

The High Calling

A Monthly Journal of the Francis Asbury Society

From the Director's Desk

As we approach the 30th year anniversary of the Francis Asbury Society (May of 2013), we reflect with loving memory on the lives of those who have brought us to this moment. We thought you would enjoy walking with us as we share some reflections on the work of our brother and co-founder, Harold Burgess. I would like to express thanks to Dennis Kinlaw and John Oswalt for their kind contributions that honor his memory and enable our hearts to be filled with thanksgiving for brother Burgess and his family, and for the ministry of the Lord to us through them.

An anniversary year lends itself to thanksgiving for the work of God in our midst. We proclaim the reality that awed the Psalmist, "The Lord has done great things for us. And we are glad" (Psalm 126:3 NKJV). In the midst of a year with much transition, the Francis Asbury Society has had significant spiritual life conferences in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. We were very busy in many U.S. camp-meetings throughout the summer. Multiple local church revivals were held. Our Titus Women had Spirit-blessed meetings with thousands of women in various settings. And weekly discipleship groups met for prayer and growth.

We know in our 30th year that there is more work in the fields of harvest for us than there has ever been because of each step our workers have been led to take for three decades of godly ministry. We hope you enjoy reading reflections on the past. Thank you for your prayers and support in a busy year; please covenant with us to claim our soon approaching thirtieth anniversary year "to the praise of His glory" (Ephesians 1:12 NKJV).



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Dennis Kinlaw once asked me how many copies of our books had been sold. *Touch the World Through Prayer* alone has sold over one million copies, and several others are still in print some 30 years later. It's a real testament to the vision Dennis Kinlaw and Harold Burgess had for publishing first-rate books of Wesleyan scholarship and inspiration.

—Joe Allison, Church of God Ministries

Francis Asbury Press Books Published Under Dr. Harold Burgess' Leadership

- Baker, Frank. *The Heart of True Spirituality: John Wesley's Own Choice, Volumes 1 and 2.* 1985.
- Bangs, Carl. *Arminius: A Study in the Dutch Reformation.* 1985.
- Bilhartz, Terry D. *Francis Asbury's America.* 1984.
- Borgen, Ole E. *John Wesley on the Sacraments.* 1985.
- Burgess, Harold, W., ed. *The Framework of Our Faith.* 2011.
- Twelve After.* 1982.
- Callen, Barry L. *The Prayer of Holiness-Hungry People.* 2011.
- Carter, Charles W. *A Contemporary Wesleyan Theology.* 1983.
- Chambers, Oswald (ed. Glenn A. Black). *Devotions for a Deeper Life.* 1986.
- Charalambakis, John E. *The Fed, the Markets, and the Metamorphosis of the Business Cycle.* 2002.
- Chiles, Robert E. *Scriptural Christianity: A Call to John Wesley's Disciples.* 1984.
- Coleman, Robert E. *Nothing to Do But Save Souls.* 1990.
- Collins, Kenneth J. *A Faithful Witness, John Wesley's Homiletical Theology.* 1993.
- Wesley on Salvation: A Study in the Standard Sermons.* 1989.
- Coppedge, Allan. *The Biblical Principles of Discipleship.* 1989.
- John Wesley in Theological Debate.* 1987.
- Dayton, Donald W. *The Theological Roots of Pentecostalism.* 1987.
- Dean, William W. *The Church at Risk.* 1990.
- Dieter, M. E. and H. A. eds. *God is Enough.* (Hannah Whitall Smith) 1986.
- Demaray, Donald E. *How Are You Praying?* 1985.
- Deschner, John. *Wesley's Christology.* 1988.
- Drury, Keith. *Holiness for Ordinary People.* 1987.
- Duewel, Wesley L. *Ablaze for God.* 1989.
- Touch the World Through Prayer.* 1986.
- Dunnam, Maxie. *The Christian Way.* 2000.
- Foulkes, James. *To Africa with Love.* 2005.
- Fox, H. Eddie and Geo. E. Morris. *Faith-Sharing.* 1987.
- Friedeman, Matt, *Discipleship in the Home.* 2010.
- Life-Changing Bible Study.* 2009.
- Harper, Steve. *John Wesley's Message for Today.* (1983)*
- Henderson, D. Michael. *John Wesley's Class Meetings.* 1997.
- Huff, Alice. *A Watered Garden.* 2000.
- Hunt, Carroll F. *Absolutely! Can We Know What's Right and Wrong.* 1990.
- From the Claws of the Dragon.* 1988.
- Huttenlocker, Keith, *Becoming the Family of God.* 1986.
- Hynson, Leon O. *To Reform the Nation.* 1984.
- Kinlaw, Dennis F. *Lectures on Old Testament Theology.* 2010, 2011.
- Let's Start With Jesus.* 2005*
- Preaching in the Spirit.* 1985.
- The Mind of Christ.* 1998.
- This Day With the Master.* 2002*
- We Live as Christ.* 2001.
- Kinghorn, Kenneth C. *Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts.* 1981.

