

THE

# BIBLE METHODIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BIBLE METHODIST CONNECTION OF CHURCHES VOLUME 52 | ISSUE 3

MAKING A CASE FOR

## Christian Colleges

# FROM THE EDITOR



**G. Clair Sams**  
Editor

**The mind is an incredible gift. The gift of the mind** may be cultivated to enhance life and celebrate eternity. The gift may also be wasted and ignored causing loss in life and possibly eternal loss.

This time of the year our thoughts turn to education. Where a person receives education has a significant influence on the information received and how it is used. For too long many assumed that education was simply education and the margin of difference was quite insignificant. The events of the past few months should inform the thinking person of the fallacy of that assumption.

A young lady that is close to our family, educated in the public school system and studying in a public university has been fully indoctrinated to the Marxist thought. Since she has very little interest in learning the balance of social thought, she will likely not know the truth until it is too late.

This issue of the paper addresses this subject. Dr. Aaron Proffitt and Dr. Ken Farmer have both given their lives to education and particularly to studying and teaching from a strong Christian philosophy. They offer insight into this incredible subject.

If you are a parent, please give deep and deliberate thought to where and how your children are educated. If you are a pastor or teacher, please understand the incredible value of your teaching and influence.

To the students who read this material, please take advantage of the opportunities you have to cultivate your mind! Remember the mind is an invaluable resource. You have one, only one. Dr. Dennis Kinlaw would say something like this, "I continually converse with myself, I want that conversation to be as informed and intelligent as possible."

Please give special attention to what you bring into your life through your mind! The Scripture indicates that your mind informs your spirit and together they will mark your eternity. ■

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# Christians & College Choice

## THE SCHOOL ON MARS HILL

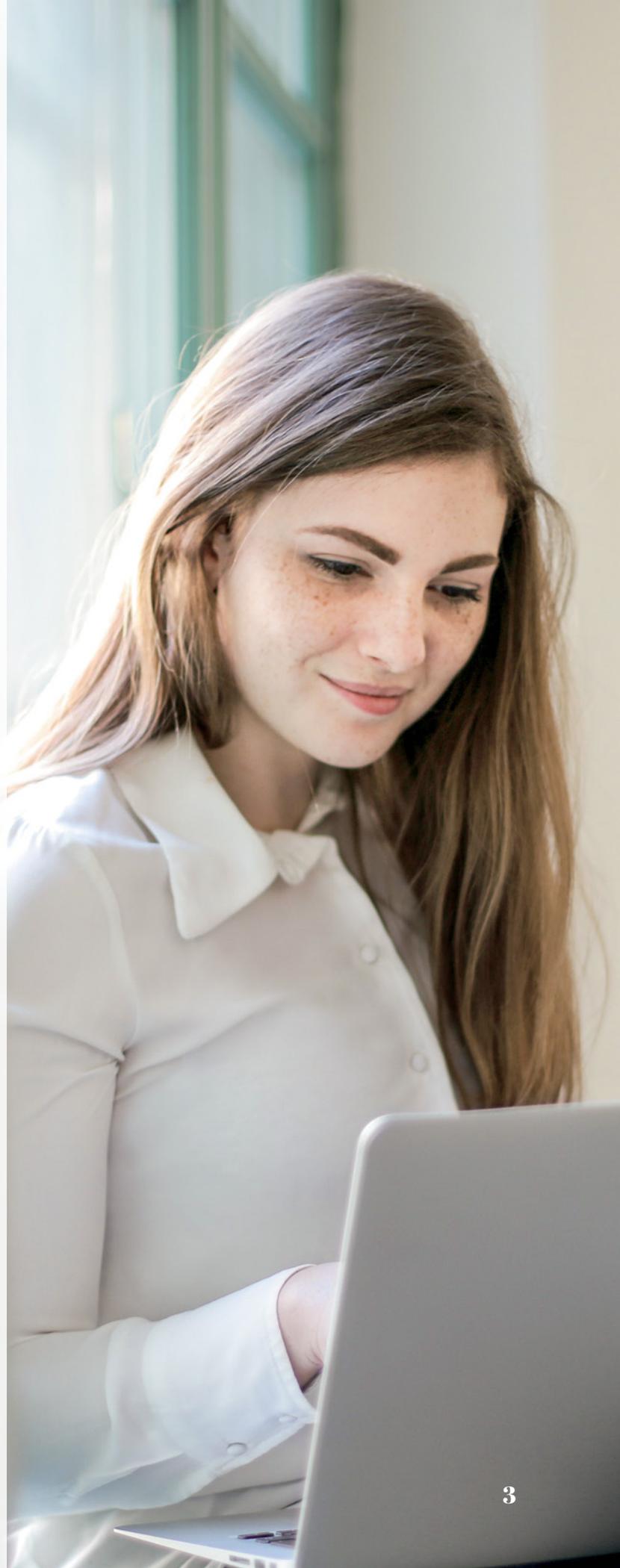
BY DR. AARON PROFITT

**As a seventeen-year-old student, I headed off** to attend college at a school located on a hilltop. But I didn't come here, to the Mount of Blessings, Mt. Auburn. Instead, my college was located on Mt. Oread, several states away.

