Inside:
Bible Institute looks to open teaching site in Africa
A MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

“Excuse me, sir … but do you know who you look like?” I hear it all the time — in airports, restaurants, and malls. Much to my chagrin, I am often mistaken for a well-known movie star. While I prefer to leave this person’s identity to your imagination, I must confess that I have been tempted to sign autographs on his behalf on more than a few occasions. Regardless of what people might think, my life is far removed from Hollywood stardom.

On the other hand, what a delight and encouragement it is to consider it the highest compliment when a person identifies me with my dear dad. “Look at him,” they say. “He’s just like his dad.” And just as a child mimics his earthly father, believers with the command, “Be imitators of God as dear children.” Just like a child who aspired to be like him in every way. Today, I consider it the highest compliment when a person identifies me with my dear dad.

In Ephesians 5:1 the Apostle Paul challenges the Ephesians believers with the command, “Be imitators of God as dear children.” Just like a child mimics his earthly father, Christians should strive to imitate their Heavenly Father in every way. This means learning how to walk in love as Jesus Christ did (5:2). It involves despising the darkness of this decaying and sinful world (5:3-14). It requires living this decaying and sinful world (5:3-14). It requires living in every way. This means learning how to walk in love as Jesus Christ did (5:2). It involves despising the darkness of this decaying and sinful world (5:3-14). It requires living wisely and leveraging every opportunity to serve and represent Him (5:15-21).

So … who do you look like, anyway? Do people clearly see an unmistakable resemblance to your Heavenly Father? Live out your true identity as a child of God.

Praying for you,

Don Lough, Jr., Executive Director
Word of Life Fellowship, Inc.

The Victory Journal is a publication of the Word of Life Bible Institute.

The name “Victory Journal” comes from Jack Wyrtzen, the Founder of Word of Life, who used to sign his letters with the phrase “on the victory side.”

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Chancellor: Don Lough, Jr
Executive Dean: Mark Strout
Alumni Director: Mike Bush

“Holding forth the Word of life.”
Philippians 2:16

The Victory Journal
Is Now Online
Visit us at walvictoryjournal.blogspot.com to find everything you see inside the pages of the Victory Journal. We’ll keep the site updated with photos, testimonies, features, and columns by alumni and for alumni. You can also comment on articles and submit ideas for new pieces.

We want to get as many alumni as possible connected online. Can you help us reach our goal? Find us at wordoflife.edu/tb, and spread the word among other alumni you know.

Mission Statement
Just as the Bible Institute provided a place for you to learn about God, to grow in your spiritual walk, and to connect with other Christians in true community, we want the Victory Journal to be a place where you can continue that journey. We want to build a community where you can find longtime friends, share testimonies of what God has been doing, encourage others with your stories of change, and learn how you, too, can be involved with the mission of Word of Life.

Be part of the Victory Journal
We want to hear from you! What is God doing in your life? How has He led, helped, or comforted you, even in small ways, since your time at the Bible Institute? If you have a story to share, email us at alumnival@gmail.org. Whether you have a testimony to give, a story tip to pass on, or would like to hear more about a part of Word of Life, we are here to help. We want to see you in the Victory Journal.

What we’re looking for
The Victory Journal features all kinds of stories about Bible Institute alumni, whether you have short pieces of alumni news or ideas for longer articles. Let us know if there’s something or someone you’d like to see. Fill us in on people or opportunities involved with alumni or Word of Life. All stories, whether you have a testimony to give, a story tip to pass on, or would like to hear more about a part of Word of Life, we are here to help. We want to see you in the Victory Journal.

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Every Issue
Reverb:
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Teens Involved

Alumni News
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The King’s

Look for:
Word of Life Bible Institute Alumni
Ideas? Suggestions? Contributions?
Connect with Victory Journal.
We strive for accuracy. Please contact us with any errors or questions. For reprints, back issues, and other information, contact us at alumni@wol.org or 318.494.6000

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Connect with Victory Journal
Does your chapter or church have any Word of Life alumni involved with the mission of Word of Life. We want to help you connect with them. Periodically, we will let you know about different people or opportunities involved with alumni or Word of Life. Finally, tell us about yourself! If you have a testimony, remember when, ministry update, or feature article ideas, please send it our way.

