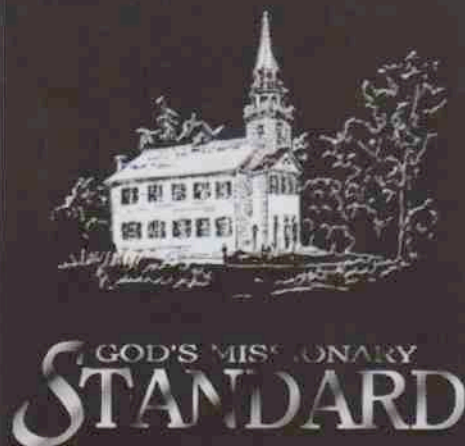


GOD'S MISSIONARY STANDARD

September 2002



FEATURE ARTICLE:
A Letter
to Former
Conservatives
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September 2002

Volume 54 • Number 6

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**GOD'S
MISSIONARY
CHURCH**

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Editor's Thoughts

A CONSERVATIVE BY CHOICE

I am a part of God's Missionary Church by birth and choice. Born into a pastor's home, I have attended God's Missionary Churches all of my life. But I have also *chosen* to be part of this conference. In that choice I also have chosen to be part of what is known as the Conservative Holiness Movement. I have never regretted that choice. I have friends who have left the movement, some to join more radical elements that desire to preserve the doctrine by rules and regulations, but many more have left the movement seeking an easier way. Like Demas, they have forsaken the cause having loved this present world. Many still profess and many still preach, but they have discarded treasured convictions for convenience. And most of my friends, have come or will come to a time of deep regret, as they look over a life of mixed signals and broken promises. The other movements they have chosen may well have sincere Christians as part of that movement. But in their heart of hearts, my wandering friends will never be completely satisfied for they have known better days. Whatever the hurts or disappointments of the past, they remember a day of better clarity in their soul. Stephen Gibson, a missionary to Ukraine, recently has written two of articles concerning this matter. We are including them in this and the next issues of the STANDARD. Read them carefully and prayerfully.

May we stay true to the trust. ■



-James D. Plank, Editor

• September cover photo courtesy of Steven Mowery

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A Letter to Former Conservatives

by Dr. Stephen Gibson

Dear Sir,

I am a member of the Pilgrim Holiness Church. Although I am not their official representative, nor an appointed representative of the conservative holiness people, I want to speak on their behalf to you who were once one of us.

When I speak of conservatives, I mean those who share the values and standards of the Conservative Holiness Movement. A conservative believes that there are certain rules of behavior and dress that should be preached in our churches and maintained as requirements for full membership. In contrast, a nonconservative, as I am using the term, does not believe that specific rules of dress and behavior should be required of members, nor should these things be preached. The nonconservative tends to think of this kind of preaching as harmful and offensive, and of the conservative mindset as a great hindrance to the success of the church. The nonconservative is not greatly concerned if a local church begins to drop most of its standards during the shift from one generation to the next.

I have been a little perplexed by the fact that the most scathing criticisms of the conservatives come from former conservatives. This continues even after you have moved to a group that has few of the "prejudices" that you are fighting against. It seems that former conservatives cannot resist occasionally taking potshots at the group they left. People who were never conservative seem to have more tolerance and respect for conservative convictions than former conservatives do. Why this zeal for stamping out whatever embers of conservatism may remain among your new friends? Perhaps you are continually seeking for fresh justifications for your choice to leave the conservatives, like a person who likes to recite an argument he had, telling what he said and what they said, because he needs reassurance that he was right.

Recently there was a convention of the Christian Holiness Partnership, a group of pastors, denominational leaders, and educators who seek to represent the holiness message in the world today. Many of them were once more conservative than they are now. One denominational leader who was chosen to preach at this convention shared that he had grown up among the New York Pilgrims and had pastored one of their churches. Later, he made this statement: "When I was growing up, I thought that you couldn't be spiritual unless you looked like you just fell off of a covered wagon." He said that this was the assumption of the people he was among, i.e. the Pilgrims. He also said that they loved the past and tried to identify with some past era that they considered more spiritual than the modern one. He said that this is compromising the gospel by making it conform to a particular era.

Statements like these are common among former conservatives. Though they should know our movement well, they tend to set up a straw man which does not well represent us, then attack him zealously. There may be some within our movement who have characteristics of the straw man, but these are not fair specimens of the conservative movement. Are you looking at some of the extremists or untrained folk theologians that every movement has and falsely considering them our representatives?

