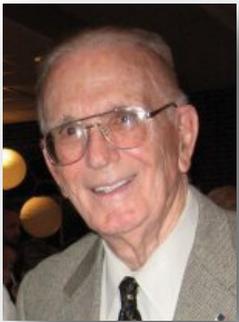


WE CONFESS

April—June
2015

Newsletter of The Confessing Movement
Within The United Methodist Church

Thank You, Lord for Ira Gallaway By Senator Pat Miller



On March 16, 2015 Dr. Ira Gallaway, a faithful servant of God, was called home to be with the Lord. He was looking forward to and prayed for this great joy to be with the Lord eternally. Ira was 91.

Dr. Gallaway was the Associate Director of The Confessing Movement from 1997 thru 2008. As such, he was the Editor of *We Confess*, writing many of the articles himself. He was an initiator of The Confessing Movement. Having first been instrumental in calling for the meeting that took place in Houston, Texas with key leaders in the church, Dr. Gallaway wrote the first draft of what would become the Houston Declaration, which expressed concern about the theological drift of the church away from the authority of Scripture and Jesus as Son, Savior, and Lord. The Houston Declaration preceded General Conference in 1988. Four years later, Ira provided leadership on the coordination committee which resulted in the drafting of the Memphis Declaration. Over 200,000 United Methodists signed the Memphis Declaration affirming the church's stand on sexuality and calling for more emphasis on evangelism around the world. The Declaration was a call to action distributed to the General Conference in 1992. The Houston & Memphis Declara-

tions were the beginning of what became The Confessing Movement within The United Methodist Church in 1994 – 1995.

Ira served in the Army Air Corp from 1941 to 1945. Dr. Gallaway was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate with an honor's degree in International Law and Political Science. He served as an administrative assistant to a Texas congressman. He was an oil man and a county judge.

In 1956 Ira was called into the ministry. Following that call, he attended Perkins Theological Seminary after which he served as a District Superintendent, President of the National Council of Evangelism, and General Secretary of the General Board of Evangelism of The United Methodist Church. For fifteen years, he served as a member of the Executive Committee of the World Methodist Council. He served forty years, six of which he was chairman of the board for Trustees, at Asbury Theological Seminary. As a

(Continued on Page 2)

“Always be sure that you struggle with Christian methods and Christian weapons. Never succumb to the temptation of becoming bitter. As you press on for justice, be sure to move with dignity and discipline, using only the weapon of love. Let no man pull you down so low as to hate him.”

(Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

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founder he served eight years as Chairman of the Board of the Mission Society for The United Methodist Church, continuing as Chairman Emeritus. He served as senior pastor at First United Methodist Church in Peoria, Illinois. While there he initiated what would become The Walk to Emmaus. Further, he was a board member of IRD. In addition, He and his wife Sally felt empowered by the Holy Spirit during their ministry with the Navajos.

Dr. Gallaway authored the book *Drifted Astray* published by Abingdon Press in December of 1982 in which he addressed some of the crucial issues facing the church. Many of these crucial issues hold true today. Dr. Gallaway with his wife Sally coauthored two study books for the United Methodist Publishing House to use as adult curriculum for the church; *The Kingdom Teachings of Jesus* and *The Teaching of the Apostle on Human Relationships*.

Ira was very influential in all areas of renewal within the church. Ira loved the Lord and he loved the church. He

not only was a reformer, he was a great faithful preacher of the gospel. Ira was a leader. He was bold, faithful, courageous and a risk taker for Christ. One of his talents was spotting young clergy he thought had great potential, recommending and lifting them up for significant positions in the church. Examples include Maxie Dunnam, Eddie Fox and Joe Hale. He not only supported ministry and missions, his life was a living witness. One evening, without talking to his wife or family, he brought a homeless family to his residence. I asked his wife Sally. "How long did they stay?" She replied "one year."

Words cannot adequately express the impact of this giant Man of God and his loss to all of us and the church. "Thank You Lord" was the theme for his memorial service and is to be inscribed on his tombstone. Thank You Lord he lives with You!

You can read the Houston and Memphis Declarations on our website at www.confessingumc.org under "Resources."

