Ministering to Our Pastors

NBC—Preparing Future Pastors
Kansas City will be the site of the U.S.A. Church of the Nazarene's celebration of the changing of the century and the millennium. We invite our laity along with our pastors to join us in recognizing the advent of the third millennium and the 21st century. We have invited several of the most notable Christian communicators to speak to us about the challenges and opportunities at this momentous event in time. The Board of General Superintendents will be addressing the issues of identity and purpose in the coming century. We urge Nazarenes throughout the U.S.A. to join us in Kansas City, February 15-17, 1999, for this once-in-a-lifetime celebration. We also implore all our members to pray for divine blessing on this important gathering of the church.

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One of the great treasures of the Church of the Nazarene is the committed men and women who have answered God’s call to serve as pastors. Their faithful proclamation of the Good News is used of God to draw persons of all ages to experiences of full and free salvation. Their sacrificial, ever-constant modeling of gracious service echoes the words of the apostle Paul, “Follow me as I follow Christ” (see 1 Corinthians 11:1). They rejoice with those who rejoice, mourn with those who mourn, and live the sacramental life of Christ’s servanthood before us. God’s call to this work—and their obedience to that call—is a cherished gift to the church.

In a spirit of gratitude and celebration for the collective obedience of these faithful servants, and in recognition of our responsibilities to steward properly all gifts God gives us, the Board of General Superintendents calls upon each local congregation to review its amount and means of pastoral support. The matter of sufficient levels of support and compensation of our ministers remains a primary concern of our denomination. With the increasing financial demands in all areas of ministry, let us not require of our pastors a disproportionate share of sacrifice for the work of the church by being negligent in our support of them.

Specifically, each congregation should:

- Reimburse all professional and business expenses incurred by the pastor in doing the work of pastoral ministry. These expenses are not to be considered compensation but are to be recognized as local church operational costs.
- Make provision for appropriate housing, with due consideration for the pastor’s needs for housing in retirement. A pastor who lives in church-owned housing should be compensated for any forfeiture of personal equity in some appropriate way.
- Purchase a benefit package that protects the parsonage family and the local church against financial loss in the event of a pastor’s illness, disability, or premature death.
- Provide a salary that, as nearly as possible, recognizes the value of the work being performed by the pastor, and review that salary on a regular schedule.

The message of Scripture is clear—those who serve are to be cared for by those whom they serve (1 Corinthians 9:7-9, 14; 1 Timothy 5:17-18). God will bless a congregation that gives generous support to those who serve. Our prayer is that each church and pastor will experience a revival of mutual encouragement as attention is given to the faithful stewardship of this great gift God has given the Church of the Nazarene—its pastors.

John A. Knight
James H. Diehl
Jerry D. Porter
William J. Prince
Paul G. Cunningham
Jim L. Bond
What’s the Real Need?

by James H. Diehl

Our men had a friend whose legs were paralyzed. He couldn't take a single step. He needed a miracle. He needed someone who had power over frozen legs to get them working again. He had a need.

These four friends heard that “a miracle man” was coming to their town of Capernaum. The man’s name was Jesus. His reputation already had been established—that He could heal any disease, cure any infirmity, cast out any demon, perform any miracle. No doubt about it, these four friends were going to carry their paralyzed pal on his cot to the house where Jesus would be. This paralyzed friend would be healed!

When the men arrived at the house where Jesus was preaching, the situation was totally different than anticipated—people, people everywhere. In every room of the house, outside the doors and beyond, crowding around each window. Nothing but people. Now what would you do?

These men were determined, creative, focused. They were willing to try something new. One left to find a ladder. Another left to find four ropes. The other two eyed the flat roof, calculating how they would get their friend up there without breaking his neck. Finally, to the roof they went. Tiles were torn apart. An opening approximately six feet long and three feet wide was created. Ropes were tied to the four corners of the cot. Down through that hole in the roof went the bed with the man lying on it. He was positioned directly in front of Jesus himself. The plan worked!

Can you believe what happened next? After all of that (and probably more), Jesus didn’t respond to the obvious need of paralyzed legs. The Master said, “Son, your sins are forgiven” (Mark 2:5, NIV). Your what?! Your sins? Those four men didn’t do all they did to hear Jesus say something about sins. They did it all to see their friend’s legs healed. Jesus missed the whole point!

The men went for the temporal; Jesus went for the eternal. They went for the physical; Jesus went for the spiritual. They went for the external; Jesus went for the internal. They went for legs; Jesus went for heart. In other words, Jesus went for the real need.

That is the question I place before you today. What is the real need? What is it for you? What is it at the church you attend? What is it in our entire global Nazarene denomination?