I chose not to attend a Bible college, but rather to seek my education in a secular setting. Approaching graduation at a Christian high school, I had been frustrated and annoyed at the solemn head-wagging my decision tended to produce from other Christians. After all, I'd been in Christian school all of my life. Wasn't I prepared to keep the faith? Wasn't God able to keep me in a non-Christian college?

As I considered college options, I knew the typical objection to secular schooling: "Why, look what happens to Christian kids who go to secular college: they backslide!" My unspoken response, tainted by hubris: "Why don't we trust God to keep His children, even in a secular setting?" Yet it remains true that Christian young people often do walk away from God while attending secular college.

While that was not the case with me, I still have a story to tell. And my years at the university caused a cooling, a slipping in my spiritual life. I never rejected my faith—but I lost vitality,



I lost spiritual ground, I ended up graduating from college in worse spiritual condition than when I graduated from high school. Over the following three years, with the Holy Spirit's illumination, I came to realize how much I had changed in college. Thank God for His gift of grace to see my need and seek His forgiveness and help!

So what is the problem at the university? There's no simple answer, in my opinion—no readily apparent monster lying in wait for under-prepared Christian students.

I believe the problem is not any one thing so much as it is the pervading culture of a secular college. In Acts 17 Luke tells us that “all the Athenians and strangers which were there [the Areopagus, Mars Hill] spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing” (v. 21). Recall, then, their response to Paul's sermon: some laughed, some wanted to hear more—but even those who listened seemed more interested in hearing “some new thing” than in believing.

Areopagites fill secular colleges. Faculty and students alike love to “hear some new thing,” and some even listen to Christian thought. But they listen to it all as cultural ideas, not as truth. All is relative, nothing is absolute, Christianity

is a mildly interesting artifact of Western history. And this mindset saturates college culture, a “live and let live” attitude that values a life of ease, contemplation and satisfaction—self-satisfaction especially.

This ostensible “openness” is really simply a failure to take seriously most truth claims other than science's, and this laissez-faire attitude toward the spiritual saps the soul of the unheeding Christian. But how can one guard against this? It is not overt; it simply is. One's roommates, teachers, advisors, classmates—all share in the college culture. The change in the Christian is nothing dramatic or sudden, but a slow, gradual and deadly leakage.

While there was vanity in my attitude, I still believe that God led me to the university. I don't understand all the workings of the Almighty, but I think perhaps part of His reason for putting me there was to prepare me to write this article—that is, to enable me to address the issue of college choice from the perspective I now have. I have grave concerns when Christian young people—often with the support and encouragement of their parents—traipse off to a secular college. My concerns arise not from ignorance, but from all-too-real knowledge. If God puts His children in the lions' den, He certainly

intends to keep them safe—but when His children choose to leap into the den of their own accord, they presume on God's grace.

Parents, pastors, teachers, what are you doing to help your children, your young parishioners and students understand the dangers of Mars Hill? ■

*Dr. Aaron Proffitt is Vice President for Academic Affairs at God's Bible School and College. This article was first printed in God's Revivalist and Bible Advocate, October 2006.*

## LEGACY GIFTS

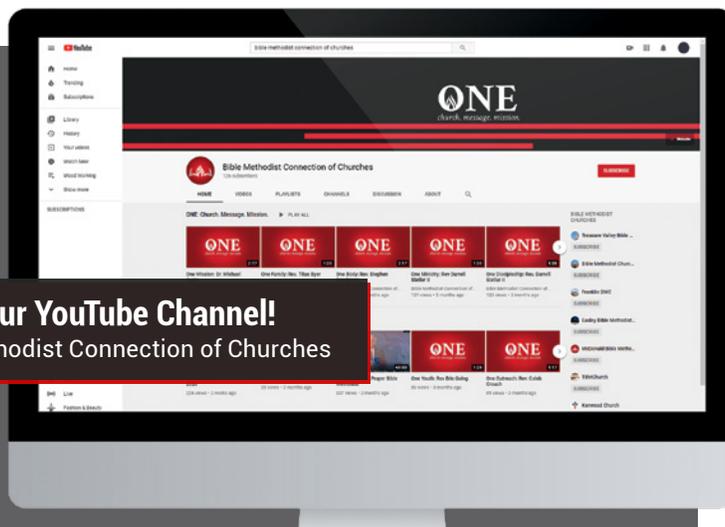
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Phone – (513) 218-8502