AN OXYMORON: A NON-PROSELYTIZING CHRISTIAN

(By Dr. Bill Bouknight)



Recently I heard a church member say, "I'm a Christian, but I don't try to convert anyone else." That struck me as strange, since Jesus' last command was: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19). I recalled that St. Peter urged all Christians to "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asked you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..." (I Peter 3:15).

Of course, the Christian should never attempt to impose his or her faith on another person without their invitation. We should share the faith humbly like "one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread." But if a Christian believes (as the Bible teaches) that repentance and faith in Jesus Christ is the only sure way to eternal life (as per John 14:6), how could a Christian resist sharing the gospel with another person if the opportunity presents itself?

An atheist offered an interesting perspective on this matter. Penn Jillette of the magician duo Penn and Teller said, "I don't respect people who don't proselytize. How much do you have to hate somebody to not proselytize?...I mean if I believed, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that a truck was coming at you, and you didn't believe that truck was bearing down on you, there is a certain point where I tackle you..."

That is, unless we Christians no longer believe in the Last Judgment and two very different eternal destinations.

"I look upon all the world as my parish; thus far I mean, that, in whatever part of it I am, I judge it meet, right, and my bounden duty to declare unto all that are willing to hear, the glad tidings of salvation."

(John Wesley)

Making God a Part of Your Family: A Book Review

By Dr. John Ed Mathison

How well do you help members of your family study the Bible? Can this still be a part of our culture today? Are we allowing children and young people to go out into the world without the knowledge of the Bible? How well do we know the Bible? How well do we apply it? Can families study the Bible together?

These are all penetrating questions that we must answer. There is a resource that helps give a proper answer to these questions.

Michael Grady is a certified public accountant in Florence, South Carolina. He has been teaching children and adults for 33 years. He believes that children not only need to know the Bible stories, but how to apply them. While his vocation is a CPA, his real heart is in helping families learn how to study the Bible.

Michael's dad was my first Scout Master who, with his wife, taught me in Sunday School when I was a kid. When I later became a youth minister in Opelika, Alabama in the 1960's, Michael was one of the kids who was part of the children's church program with which I worked. Somewhere some things were communicated to him that have stuck with him all of his life. He has a burning desire to amplify how that can be done today.

Michael has written a book that was recently published and released named "Making God Part of Your Family." This book contains some 35 stories that a family can read on a systematic basis. It takes about 10 minutes to read one of the stories. The book then provides some questions about the story and how it can be applied to everyday life. It is not just about learning the story but how to apply it. At the end of each of the stories he also includes a variety of passages of scripture from the entire Bible that substantiate the importance of the story and how it can be applied.

One of the unique aspects of this book is that it speaks to people of all ages. So the entire family can benefit from reading it - separately or together. Michael's desire is that the family will take time to read it together.

I was fascinated just reading these stories. I learned a lot that I did not really remember. Take for example the story of Balaam and the talking donkey. There are so many basic principles of life there as to how Balaam was at first faithful not to succumb to the temptation of a large monetary payoff in order to turn against the Israelites. He was faithful, but then became tempted when a larger amount was offered.

There is a basic concept that God allowed him to proceed with the second request, but then he used a donkey to talk to him about it. The exchange of what happened with the donkey and Balaam is intriguing to any person of any age. Michael makes the point that God is always putting unusual people, objects, and events in front of us to confront us with His truth. The mental pictures of that donkey communicating with Balaam and the lessons learned will live on in the memory for a long time.

Studying the Bible together as a family helps strengthen the family bond. It helps initiate conversations about things that are important. This book is an excellent tool for parents to carry out the basic responsibility of teaching.

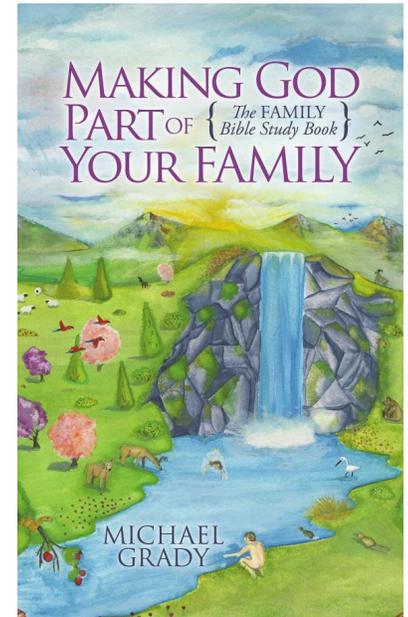
Each chapter is designed to: 1) tell the story, 2) provide practical applications to living life every day, and 3) to share God's plan and purpose for all of us through His Son Jesus Christ.

