening is Exod. 4:21 where God tells Moses that He will harden Pharaoh's heart.

4. God is said to harden Pharaoh's heart nine times (Exod. 4:21; 7:3; 9:12; 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10; 14:4, 8). Pharaoh hardens his heart three times (Exod. 8:15, 32; 9:34). Pharaoh's heart is described as hard or hardened six times (Exod. 7:13, 14, 22; 8:19; 9:18, 35).

5. The essential meaning of "hardening" is "to strengthen or to give courage to do what one really wants to do."

This meaning is confirmed by uses of the same terminology (hardening of the heart) outside of the Pharaoh story. The key texts that have shaped my understand-

ing are as follows:

Deut. 2:30. Here the Lord hardened the spirit and strengthened the heart of Sihon to refuse Israel passage through His land. Even though Israel had a huge standing army (600,000+)—a fact which might have made Sihon be glad to let them pass unmolested through his land—God strengthened his heart to try to do what he really wanted to do: destroy Israel. As a result Israel destroyed Sihon.

Josh. 11:20. The cities of the Transjordan all fought against Joshua because God hardened their hearts to meet Israel in battle, so that they would receive no mercy. Implied: They would have received mercy if they had surrendered. God wanted to destroy them so he strengthened their hearts to do what they really wanted to do: fight Israel. God sovereignly determined not to grant them mercy in this situation, though they had received mercy for four hundred years prior to the Exodus (Gen. 15:16).

2 Chron. 13:7. This was a clincher for me. You can't see it as clearly in English as in the Hebrew. The NASB reads: "and worthless men gathered about him, scoundrels, who proved too strong for Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, when he was young and timid [soft

of heart] and could not hold his own against them." Rehoboam was "soft of heart" rather than hard of heart. In his case, it was a bad thing. He was soft and could not really stand up for what he wanted. As a result, he was swayed by the scoundrels who gathered around him. If God had "hardened" his heart, he probably would have been better off.

Note also Psalm 27:14 and 31:25, where we are encouraged to "be strong and let your hearts take courage." One of the same key verbs used with Pharaoh occurs in these verses as well.

Once I understood what "hard-en" meant—to strengthen a person's resolve to do what he or she really wants to do—what appeared to be a conflict between God's justice and His sovereign action in Pharaoh's heart dissipated. God wasn't making Pharaoh do something he didn't want to do or would not have wanted to do. God was essentially helping him stand up for his [wicked] principles so that God could demonstrate His greater power.

I conclude then that God chose a man He knew was wicked and would want to resist His will and raised him up as Pharaoh. He then strengthened Pharaoh to withstand the pressure He was going to put on him, so that the whole world would know how great God is.

Whom then does God harden? Those whose hearts have rejected the overtures of His grace and are set to do their own will. Upon whom does God have mercy? Those who submit themselves under His mighty hand.

Is this divine sovereignty? Absolutely! Arbitrary and unconditional? Absolutely not.

Philip ■

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

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mediaminute

Resources for the Christian Family

Compiled by Robbie and Rachel England, this feature is provided as a service to our readers. The opinions presented here are those of the individuals making the recommendations and do not necessarily reflect an endorsement by God's Bible School or the Revivalist Press.

PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE NOW LEGAL IN THREE STATES

"More than 10 years after Oregon stoked fears when it became the first state in the nation to legalize physician-assisted suicide, Washington and Montana quickly followed suit." Reporter Sarah Pulliam's words in *Christianity Today* underscore evangelical concern about growing support for a practice they regard as offensive to Christian conscience. She notes that physician-assisted suicide is now permitted in the Netherlands and Belgium and that voters in Washington and Montana have now joined Oregon in making it legal. "In Oregon, the law applies to terminally ill patients who are likely to die within six months, she says. "The diagnosis must be confirmed by two physicians, and patients must possess the mental capacity to give informed consent and must administer the prescribed drugs."

ONLY 39% OF AMERICANS BELIEVE IN EVOLUTION

According to an article by Jackie Bruchs on the website of StandFirm, a "new poll released just in time for Charles Darwin's 200th birthday found only 39 percent of all Americans say they 'believe in the theory of evolution' and just 24 percent of those who attend church weekly believe in the explanation for the origin of life." The cited Gallup poll queried 1,018 American adults.