Let me mention some of the aspects of the straw man that former conservatives attack.

First, the straw man thinks that external standards are the most important beliefs that a Christian has. But as a conservative, I believe that the great doctrines of grace through faith, holiness of heart and life, and the authority of the Scripture are far more important than specific dress standards. I have never met a conservative who would not say the same. We do believe that the Scripture gives some specific instructions that lead to specific practices. Just because we believe, practice, and teach those, does that mean we think they are more important than anything else? I am puzzled at the way former conservatives often react when any dress standard is preached even once, or especially as soon as it is required of anyone. They immediately respond, "You think that standards are all that matters!" We do not teach that they are the most important, nor do they take up most of our attention in preaching and teaching. I remember one year when I was asked to spend an evening teaching some principles of standards in our Bible college. At the end of it, a student complained, "Why don't you talk about grace instead of about standards?" I said, "I have talked about grace in every class for a year. Is one evening of discussing standards too much?" Please don't tell us that we think standards are the most important beliefs of a Christian until you have really listened to us.

Secondly, the straw man is a legalist. Some former conservatives seem to think that anyone is a legalist who draws specific rules from Scripture. As one said, "I thought there are only ten commandments, but some people have a long list of commandments." How can anyone think there are only ten commandments? He must have a strange version of the Bible, for mine has commands on most pages of the New Testament. His complaint really was that we think the Bible tells us to do and not to do certain things.

Continued on Page 10

People



Rev. Paul West Dies

Rev. Paul West of Millmont, Pennsylvania died on July 4, 2002 in Washington, Township, Pennsylvania. He had been in declining health for some time. Rev. West was a past member of God's Missionary Church having served on the General Board for many years. He was the long time pastor of the Millmont congregation and had served as Assistant Superintendent. Formerly a member of the Allegheny Wesleyan Methodist Church, Rev. West was well known for his evangelistic labors. Our entire conference joins in

expressing sympathy to the West family at this time of grief. Funeral services were conducted at the Calvary Chapel Church in Millmont, Pennsylvania, on Tuesday, July 9, 2002 with his son, Rev. Stephen West officiating. Burial was in the Hartleton Cemetery in Hartleton, Pennsylvania.

Weddings

•Wesley Walter married the former Sarah Cole in a wedding ceremony at the Pilgrim Holiness Church in Northville, New York, on June 22, 2002. Rev. Stephen West and Rev. James Richard officiated at the wedding. Mr. & Mrs. Walter will attend the Beavertown church.



Wesley & Sarah Walter

•Timothy Schultz married the former Jaime Engle in a wedding ceremony at the Wesleyan Holiness Church in St. Louis, Michigan, on August 3, 2002. The Schultz's attend the Beavertown church. Mrs. Schultz is the cook at Penn View Bible Institute.



Tim & Jaime Schultz

•Rev. & Mrs. Frederick Baker were married on August 17, 2002, at God's Bible School Adcock Chapel in Cincinnati, Ohio. Rev. Darrell Stetler, Rev. Richard Miles and Rev. Mark Dodrill officiated in the wedding ceremony. Rev. & Mrs. Baker plan to reside in Hobe Sound, Florida, where Rev. Baker is a student in the Ministerial Department of Hobe Sound Bible College.



Fred & Elizabeth Baker

People

Hanover Youth Camp



Hanover Youth Camp, a ministry to the youth of God's Missionary Church, was conducted in June of this year. A large attendance of young people came together on the Fellowship Camp grounds to hear the ministry of the Word and enjoy the fellowship of others. Reports from the camp meeting indicate one of the best camps in recent memory. Rev. Jacob Martin, Rev. Daniel Durkee and others are faithful to plan and present an excellent youth camp each year. God bless them for their faithful labors.

Beavertown Births Youth to Nassau

The Beavertown congregation sponsored a group of twenty one people to the Holy Bible Mission in Nassau, Bahamas on a work/ministry team in the month of August. Throughout the day, the young people conducted a complete Vacation Bible School complete with crafts. Also, the group completed various work projects at the mission.



