

July 26, 2017

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

Dear Father and Brothers,

I have completed 21 years of ministry as Director of Publications for 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 that are used in Sunday, catechetical instruction of children and youth, Vacation Bible School, and adult education for our churches and others.

In addition to my duties as Director of Publications, in 2013 I was assigned the responsibilities as Associate Director of GCP. This involves me in most of the day-to-day operations of GCP, including overseeing the marketing efforts and the ongoing updating and upgrading of the websites. A new financial and business software as well as new website were implemented in November of 2014. This has allowed GCP to better serve the churches and individuals that purchase curriculum but also are looking for additional help and resources. Providing a friendly and navigable website is critical today. Approximately 50% of all orders come through the website.

In June 2015 a new customer relationship management software was implemented. The new software has greatly increased our abilities to provide services to churches that use or are considering using GCP products. The software is also enabling GCP to respond to inquiries that come through the website as well as from conferences and events. Each month, between 400 to 500 free preview lessons of curriculum from Toddler through Youth are downloaded.

Over the past 2 years a new *G2R Bible Survey* (Genesis to Revelation) curriculum was designed to be used in grades 5-8. The four-module survey of the Old Testament was introduced for the 2015-2016 school year. The four-module survey of the New Testament was introduced over the 2016-2017 school year.

It is critical that our preteens and early teens have a complete Bible survey covering every book of the Bible. At these ages students are able to take the stories of the Bible and learn how God's progressive, historical-redemptive One Story came to God's people. The curriculum is available in eight modules, allowing churches to use it in flexible two-, three-, or four-year schedules to fit their educational needs.

We are presently working on the completion of the G2R product line with the revision of the Junior High curriculum. The *G2R God's Promises/The Covenant*

curriculum will build on *G2R Bible Survey*. This curriculum will take middle school students through the Scriptures to see the covenant thread that goes all the way through.

A new module in the *So What? Relating faith to life & life to faith* series was introduced in last summer, bringing the total number of studies to 10. This 13-week study for youth covers the whole book of Philippians with a focus on teaching students how to study and interpret the Scriptures. These studies provide resources that will assist youth leaders in helping teens take ownership of their faith as they learn more how understand and study the Scriptures. An inductive process is used in the studies and a weekly devotional journal for students is provided with each of the Bible study modules. A GCP-dedicated website, www.sowhatstudies.org, provides additional resources and information for these new studies.

I attend and report at the GCP Board of Trustees meetings (twice a year), the PCA Committee on Discipleship Ministries (three times a year), and the OPC Committee on Christian Education (twice a year). For the OPC at their yearly GA, I met with their Advisory Committee (our Committee of Commissioners) for about 30 minutes. I also have the privilege of the floor for presenting a 20-minute report to the OPC General Assembly on the ministry and work of GCP. At the PCA GA, I meet with and provide a 15-minute report to the Committee of Commissioners for the Committee on Discipleship Ministries.

I also provided a seminar at the PCA 2017 GA attended by over 100 people. The seminar was "Discipling Through Bible Studies: Choosing the Best Approach."

I continue to advise and consult with pastors and staff as time allows. I have also taught a block of instruction (3 hours) on Christian Education as part of M.Div class at RTS Orlando. Additionally, I participate and sometimes serve as leader of a men's group in the PCA church we attend.

The challenges and opportunities are great. Please keep GCP and me in your prayers as I lead the publication efforts and carry on numerous additional duties at GCP.

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.

Cc: Shepherding Committee, Bebo Elkin