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Learning to thrive with Plan B living

BY RAY PRITCHARD

My wife happened to hear a fascinating comment on the radio when we were driving recently. She scribbled it down so I could look at it later.

“The key to success in life is how well you adapt to Plan B.”

That simple sentence holds a world of truth. So many of us go through life frustrated because we’re still working on Plan A. That’s the one where everything works out, your marriage lasts forever, your children grow up without any problems, you climb to the top of the career ladder, everyone loves you and no one hates you, and all your dreams come true.

Unfortunately, Plan A rarely pans out. Life isn’t that simple or that easy. Check out Exodus 13:17-21. When the children of Israel left Egypt, God did not lead them to the Promised Land by the shorter coastal route. No doubt there was grumbling and murmuring. Why go the long way? Answer: The Philistines lived along the coast, and God wanted to spare the Israelites from having to fight them and be tempted to return to Egypt. What seemed like a detour turned out to be for their benefit. In this case, Plan B was better.

Meanwhile, people who are frustrated by the failure of Plan A are often tempted to return to Egypt. What’s Plan B? It’s the reality that your divorce is final, your first career choice was a mistake, and now it’s time to start again. You don’t have the money to buy the bigger house you want. It’s the truth that you have cancer, and your future is uncertain. It’s the truth that you have cancer, and your future is uncertain. It’s knowing some of your friends, and children come and go, and our marriages change. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). Leaders, friends, and children come and go, and our careers change. “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Ecclesiastes 9:10). Life is hard for all of us, but it’s much harder when we grumble because we don’t like where we are.

Finally, embrace the only Person Who never changes — Jesus Christ. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). Leaders, friends, and children come and go, and our careers change. “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Ecclesiastes 9:10). Life is hard for all of us, but it’s much harder when we grumble because we don’t like where we are.

Dr. Ray Pritchard serves as president of Keep Believing Ministries, an Internet-based community serving Christians in 255 countries. He has pastored churches in Los Angeles, Dallas, and Chicago for 26 years and has written more than 25 books. He and his wife, Marlene, have been married for 39 years. They have three sons, two daughters-in-law, and four grandchildren.

Here are three suggestions for those who feel a bit overwhelmed by circumstances: First, embrace change as a natural part of life. Solomon says as much when he writes, “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under Heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1). If you live long enough, you’ll eventually see it all — birth and death, war and peace, building up and tearing down, winning and losing, loving and hating. You can fight change, but you can’t stop it. Second, embrace your circumstances and make the best of them. “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Ecclesiastes 9:10). Life is hard for all of us, but it’s much harder when we grumble because we don’t like where we are.

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What was your first connection with Word of Life?
A Word of Life staff member brought a group of Bible Institute students to my home church, Bethany Baptist Church in Mount Clemens, Michigan, and did a Vacation Bible School-style event. I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior at that event.

Whose life has impacted yours the most spiritually, and why?
God has allowed me to be mentored by several great men, but the biggest impact was made by George Theis. Our relationship began on my first Collegian tour, when he confronted me about talking while he was talking and followed it up with this statement: "You and I are either going to be the best of friends when this tour is over or the worst of enemies." I’m so glad I chose friendship! He and his wife, Joan, continue to be a great encouragement to me and my wife, Lynn.

How were you impacted as a camper?
My first week of camp was in 1981 at Word of Life Ranch, and I hated it, missed home, ate too much candy, and was just miserable. When I was 14, though, I dedicated my life to the Lord on Kenya Hill.

How were you impacted as a student?
My first year was 1991-1992, and God used that year to change the direction of my life. I was involved in Collegians and developed a love for the technical side of theater. Through that, I decided to stay for another year and travel with the Impact Singers.