The Beavertown congregation is pleased to announce the birth of a daughter, Allison Mae, born to Mr. & Mrs. John Snook, Jr. of Beaver Springs, Pennsylvania. The baby was born on July 9, 2002, at the Evangelical Community Hospital in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. The Beavertown congregation is pleased to announce the birth of a son, Jeffrey Clark, born to Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Straight, Sr. The baby was born on July 22, 2002, at the Evangelical Community Hospital in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

Deaths

Lawrence C. Harris, 59, of Mifflinburg, PA died on June 27, 2002 at his home. He was born February 20, 1943 in Greenville, VA., a son of Maggie C. Harris and the late Ralph A. Harris. On March 1, 1968, he married the former Linda K. Carr, who survives. Mr. Harris was contacted through the bus ministry of the Penns Creek church. He got saved while in the hospital dying with cancer. The funeral was conducted at the Mountain Road God's Missionary Church of Penns Creek, PA by his pastor, Rev. Alan K. Walter. Burial was in the Mountain View

Cemetery in Penns Creek, PA.

Mildred L. Mumford, 86, formerly of Penns Creek, PA, passed away on July 3, 2002 at Evangelical Community Hospital in Lewisburg, PA. She was a resident of Rolling Hills Manor in Millmont, PA for nine years. Mrs. Mumford was born July 8, 1915, in Snow Hill, MD, a daughter of the late Charles E. and Margaret Waite. On August 5, 1950 she married Lloyd W. Mumford, who preceded her in death on June 4, 1966. She was a member of Mountain Road God's Missionary Church in Penns Creek, PA. Her funeral was conducted at the Church by her pastor, Rev. Alan K. Walter. Burial was in the Mountain View Cemetery in Penns Creek, PA.

Charles F. Leese Jr., 77, of Hanover, died Monday, July 15, 2002, at Hanover Hospital. He was the husband of Mildred F. (Snyder) Leese for 57 years. Born Nov. 1, 1924, in Hanover, he was a son of the late Charles F. Sr. and Myrtle (Yohe) Leese. He attended the God's Missionary Church of Hanover. Included in his survivors are his daughter, Miss. Lori Leese, missionary to South Dakota. Funeral services were conducted at the Hanover God's Missionary Church, with Rev. John M. Fisher officiating.

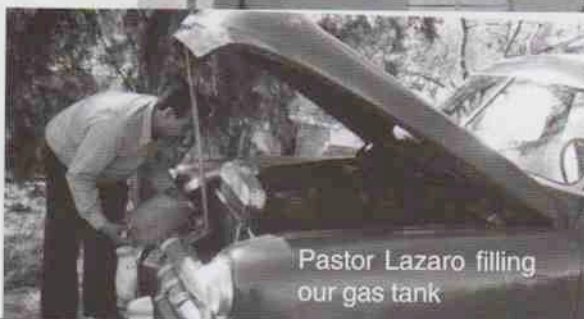
Missions News



Sunday evening altar scene at Maleno church



Pastor Lazaro's wife, Elsa, preparing our meals...



Pastor Lazaro filling our gas tank



Maleno God's Missionary Church



Malena Congregation



Typical Vehicles in Cuba 2002



Our first missionaries lived here in the 1950's... these people helped build the Maleno church at that time.



Government church registry.
Rev. Plank pointing to GMC

God's Missionary Church Alive in Cuba!

Conference President Harry F. Plank recently made a historical trip to the country of Cuba to visit the remnant of God's Missionary people still working in the country. What he and his delegation found was a group of sincere believers who have continued in the faith despite persecution and poverty. In a recent issue of the STANDARD, you read Rev. Plank's conference report. In this issue, we are pleased to offer a page of photographs detailing the trip. Pray much for the uncertain future of the Cuban work. Pray that God will favor our people and our churches in that afflicted country.

A Church for the Homeless!

Ft. Myers Rescue Mission in Ft. Myers, Florida continues to be lighthouse reaching the hopeless and homeless with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The developed three acres of land on the outskirts of the city have served the spiritual and physical needs of multiplied hundreds of men and women through the years. The burden of Rev. George Schaeffer, Superintendent of the mission, is to see a church built on the grounds for the express purpose of meeting spiritual needs. Hosting an annual camp meeting, frequent special services and daily devotional services, the mission has been in need of a church facility for many years. Following South Florida code, the construction costs, even with much donated labor, will mean a \$300,000.00 bill for the mission. To God be the glory, \$161,000.00 has been raised for this project. Due to the physical limitations of Brother Schaeffer in recent months, he has not been able to make many visits throughout the conference. Donations have stalled and in some cases ceased. We invite the conference family to consider a generous donation to the building project at Ft. Myers. Make checks payable to Ft. Myers Rescue Mission and mail to the mission at: 3985 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33916. While the homeless need shelter and food, their greatest need is the Savior. Help build a church for the homeless in Ft. Myers!