This book is an excellent Bible study for those who don't know much about the Bible. It also could be used as Sunday School literature for all age groups or as textbook in Christian schools.

This is one of the best approaches to teaching the Bible in the home that I have encountered. I highly recommend it to you.

The book can be downloaded from Amazon or Barnes and Noble. It can also be purchased in paperback or hardcover at various book stores such as Barnes and Noble; or it can be ordered from Michael Grady, 1812 Partridge Circle, Florence, SC 29505. You can also visit his website at www.michaelgrady.org.

Please share with your Sunday School teachers and pastor about this available resource. This study can be a difference maker in the lives of families and people who desire to follow God's plan and purpose for their lives.



GRAHAM CALLS FOR BOYCOTTS

(By Dr. Bill Bouknight)

Franklin Graham, Executive Director of Samaritan's Purse and son of Dr. Billy Graham, has called for Christians to boycott organizations that promote homosexuality and same-sex marriage. Because Wells Fargo Bank supports the homosexual agenda, Graham has withdrawn all the funds of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association from that institution.

Graham's critics were quick to accuse him of hatred and bigotry. But a boycott is not necessarily an expression of hatred or bigotry. Indeed, one can make a case that Christians practice good stewardship when they spend their dollars where they are likely to do the most good for the Kingdom. If a company promotes sin of any kind (measured by Scriptural standards) it should not expect to be patronized by Christians. Avoiding "R"-rated movies is one such example.

If a company with which you do business sponsors a TV program or commercial that promotes homosexuality or same-sex marriage or any other sin, write a respectful letter to that company informing the management why you are taking your business elsewhere.

Remember, no hatred or bigotry. Just use the free-enterprise system to practice Christian stewardship.



Franklin Graham

DANGEROUS CULTURAL TRENDS

(Following are excerpts from an article by R. Albert Mohler, Jr., "From the Pulpit to the Culture," recently published in PREACHING magazine. Dr. Mohler is president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.)

"In roughly the past 18 months, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship groups have been kicked off the campuses of the California State University System where they'd been meeting. This is the largest public university system in America, and InterVarsity Christian Fellowship—one of the longest, strongest, most respected Christian ministries in the evangelical world—has been kicked off, derecognized... because it holds to a radical proposal: That is, the student leaders of the Christian ministry ought to be Christian.

"One of the most chilling things I've seen in recent years took place in a major American city when a fire chief was fired for holding to a biblical understanding of sexual morality and then having the audacity to articulate his stance by writing a book... This incident took place recently in Atlanta, Georgia.

"Now, the California Supreme Court has

handed down an edict that judges in the California state judicial system cannot maintain fidelity with the judicial code of ethics and be a volunteer leader in the Boy Scouts of America. Why? Because although the Boy Scouts changed its policy to embrace openly gay scouts, it is not open to openly gay scout leaders. Thus, it is a discriminatory organization, which violates the judicial code of the State of California. The press release indicated there is one final exception recognized by the court in terms of judges in the California system who belong to discriminatory organization: **'RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS,'** which means **CHURCH.**

"So, how long is it going to be before we find out we can't be members of our churches and hold our jobs? How long is it going to be before we find out the culture considers us rightly exiled?"

WHEN THE LEFT SNARLS

(By Dr. Bill Bouknight)

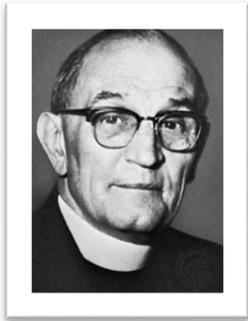
When liberals are a minority, they usually talk about diversity and tolerance. But when they form a majority they often snarl at their conservative opponents. Conversely, I cannot think of a single responsible conservative who disputes the right of liberals to state their points of view. But when liberals are in charge, as is often the case on college campuses, every degree of leftist is entitled to speak at commencement ceremonies but conservatives are routinely rejected. Tolerance is replaced by a snarl.