Email – mavery@gbs.edu



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# JOHNNY GOES TO COLLEGE

BY DR. KEN FARMER

**Prospective college students** are in a state of flux. Developmental psychologists and counselors describe a period of “storm and stress” where issues related to identity and autonomy dominate personal struggles. Some have even proposed that a period of adolescent rebellion is a necessary phase in the rite of passage into adulthood.

While we agree that adolescence involves a struggle to forge identity, we do not accept that this must involve repudiation of all good upbringing. But late adolescents do need some emotional distance from parents to grapple with life’s big

questions. They need a safe place to work through this. Voilà—the college experience!

The sad fact is that 78% of all Christian young people who go to college choose a secular institution.<sup>1</sup> So, what’s wrong with that? This choice does fit with the wishes of many parents. They are misty-eyed as little Johnny heads off to college. They just hope that “he has it better than they did.” They talk about careers and “real degrees.” Hesitant of “letting go,” they tend to favor cheaper colleges closer to home. Their hope is that Johnny will be able to come home more frequently.

Normally he doesn’t; and when he does, Mom might not recognize her little Johnny.

Remember, Johnny is grappling with identity issues. This is a vulnerable time for him. According to Chickering,<sup>2</sup> seven tasks are paramount at this time. Developing purpose, identity, and mature interpersonal relationships, as well as managing emotions, are among these.

Statistics show that too often secular college is likely the wrong environment for Johnny. A national study<sup>3</sup> tracked Christian students and found that after four years of

attendance at secular institutions, 34% of those who had identified themselves as “born again” no longer did so. Another 28% did not disavow the “born again” label but admitted that they had not attended a religious service even once in the last year! Therefore, the effective religious dropout rate for Christians at secular institutions is at least 62%, with some suggesting the rate to be as high as 75%!

What is behind these statistics? Derek Bok, President of Harvard, says, “Education offered to undergraduates has become incoherent and incapable of addressing the larger questions ‘of what we are and what we should be.’”<sup>4</sup> These are the very questions that are crucial during college. College faculty determine the specifics of the curriculum. It is stating the obvious, but faculty at secular institutions are not “one of us.” One candid humanist professor admitted, “When we American college teachers encounter religious fundamentalists, we...do our best to convince these students of the benefits of secularization.... I think these students are lucky to find themselves under the benevolent Herrschaft of people like me and to have escaped the grip of their frightening, vicious, dangerous parents.”<sup>5</sup> Will Johnny be able to stand against such onslaughts?

One secular physicist talked about using students’ trust against them. “I use that trust to effectively brainwash them...,” he explained. “[Our] teaching methods are primarily those of propaganda. We appeal—without demonstration—to evidence that supports our position. We only introduce arguments or evidence that support the currently accepted theories and omit or gloss over any evidence to the contrary.”<sup>6</sup> It is worth noting that scholarly studies clearly show that students are influenced greatly by the values of the faculty who instruct them.<sup>7</sup>

But Johnny is not only at risk from secular faculty but also from

fellow students—the type not likely to be beside you in your church pew this Sunday. Almost a third (29.0%) are cigarette smokers. One-third (34.5%) admitted episodic heavy drinking, 27.4% drove after they had been drinking, and one in five (20.4%) female students reported that they had been forced to have sexual intercourse.<sup>8</sup> Not the godly influence you are hoping for!

In contrast, God’s Bible School and College is a safe place at this important time in student development. Yes, our campus affords some emotional distance from parents; but it balances this with a supportive environment in which students can carefully and prayerfully work through issues relating to God’s purpose for them. Important things they had taken for granted—accepted as facts just because they were told so—will be thoughtfully explained. While secular faculty may seize this opportunity to tear down, our faculty see it as an invitation to build up their students and help them formulate a truly Biblical worldview.

Can we guarantee that all students who attend GBSC will maintain their relationship with God? Unfortunately, no. Henderson<sup>9</sup> notes a 6% dropout rate among those attending Christian colleges. Should this happen at GBSC, however, it will not be because the faculty undermine their faith or because the student body pressures them to do what they know is wrong. While there are struggles, our campus is a safe place. It provides space to learn about oneself: how to be in relationship with others, how to lead, and how to serve.