On the Front Lines

NEWS FROM ROMANIA



Sally Sebo, member of God's Missionary Church, serving in the country of Romania under FEA Ministries has given a recent report. She says that God has been helping her in her first few months of labor in that country. She is attempting to become accustomed to a new culture, a new environment and a new house. A TLC team from Hobe Sound was present for three weeks.

They were a wonderful team and were a blessing to Sally. A Vacation Bible School was conducted as well as several other special services during this time. Sally is conducting Friday evening children services for 30-40 children. She is depending on your prayers and support. Financial support can be mailed to FEA Ministries, P.O. Box 1065, Hobe Sound, FL 22475 (Mark checks clearly: SEBO SUPPORT). *(Sally is pictured working with children, above left)*

PAULUS NEWS

During the month of September, the Paulus family are visiting churches to raise support for missionary efforts into Papua New Guinea. They are reporting that money has been partially raised for a new phone system. Also, they could use a truck for the work. They ask that congregations please pray for these needs in PNG.

NEWS FROM TAIWAN

Bradley & Anita Halter report God's help in Taiwan. The effort of their church to plant a daughter church is moving forward. Bradley is teaching men in the church to preach. He says "This is one of the most exciting things I have done in over twenty-five years of ministry in Taiwan." The Halter's are requesting prayer as they attempt to locate a different home in which to live. They also ask for prayer for continued direction in the work in Taiwan.

By Timothy L. Cooley

Paralyzed, Pardoned

Bodies pressed against bodies in stifling closeness - shoving, squirming, straining to see. Youngsters clambered on top of everything in the yard, climbed the nearby trees or fences, and clustered on the neighbors' rooftops. Inside, the house was jammed with people as Jesus explained more and more about the Scriptures, then taught how people should live for God.

He claimed that the Kingdom of God was here now! How could that be? What with the Romans in power and all the hypocrisy of the religious leaders!

Outside, in the street, four men carried their friend on a makeshift stretcher. He had always been a good buddy, but then this paralysis had struck him down. They *had* to get him to Jesus. Suddenly the quartet of carriers shot a knowing glance at each other. "Hang on," they quipped to their patient, and started the wobbling, slanting trek up the outside stairs, onto the roof of the house!

Carefully, they began to break up the tiles on roof. (Did they destroy anything? Certainly it was not like removing Lego blocks.) Dirt clattered down on the people. Dust descended, making the people sneeze. The nose-rubbing, clothes-brushing, crowd inside were irritated. What are these guys trying to do?

The Pharisees were indignant. Why, a bug or a centipede (or the remains of a mouse!) might fall on a person and he would be unclean!

Then the patient came into their view. Of all things, this man was a paralytic!

Philip Keller writes, "Paralysis was an incurable condition in those times. It had a variety of causes. The most common was the result of venereal disease. And it is assumed this young man, stricken helpless, lying there immobilized on his thin mattress, was paying the high price of his prodigal life. He had been off to some alluring harlot city to squander his strength and savings. There some sloe-eyed beauty with smooth lips and soft words bequeathed him this dread disease which now exacted its terrible toll from his manhood."

Imagine today the hometown boy just returned from San Francisco in the advanced stages of AIDS. He craves the support of his family. Friends wheel him into this church. He wants prayer....

Jesus looked down at this "paralyzed playboy" and

Pardoned his Past

"Son, thy sins be forgiven thee."

"Curses," sputtered one Pharisee as he punched his knuckles into a cupped left hand. "Curses! This Jesus is always taking too much on himself. Who does he think he is?"

This world has always had plenty of prodigals and prostitutes. Sin is not a recent invention! To those who "pride themselves on being very proper, prodigals and prostitutes are but the scum and offscouring of society. They are the despised, the disdained and the downgraded dregs."

Jesus had no need to be told "the sleazy story of the boy's past behavior. [He] had lived in rough, tough Nazareth too long. He had seen lots of loose living in His hometown. He had known gentle young girls lured into selling their innocent, beautiful bodies to brutish men. He had known fine young men to be corrupted and ruined by the tactics of the professional prostitutes. And all of it made His blood boil and His righteous anger flame with white heat."