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Harold Burgess



and the

Francis Asbury Press

by Dr. Dennis Kinlaw

God's blessings come to us in many types and fashions; the greatest though, and the best, are *persons*, people through whom God in His greatness is able to make Himself known to us. More important than gifts, events, or experiences, persons are the name of God's game. It is ultimately whom you know, whom you permit God to inject into your life, and how you relate to them that determines who you are. So the story of the Francis Asbury Press is primarily the story of a person, Harold Burgess.

Over the years I had the privilege of knowing Harold quite well. I found that he was different. I do not think that I have had the privilege in my years of knowing anyone intimately who was quite like him.

It was not just his gifts that made him special, though he was loaded with them. Nor was it his broad and extensive knowledge, though he was one of the better educated persons I have had the privilege of knowing. There was a certain confident humility and humble confidence that marked everything about him that meant that his gifts and his knowledge would unexpectedly come through in a most innovative and unexpected way. It did not matter where he was or what the circumstances, when you were not looking, he would evaluate a situation and come through with wisdom that afterwards we would all know was what ought to be done. And, that was true whether he was at Notre Dame in the midst of priests and nuns, with sophisticated leaders in the world of Christian higher education, in his own Anabaptist holiness circles, or with us in the Francis Asbury Society.

Many times I wondered at his gifts and often surprising influence. Slowly over the years I came to feel that I could identify the key to those gifts and influence. The best summation of it all for me could be expressed surprisingly enough in a line from the Song of Songs. It was the loved one's tender expression, "I am His, and He is mine." There was no way that you could explain Harold Burgess apart from his personal relationship to Jesus Christ. To the best of his knowledge, he belonged totally and exclusively to Christ, and he believed that Christ had lovingly given Himself, the Father, and the Spirit to him. So, what else could he be other than gratefully humble, and how could he exist other than quietly confident? This was why he could believe in the necessity for and

the possibilities in the Francis Asbury Society and the Francis Asbury Press.

It was in the early 1980s that a small group of faculty and administrators from Asbury College and Asbury Theological Seminary were having lunch together. Our concern that day particularly was the fact that the Wesleyan message of entire sanctification was being lost from theological discussion in our world. A special point of concern was the absence of any press that would keep available in our Asbury world the great classics of the Wesleyan movement. As we talked, I thought, of how helpful the classic of Harold Lindstrom, *Wesley and Sanctification*, had been to me. But it was then out of print and becoming unknown to our intellectual world. I suggested that we at Asbury ought to find

some way to put it back in print so that it would be available for Asbury classes if nowhere else.

Harold had just recently come to the seminary but was with us that day. I was just beginning to get acquainted with him. When we broke up, as I walked out, Harold caught up with me and said: "If you will get me a little money, I will put Lindstrom back in print for you." My response was a surprised "Do you know how to do that?" His answer was a humbly confident, "Oh, yes!"

I asked my friend, George Luce, who was chairman of the college board, for \$3,500 for this project. He supplied it. Harold picked up another \$1,500 from a friend of his. So with some \$5,000, Harold Burgess started the Francis Asbury Press.

Today there are several million copies of books, tracts, pamphlets and other pieces of literature scattered around the world in a number of different languages proclaiming the message that it is possible for the heart of the Christian believer to be filled with the Holy Spirit. They declare that this Holy Spirit can cleanse the heart of that self-interest that prevents that heart from being filled with the same love that binds together the three persons of the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, and makes them One. Is that all because of Harold Burgess? Yes! But the reality behind it all is that fact that Harold Burgess let the Holy Spirit bring him to the place where he could say of Jesus: "He is mine, all mine, and I am His, all His!" The mission of the Francis Asbury Press and the Francis Asbury Society together is to keep this message alive for folks like you and me so that we can know the fullness of loving joy that those words express.



Facilitator Extraordinaire

by Dr. John Oswalt

If I were asked for one word to characterize Harold Burgess, it would be the word “facilitator.” Harold was a master at assisting others to reach their goals. Dr. Kinlaw gives one example of this in the accompanying article. Harold had a way of making things happen. This was true of his involvement with the Francis Asbury Society from the outset. Dr. Kinlaw had recently left the presidency of Asbury College (1981), and Harold was concerned that some means be brought into existence whereby the new freedom Dr. Kinlaw had could be maximized. Out of the discussions of the two of them the Society was born, with its threefold emphasis upon evangelism, publishing, and conferencing. The first need was to find a space from which Dr. Kinlaw’s various ministries could proceed. So Harold came to me in my capacity as president of Asbury College, and asked if some space could be found on campus, something I was able to do. So there was Harold, the facilitator, at work.

But Harold’s facilitating genius came to the fore in the publishing efforts of the Society. From the first reprinting of Lindstrom that Dr. Kinlaw mentions, there streamed no less than 100 publications before Harold’s untimely death in 2011. When one stops to think of this accomplishment, it is truly amazing. It is amazing in the light of the always tenuous nature of the endeavor. Apart from the early years when the Zondervan Publishing Company partnered with the Society and printed several books, (see list) with the Francis Asbury Press imprint, the enterprise basically functioned out of Harold’s “back pocket,” as it were. There was no editorial staff, no printing plant, no warehouse, no marketing staff, no anything that one takes for granted as part of a publishing venture. Yet that amazing number of books got printed.