Most of us think in terms of “legs that don’t work.” Most of our minds focus on the temporal, the physical, the external. The need for more Sunday School classroom space. One church van that will work. A youth worker. More parking space. Just two committed people who will volunteer to do what needs to be done. A little more money in this church. That’s it! Just a little more money in the offering.

These needs consume most of our prayer time. Much of our board meeting agenda is focused on such needs. That’s where our attention is. When you have legs that don’t work, it’s hard to think about anything else.

But what would Jesus say? If we would get ropes and a ladder, tear up the roof, and place these needs before Jesus, what would be His response? I have a growing conviction that Jesus himself would say to every one of us, “Your real need is revival!” There is no doubt Jesus would go for the eternal, the spiritual, the internal, the heart.

Revival. What do you mean, revival? Is that something that lasts five days? Why would that be the real need? Without using textbook definitions, could I give you my definition of revival? Revival is a renewed enthusiasm for spiritual things. It’s a thrill at digging out the Word of God. It’s a burning to tell our friends about Christ. It’s a romance in our heart with Jesus. It’s a body of believers that prays and loves enough that differences melt away. That’s revival!

Revival is our real need today as Nazarenes. Not so much buildings, vehicles, volunteers, or money. It’s revival. It’s renewed spiritual awareness, renewed godly enthusiasm, renewed romance with the Word, renewed passion to win the lost, renewed determination to live with our fellow Christians in harmony and oneness instead of tension and suspicion.

Can you believe the end of this Mark chapter 2 story? Jesus also healed the man’s legs before it was over. He just did first things first. It always works that way. If we will put first things first, do whatever it takes to break through the barriers to spiritual revival, pray for the same things Jesus prayed for, God will answer our plea for both revival and the temporal things that are so urgently needed. In God’s system of things, when we focus on the real need, He also takes care of those dozens of lesser needs. This same Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

My Nazarene brothers and sisters, let’s focus in on the real need!
Ministering to Our Pastors

by Chip Ricks

Don’t be surprised if your pastor turns in a resignation. Even now he or she may be considering an interesting job offer from the business world at double pay for half the hours. Lest you think your pastor would never consider such a move, Dr. James Dobson, president of Focus on the Family, confirms that 40 percent of the church’s leaders are indeed thinking about bailing out.1 There was a time when a pastor was a pastor for life. No more. George Barna reports that during the past two decades, the average tenure of senior pastors has dropped to about four years.2

While our pastors have been ministering to us in vital ways, it seems evident that we have failed in our ministry to them. But before we, as laypeople, can engage in effective ministry to our pastors, we must understand some of their problems. Why are pastors so discouraged? What are their deepest concerns and needs? A survey of pastors conducted by the Fuller Institute of Church Growth in 1991 indicated the following concerns:

- 90 percent of pastors work more than 46 hours a week.
- 80 percent believe that their ministry negatively affects their families.
- 70 percent have a lower self-esteem now than when they started.
- 70 percent do not have someone they consider a close friend.
- 40 percent have a serious conflict with a parishioner at least once a month.

When we look at what we expect of our pastors, we can add to the list. We place our pastors on pedestals and want to be sure that they never fall off. We expect them to be available to us at all times, to preach sermons that deeply touch us, to grow our church numerically, to keep pace with the latest trends in church life, to represent the church in the community, and to take care of the business of the church in a professional manner. In addition, we want them to grow spiritually, to be dedicated men and women of prayer, and to demonstrate what it means to be the head of a strong Christian family. No wonder our pastors are frustrated!

To find ways in which laypersons can help solve the problems of our pastors and change the trend that is fast developing in church leadership, I solicited the help of pastors across the U.S. All were married, and two were military chaplains. They were asked to explain their three greatest needs and to give specific ways in which individuals in their congregations could minister to those needs. The pastoral needs listed fall under three categories: spiritual growth, relationship with believers, and family needs.

**Spiritual Growth**

Every pastor surveyed listed the need for spiritual growth. “If I’m not growing in Christ, I will have nothing to give my people,” one pastor wrote. “I need to know that the congregation values study time for me.” Another suggested that a pastor needs a month each year for study—and that this should not be counted as vacation time. Several pastors expressed the hope that every five to seven years they would be granted a three- or four-month sabbatical leave for more study, prayer, and refreshment.

A pastor in North Carolina wrote “Looking back after 25 years as a minister, I am convinced now more than ever that prayer is the central issue—and deep prayer requires large chunks of time. The church must grant special time for the pastor to spend in prayer.”