Yes, attendance at secular institutions is extremely risky to one’s spiritual health. But what has been shown to increase adherence to faith? The answer: student involvement in area ministries and services.<sup>10</sup> At GBSC, students will have ample opportunities for ministry. In fact, our curriculum requires it! Each degree has a specified

number of Christian Service credits necessary for graduation. Students have options to be involved in a variety of ministry opportunities. And, of course, attendance at religious services is mandatory. In addition to three weekly chapel services and Wednesday evening prayer meeting, there are also special events like revivals, missionary conventions, and camp meetings. Additionally, students are active in local churches and other ministries.

My point is this: Johnny should come to one of our Conservative Holiness Bible Colleges! We will do our best under God to help him develop a biblical worldview and to prepare him for a lifetime of Christian service. ■

*Dr. Ken Farmer is Managing Editor of the God’s Revivalist magazine at God’s Bible School and College. This article was first printed in God’s Revivalist and Bible Advocate, Summer 2006.*

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## AN INTERVIEW WITH **REV. STEVE STETLER**

### **BROTHER, PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR CONVERSION TO CHRISTIANITY**

I began attending church nine months before I was born, but the first real influence toward conversion happened when I was six years old. I sought the Lord as a child and in that service felt a strong desire to be involved in missions. As a high school sophomore, God really dealt with the issues in my life that were keeping me from living a consistent Christian life. That was when I fully committed to serving the Lord through His strength.

### **WHAT DEFINING EVENT LED YOU TO MINISTRY?**

My parents taught us as children that the highest privilege in life was a life of ministry to the Lord Jesus Christ. But, because of my struggle with learning and dyslexia there was a hesitation to fully embrace the possibility of ministry. My Mother said, "Steve, you can do what God calls you to do!" The highest honor of my life is to do God's will through ministry.

### **WHAT HAS MOTIVATED YOU TO MINISTRY?**

I have had a passion for missions since I was six years old. It was that service that God used to so deeply mark me as a child. Robert Brock, while praying with me, lifted my head and said, "Don't you think God wants one Stetler to be a missionary?" Along with that influence, I have intentionally prayed for missionaries right through the years of

waiting to be actively involved in mission ministry.

### **WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO THE BIBLE METHODIST FAMILY?**

I began working under my brother Daniel while he pastored the Bible Methodist Church in Middletown/Franklin, Ohio.

### **WHAT INSPIRED YOU THROUGH THE YEARS?**

Many times I felt I couldn't continue in ministry because of my learning situation and because I was trying to duplicate the ministry of my brothers. I remember one Sunday evening at Middletown. Daniel was out of town and I tried to preach, but left the church very discouraged and told, my wife Beth, "I will never preach again, that was my last time."

Monday morning I came down the stairs of our house on Josephine, in Cincinnati and noticed a postmarked letter in our box. I was surprised because it was too early for the mail to be delivered, but there it was, an envelope with my name on it and it was sent by Mabel Riley, one of the saints at the Middletown/Franklin church. As I opened the envelope what a surprise to see she had written out my sermon outline from the night before and wrote what a great blessing it had been to her. She had mailed the letter either Sunday evening or early Monday morning, it should not have been in my mailbox, but God evidently knew I needed to

receive that encouragement. Events like that have strengthened me.

### **TELL US ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH BIBLE METHODIST MISSIONS**

Beth and I had wondered when God would open the door for us to be involved in missions. I had an application from one organization on my desk for over three years, but sensed the hesitation of the Lord. Often I would ask the Lord how I would know. His answer was, "You will know."

While at IHC, walking through the booths, John Parker, the Bible Methodist Missions Director asked if I would go on a work team trip to Mexico. I responded that I would, John then sort of casually asked if I would be interested in working with Bible Methodist Missions. My response was, "When you are ready I am ready." John was quite surprised, but that evening Beth and I met with John in his room at the Convention and before the evening was over we had committed to work as missionaries. As the Lord said, "You will know."