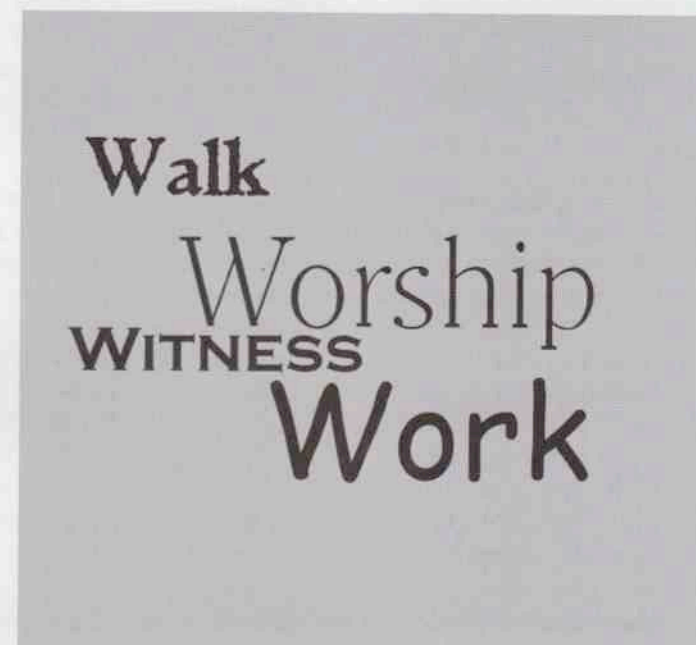
"Son ... My boy ... My dear young fellow.... Your sins are forgiven." What tenderness! "It was not just healing of muscles, sinews, joints, and bones this young man needed. He needed a healing of spirit, a purging of his soul, so deeply stained. He knew it. Jesus knew it."

Adam Clarke says, "It was a maxim among the Jews that *no diseased person could be healed till all his sins were blotted out.*" This paralyzed playboy had **two** serious needs. Jesus met both of them.

"Jesus not only knew the tumultuous thoughts racing wildly through the paralytic's passionate memory, He could

also readily decipher the deep doubts and grievous misgivings chasing through the minds of the scribes." This young hellion had played the fool, and now he must pay the penalty for his perverseness.

But Jesus **forgave!** The whole mountain of sin was



washed away! Then He...

Purified his Present

Beginning inside, Jesus cleansed him. "Thy sins be forgiven," was only part of what happened! Jesus **changed** him! Regenerated! A New Creature!

No one could see this miracle! That's why Jesus drew attention to it.

Jesus never simply forgave the past. Another day Jesus instructed an immoral woman, "Go and sin no more." At the pool of Bethesda, Jesus told a

cripple, "Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee." If Jesus had not changed them, this would have been a most cruel command, impossible to keep! But God's commands are His enablings! Jesus had changed this "paralyzed playboy."

But the good news did not stop there. Jesus pardoned his past, purified his present, and

Powered his Future

"Rise up and walk!"

"No one had ever seen a paralytic restored to health. For at that time, paralysis was a terminal disease without hope of recovery." But Jesus changed all that.

Now this man had a future! Where could he go? What would he be able to achieve? Moments ago his life was blasted, shriveled. His future

amounted to an uncertain number of days and nights filled with certain dreariness, despondency, disease, and despair - certain **doom!** And the end of this life would mean the beginning of **eternal death!** In a moment all that was changed!

Rise up and Walk! New **Life!** New **Hope!** A second chance!

He could **worship!** Where once he had been excluded from the Temple by his disease and its uncleanness, now he could (after the proper ceremony) go again into the Temple!

He could **work!** He had been only a dependent, but now he could contribute. He might even marry and father a family!

He could **witness!** Everywhere he went he was a testimony to the saving, healing power of Jesus!

He could **walk!**

This same Savior is still able to do abundantly above all that we ask or think! He still saves sinners! Have you told anyone?



Rev. Timothy L. Cooley is Academic Dean at Penn View Bible Institute and a member of the General Board of God's Missionary Church. He resides near Middleburg, Pennsylvania.

