



## THE LORD IS A GOD OF KNOWLEDGE

A contemporary Biblical scholar remarked, “People say to me, how can scholarly knowledge facilitate the understanding of Holy Scripture? My answer is, how does ignorance contribute to it?” There may be some legitimate concern about how intellectual pursuits have led people down a path of apostasy, but the weight of Scripture would strongly underscore that we are in need of knowledge rather than being victimized by it. God laments in Hosea 4:6, My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee. Again in Isaiah 5:13 God

reports, My people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge.

Western Culture has been victimized, not by knowledge, but by lies. The tragedy of America’s landmark slide toward atheistic evolutionary thinking resulted because God’s people were too ignorant to counter the false evidence and thinking of the defense lawyers in the Scopes Trial of 1926. We repeated the catastrophe when we were snowballed by the lies and false reasoning of abortionists in the 1973 Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision. To bring this even closer to home, our “we’ve always done it that way” answers to the questions about Anabaptist life-style practices of holiness will only foster an ignorance that ushers in the destruction that God warned Israel about through Hosea and Isaiah.

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IGO STUDENTS IN CLASSROOM

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IGO TEACHERS - RAYMOND BURKHOLDER & RICK RHODES

When knowledge is misplaced in the God-ordained sequence of II Peter 1:5 so that it is no longer accountable to faith and virtue, it then has tremendous potential to annex subtle lies. That was characteristic of Satan's first temptation in relation to knowledge. He took truth and perniciously blended a lie with it. Adam and Eve failed to exercise faith and virtue in evaluating Satan's offer and died spiritually as a result. The same will happen to us when knowledge is pursued without faith and virtue. Sought independently, knowledge puffs us up into wind bags of confusing philosophies.

Conversely, we are called to think well. This calling is established through the fact that we have been given the mind of Christ (I Cor 2:16). I am totally convinced that the best use of the mind will never take us away from the God who created it. It is therefore oxymoronic to assume that anyone is too smart to be Godly. However, Godly thinking doesn't come by default. In fact, it often comes through great struggle. We don't naturally think well. It usually takes a rambunctious confrontation of the Word of God and the issues of life for us to dislodge the lies we have already embraced.

Our pulpits and classrooms need to be places where the mind of Christ is deeply penetrated. His thinking is so incisive, so insightful, so pertinent, so universal, so consistent, and so other-worldly. His ways may go beyond our ability to use our minds, but they will never go contrary to it. Helping the next generation think well is a gift that must be passed on. Again, that gift will not be passed on by default. We must be actively engaged in this "commit to faithful men" command.



### NEW PASTOR FAMILY

It is with sadness that we come to the end of Lee & Joyce Mummau's term with us. Lee and Joyce have blessed IGo immeasurably as they have served us in many aspects throughout the last three years. In March they plan to relocate to Canada to serve in a small church outreach.

We gratefully welcome Gaylord & Celesta Barkman and their children, Cherie, Zachary, Christy, Trevor, Michael and Chloe, as they come to take over the responsibilities of our IGo Christian Fellowship. We are grateful to the Lord for their calling to this ministry and previous experience in church leadership. We covet your prayers for them as they join the ministry here in Chiang Mai.

(II Tim 2:2)

Let us not be guilty of gaps in our teaching like one poet who wrote: "Why are Fire Engines Red? Fire engines have four wheels and eight men.  $4 + 8 = 12$ . 12 inches equals a ruler. A ruler is Queen Elizabeth. Queen Elizabeth sails the seven seas. The seven seas have fish in them. Fish have fins. Finns hate Russians. The Russians are red. Fire engines are always rush'n. Therefore, fire engines are red." These gaps of thinking have some similarity to the evolutionary gaps of post-modern thinking today. They are not present in the teaching and thinking of Jesus. Let us strive to present the concise thinking of Christ in the pulpits and in the classrooms of our churches and schools.

-Val Yoder

## TESTIMONIES FROM IGO ALUMNI

Our time at IGO has been a time of intense personal growth and experiencing God in new ways. We came to understand more fully that we exist to bring glory to God, and we do this when we seek to know him and make him known! For both of us, our highlight was the challenging and motivating classes. We also enjoyed our ministry trips and the chance to experience other cultures. We were a part of the University team on ministry nights, and loved the interaction with students there. One night we were talking with young people who were watching a softball game. While in deep conversation with one young lady, a ball was hit foul and narrowly missed my head. Everyone was talking excitedly, and she translated what she was saying - "you had better go to the temple and thank your god that that ball missed you!" We had the unique and powerful opportunity to share with them about how our God is PRESENT and REAL and POWERFUL! Praise God!

-Derrick and Joanna Martin



IGO STUDENT STUDYING

Almost every part of the IGo experience has stretched me in some way, often quite a bit. Through that I'm learning not to let my fears limit me, but to trust God enough to step out of my comfort zone in doing what He asks of me. The mentoring



### NEW MINISTRIES DIRECTOR AND FAMILY

We joyfully welcome Loren & Dolores Miller and their family (Kelci, Monica, Jerica, Israel and Nichole) who have come to join IGo in order to provide member care and direction to the growing number of staff in the IGo ministries. We are grateful for their willingness to step into this new position and look forward to how God will use them in the coming years.

program especially has helped to answer questions and work through issues I had been dealing with. The ministry nights have given me practical experience in making ministry a part of everyday life, and helped to develop a burden for the lost. The ministry trips have broadened my perspective considerably on what it means to live passionately for Christ, and put a personal face to the many needs and opportunities out there. The classes have helped me to think through various issues, realign my perspective with Scripture, and strengthen my convictions. The people have helped me to open up, loosen up, and enjoy life more. All in all, I feel that I am going home stronger in the faith and with much clearer direction for my life. I thank God for bringing me here and all those here for helping to make it a great experience.

- Leon Hulse

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### TESTIMONIES FROM IGO ALUMNI CONT.

God has blessed and encouraged me in so many ways here at IGo. I am so thankful that He gave me the opportunity to come over to Asia and experience His heart for the world. IGo has provided me with the opportunity to experience God's hand at work among so many different cultures and people. This experience, combined with spending time with others who desire to live godly lives has had a major impact on my world view. Given the privilege to sit in classes to learn about God and His Word, and having the opportunity to spend more time alone with God, has strengthened my faith in more ways than one, and I am so grateful for it. I feel my experience at IGo has laid a stronger foundation for my position in Christ, and it has exposed to me in a new way my

duty as a disciple of Christ. My prayer is that God would use these experiences as a memorial of His faithfulness and working in my life in order to strengthen my faith in the future.  
- Landon Nolt

### MINISTER'S SEMESTER 2013

We are hosting our first Minister's Semester for six weeks in February and March. We are grateful for the enthusiasm and willingness of these students in exposing themselves to ministry in Asia.

**Back Row:** Milton Loewen, Rodney Musser, Glenn Lauver, Stephen Burkholder **Middle Row:** Katherine Loewen, Janelle Musser, Rhonda Lauver, Maria Ranck (nanny) **Front Row:** Cammy, Rashonda and Brooke Lauver



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