### **WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO TELL THE BIBLE METHODIST FAMILY?**

I feel that God has given the Bible Methodist family an incredible opportunity and critical place to fulfill in His kingdom. I feel we are on the threshold of being fully used by God and trust we will make ourselves available to Him without any reserve. ■

# WORLD MISSIONS

## NEWS UPDATE



**Timothy Keep**  
Missions Director



### BIBLE METHODIST MISSIONS WELCOMES A NEW MISSIONARY

**Shirley Fogleman is a sweet-spirited missionary** whom we've just had the privilege of adding to our team. She serves the Lord in Papua New Guinea, and here is a part of her story:

"God spoke to me when I was a small child. Many times, I sought Him at an altar of prayer. The

first time I truly met Him face to face was at the age of thirteen in a revival where Irene Hanley preached, and the Edwards family were the singers. God gloriously saved me and it started me on my road to serving Him forever. At fifteen years I struggled with my missionary call. Something inside me was afraid to accept this. But, I will never forget the prayer meeting in a friend's living room when I got on my knees and just began saying, "Yes, Jesus, Yes, Jesus" The Holy Spirit came and witnessed to me that God had indeed called me and He accepted my, "Yes." Praise the Lord! There's never been a day that I have doubted this. For many years I thought I was sanctified but, not until April 1985 did I come into this wonderful experience. He fills and abides until this very day.

As a family, my husband and three children, came to PNG in 1979 under the Bible Missionary Church. We were there for four years. We did not return to PNG after our furlough. For the next thirty years

I longed to return to my people and the land of my calling....Papua New Guinea. It broke my heart. Many events happened in that thirty years. Our children grew up, got married and established Christian homes. Eleven wonderful grandchildren were born. I taught in ACE schools for twenty years. Sadly, my marriage disintegrated, and I found myself as a single older lady. God laid it on my heart to return to PNG. I saw it as a challenge, an opportunity, and an open door. I must confess that coming alone caused me to totally lean on God. He helped me to get over every hurdle. I came as a self-supported, independent, volunteer missionary to the Bible Fellowship Church of PNG.

I will close by saying, "Jesus, has never failed me!" It is a joy and a delight to be guided by Him. I don't know what the future holds. I certainly didn't know that He would open the way for me to be a part of the Bible Methodist Church and to serve in your mission's department. I certainly feel honored!

### PASTORS WORKING HARD DURING PANDEMIC

**During this pandemic, our pastors have remained very busy in ministry:** leading their people, preaching on social media, teaching, praying, baptizing and building. We praise the Lord for faithful men and women leading the Church!

We especially praise the Lord for new churches being planted in Jabez, Joshua and Joseph Conferences in the Philippines. Also, in Gospel Light BMC a new

work has taken root among a new people group in Alno, La Trinidad, Benguet. "It all started from a family home Bible study last year, (conducted by Pastor Timothy Yucaddi), and the Lord started working from there, from one home to another. The Gospel was shared, souls were saved and transformed. God's power was demonstrated through His healing and deliverance. Last December the new believers decided to conduct their first Sunday worship service...today, the Lord has added many souls and they have an average of 75-80 attendees every service."





## MUIRS BACK IN MEXICO

**Brennan and Ivon are back in San Gabriel and readying for another Ezra Bible Seminary school year.**

Ivon’s mother, Maria, has been added to the support team there. She has fully, and joyfully committed to serving as a servant of Christ and of the ministry of soul-winning and discipleship in Mexico. Ivon had these reflections as Maria moved back to Mexico after being away nearly 3 decades:

“On May 10, 1993, my mother, Maria, moved to the United States. There she learned English, had her third child, and most importantly came to know Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior.

Twenty-seven years would

pass before God would lead her to return to Mexico. This summer, she sold her home along with most of her possessions and made the forty-hour trip from Frankfort, IN to Oaxaca City. On Tuesday, July 21, she was reunited with her family, many of whom she had not seen since leaving Mexico. There were lots of happy tears. Since having arrived, she has not wasted any time testifying to God’s grace and goodness in her life.

She is excited to see how God will lead her in sharing Christ with her people.”



## NATIONAL PASTORS GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT

**Your gifts during COVID-19 are making a real difference in the lives of our pastors and their families in Mexico and the Philippines. I’m so proud of our BMC family for always stepping up to serve our brothers and sisters in crisis. Thank you for giving to the Lord!**

Rev. Brendal Macadangdang wrote, “On behalf of the Philippine Bible Methodist Church, I would like to express my sincere thanks to our brethren in the US who unselfishly and untiringly gave their support to us in time of crisis like this. You are facing the same testing, yet you’re able to back us up with joy and gladness.

Such an act of kindness and generosity is incredible! We love you and we are praying for you all!”