A Letter to Former Conservatives -- continued

But a legalist is a person who thinks that his ticket to heaven is earned by his obedience to a set of rules. It is not strictness that makes a legalist. A person can be a legalist with three rules or with twenty. It is the view of rules as the way to merit heaven that makes a legalist. But as a conservative, I simply believe that we should obey God, and that obedience will show in specific ways. Do you not believe the same? In contrast to the Calvinists, I also believe that obedience is necessary for maintaining our saving relationship with God. Surely you would acknowledge the same, so do not call us legalists.

Thirdly, the straw man thinks that there are no Christians except people who have these standards. But as a conservative, I know that there are people who sincerely interpret the Scriptures another way. I naturally think that I am right in my interpretation, but I do not consider every one who disagrees to be a hypocrite. I acknowledge that many of them are more spiritual than I am. I see that God gives results to their ministries. I see evidence that some of them love God. Therefore, do not assume that we think we are the only true Christians.

Fourthly, the straw man thinks that adherence to standards is the measurement of spirituality. But as a conservative, I believe that a holy heart will motivate a person to live carefully, and that carefulness will lead him to establish standards in his life. Difference of perception and background will cause a difference between the standards that individuals maintain. Certainly a rebellious heart will resist standards, but we do not say that is the only reason for differences between people.

Even among us there are some who are stricter than others. For example, there are a few women who wear coverings on their heads, and there are a few men who do not wear ties. Yet these people fellowship freely among us, without acting as though they are the only true Christians, and while we respect their convictions, we do not automatically consider them more spiritual because of their strictness. So it is not true that we measure spirituality only by standards.

Fifthly, the straw man idealizes the past and tries to keep from moving into modern times. It is true that some of our principles are old, but so is the Bible. Just what does it mean to "look like you just fell off of a covered wagon"? Do you object to our women wearing dresses, or to our rejection of jewelry? Do you object to our principles of modesty? I don't know anyone who upholds these standards just because people on covered wagons had them (if they did). We have reasons for them which have nothing to do with an obsession with the past. You are unfair if you say that we are simply in love with some former era, implying that we have no reasons based on interpretation of Scripture and practical concerns. You are guilty of an injustice to the conservatives.

C.S. Lewis observed that many people give up their faith when it is challenged by intellectuals, because they are pitting their childish understanding of Christianity against the brains of a college professor. Naturally, their faith is soon made to look childish. They failed to look for the answers that are provided by the intellectuals of Christianity, which do adequately deal with the assaults of the skeptics. Are you making the same mistake with conservatism? Are you bringing the sophisticated arguments of cynical theologians against conservatism as understood by children, untrained laymen, and extremists? By the way, where did you look for answers before you switched from the conservatives to where you are now?

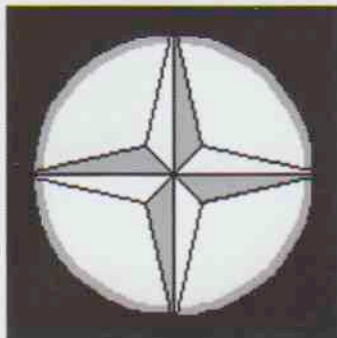
I close with this appeal. Before you attack us, find out what we actually believe and why. Better yet, why not spare us from attack and respect the carefulness and commitment that the conservatives demonstrate? Surely Christian charity should motivate that much. I realize that some conservatives are too harsh in the motives that they impute to you. They assume that you only want to be free from requirements and that you want to have greater worldly success in your ministry. Not all of us assume that, though it does appear to be the motive for many of you.

I cannot assure you that if you extend tolerance to us, all conservatives will reciprocate. We must continue to teach our people why we hold conservative principles, and that will imply criticism of you. Besides, some of my friends will say that I have been too generous in the things I have said here, and that you deserve no benefit of the doubt.

On the other hand, if organizations such as the Christian Holiness Partnership want to have the participation of conservatives (as they claim that they do) they must drop their antagonism. Of course, many conservatives still would not cooperate for any purpose with those whom they consider liberal, but when you ridicule us, you slam the door on those who would.

Sincerely,

Stephen Gibson
Kiev Wesley Bible College



Travel Notes

From the Conference President

*A monthly column
highlighting events
in the life of the
Conference President*

•Tues. Aug. 6: My wife and I traveled to Binghamton N.Y. to attend the Pilgrim Camp Meeting. Rev. Paul Case conducted the service with the Whitakers singing and Rev R.G. Humble preaching. Bro. Humble's co-worker for this camp is GMC evangelist John White. The Lord's presence was felt in the service and it was good to see a number of old friends there.