MUST NOT ABANDON "OUR CULTURAL COMMISSION"

"We may feel outnumbered," writes columnist Charles Colson for *Christianity Today*, "but we must not abandon our cultural commission to bring Christian truth to all of life." Noting the liberal landslide in last fall's election, Colson reminded his readers that "three states passed referendums banning same-sex marriage—something that would not have happened without a mighty effort from religious believers." He urged Christians to follow the examples of "winsome advocates of righteousness" who throughout history have influenced their culture for God.

NRB DETERMINED TO PROCLAIM GOSPEL REGARDLESS OF LIMITS

"The nation's largest association of Christian media professionals is sending a strong message to Washington, making clear their intention to spread the gospel of Christ regardless of what government restrictions there may be in the future." Thus Eric Young, reporter for the *Christian Post*, described the atmosphere of the annual convention of the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) in February. Dr. Frank Wright, president and CEO of the NRB warned that "we're facing a day that is going to be challenging for us to continue to maintain the ability of Christian broadcasters to freely proclaim the Gospel." ■

Holiness Resource

The Spirit of Holiness, by Everett Cattell

The Spirit of Holiness is one of the most practical books on "everyday holiness" that I have ever read. Dr. Cattell's experiences as a missionary and a college president bring to the book a rare blend of the practical and the scholarly. I bought the book for everyone in my family.

—Mike Avery

Counseling Resource

A Time to Heal, by Timmen Cermak

This book is basically for adult children of alcoholics. However, the path to emotional healing is the same no matter what the root cause. This helpful resource gives direction and affirmation for emotionally wounded people.

—Cathy Parker

Pastoring Resource

www.parsonage.org

This pastoring resource offers audio CDs and a weekly newsletter by Focus on the Family's ministry "Pastor to Pastor." The website also contains many articles and resources for many issues faced by pastors and their families. —Darrell Stetler II

To submit your recommendations for the Media Minute, please send titles, authors, and a sentence or two about each book to robnrach@verizon.net.

"This is our predicament. Over and over we lose sight of what is important and what is not." —Epictetus



THREE ALUMNI RETURN TO THEIR ALMA MATER

by Jack Hooker,
National Alumni President

It is always exciting to welcome back alumni to serve on the GBS faculty and staff. Many of us who have worked at the college feel a special calling to give back to the institution which gave us so much. Here is the story of three alumni who are returning to GBS.

Nick and Jana Pop



Nicolae (Nick) Pop, a native of Romania, was always interested in music. "I remember singing in church as early as I could stand on a chair to be seen. There was

never a question of what I wanted to do with my life." He came to the U.S. and began his musical education at Emanuel Bible Institute, studying voice. In 1995, he transferred to GBS.

Three years later, Jana Burroughs made the trip from Alabama to Cincinnati. She was also interested in studying music. "My mother always encouraged my curiosity at the piano. I would sit on the bench and 'bang' to my heart's content, believing that I was making beautiful music. Once I began for-

mally taking lessons, I did not know that I would go on to earn a doctorate degree in piano. But I always knew that I wanted to make music."

In the midst of their studies, they discovered each other. Jana remembers the occasion. "We first saw each other at the Ridge Avenue Wal-Mart. I was with my mom buying paint for a dorm room, and Nick was with his Romanian friends. It was August, 1998. A friendship slowly developed through common goals and interests."

Nick graduated in May 2000 with BA degrees in Music Education and in Church Music. Three months later he and Jana were married.

In 2002, Nick received a two-year Opera Graduate Assistantship from Miami University of Ohio, again studying voice. While attending Miami University, he performed lead roles in the university opera productions, received an apprenticeship with Sorg Opera, and won first place at the National Association of Teachers of Singing Competitions for Buckeye Division and Great Lakes Regional Auditions.



Meanwhile, Jana was completing her GBS studies, receiving the Music Achievement Award for Excellence from God's Bible College in 2003, and graduating *magna cum laude* with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music Education and Piano Performance.

After graduation, Jana followed Nick to Miami University of Ohio. There she received a two-year graduate assistantship, where she taught college courses in group piano and accompanied the chamber choir, graduate, and student recitals. She was also awarded summer stipends to study the Suzuki Method. After receiving the Music Teachers National Association Achievement Award in 2005, she graduated with

a Master of Music Degree in Piano Performance. Nick also graduated that year with a Masters of Music in Voice Performance.