## BMC SHEPHERD’S COLLEGE GOING ONLINE DURING COVID-19

**COVID-19 has “forced” our college in the Philippines to move their education to an online platform, and it is so exciting to see this taking shape. We believe this paradigm shift is going to reap huge benefits for the work there for decades to**

**come. It’s been so fun to watch our Shepherd’s College family working together to get this program up and running!stepping up to serve our brothers and sisters in crisis. Thank you for giving to the Lord!**



# GREAT LAKES

## REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS



**Blake Jones**  
Conference President

### ROCK LAKE CAMP WORK WEEK

Although there has not been the scheduled camp meeting, a great “company” of workers have been giving of their time and energy to improve the grounds. Our time together is always rewarding and we even celebrated with a pig roast. You have to keep up your energy!



### GREAT LAKES ORDINATION SERVICE

Following a one-day Annual Conference, Great Lakes was delighted to ordain Rev. John Beardslee. In the service, Rev. Jones, Rev. Ward and Rev. Keep shared from Christ’s admonition to Peter, “Feed my lambs,” “Tend my sheep” and “Feed my Sheep.” Sis. Esther Hilling sang, “Grace Alone” and the elders present joined in the treasured moment of ordination. Rev. Beardslee’s father prayed for his son. John Beardslee serves as Dean of Men at Hobe Sound Bible College and pastors a church for “snowbirds” in the area.



## ROCK LAKE CHURCH

Every Sunday morning as we move toward election time, the Rock Lake Church opens its service with young flag bearers and a prayer for our nation. As well, one of our church families has opened their home for prayer every Tuesday evening with a special emphasis on praying for our leaders and the election.



## ESTHER SCHERER'S 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

Esther Scherer and her late husband, Chet, have given themselves to the work of the camp ground and the conference over many years. Wherever work was to be done, the Scherers were there, providing large trucks, lots of energy, great laughter and rich friendships. Happy Birthday, Sis. Esther!



## ROCK LAKE CAMP MOWER

God has blessed us with a brand new Ferris mower. Its 72 inch deck and 37 HP engine will be a great blessing for years to come. Thanks to all who made this possible! Riding the mower is Pastor James Durr.



# HEARTLAND

## REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS



**Chris Cravens**  
Conference President



### HEARTLAND CONFERENCE AND CAMP

Even though COVID-19 presented many challenges the Lord was gracious toward us. Special thanks to our church in Franklin, Ohio for

allowing us to safely meet in their Family Life Center for our Annual Conference, Ordination & Indoor Campmeeting!

Our delegates faithfully gathered for Annual Conference and due to a lot of prior committee work we were able to complete the business in a day.



### ORDINATION

Monday night of camp was a wonderful service with Rev. Duane Quesenberry preaching the conference sermon, we remembered the life of Rev. Jack Kabellar, and ordained four new elders: Rev. Sean English (Becky), Rev. Brennen Muir (Ivon), Rev. Jeffrey Paulus (Rebecca), and Rev. Joshua Williams (RaeLyn).

We were blessed with good crowds and a great online audience throughout camp-meeting. The ministry of Dr. James Keaton, Rev. Tim Keep, along with Jerry and Becky Glick were exceptional.



## PASTORAL INSTALLATION – GRAWN, MICHIGAN

President Chris Cravens presided over the installation of Rev. and Mrs. Sean English and family as new pastors of the Grawn Bible Methodist Church. Welcome, English family, to the Heartland Conference!



## RECOMMENDATION

The Heartland Conference recommends one of its Elders, Rev. Marc Sankey and his wife Melodie, as an evangelistic team. The Sankeys are available for revivals, campmeetings, conventions and conferences.

Contact them by phone: (956) 566-3929, email: [marcsankey@yahoo.com](mailto:marcsankey@yahoo.com), or Facebook.

## FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND AT BEULAH GROVE

Fellowship Weekend at Beulah Grove happened July 24-26! Over 200 gathered to fellowship and do some needed work at the campgrounds. It was a precious time together! The youth department also organized a mini youth camp day with the many youth who came with their families. Bonfires, table games, conversations, recreation, special music and lots of laughter made for a refreshing time at Beulah Grove!



## BEULAH GROVE BATHHOUSE UPDATE

In spite of COVID-19 setbacks and delays, the construction on the new bath house continues. The structure is completely enclosed with few interior blocks to be laid. The HVAC and electrical contractors are working presently. We hope to have it finished by late fall.

# SOUTHERN

## REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS



**John Parker**  
Conference President



### SOUTHERN CONFERENCE CAMP MEETING 2020

**This year's camp was scaled down and streamed online.** Rev. Marc Sankey preached with anointing and Marc and Melodie Sankey provided our music! We had larger crowds than any previous camp if you count

those online! God moved in our services and many found spiritual help

Our tabernacle seating was rearranged with limited seating for Camp & Conference and seating spaced according to guidelines. No meals were served and housing not offered! We still had good crowds show up for services and our financial goals were reached and exceeded without taking a single offering!



