

# Oak Grove Church of Christ

(502) 749-9209

## Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship: 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship: 6:00 PM

## Wednesday

Bible Class: 7:30 PM

**Evangelist:** Bruce J. Dehut

*Home Bible Studies Available  
Upon Request*

Oak Grove church of Christ  
9203 Thixton Lane  
Louisville, KY 40291



## OAK GROVE ENCOURAGER

**"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works" Hebrews 10:24**

*JANUARY 15, 2006*

### The Story Behind The Song

Periodically this publication will share the background of a few of the hymns that we sing. Often times understanding the lyricist's history or the circumstances that inspired them may provide for us a deeper level of appreciation as we are *"teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Col 3:16)*.

### A.W. Dicus "Our God--He Is Alive" by Bert Thompson, Ph.D.

I suspect that many Christians—whether young or old—know quite well the beautiful

and stirring hymn, "Our God—He is Alive," by A.W. Dicus. And I suspect that most of those same people know the beautiful and stirring refrain with which the song begins: "There is, beyond the azure blue, a God, concealed from human sight. He tinted skies with heav'nly hue, and framed the worlds with His great might."

But while the hymn itself is well known to most of us, sadly, its famous author is not. Aaron Wesley Dicus was born on May 30, 1888 in Festus, Missouri. When he was just a small child, his family moved to Swayzee, Indiana, where he was reared and later graduated from high school. In that same small, north central Indiana town, he met and married his first wife, Bertha Jane, in 1908—the same year he was baptized. It was that year, on the occasion of his baptism, that he made a vow: "If the Lord will allow me to get an education," he said, "I will use it in service to Him." The Lord would indeed allow him to obtain an education. And he would spend the rest of his life remaining true to that vow.

In fact, it was shortly after his baptism that he began to prepare himself to preach and to obtain the education he wanted so badly. He started his teaching career in a one-room rural schoolhouse, but left that position to become an inventor. I suspect that few people, in or out of the church, are aware of the fact that A.W. Dicus is the man who, shortly prior to the Great Depression, invented the automobile turn signal!

He began preaching full time for the church in Bloomington, Indiana, and around 1925 was offered a student instructor scholarship at the University of Indiana, which helped pay for some of his school expenses. He

continued to preach whenever possible, in order to help pay for things the scholarship did not cover. Eventually, even though he had to drop out of college on more than one occasion to earn money to continue his schooling, he graduated with B. S., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees. In 1929, he was offered the job of chairman of the department of physics at Tennessee Tech in Cookeville, Tennessee—a position he held for a number of years. In the mid-1940s, Dr. Dicus became heavily involved in training graduates for nuclear studies in connection with the Oak Ridge National Laboratories. One of his former students, atomic scientist Ray Kinslow, was hired to work at Oak Ridge, and later observed that A.W. Dicus "probably had more of his students at Oak Ridge than any other physics professor. I was one of those. After doing atomic research at Columbia University in New York, I came to Oak Ridge and hired probably more than half of his former students there, including one of his sons."

Even though he could have stayed on for many more years at Tennessee Tech, he chose to leave his prestigious position at the University and move to Temple Terrace, Florida, to become academic dean of Florida College, where he worked until his retirement in 1954. [His first wife, Bertha Jane, had died, and in 1953 he married a sweet Christian lady by the name of Flora, who was instrumental in

encouraging him in his song writing.] Due in large part to his reputation and untiring efforts, Florida College was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

During his retirement, Dr. Dicus remained active in the Lord's work, preaching full time for congregations in Winter Haven and Miami, Florida. He also wrote three books: Sermon Outlines, A Commentary on Hebrews and Romans, and Church Leadership. In addition, he wrote more than thirty-five songs, among which was "Our God—He is Alive." Eventually, his health began to fail and he was afflicted with cataracts and glaucoma, which left him almost completely blind. Even then, however, he continued to compose songs, including the beautiful, "Lord, I Believe." Dr. Dicus died on September 2, 1978 in Tampa, Florida. Although he long ago quit these earthly walks, it truly may be said of A.W. Dicus that he, "being dead, yet speaketh" (Hebrews 11:4). As a result of his dogged determination to remain true to his vow to use his hard-earned education (and considerable speaking and song-writing talents) for the Lord, even today he reminds us—each and every time we sing the song he composed— of the fact that

OUR GOD—HE IS ALIVE!

## Do We Need Another Testament?

Some religious groups today would have you believe that God's scheme of redemption for mankind was not fully revealed during the first century. The world's largest denomination claims that the tenants for God's people are constantly in a state of fluctuation depending on the dictates of the "church." Other self proclaimed prophets of God claim modern day revelations, so the standard of righteousness is based upon one person's morals and ideals. The final consideration in this article is a book published in 1830 professing to be "Another testament of Jesus Christ." The question I pose is this, do people require further direct spiritual guidance or is the Bible sufficient for an individual to comprehend the plan of eternal salvation?

The author of the book of Hebrews begins by briefly stating how God chose to communicate to humanity. *Hebrews 1:1-2a God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son.* During the brief earthly ministry of Jesus Christ, twelve men accompanied Him for a period of three years hanging on every word, yet they themselves did not fully understand the will of God. Christ promised aid in regards to the apostles understanding after His departure. *John 16:12-13a "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them*

*now. "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth.* The giving of the Holy Spirit transpired on the day of Pentecost and was initially manifested in the apostle's ability to speak in foreign tongues (*Acts 2:1-13*). The work of the Spirit included moving these men to speak the things of God (*2 Peter 1:20-21*) and endowing them with the ability to perform signs and wonders as confirmation (*Hebrews 2:3-4*).

The Hidden wisdom of God has been revealed through His Spirit (*1 Corinthians 2:10*) and has been delivered once for all (*Jude 1:3*). The all sufficiency of the Bible is clearly conveyed by the apostle Paul in *2 Timothy 3:16-17, All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.* Any person presuming the rightfulness of going beyond the Spirit inspired word of God will suffer the Lord's wrath. *Galatians 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.* God, through *His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3)* and we are not to alter it in any fashion (*Deuteronomy 4:2 & Revelation 22:18-19*).

- Bruce Dehut

## THE LORD'S DAY PRIVILEGE LIST

### Sunday Morning Sevice

Announcements: J.O. Smith

Song Leader: Jim Covington

Opening Prayer: Brian Shepherd

Lord's Table: Arvil Young  
Jim Phelps  
Randall Alford  
Randall Hood

Scripture Reading: Mark Sharp

Sermon: Bruce Dehut

Closing Prayer: Bill Milliner

### Sunday Evening Service

Announcements: J.O. Smith

Song Leader: Jim Covington

Opening Prayer: Larry Runner

Sermon: Bruce Dehut

Lord's Table: Arvil Young

Closing Prayer: J.R. Stout