What happened next was really quite amazing. While it is difficult to get into a good music program at the doctoral level, it is quite another thing for both husband and wife to be accepted into the same program. But that is exactly what happened. Jana recounts, "After unsuccessfully applying at four universities that offered both degrees we pursued, the University of South Carolina accepted our pre-candidacy qualifications and offered us a graduate assistantship and fellowship award. Not knowing anyone in South Carolina, we offered a fleece to God—that He would provide an 'almost' new upright piano for \$500. Within two days, we had our piano, worth \$5000, and were praising God for His providence."

Nick is a candidate for the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Voice Performance. He has performed in six opera productions and three graduate recitals. He has performed oratorios in local churches, opera roles for Opera Outreach, a university community arts program devoted to bringing music to public education, and is the minister of music at his local church.

Currently, Jana is a candidate for the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Pedagogy. She has been actively involved in the USC Community Music Program, teaching average-age and adult students and organizing recitals, master classes, and other events. Her dissertation research compiles an analytical survey of the hymn-playing requirements in selected Christian college and university piano departments, while reviewing methodologies and curriculum. On April 16, 2008, for her academic achievement at USC, Jana was honored to be elected as a member of the Society of Pi Kappa Lambda by the Gamma Theta Chapter. She has served as piano instructor at (p20) ➡

is forever alive (6:9–10). **“Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.”**

When the Lord Jesus died, He died to sin—to its claims, its wages, it demands, its penalty. He finished the work of atonement and satisfied the righteous demands of God’s holy justice and wrath so completely and perfectly that it will never need to be repeated. Now that He lives, triumphant over sin, death, and the grave, He lives to God. And as the resurrected God-man, He lives to God in a new relationship—as the Risen One! Death no longer has dominion over Him; He will never die again. And because of our union with Christ, we too have been released from the dominion of sin. Sin’s tyranny over us has been broken, because sin has nothing to say to a dead person. Now we are free to live in Christ as Christ lives—we are free to live for God.

In agreement with Paul, Peter says that the purpose for Jesus’ substitutionary sacrifice was that “we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness” (1 Pet. 2:24). Jesus died to bring about a transformation: to make saints out of sinners, not sinning saints. Participation in Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection enables a person to depart from sin and enter into a new life pattern: a life of righteousness.

Believers must not only learn these eight true concepts, but they must wholeheartedly embrace them. They form the factual foundation upon which we are to build our faith. There is, however, a big difference between “conceptual” facts and “experienced” facts. We are never to stop with factual data. We are to translate the biblical facts into experiential reality through obedience and faith. We are to live up to our privileges in Christ.

In our next sermon we will see that believers must reckon (or count) their death, burial, and resurrection with Christ as accomplished, life-changing events. **“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord”** (6:11). Further, there is an on-going choice believers must make. They must purposely yield the members of their bodies as tools of righteousness (6:12–13, 16, 19).

(To be continued next issue.)



—sermon by DR. ALLAN P. BROWN



“COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE
IN PREACHING”

FREEDOM FROM SIN Part II

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

Text: “But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.” (Romans 6:22)

Scripture reading: Romans 6:1–23

Is freedom from sin possible? Or are Christians simply forgiven sinners—people whom God has justified by grace through faith, even though they continue to sin willfully on a daily basis? In part one of this sermon, we turned to Romans 6:1–10 and studied the first four truths that Paul insists every Christian learn (sermon part 1).

In this message, we continue our study with four more Biblical truths. Paul continues his explanation why it is impossible for a Christian who is united to Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection to continue in sin.

A Christian, explains Paul, is both dead and alive. He is dead in the sense that he has died with Christ to sin, and therefore he cannot continue to live in sin. He is alive in the sense that through the power of Christ’s resurrection he has been given newness of life. Therefore he is empowered to live for God, experiencing victory over sin and producing “fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life” (Rom. 6:22).

We continue now with Paul’s explanation of why it is impossible for a Christian “to continue in sin that grace may abound” (Rom. 6:1).

Know that you cannot continue in sin because your death with Christ put to death your old man (6a). “Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him.”