What is unique about the Word of Life Florida Youth Camp?
One of the unique aspects of the Florida Youth Camp is the number of church groups that come. We have very few individuals, so there’s a great dynamic between the youth leaders and pastors and our staff. It’s been called the “best camp in the universe” by some, but I think what makes all the Word of Life camps unique are the Bible Institute students serving as counselors. It’s very unique in the Christian camping world to have so many trained young people as counselors.

What’s new for summer 2014?
In 2014, we’re working hard to grow the Bible Institute as well as the Youth Camp. We’ve had several projects take place over the last year that have added so much to the property, and now we’re working to get the word out about this incredible ministry.

What types of ministries are the Bible Institute students involved in?
The Bible Institute students are involved in children’s evangelism, drama, praise band, and ensemble as well as Open Air Evangelism and ministering to groups that come to the Youth Retreat Center. We also were part of the new traveling tour Magi. We had 20 of our students travel with us for the production during the Christmas break.

How can we pray for your ministry?
You can pray for me personally as I balance my time between my family and ministry and that God would continue to grow the ministry of Word of Life Florida. We believe there are great days ahead!

Rich’s Word of Life history
Camper, Word of Life Ranch (1981, 1986-87)
Bible Institute student: first year (1992)
Second year (1995)
Impact Team (1993-1998)
Camp director, Ranch (1995-1999)
Camp staff, Word of Life Florida (2001-2013)
Camp Director, Florida (2005-present)
Director of Ministries, Florida (May 2013-present)

Wife: Lynn Fahning Andrews (Class of 1994); married for 18 years
Children: Gavyn (15), Javen (13), Lynneah (11)

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Children: Gavyn (15), Javen (13), Lynneah (11)
Dean Bruckner, Class of 1981

**VICTORY JOURNAL**

As a 17-year-old believer in Christ, I sensed a calling to the secular world as an engineer, military officer, or both. I asked God for wisdom. Our family friends David and Billy Giles (Class of 1978 and 1979, respectively), strongly recommended my brother Lee and I attend the Bible Institute. So we did, along with their sister, Victoria.

The three of us arrived in mid-September 1980 to picture-perfect chalets, hard benches, and the daily Quiet Time diary — the Word of Life experience. Thirty guys push-starting our 18-wheeler in Canada on Collegians winter tour, a missions conference that a hundred of us missed with the flu in the days before vaccinations, watching Dean of Men Ray Namie doing doughnuts in his van — with his family inside — on the frozen lake, and a two-week trip to Israel, Jordan, and Egypt all are indelibly stamped in my memory. But even more than those memories were the lifelong imprints made by the Word of God on the deepest part of who I am. Those memories were the lifelong imprints made by the Word of God on the deepest part of who I am.

Life. The Word... That is what Word of Life is all about. From where I stand, a more coherent, practical, comprehensive one-year presentation of the Bible, systems engineering at Ohio University.

Since then, I’ve sailed the coasts of North America, from Nova Scotia to the Panama Canal, to Alaska’s farthest Aleutian Islands, and to the Arctic Circle. I’ve been to 20 foreign countries and studied five languages. I’ve lived a year abroad, earned a Ph.D in electrical engineering, and became a licensed professional engineer. I was the lead system integrator for flight tests of the GPS and inertial navigation systems of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. I got married and have three school-age children, served in eight churches and military chapels, and now teach industrial and systems engineering at Ohio University.

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There’s something about the Bible Institute experience that brings alumni together – no matter how many years pass between graduating classes. Just ask Laura Groover Squier, Class of 1982, and Rachelle Fetterhoff Pratt, Class of 2003. They’re the forces behind Care Net of Northeast Pennsylvania, a free crisis pregnancy center that serves women facing unplanned pregnancies. Laura and Rachelle didn’t know each other before Care Net, but as Bible Institute alumni, they knew they had a shared mission: serving God by saving families.

