

July 15, 2013

Rev. Roger G. Collins, Stated Clerk  
Mississippi Valley Presbytery  
130 Byram Boulevard  
Byram, MS 39272

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

I have completed 17 years of ministry as Director of Publications of Great Commission Publications. As you know, Great Commission Publications is the joint ministry of the Presbyterian Church in America and the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. As the publishing arm for our denomination, GCP provides resources for our churches and others that are used in Sunday school, catechetical instruction of children and youth, Vacation Bible School and adult education.

As you are aware GCP's Executive Director Tom Patete of 34 years went home to glory in mid-December 2012. The Trustees appointed an Interim Director and are in the process of a search for a new Director that they anticipate having completed by January 2014. Since Tom's death, in addition to my normal duties, I have spent a significant amount of my time working with the Interim Director by providing history and procedures for GCP in various areas of the Company and handling a number of additional duties.

In the past several years, our production team has been focused on 2 major projects. Our primary focus has been on the introduction of the new Youth Bible Studies. In January 2014 the last of the nine studies will have been introduced as part of the *So What? Relating faith to life & life to faith* Youth Bible Study series. The studies provide resources that will assist youth leaders in helping youth to take ownership of their faith as they learn more about how to understand and study Scripture. An inductive process is used in the studies and a weekly devotional journal for the students is provided with each of the Bible study modules. A web site, [www.sowhatstudies.org](http://www.sowhatstudies.org) provides additional resources and information for these new studies.

Work has been done to develop a new curriculum product for elementary students that, Lord willing, will be available for churches in the Fall of 2014. The curriculum will take children through a children's version of John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*. In developing this curriculum a new children's version of *Pilgrim's Progress* was written. The storybook was introduced at GA in July as sales have been brisk and the response from children and adults has been very encouraging.

I attend and report at the GCP Board of Trustees meetings (twice a year), the PCA Christian Education and Publications Committee (three times a year), and this year once to the OPC Committee on Christian Education and their Advisory Committee (our Committee of Commissioners) at their GA in June. I also had the privilege of providing a 25-minute report to their entire General Assembly on the ministry and work of GCP.

I continue to advise and consult with numerous churches, pastors and staff. For the past several years, I have had the opportunity to teach a block of instruction (3 to 5 hours) on Christian Education at RTS Orlando and Atlanta. Again this year I taught seminars for PCA Children and Youth Conferences. I also served as trainer for Reformed Youth Ministries' Youth Leaders Training in January 2013.

The challenges and opportunities are great. Approximately 80,000 people use GCP resources from week to week. Please keep GCP and me in your prayers as I lead the publications' efforts and carry on numerous additional duties at this time. Last year I asked you to pray for two of the three women who work in the office with me whose husbands underwent radiation and chemo treatment for cancer. I appreciate your prayers and report that one of the men has been declared to be cancer-free after over a year of treatment. The other man is finished with radiation for skin cancer and is doing well also.

I ask that the Presbytery permit me to continue my labors another year on their behalf as I serve them, the Presbyterian Church in America, and the church at large at Great Commission Publications.

Sincerely in Christ,

Mark L. Lowrey, Jr.

C: Shepherding and Advisory Committee,