The phrase, “old man” occurs three times in Paul’s writings (Rom. 6:6; Eph. 4:22; Col. 3:9). It refers to all that we were before

we were saved—our old, evil, unregenerate selves with all of our motives, sinful attitudes, habits and appetites. When we were saved, we put off the “old man with his deeds” and put on the “new man” (Col. 3:9). This occurred because of our union with Christ. His crucifixion becomes our crucifixion. His death defeated the power of sin, and because we participate in His death, the power of sin is defeated in our lives. In Christ, we are no longer held prisoner by sin. We are no longer the “old man;” for we are now a “new man” in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:15; 4:22–24; Col. 3:9, 10). This is not in the sense of a renovated or refreshed version of the old, but we have received a brand-new life.

Know that you cannot continue in sin because your death with Christ provided for the total defeat of sin’s power over your physical body (6b) “...that the body of sin might be destroyed.”

The purpose behind the crucifixion of our old man is that sin should be rendered powerless in our lives. But what does Paul mean by the expression “body of sin?” It clearly should not be regarded as equivalent to “sinful body;” for the body itself is not sinful. Scripture teaches that sin arises from the heart, the inner life (Mark 7:21), not our physical body. Should we settle for “sinful self” (NEB) or “the self which belonged to sin” (NJB)? This is possible, since the word *soma* (“body”) sometimes conveys the idea of man in his totality, not simply as a physical organism. But this appears to be pushing the phrase further than the immediate context allows.

The first occurrence of the term “body” in Romans is in reference to Abraham. “And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara’s womb” (Rom 4:19). Here the term “body” refers to his physical body.

The second occurrence of “body” is our present passage (Rom. 6:6). The third occurrence is in Romans 6:12 when Paul commands, “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.” Again, the term “body” refers to our physical body. In Romans 6:13 and 6:19, Paul places great emphasis on not using the physical members of our body for sinful purposes. Therefore, contextually, the phrase “body of sin” in Romans 6:6 is probably best understood as referring to our physical body insofar as it becomes the vehicle of sin.

In agreement with this interpretation, Marvin Vincent writes that the phrase “‘body of sin’ denotes the body belonging to, or ruled by, the power of sin, in which the members are instruments of unright-

eousness (ver. 13). Not the body as containing the principle of evil in our humanity, since Paul does not regard sin as inherent in, and inseparable from, the body (see ver. 13; 2 Cor. 4:10–12; 7:1. Compare Matt. 15:19), nor as precisely identical with the old man, an organism or system of evil dispositions, which does not harmonize with vv. 12, 13, where Paul uses ‘body’ in the strict sense” (*Word Studies in the New Testament*).

Further, the reference to our crucifixion with Christ, a crucifixion which Christ endured in his physical body, also supports the interpretation that Paul is speaking of our physical body which can be used as an instrument of sin or as an instrument of righteousness. As Richard Howard explains, “sin so contaminates and controls the outer man, expressing itself through the body and using the physical body that man’s body is pictured as ‘sin’s own body’” (*Newness of Life*, 47).

Our union with Christ in His death destroyed sin’s control over our physical body. In Christ we are free from the grip of sin.

Know that you cannot continue in sin because your death with Christ provided deliverance from the servitude of sin (6c-7) “...that henceforth we should not serve sin. He that is dead is freed from sin.”

Our old man was crucified so that sin’s control over our body should be destroyed that henceforth we should not serve sin. Sin’s stranglehold on our lives has been decisively broken. No longer the helpless captives of sin, we have been set free. The verb “freed” (*dikarow*) normally means “justified” or “acquitted.” However, the parallel of “serve” and “freed” requires the idea of “freed from sin,” and not “acquitted from sin.”

In agreement with this Albert Barnes writes that “the word here is used clearly in the sense of setting at liberty, or destroying the power or dominion. The word is often used in this sense. Compare Acts 13:38, 39, and a similar expression in 1 Peter 4:1, ‘He that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin.’ The design of the apostle is not to say that the Christian is perfect, but that sin has ceased to have dominion over him, as a master ceases to have power over a slave when he is dead.” He is “freed from the guilt of the past,” says John Wesley, “and from the power of present sin, as dead men from the commands of their former masters.”