“We’re in desperate need … the need to know they can be loved,” Laura says. “They’re in desperate need of 2003. They’re the forces behind Care Net of Northeast Pennsylvania, a free crisis pregnancy center that serves women facing unplanned pregnancies. Laura and Rachel didn’t know each other before Care Net, but as Bible Institute alumni, they knew they had a shared mission: serving God by saving families.

Laura, Class of 1982, says her involvement with Care Net began with a call to action. In church one Sunday, she and her husband listened as the pastor encouraged the crowd to take “baby steps” for God by volunteering with Care Net. Deeply motivated by the sermon, Laura began what would be a long journey with the organization, first as a volunteer, then as a board member, a position she held for three years.

After dedicating many hours as a volunteer, Laura took some time off. But it wasn’t the last she’d see of Care Net. Like most Christians, Laura says she loves watching “the way the Lord works.” She had one of those classic moments to hundreds of women who desperately need to hear the Word of God. Laura remembers one case in particular. A young woman who had just moved to the area was afraid she was pregnant and turned to Care Net.

“She kept saying, ‘I can’t do this. I don’t want to be pregnant,’” Laura explains.

Pregnancy test results were confirmed, and Laura walked the woman and her boyfriend through the baby’s development. After a lot of coaching, the couple decided to carry the baby to term – but they were considering putting it up for adoption.

It was then that Laura and her team started working with the young couple every week. They connected the father with assistance to get his GED and receive career training so he could support his family, and they worked with the mother to see the Lord peeling the layers away from their heart, as they built trust with us and started to understand Who God was and how much He cared for them … was incredible.”

It was Laura’s first “abortion-vulnerable” couple – and one she’ll never forget. The woman and her boyfriend, after receiving Care Net’s coaching, decided to get married and raise the child together as a family.

After their baby was born, the couple came straight to Care Net to share their joy with Laura.

“To know that baby had been given a chance at life – and a chance at eternal life – it was amazing,” she says.

Care Net’s ministry has more than doubled since Laura took over as executive director – it’s clear that the demand for Christ’s love is as present as ever. Laura and Rachel both envision Care Net continuing to expand its reach each year. Right now they’re even working on developing a jail ministry.

“They each say they’ve already experienced tremendous personal growth serving their shared mission – and they agree it’s all the better with a fellow Bible Institute alumnus by their side.”

Passion for Saving Families

Rachel looked to make her work her ministry when she moved to Northeast Pennsylvania, and it wasn’t long before she found a place where she could do just that. Rachel began a part-time job at Care Net, working one day a week reaching out to local high schools.

With time came the expansion of Care Net, and a new position opened for Rachel – to lead a Care Net branch in Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania, a half-hour away from Laura’s location in Montrose. With Laura and Rachel leading the way, Care Net is providing Christian services to hundreds of women who desperately need to hear the Word of God. Laura remembers one case in particular. A young woman who had just moved to the area was afraid she was pregnant and turned to Care Net.

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“Baby Steps”

Bible Institute Alumni Share Passion for Saving Families

There’s something about the Bible Institute experience that brings alumni together – no matter how many years pass between graduating classes. Just ask Laura Groover Squier, Class of 1982, and Rachelle Fetterhoff Pratt, Class of 2003. They’re the forces behind Care Net of Northeast Pennsylvania, a free crisis pregnancy center that serves women facing unplanned pregnancies. Laura and Rachel didn’t know each other before Care Net, but as Bible Institute alumni, they knew they had a shared mission: serving God by saving families.

Laura, Class of 1982, says her involvement with Care Net began with a call to action. In church one Sunday, she and her husband listened as the pastor encouraged the crowd to take “baby steps” for God by volunteering with Care Net. Deeply motivated by the sermon, Laura began what would be a long journey with the organization, first as a volunteer, then as a board member, a position she held for three years.

After dedicating many hours as a volunteer, Laura took some time off. But it wasn’t the last she’d see of Care Net. Like most Christians, Laura says she loves watching “the way the Lord works.” She had one of those classic moments to hundreds of women who desperately need to hear the Word of God. Laura remembers one case in particular. A young woman who had just moved to the area was afraid she was pregnant and turned to Care Net.

