

June 29, 2018

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

Dear Father and Brothers,

I have completed 22 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 school, 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, I was assigned in 2013 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. The websites allow 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.

Our customer relationship management software has greatly increased our ability 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.

During the past year, GCP introduced two new digital products to assist children and adults in learning and retaining the biblical truths that are found in our doctrinal standards. FC2Go (*First Catechism To Go*) and SC2Go (*Shorter Catechism To Go*) are available in a digital form for any platform (phone, tablet, computer). In addition to being an easy-to-use flashcard tool, both products have many interactive features such as drawing, searching, and note-taking.

A new *G2R Bible Survey* (Genesis to Revelation) curriculum was designed and has been used in grades 5-8 over the past three years. The curriculum includes a four-module survey of the Old Testament and a four-module survey of the New Testament. 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 eight modules are always available, allowing

churches to use the curriculum 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. *G2R God's Promises* 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. *G2R God's Promises* will be available for use in churches in fall of next year (2019).

So What? Relating faith to life & life to faith series provides 10 different 13-week studies for youth. These studies assist youth leaders to help 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-hosted dedicated website, www.sowhatstudies.org, provides additional resources and information for these new studies.

Show Me Jesus curriculum is our foundational material for children through ages 11/12: Toddler (ages 2–3), Preschool (ages 4–5), Younger Elementary (grades 1–2), Middle Elementary (grades 3–4), and *G2R Bible Survey* (grades 5–6).

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). This year the OPC and PCA GA met during the same week. Therefore, for the first time in years, I did not attend the OPC GA. At the PCA GA, I met with and was part of providing a 20-minute report on the work of GCP to the Committee of Commissioners for the Committee on Discipleship Ministries.

I continue to advise and consult with pastors and staff as time allows. I also participate and sometimes serve as leader of a men's group in the PCA church my wife and I 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.