•Wed. 7 We attended the New Columbia Church to hear Rev. & Mrs. Jose Cancio representing the Miami Cuban Refugee Church. Jose and Priscila have recently accepted the pastorate there, carrying on the work established by Carl and Ernestine Shuey. They did an excellent job representing the work and expressing their vision for the future.

•Fri. 9 I traveled to Center Valley to attend the Elim Grove Camp Meeting. Rev. John Walter is president of this camp and tonight Rev. Dale Holloway did the preaching and the McDonald's the singing. It is always enjoyable to come here to see friends, some whom we met first when pastoring the Coopersburg church in the early 70's.

•Sun. 11 Today we attended the Mountain Road Church as they celebrated ten years in their new church sanctuary. Rev. Wayne States who was the first pastor of the congrega-

tion, spoke in the morning service. The afternoon service was shared by former pastors Stewart Mason and Raymond Ziegler. I preached the evening service with Bro. States singing. Current pastor Rev. Alan Walter shared in the services and conducted each. Congratulations to the Mountain Road Church Family, and thank you for the lovely meals provided to all who attended through out the day.

•Wed. 14 We traveled to the Port Matilda Camp Meeting for the afternoon service. This service featured the singing of the Keeling Family and a Bible study conducted by Rev. Elliot, pastor of the Howard Pilgrim Holiness Church. Rev. James Cooper Jr. is the president of this camp.

•Thurs. 15 We traveled to Clarksburg, WV to visit a few minutes with my in-laws, Harold and Eileen Will. Mom Will is recovering slowly from her recent heart attack and seems to be doing well in therapy three days a week. We then drove on to Cincinnati to help celebrate our granddaughter Ashley's first birthday, along with several of her little friends. It was good to share this special occasion with Ashley's other grandparents, Don and Nona Phoebus all the way from Gallup, NM.

•Sun. 18 Early this morning we set out for Indiana en route to visit the congregation at Knightstown. We stopped at the Bible Holiness Camp Meet-

ing in Anderson. The workers were Rev. Marshall Smart and Rev. Wayne States. Camp President Rev. Vernon Shockley conducted the service. Bro. Smart was scheduled to preach but people began to move out to the altar and praying became the order of the morning service.

Following the service we were served a delicious meal in the dining hall and by special invitation of the Shockleys, we enjoyed fellowship with all the fine people at the workers table. We then traveled on to Knightstown to be with Rev. George Maloyed and his people. We were received warmly by a very friendly crowd and had great liberty in preaching to them. We spent the night in the lovely guest room of the parsonage and enjoyed wonderful meals with Bro. and Sis. Maloyed. We enjoyed the tour they gave of the beautiful country in the area on Monday before starting for home in the afternoon.

•Fri. 23 We attended the welcome night at PVBI. Because of a threat of rain it was moved to the Straub Memorial Tabernacle instead of outdoors. The students were welcomed by Penn View's public relations man, Rev. Dan Durkee and PVBI President, Rev. John Zechman. Staff and Faculty were introduced and various groups from the school sang. Rev. Greg Hobelman, pastor of the Sunbury Church spoke to the students and challenged them with an excellent message. Following the message

the students enjoyed the annual balloon launch out side. Activities continued in the Penns Creek Community Center with students and friends ushering in a new school year.

•Sun. the 25th Found us at the Penns Valley Church for the morning service with Pastor Gabriel Morley. I preached to a fine congregation and was encouraged to hear of their various plans for outreach in the community. We enjoyed the good fellowship and a wonderful Sunday dinner in the parsonage before heading back to Middleburg.

PM: We appreciated a good message on "the Adornment of the Church" by Rev. Paul Clough, new pastor of the Millmont Congregation. Thank you to the Cloughs for their kind invitation to the parsonage.

•Mon. 26 I conducted a General Board meeting in the conference room at Penn View.

•Fri. 30 This morning was the Home Missions Board meeting.



*Rev. Harry F. Plank is
Conference President of God's
Missionary Church. He resides
in Middleburg, Pennsylvania.*

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Will & Darlene
Byler

Penn View Revival

October 7-13, 2002 • 10:30 & 7:30 Daily

Evangelist: Rev. Joseph Smith

of Thomasville, North Carolina

All Services Conducted in the George I. Straub Tabernacle

Penn View Bible Institute

God's Missionary Standard

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