“She kept saying, ‘I can’t do this. I don’t want to be pregnant,’” Laura explains.

Pregnancy test results were confirmed, and Laura walked the woman and her boyfriend through the baby’s development. After a lot of coaching, the couple decided to carry the baby to term – but they were considering putting it up for adoption.

It was then that Laura and her team started working with the young couple every week. They connected the father with assistance to get his GED and receive career training so he could support his family, and they worked with the mother to see the Lord peeling the layers away from their heart, as they built trust with us and started to understand Who God was and how much He cared for them … was incredible.”

It was Laura’s first “abortion-vulnerable” couple – and one she’ll never forget. The woman and her boyfriend, after receiving Care Net’s coaching, decided to get married and raise the child together as a family.

After their baby was born, the couple came straight to Care Net to share their joy with Laura.

“To know that baby had been given a chance at life – and a chance at eternal life – it was amazing,” she says.

Care Net’s ministry has more than doubled since Laura took over as executive director – it’s clear that the demand for Christ’s love is as present as ever. Laura and Rachel both envision Care Net continuing to expand its reach each year. Right now they’re even working on developing a jail ministry.

“They each say they’ve already experienced tremendous personal growth serving their shared mission – and they agree it’s all the better with a fellow Bible Institute alumnus by their side.”
Teens Involved: A brief history

Teens Involved started in 1973 with the vision of finding a way to help students realize their potential and purpose by using their gifts for God’s glory. Paul Bubar realized there was a need to help students discover their God-given talents and consider using those talents in ways they never imagined.

Dr. James McDonald was one such student. A youth leader encouraged him to enter the preaching category of Teens Involved, and through that process, he first sensed God leading him to preach the Word of God and later pastor.

Just 32 students came to the first National Teens Involved week on Word of Life Island. That eventually grew to several thousand students in three locations each summer during nationals alone. The number of students participating in Teens Involved has since declined, though, and it was time to talk to youth pastors and leaders, look at the way culture is changing, and reevaluate the purpose and implementation of the event.

Why change the name?

As Word of Life looked to make major changes to the event to more effectively reach the current generation, it was decided that a new name would best communicate that this is a completely different event, even if it’s designed to accomplish the same purpose as Teens Involved.


The purpose of Engage is to help students discover their spiritual gifts, develop those gifts through training and instruction, and deploy them for use in the local church. We want students to know God has given them incredible abilities to make a difference and to learn to use those abilities effectively in the local church.

What’s new

The biggest changes are focused on making the event more practical for local church ministry. As Teens Involved developed over the decades, rules were added for clarity or to help with fairness, but they made students’ entries more difficult for real-life use.

This generation also is more interested in working as groups than as individuals, so categories have been adjusted to welcome that.

Some of the major changes:

• Simplified rules
• Providing a scenario each year for churches to develop (2014 will be a Student Evangelistic Event)
• A youth group can create a whole meeting to put on together, from stage decor to the message
• Smaller categories: Visual Design, Meeting Opener, Crowd Interaction (ice breakers, creative announcements, etc.), Music Leading, Transitions and Introduction to Message, Speaking
• Judging will be more similar to America’s Got Talent, and judges may confer
• Missions trip offered during the summer
• Elimination of Area Level as it is now

Teens Involved has been extremely successful over the years, and we are looking forward to how new methods of accomplishing the same purpose will continue to help students discover, develop, and deploy their God-given abilities.

For more information, visit engage.wol.org
The origin of Superbowl
Superbowl started in the mid-1970s as Bowl-a-thon, an all-night bowling party with an evangelistic message. In 1985, Doug Bagg added a sporting event and Gospel rally in front of the bowl-a-thon, and the first Superbowl was born. Since then, Superbowl has had more than one million people in attendance, and more than 100,000 have recorded decisions for Christ.