One of the keys to it all was the Redmond Fund. Mr. Paul Redmond, a businessman in Columbus, Ohio, gave a substantial gift to the Society, and the Board of Trustees determined to make this a revolving fund, which is how Harold used it. He would dip into the fund to pay for the production and publication of the book and then repay the fund with the proceeds of the sale of the book. The Society did not make any profit out of the arrangement, and there were times when the Board had to authorize the transfer of money to keep the fund solvent, but that great number of books got published for the good of the Kingdom and the blessing of the world.

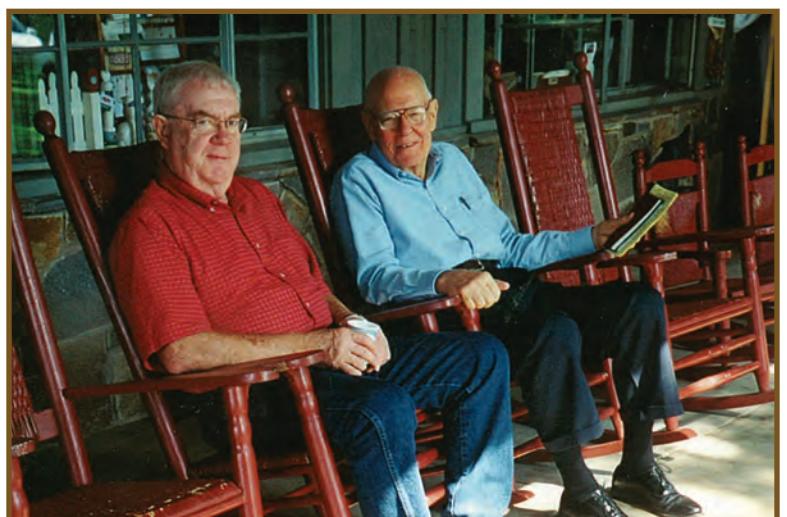
Another key was Harold’s contacts. When Zondervan finally determined that the Francis Asbury Press was not as financially remunerative as they wanted it to be and terminated the arrangement, Harold arranged with the Brethren in Christ publishing company, Evangel Press, to handle the printing and

publication of materials. If Harold had not had longstanding contacts with the people in that denomination and particularly in the publication area, the Francis Asbury Press would have come to an end. Instead, through Evangel Press, a stream of Wesleyan publications continued to see the light of day, among them my own *Called To Be Holy*.

Then, when the Brethren in Christ denomination decided to close Evangel Press and limit their publication to curriculum materials, another of Harold’s contacts came into play. In the early days of FAP at Zondervan the editor was Joseph Allison. After the termination of the arrangement, Joe Allison continued warm relations with Dr. Kinlaw and with Harold. Later, when he left Zondervan and became engaged in other pursuits, the relationship continued. Thus it was that when Evangel was closed, Joe was at Warner Press and arranged for Warner to purchase some of the Evangel FAP stock and to become the publisher of those materials.

It seems highly appropriate that one of the very last publications that Harold worked on was Dr. Kinlaw’s Old Testament Theology lectures. These lectures were given in an Old Testament Theology course in 1993 at Asbury Theological Seminary. They were recorded and Francis Asbury Society staff and friends transcribed the recordings. Harold had long dreamed of getting these lectures into print form. Through the years he agitated (for want of a better word) among his friends in the Society and elsewhere, to find someone who could and would edit them. Finally, in response to his urging, I used a research leave generously provided by Wesley Biblical Seminary to undertake the task. Harold then shepherded the material through the publication process, and it is now available from Warner Press with the Francis Asbury Press imprint. That book is a very fitting memorial to a good man who used his gifts to see that the gifts of others did not fall to the ground wasted.

We in the Society do not intend for this legacy to cease with Harold’s home-going. We want to continue to encourage and assist in the publication of materials that proclaim the good news of “free salvation and full salvation.” We will do this as the members of the Society continue to make it possible. One very important book is the Systematic Theology which more than a dozen scholars have been working at for the last dozen years. Already several books have been spun off from the work, especially Dr. Allan Coppedge’s *The God Who is Triune*, but we are eager to see the parent work finished soon. When it appears it will be one more tribute to the work of Dr. Harold Burgess, facilitator extraordinaire.



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- Massey, James Earl. *Spiritual Disciplines*. 1985.
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Pamphlets Published by the Francis Asbury Society under Dr. Burgess

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- Callahan, David. *Day By Day: A Walk Through the Scriptures*. 2007.
- Kinlaw, Dennis F. *Who Cares About Homosexual Marriage? God Does!* nd.
- Victorious Christian Living*. nd
- Merritt, Stephen. *Samuel Morris: Marvelous Story*. nd.
- Unknown. *The High Calling*. nd.
- Wesley, John. *The Scripture Way of Salvation*. nd

(In case of reprints, the original date of publication, if known, is given in parentheses)

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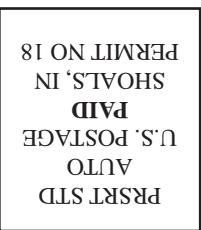
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