The snarl of liberalism was on display recently in the *NEW YORK TIMES*. Following the approval of same-sex marriage in Ireland, an editorial declared, “The outcome in Ireland sends an unmistakable signal to politicians and religious leaders around the world who continue to harbor intolerant views against gays and lesbians.” Note the thinly veiled threat and the judgmental word (intolerant) in that sentence.

Op-ed writer Frank Bruni, a homosexual activist, wrote that Christians who hold on to “ossified,” biblically-based beliefs regarding sexual morality have no place at America’s table and must be obliged to rewrite their moral code. Note the snarl of compulsion in his statement.

Bruni trashed all believing Christians as “bigots,” saying that Christians’ negative moral assessment of homosexual relations is “a choice” that prioritizes scattered passages of ancient texts over all that has been learned since—as if time had stood still—as if the advances of science and knowledge meant nothing. “Religion,” he wrote, “is going to be the final holdout and most stubborn refuge for homophobia. It will give license to discrimination.” Therefore, religions should be made to “take homosexuality off the sin list.”

Notice that Bruni does not suggest that liberals and conservatives should debate their differences in the free marketplace of ideas. Instead he argues that the major religions of the world should be forced to change their convictions. Even in America where the First Amendment is supposed to protect free speech, orthodox Christians who regard the Bible as God’s inspired and authoritative word should be prepared to face the snarl of liberalism.



Rev. Martin Niemoller

THE SIN OF SILENCE

(The Rev. Martin Niemoller was one of the heroes of the Confessing Church that stood against the terrors of Nazi Germany. Because his sermons contained sharp criticism of Nazi paganism, he was sent to a concentration camp in 1938 and remained there until the end of World War II. After the war he emerged as a prominent church leader in Germany. Here is a famous statement by Niemoller, taken from an address to the Confessing Church in January, 1946, that sums up his stance on human rights.)

“They came first for the Communists, and I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a Communist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a Jew. Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up.”

HOW TO CHANGE A SEMINARY

(Albert Mohler became president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, the flagship seminary of that denomination, at the age of 33. He replaced the liberal faculty with orthodox teachers who were in harmony with the Southern Baptist confession of faith. In an interview with Marvin Olasky of WORLD magazine, he made the following comment.)



“You cannot bring reformation and leave everything in place. You need a clear understanding of the confessional identity of the school and you have to make it stick. Institutions drift left. That is the Genesis 3 reality. If truth is the principle, then you can’t accept 45 percent heresy as a way to get to 35 percent heresy. If a confession states the truth of what we expect, every professor signs to teach in accordance with it.”



Wendy Deichmann,
President of UTS and
CM Board Member

United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio is seeing rapid growth and faithfully teaches Methodist Doctrine. With an enrollment of 538 in the fall of 2014, the Association of Theological Schools ranks UTS second on the list of fastest growing schools. Dr. Wendy Deichmann, President of UTS, has provided tremendous leadership which has brought about this new growth and theological faithfulness.



UMC Membership and the Changing Demographics

The membership of The United Methodist Church across the globe is changing. The church in the United States continues to lose members. Since the merger with the Evangelical United Brethren in 1968 there has been a 3.8 million member loss in the United States. During that same time we went from 42,100 local churches in the United States to 32,500 churches with 71% of them averaging less than 100 in worship attendance. Just over half of those average less than 50 in attendance for worship. To put it in perspective that loss equals 231 people per day every day for 45 years. The population in the United States has grown by 58% in that same time. The United Methodist Church in Africa is growing by 11% per year. If this trend continues there will be more United Methodists in African than in the United States.

Current membership totals are as follows:

USA	7.3 Million
Africa	5.2 million
Philippines	227,000
Europe	54,000



OUR ANONYMOUS SAINTS

When the history of United Methodist renewal is written one day, the unsung heroes will be the thousands of church members who prayed and contributed money to renew their beloved church. God knows who you are! Your help is critical, in terms of prayer and contributions. Some are skipping the Friday noon meal each week and using the time to pray for the UMC. Then they contribute their lunch money to The Confessing Movement. For directions on contributing, just call our office at 317-356-9729. Or, go to our website at www.confessingumc.org and click on “donate.” Thanks so much!!

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Purpose Statement

**Confessing Jesus Christ as Son, Savior, and Lord.
The Confessing Movement exists to enable
The United Methodist Church to retrieve its
classical doctrinal identity, and to live it out as
disciples of Jesus Christ.**

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