Why change the name?
Superbowl has changed over the years. Events now begin with pro or college sports or interactive rallies with games and prizes. After the Gospel presentation and invitation, students spend the rest of the night at a wide variety of entertainment venues in the area, including local university athletic facilities, go-carts, and laser tag – not just bowling. Bowling is still part of many events, but it’s no longer the focus.

The Super Bowl is also very close to our title and a highly protected trademark of the National Football League. Because the names are so similar, it’s possible that as we grew, we could have been required to change the name, possibly with very short notice.

We also want to continue to reach out to new churches, and the name “Superbowl” can be confusing to those who aren’t familiar with the event. Our first step when talking to new churches was almost always to explain that our event was in fact not a football game.

Why Reverb
Reverberation is the persistence of sound in a particular space after the original sound is produced. A reverberation, or reverb, is created when a sound is produced in an enclosed space and causes a large number of echoes to build up and then slowly decay as the sound is absorbed by the walls and air.

This is ultimately our goal for “Word of Life Reverb Night.” We want that sound, the Gospel, to be shared loud and clear to the students who attend and then continue to reverberate out from the arena. We invite students to come to Christ, and we challenge Christian students to share their faith when they go back home.

What’s new
Despite the new name, Reverb will still be the same great event, carrying on the tradition of Superbowl. We will continue to add dates and locations. In addition to the fall tour in November 2014, we will also be offering a winter tour in 2015 with dates mid-January through early March. Reverb will continue to kick off with a high-energy, fun-filled rally, then deliver a clear Gospel message with an opportunity for students to respond before celebrating all night long at premium local venues.

To better reflect its mission, Superbowl is now Reverb – a night when the Gospel reverberates out into a world that needs to hear.
Around the Corner, Around the World: Bible Institute ministries expand across U.S., into Africa

By Dick Dray, Associate Executive Dean, New York campus

For many years, Jack Wyrtzen would introduce Word of Life’s radio program as being from high, high, high in the Adirondack Mountains of New York. He also would say at times that Word of Life was reaching youth both around the corner and around the world. This past December, through the Bible Institute, we saw exactly that happen.

In the last issue of The Victory Journal, Bible Institute Chancellor Don Lough, Jr. talked about Institute students. During the nearly two weeks these groups were around the world. This past December, through Word of Life’s radio program as being from high, high, high in the Adirondack Mountains of New York, we made many great contacts with alumni and more than 18,000 people in attendance. More and Maine. We saw God work in bringing in Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Alabama, Ohio, West Virginia, Massachusetts, Florida, Georgia, and drama tours, including the new original presentation, Magi, as well as a Collegian group and the ensemble Redemption.

It’s been a packed year so far, but we’re only getting started as we continue to watch God work both here around the corner and out around the world.

At the same time, we saw God working “around the world.” Bible Institute Executive Dean Mark Stout headed to Uganda to connect with Thomas Obunde (Class of 1995, 2000) and David Kirabira (2005, 2007) to work on plans to open another Bible Institute teaching site there, on the continent of Africa, this fall. At this time, a one-year program is planned, with 25 students anticipated to start the inaugural school year this September, although the campus as is can hold as many as 50 students.

Teaching will be provided by resident lecturers from Uganda and surrounding countries, as well as some professors from the U.S. campuses. Additional options will be considered for ongoing training at the school as the Bible Institute looks to raise up future leaders for Africa.

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We want photos from YOU!

Let us see what’s going on in your life. Post your photos on our alumni Facebook group, or send them to alumni@wol.org to be printed in the Victory Journal.

We welcome any photos of you and your family, although we’d especially love to see you meeting up with other alumni or saying hello at a Word of Life event.

For print publication, please send photos that are one megabyte or larger as attachments.

George Theis inspired him to have a heart for God and showed him how a leader should interact with people in a godly way.

Laura (Snyder) Parke (’88) remembers the first snow arriving on October 3 and the Revelation winter tour.

Adam Bortigligia (’98) remembers working and singing in the dish room.