Know that you cannot continue in sin because you now live in the resurrection power of the One who rose from the dead and

➡(p13) mother of Herbert, Brian, Joe, Josephine, Suzy, and Harry, and the devoted grandmother of nine grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Herbert. Pearl was more precious than her name. She was a hard worker who gave of herself sacrificially. Her family was her life's joy. Funeral services were held in Valparaiso, Indiana, with her grandsons, the Rev. Ben North, and the Rev. Paul Caldwell, officiating. Burial was at Graceland Cemetery.



Carmen S. Welker Rogers, 40, (GBS '85 HS) died January 26, 2009, at the University of Kentucky Medical Center. She spent her final days with her husband Jonathan Rogers, her son Patrick, and her father and mother Robert L. and Pauletta Welker. She is also survived by her brother Robert D.; her sister Miriam, and other relatives.

Carmen spent one year in Taiwan and eight years living in the People's Republic of China teaching English as a foreign language and letting the people of China know how much she loved and cared for them. She is also survived in China by a multitude of friends, students, and teachers who lovingly knew her as "Huan Huan." In Mandarin Chinese this means "Happy-Happy," and it was for her happiness and her love that she is most remembered. Funeral services were held at Maysville, Kentucky, with burial at Hillcrest Garden of Memories.

NOTICES

The Website for the Aldersgate Forum, sponsored by God's Bible School and College, is now up and running. It can be accessed at <http://sites.google.com/site/thealdersgateforum/>. The papers from the last two forums, "Divorce and Remarriage," and "Church Planting and Church Membership," are on the website. Previous forums' materials will eventually be posted as well. —*Philip Brown*

Blue Mountain Memorial Brethren Church, 215 Tabor Road, Newburg, Pennsylvania, is seeking a pastor. The congregation of about 60 members describes itself as having "a deep-rooted heart for holiness." It seeks a bi-vocational, culturally-conservative visionary pastor with a mind for community outreach and evangelism." For more information (p20)➡

➡(p4) students have graduated with certificates in Christian education. Here in the capital where we have pastored for nearly two-and-a-half years, the Lord is helping. We have felt the Lord's presence in our services, but we are in a tremendous spiritual battle." —*Stephen and Janet Geise, Pioneer Missions in Guatemala, newsletter*

PHILIPPINES. Pastor Alice asked us to pray for a man who had been paralyzed after the tree he was cutting fell across his lower back. I've seen a lot of sad situations here in the Philippines, but the abject poverty and hopelessness faced by this little family was almost more than I could bear. This paralyzed father had never known the Lord. We prayed for God's mercy to be extended; that somehow God would give them hope. [Later Alice related,] "I was called to pray for the paralyzed man. When I arrived I saw that he was unconscious and feared that death was near. I prayed that the Lord would cause him to awaken so that he might have one more chance to trust in Christ. At 4:00 PM he suddenly awakened and became very alert. So I said, 'Brother _____, if you will pray and ask the Lord Jesus to forgive you and save you, He will.' And as I prayed he also prayed, and I believe that the Lord saved him! Then, suddenly at 6:00 PM he died!" —*Tim and Becky Keep, email*

ZIMBABWE. "Please pray for the poor congregations in Zimbabwe. Three pastors have gone to other countries to find a way to support their families. Three other pastors died. The people fast and pray three days every month and say they are not afraid to be hungry. The churches are suffering much under the Zimbabwe government and need our prayers. Cholera is also a big problem there." —*Pieter Marais, HIM, Ropeholders* ■

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

 continued

➡(p3) trap it would have been Paul. He could have boasted of his Jewish heritage, his holy zeal, and his many good works. He could have been puffed up by the revelations given to him directly from God. He could have gloried in the scars on his body from being whipped five times with thirty-nine lashes, or being beaten three times with rods, or stoned and left for dead. But instead he cries, "God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of Christ Jesus my Lord!"

It is very difficult not to boast of our spiritual exploits in subtle ways. It is also very difficult not to rest on them for merit. The only cure is to live in utter dependence upon saving grace, to walk moment-by-moment in the power of His Spirit and to experience such a radical death to our old man that we can say, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." ■

➡(p16) the Carolina Music Academy, clinician at numerous student master classes, adjudicator at Music Teacher National Association and National Federation of Music Club's Piano Competitions and Achievement Days in Columbia, Aiken, and Greenville, and pianist and worship leader at her church.