### CAROLE (SCARBROUGH) ROUSH

**Carole Scarbrough Roush passed** from the arms of her family to the arms of Jesus on the morning of Tuesday, June 23, 2020 fulfilling her wishes to pass away at her home in Maryville.

She was born February 19, 1945 to Carson Woodrow Scarbrough and Stella Mae Morgan Scarbrough. She is preceded in death by her parents Carson Woodrow Scarbrough and Stella Mae Morgan Scarbrough; and

her mother-in-law; Ruth Wilma Lance Roush. She is survived by her husband, Daniel Roush; two daughters, Jane (Phil) Allard and Esther (Derek) Miller; grandchildren, Austin, Alyssa, and Eric Miller, and Daniel and Thomas Allard; Siblings Martha (Edgar) Bryan and Carson (Linda) Scarbrough; Sisters-in-law, Patty (Fred) Kay and Kay (Steve) Wilhelm. Carol served as Women's Missionary Society Vice-President of the Southern Conference. She was a vital part of the Friendsville, TN Bible Methodist Church.



## BLESSING HEDSTROMS

Our retired Conference President, Rev. Walter & Linda Hedstrom are living in a very active tornado zone. Many of their neighbors lost their homes and even their lives last year to a devastating tornado that came very close to the Hedstroms! We were able to raise the funds to purchase a very secure, above-ground Tornado Shelter and the concrete to install it very securely next to their house this spring! They've already taken shelter in it once during a tornado! This is the crew of volunteers who went down and installed it!



## SARAH MAUDINE CRAWFORD WILCOX

**Sarah Maudine Crawford Wilcox was born** November 25th, 1937 at her home in Clay County Alabama to Alton and Zelma Crawford. Mrs. Wilcox passed away June 1, 2020 at her residence.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and her husband, Jimmy E. Wilcox. She is survived by her son, Rev. Mark Wilcox (Rachel), 2 grandchildren 5 great-grandchildren, a brother, Leslie Crawford (Tamara) and 3 nephews and their spouses and children. Sister Maudine was a wonderful Christian lady! She served in many capacities in the Talladega Bible Methodist Church! Her ministry to children was outstanding.



## PASTORAL INSTALLATION – TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA

On July 19, Pastor Bob & Karen Blankenship were installed at Faith Bible Church in Tuscaloosa, Alabama! The church is very excited about having the Blankenships as their pastor.



## PASTORAL INSTALLATION – ACTIVE, ALABAMA

On June 14, Pastor Brent & Kaitlyn Whitaker were installed in our Active Church! This church has been without a pastor for 4 years. This is a great answer to prayer!

# MID-AMERICA

## PROVISIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS



**Darrell Stetler II**  
Conference President



### MID-AMERICA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**On August 1, 2020, the Mid-America Annual Conference, after discussion and prayer, unanimously voted to approve the Resolution to Merge with the Southwest Conference. There was a great sense of the gravity of the moment, and a great sense of unity**

among us as we cast the unanimous vote. As a conference, we are encouraged about the future. We are looking forward to the new fellowship and growth ahead!

Pictured above (L-R) are Rev. Todd Hurst, Rev. Zane Hurst, Kin Hurst, Rev. Darrell Stetler II, David Mahin II, Rev. Gary Jackson, Rev. Darrell Underwood, and Eric Hughes.



### MID/SOUTHWEST YOUTH CAMP

**On July 23-26 youth leaders from Mid-America and Southwest Regional Conferences gathered at Camp Rock Creek in Norman, Oklahoma for their first annual youth camp. The planning for the event was done quickly but the camp was a blessing. Pastor Caleb Crouch served as the evangelist, Michael Moore led the singing, Andrew Blankenship served as Treasurer,**

Jamin Hughes led the services. Groups from God's Bible School & College, Hobe Sound Bible College, and Penn View Bible Institute attended and helped with the music and activities.

There were about 100 people in attendance including supporting adults and the youth. The combined effort of the Conferences was a blessing to all who attended.

Pictured above (L-R) are Eric Hughes, Michael Moore, Caleb Crouch, Jamin Hughes, and Andrew Blankenship.

## SALINA, KANSAS

The James and Jodi Randel Family are moving to Penn View Bible Institute to work in the maintenance department and as assistant cook. Special prayer was had for them at their last service at the Salina Living Hope BMC.