Courtney (Bingman) Stephens (’00) remembers watching people wipe out on the ice! She also remembers there was a boy who sang with his guitar from his dorm balcony. Her first day there, he mortified her by singing about her skirt that was too short! She did not like him but got “trucked” on Word of Life Island with him. To this day they are great friends. She was in his wedding, and he sang at hers!

Jordan Miller (’93, ’04) remembers years of great growth, when he decided to follow the Lord, and when he was challenged in his relationship with God.

Paige (Emound) Johnston (’98, ’09) remembers that she and her friend Beth bought inflatable boats when it was flooding in the spring and just floated around! The next day there was an announcement that no one was allowed in flooded areas. Oops!

Jonathan Poole (’11, ’12) remembers six big guys in his four-seat car, and it didn’t break down!

Aaron Spoonhour (’11) remembers returning from Missions Reality and discovering that his roommates had accidentally burned his towel and bed sheets.

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Carla Gray ('74) is the assistant dean of women at the Bible Institute’s New York campus. She is married to Tony Gray, who taught her to schedule her quiet time each day, which has changed her life.

Marshall Wicks ('74) is an associate professor at the Bible Institute’s Florida campus. He encourages alumni to stay in touch.

Rick ('74) and Linda (Bollack) Worken ('75) have served with Word of Life for 37 years. Their recent interests involve grandchild and family!

Nathan Myers ('75) is a youth pastor at the Bible Institute’s New York campus. He is married to Joyce and has three children: Stephanie, Kristin, and Brian.

Glenda Martin ('78) is a wife, mom, grandmother, and registered nurse. She is involved in women’s ministry. She and her husband, Wayne, have two grown daughters: Stephanie Grube and Kristin Buird.

Dana Towle ('78) is a youth pastor at Midway Bible Church.

Deans Ulrich ('79) and his wife, Joyce, have three children: Brian (25), Lynne (24), and Emily (21).

Linda (Miller) Davenport ('79) and her husband, David, a pastor, have three children: Amber (28), Craig (27), and Ryan (25). She teaches children’s church and serves with AWANA. The Lord laid on her heart to organize outreach at the fair, where they have seen many come to Christ.

Mark Trestle ('79) is a missionary with Wyckoff Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea. He and his wife, Estrella, have two children: Tim (16) and Mitch (13).

Tamera (Chapman) Buffington ('79) works in accounts receivable at the Step Live Foot and Ankle Center. She and her husband, Scott, have two children: Joseph (20) and Chris (18). She is an instructor at Central College of Nursing.

Rebecca Clark ('12) is a missionary intern with Word of Life. She encourages alumni who haven’t done so yet to do so.

Devin Olmedo ('12) is a second-year student at the Bible Institute’s New York campus. He encourages alumni to stay in touch.

Richard Lively Foot and Ankle Center. She and her husband, Steve, have two children, Eric and Raj. She is a registered nurse. She and her husband work for Alex Lee Inc., a pregnancy care center.
Bible Institute students today face those same financial challenges. Just as others helped provide for you, you can be God’s instrument now to make the difference between a student staying and going back home. The Adopt a Student scholarship has been established to help bridge the gap.

Sara* has a great heart for the Lord. After serving four summers on Word of Life Island, she thought she was all set to attend the Bible Institute. Then her mom had a heart attack and her dad lost his job. The money that had been saved for Sara to go to the Bible Institute would now have to be used to pay hospital bills and living expenses. Sara had to put her dream on hold until God provided the funds.

Every year, we have young people like Sara who have planned and saved, but, because of circumstances beyond their control, need some extra help to attend. Did you know that giving just $50 per month could help determine if students like Sara attend? Has God provided for you so you can be His blessing in the life of a current student?

Will you consider Adopting a Student? Use the attached form to indicate your support. You will receive information about students who have been “adopted,” the impact of your support, and the progress of those assisted by your generosity.

Contact Howard Leach at 518-494-6214 or howardleach@wol.org

*Name has been changed