Both Nick and Jana will be receiving the DMA degrees in May 2009. Nick and Jana will then return to GBS to join the Music Division Faculty (see "News from the Hilltop" p. 10). Listen to how they jointly describe their return to GBS. "God has led us through so many open doors—we will forever be indebted to Him for His leadership. We consider ourselves so blessed to be returning to the institution that commenced our formal musical education. God's Bible School and College has been a constant force for Christian principles and ministry while it continues to foster an environment that caters to academic excellence. While God has blessed both of us with educational opportunities, we are compelled to offer that experience to help further the acad-

emic goals of GBS, to foster a passion for music in the next generation of students, and to reach out to the community with programs that further the cause of Christ."

David Hartkopf

Also joining the GBS Music Division faculty will be another alumnus, David Hartkopf. He tells us about himself, his preparation for training, and his return to GBS:



"I loved music from the moment I picked up my trumpet in fifth grade. My dad was a trumpet player, and both of my parents

encouraged diligence in practice and were very supportive in driving me to lessons and sending me to band camps during the summer. As a senior in high school I received a scholarship from the University of Cincinnati to study engineering. Music was my life, but nobody I knew made a career of teaching

music because it was not a lucrative, financially rewarding job!

"Some family encouraged me to join the band and take a Bible class at GBS. Although an off-campus part-time student, I was able to attend most of the opening revival held on campus. God began to deal with me about the direction of my life and about completely surrendering my plans to His will. I had already planned on changing my major to music at the University, but God led me to become a full-time student at GBS, a decision that changed the entire focus of my life. I met my wife Jessica at GBS, and we married June 17, 2006. This May I will finish my MM in trumpet performance at Miami University. I chose to return to GBS because I believe in the value of Christian Music Education and the mission of the school. I am excited to be joining a great team of people and I can't wait to start teaching!"

David and Jessica are active in the Franklin Bible Methodist Church where David directs the music ministry and choir. They presently reside in Cincinnati. ■

REVIVALIST FAMILY

continued

➡(p19) contact either Ray Halteman, (717) 423-5380, haltemanheifers@yahoo.com or Mae Holtry, (717) 532-7954, lukeholtry@yahoo.com.

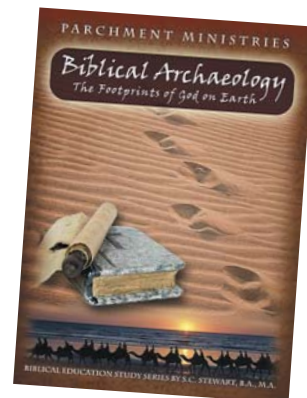
Grace Holiness Church, Harkers Island, North Carolina, will host an area IHC May 12-14, 2009, with Rev. James Plank. Mike and Brenda Mayhle will provide the music. Pastor is Rev. Dale D. Darr. For further information contact him at (252)-728-5465 or cell (252)-342-5861 or email dakdarr@juno.com.

AVAILABLE

Biblical Archaeology: The Footprints of God on Earth by the Rev. S.C. Stewart is the first of a four-part series

which will also include titles on church history, defense of the faith, and the Christian family. The work is a 13-part series (82 pages). Its topics include the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Sea of Galilee, and Jericho. Cost is \$12.99 plus \$2.99 for shipping. The author holds degrees from Hobe Sound Bible College and Bob Jones University. Contact Rev. Stewart at 4349

Forest Manor Dr., Trinity, NC 27370; (336) 861-1206; or moses43@juno.com. ■



Camp Meeting

at God's Bible School & College

CINCINNATI, OHIO

May 13-17, 2009

With guest speakers:

Rev. John Case

Rev. James Keaton

Dr. Wingrove Taylor



Dr. Michael Avery President

Rev. Mark Cravens Campus Pastor

Music: GBS Division of Music

Children's Services: GBS Students

GBS Commencement: Saturday, May 16, 10:00 am

First Service: Wednesday, May 13, 7PM

Heart Talks: Thursday and Friday, 9AM

Musical Pre-Service: Sunday evening, 6PM

Rooms Available—Call: (513) 721-7944

Prayer and Healing—7:30 AM

Breakfast—8:00 AM

Heart Talks—9:00 AM

Morning Worship—10:30 AM

Children's Meeting—10:30 AM

Lunch—12:00 PM

Supper—5:00 PM

Evening Service—7:00 PM

Nursery service provided during the main services

➡(p2) also follow. “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. *But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming*” (I Cor. 15:22–23).