Meanwhile, Bread of Life Pantry in Oklahoma City, has seen an increase of 30% in traffic over the course of the pandemic.



## OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

The Oklahoma City Bible Methodist Church threw a 40th birthday party for Rev. Darrell Stetler II.

# SOUTHWEST

## PROVISIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS



**G. Clair Sams**  
Conference President



### ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND CAMP MEETING

**From July 28 through August 2** we gathered at Garner Creek Retreat Center, Dickson, Tennessee for Annual Conference and Family Camp.

The Conference voted unanimously to recommend the Resolution to Merge with the Mid-America Conference. We also had an unanimous vote to recommend the name for the merged

Conference to be Southwest. The Conference also voted unanimously to move the camp to Arrowhead Conference and Retreat Center, Cleburne, Texas for Camp 2021.

During the Conference we had the privilege of bestowing Lay Missionary Credentials on Shirley Fogleman and also enjoyed Missions Director Tim and Becky Keep for the Thursday evening Service.

Rev. James Plank and Rev. Harry Plank served as evangelists. The

Rodney Loper Family served as song evangelists, Harrold Taylor ministered to the children and Caleb Crouch and the Youth Committee ministered to our youth.

Sunday morning following Rev. James Plank's excellent ministry, we celebrated Communion.

You may watch all of the services by going to [swbiblemethodist.org](http://swbiblemethodist.org) and clicking on the links to the messages.



### NEW MEMBERS AT DERIDDER, LOUISIANA

**Sunday, July 5th, Pastor Steele** along with Conference President G. Clair Sams welcomed four new members into the Bible Methodist

Community. There have been a number of new people attending and one person found the Lord as Savior recently.

The people have been remodeling a building that was moved to the property they purchased. They are excited about the prospects for the future.

### TREASURE VALLEY – CALDWELL, IDAHO

**Treasure Valley Bible Methodist Church** in Caldwell, Idaho purchased an old church building that had been built by the Salvation Army

many years ago. Pastor Rick Bork, his family, and the people in the church have diligently been remodeling and updating the building. They have also seen the congregation grow and though the pandemic has ministered in unique ways. They are excited about what God is doing.





## INSTALLATION OF PASTOR AND MRS. CALEB CROUCH

On June 7, it was the privilege of the Conference President to preach the installation message for Pastor Caleb and Susanna Crouch. With joy and anticipation, the Duncan congregation embraced the change of role for Pastor Crouch. He has served as Associate Pastor for the past two year and is now the Senior Pastor. The church has several new people attending and are actively ministering to people in the community.



## HONORING COVINGTONS' YEARS PASTORING IN DUNCAN, OKLAHOMA

On May 31, it was the Conference President's privilege to join in a celebration of the ministry of Pastor Micheal and Junie Covington. The Covingtons are intricately involved with the church in Duncan. They were a primary influence in its birth and have given their money, time, and influence to help it be established and grow.

The following is adapted from a tribute written to the Covingtons

by Stephen Snodgrass:

"If I were asked to describe Mike and June Covington with one word, it would be faithful. Yes, there are many others to add to that, but this one stands out to me. This assessment comes from watching two individuals walk through some of the most trying and testing days with grace and a steadfast desire to be perfect displays of the love of Jesus to those around them.

They are faithful to love and forgive. It was this faithfulness that was expressed in the early days of the Duncan Bible Methodist Church.

Mike and June love their people and are faithful to serve and care for them. You can learn a lot about people by observing how they treat others. I have watched the Covingtons faithfully give of themselves and their emotions, expecting nothing in return to those who need them the most.

The Covington are always faithful to give and build. From personal resources, to time and talents, I have never known Mike and June to say, "no." They always



## BAPTISMAL SERVICE AT WHITEHOUSE, TEXAS

Lay pastor Andrew Blankenship baptized Cody Campbell and Elizabeth Wilkinson.

Cody invited six different friends and family to come and then they stayed around and enjoyed some snack food after the service. It was an excellent opportunity to connect with individuals from the community.

led by example when it came time to pledge for a project or a cause.

More than anything else, Mike and June Covington are faithful to each other and to God. Their devotion and love to one another serves as an inspiration and godly example. Their steadfast commitment to the gospel of Christ is highlighted in their daily lives. I have never seen them wavier or doubt God.

At the end of the day, is that not what is required of us? Faithfulness. To hear from the voice of our Savior say, "Well done faithful servant!" Today we will say, "Well done, Mike and June Covington! Well done!" Because of your faithfulness here on earth, we thank you! Because of your faithfulness to God, He will reward you!

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