Arroyo and Neuhaus both believed this. Yet their comments beside the dead pope’s body revealed differing viewpoints as to what it meant. “*That wasn’t him. He isn’t there.*” “*No. He is there...waiting with all of us for the Resurrection of the dead...*” So which of them was right?

It was true, as Arroyo said, that John Paul really wasn’t there, his spirit encased in decomposing flesh. For in death he shared the common destiny of us all: “*Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it*” (Ecc. 12:7). Our mortal human body, as the Bible teaches, is “our earthly house”—frail and perishable as a tent; and when it is “dissolved,” we shall move to “a building of God not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” Now we are “at home in the body,” but “absent from the Lord.” But then we shall be “absent from the body” but “present with the Lord” (II Cor. 5:1–8).

Yet Neuhaus was also right. Something of John Paul was truly there. For though his spirit had departed, his body was left behind—a vacant ruin now, but still the handiwork of God who had made it a constituent element of human nature. For 85 years, the famous churchman had lived in it as his “earthly house”; and if he enjoyed saving fellowship with Christ—as certainly we hope—the Holy Spirit had lived in it also as His temple. Even in death it remained precious to Him who once had formed it from the dust and who yet would raise it from the dust. “*For the trumpet shall sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality*” (I Cor. 15:52–53).

Through long centuries, Christians have awaited that trumpet call which shall announce our “final vindication.” Then our hope in Christ shall climax in the Easter glory, for it shall empty all our graves in triumph, just as it did His own. In order of sequence, the “dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (I Thes. 4:16–17).

We ponder many questions about the resurrection. Yet, as Dr. W.B. Pope, that peerless Wesleyan theologian, tells us, there are “three terms that are the watchwords of our doctrine,” each of which we now examine.

Integrity. This means that “the whole man [shall return] to existence...in the integrity of his nature, which

in the idea of the Creator, was that of a spiritual being using a bodily organization....” Thus, we shall spend eternity with Him, not as disembodied ghosts, but as complete human beings, restored to the undivided fullness of our humanity. This, of course, is the way God created us, as Dr. Wiley reminds us—in body “a part of nature,” but at the same time, “a free spirit transcending nature.”

In this same fullness of our humanity we were redeemed by Jesus’ blood; and in this same fullness of our humanity we shall be raised in glory. Until then, “we groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body” (Rom. 8:23), when as John Wesley explains, “the body itself is redeemed from death,” raised “from corruption to glory and immortality.” For the God who made us body and soul shall preserve us body and soul, since as He ordains, nothing essential to the perfection of our humanity shall be lost.

At the Resurrection, will precisely the same cells and molecules that once constituted our body be regathered and recomposed? No. For even in earthly existence there is no such continuity. Yet we can be sure that God will ensure the sameness of our bodies in the Resurrection, and we eagerly await that moment when we shall lovingly embrace those whom we “have loved long since, and lost awhile.”

In this sense, as Dr. Pope declares, “the resurrection is the goal of all redeeming acts...the finished redemption of the man.”

Identity. How often have we heard a pastor commit the body of a dear one to the grave, “earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.” Yet Christian burial is never in despair but in anticipation—always “in sure and certain hope of the resurrection unto eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ...,” as the old service emphasizes. Nothing is more clear in Scripture than that the same body placed in the tomb shall be raised in glory from it.

“Does this imply that precisely the same cells and molecules that once constituted our body will be regathered and recomposed?” asks Dr. Thomas Oden. “No,” he answers. “For even in earthly existence there is no

such continuity. The body is constantly changing materially, and has been doing so since infancy. Yet its basic features have continuity, due to their genetic coding." We can be sure that God who ensures the sameness of our bodies throughout their changes here will also ensure their sameness with our bodies in the Resurrection. This means identity of recognizable form, to be sure; and we eagerly await that moment when we shall lovingly embrace those whom we "have loved long since, and lost awhile."

Glorification. God has promised that our bodies, "sown in corruption," shall be "raised in incorruption"; "sown in weakness," shall be "raised in power"; "sown a natural body," shall be raised "a spiritual body" (I Cor.15:42-44). This will occur at Christ's coming, when He "will change our lowly body, that it might be fashioned like unto his glorious body." (Phil. 3:21).

Granted, here is sacred "mystery," as St. Paul asserts. Yet as Anglican divine Dr. Robert Hall points out, the great Apostle gives us these four characteristics of our glorified bodies: "(a) *Incorruptibility*...[or] emancipation from pain and disease...; (b) *Immortality*, or freedom from death; (c) *Glory*, or splendour beyond all analogies of our earthly experience; (d) *Power*, or capacity without weariness to fulfill every dictate of their spirits." The last marks of sin shall be lifted from us, and our perfected humanity shall be adapted for life forever "in the new heavens and the new earth."

"God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away" (Rev. 21:4).

In a cemetery overlooking the Nebraska village where she was born, my mother awaits the "final vindication." She's not really there, of course, though her body is; and even in its ruin, it is precious to God



WHO AM I?

by Sonja Vernon

"Then David the king went in and sat before the Lord and said, 'Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house that You have brought me this far? ...O Lord, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You....'" (I Chronicles 17:16, 20 NASB)

What a moment! God has just spoken to David through the prophet, Nathan. "I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader over My people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone...and I will make you a name like the name of the great ones who are on the earth." (vv. 7-8) God also promised to establish the throne of one of David's descendants forever. I imagine David as he goes in before the Lord. He contemplates who he was and who God has made him. The magnitude of the promise overwhelms him. He cries, "Who am I?" I love that. No entitlement—just awe and praise.

This Easter season is a celebration of the fulfillment of God's covenant. That promised Son of David became flesh, lived among us, died on our behalf, rose again and will reign forever! He opened the way for us to know God, and in knowing Him, to find life eternal. This Easter, let us stop and remember from whence we came and what God has given us. May gratitude overwhelm us as we say to our Father, "Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house that You have brought me this far?" ■

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

who once formed it from the dust and who will yet raise it from the dust. Until then, He watches over her grave in love, as He does the graves of all the Christian dead. But when at His command the trumpet sounds, He shall raise her with all of them, vibrant, beautiful, and com-

plete in the full perfection of glorified humanity. Long years have passed since I have heard her voice, seen her smile, or felt her touch; but in God's mercy I shall know them all again. This is assured by the miracle of Easter, which Christ's Church is about to celebrate again. ■

WHICH COLLEGE IS RIGHT FOR ME? WHY IS COLLEGE SO IMPORTANT? HOW DO I FIND THE RIGHT SCHOOL? WHOM SHOULD I LISTEN TO WHEN CHOOSING A COLLEGE? HOW DO I KNOW WHAT FIELD TO GO INTO? WHAT IS GOD'S WILL IN MY COLLEGE CAREER? SHOULD I GO TO A BIBLE COLLEGE? HOW DO I FIND A COLLEGE FOR PREACHERS? WHAT IF I DON'T FEEL SPIRITUALLY IN COLLEGE? WHY CAN'T I JUST GET A JOB? DOES IT REALLY MATTER IF I GO TO COLLEGE? WHAT DOES IT DO FOR ME? HOW DO I GAIN FRIENDS? WHAT MAKES COLLEGE WORTH THE COST? WHERE DO I TURN TO TO GET ADVICE ABOUT COLLEGE? HOW DO I MAKE THE GRADE? WILL IT CHANGE MY LIFE? HOW MUCH DOES IT COST ME? CAN I GET SCHOLARSHIPS? DOES IT MATTER WHERE I GO TO COLLEGE? HOW DO I KNOW HOW TO PAY FOR COLLEGE? HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM READY FOR COLLEGE? WHAT'S IMPORTANT IN COLLEGE? DO I KNOW THAT GOD IS CALLING ME? WHAT MAKES A COLLEGE A GOOD COLLEGE? HOW DO I FIND THE RIGHT COLLEGE? IN WHICH DIRECTION? WHY GBS? HOW DOES GBS MAKE YOUR COLLEGE STAND OUT?

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