Not having enough time to spend in God’s Word and in quiet time with Him is a concern of most pastors. Since their days are long and demands for their time are continuous, this daily time with the Lord can easily be neglected. One pastor wrote that he tried to solve this problem by using an answering machine to take his calls for an hour each morning.

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"The church must grant special time for the pastor to spend in prayer."
"But," he said, "I was criticized for not being available when some member in my congregation needed to talk."

There are a number of ways in which laypersons can help pastors grow spiritually:

- Conferences and seminars designed especially for those in church leadership. Ask your pastor which ones would be helpful, and see that funds are available for him or her to attend. Then ask what you can do to help with the ministry tasks while the pastor is away.
- Miniretreats. Our church is fortunate in having a retreat center nearby where our pastor can get away at least once a month for a 24-hour retreat. "I always come home refreshed and renewed," he said recently. If there is no retreat center near, perhaps a member of your congregation has a vacation cabin or home that could be made available. Or rent a hotel room.
- Books and tapes. You may be aware of the ones your pastor needs, but it is especially helpful when the church provides the pastor with adequate professional expense funds for this purpose.
- Encouragement. Remember to encourage the one who so often encourages you. One pastor said his spirit is often lifted by a man who asks him, "What are you learning? How are you doing spiritually?" Then the pastor indicated that the layman listens closely to what he has to say.

One pastor expressed the problem well: "If we don't grow, we die." And if our pastor is not being fed spiritually, he or she will have little to feed us, the flock.

Relationship with Believers

Pastors are deeply concerned about relationships with their congregations. Few ministers have close friends, yet there are times when pastors need a listening ear, someone they can trust with a confidence. A minister in Lompoc, California, recalled a time when he shared some of his deep frustration and weariness with a layman. "I wanted to quit the ministry," he said, "or move on to another church. . . . Lack of vision and lack of willingness to change had worn me out. This layman encouraged me to stay with the church and talked about ways he could help me. As I look back, this was a critical moment in my ministry."

How can laypeople improve their relationship with the pastor?
- Include the pastor and spouse in small groups and activities. Involve them in your parties, game nights, potlucks, and picnics. Invite them to sports events and restaurant outings. One minister in San Diego and his wife were part of our Thursday night small group when he pastored in our town. Our 10-member group was close-knit. We knew we could trust each other with our problems and depend on the others to pray for us all during the week. That pastor and his mate have often expressed how much being a part of our group meant to them.
- Lower expectations. A pastor in Atascadero, California, wrote: "Lower your expectations. Pastors are imperfect people too. We can't please everybody. It is hard because we want so much to please. Laypeople must understand that they are the ministers and pastors are the ad-ministers. Love us. We just need to know that we are loved." Another pastor agreed and told how he was hurt when he was unable to be the business manager that the congregation expected him to be. "I fear that most churches hire a pastor to be CEO of an ecclesiastical business. Laypeople need to find ways to run the administrative machinery of the church, freeing the pastor for prayer, pastoring, and preaching."
Be time sensitive in sharing information. How many of us have shared a problem, a deep concern, a hurtful bit of news with our pastor just prior to worship—a time when nothing could be done about it or when the pastor is focused on worship? Or, have we ever issued an invitation complete with date and time as we were shaking the pastor’s hand at the door on the way out? These important bits of information are much more helpful when given privately—if we want to be sure they are remembered!

Find ways to comfort and encourage pastors. Send them cards and short notes telling them specifically how you have benefited from their messages. They appreciate our concern when we occasionally ask if they have all they need to do their job—finances, staff, equipment, resources. And they are especially grateful when we offer to help meet those needs.

Family Needs

The pastors’ survey by the Fuller Institute of Church Growth in 1991 showed that 85 percent of pastors spend two or fewer evenings per week at home with their families. And these hours can often be interrupted by phone calls or people who just drop by for a short chat. Yet, these rare hours that a pastor has with his family each week are vital to personal well-being. One pastor wrote that finding adequate time for his family was his number-one concern. He felt that the church family should recognize this need, respect it, and encourage it.

How can we do this? Consider these ideas:

- Make recreational facilities available to the pastoral family. A pastor wrote, “I was canoeing on a lake and stopped at the camp of a family in our church. It was a holiday. They invited my family and me to stay with them in their cabin and to enjoy a cookout, boating, and great family fun. I could not have personally afforded this.”

- Remember your pastor with a gift of a special vacation. Just be sure you have checked all the details before presenting the package. One pastor told about a trip to Hawaii that his congregation gave to his family. They were excited! But when they arrived, they discovered their reservations were in a cheap hotel with a bad reputation—unacceptable for any family. The “gift” vacation cost him almost a thousand dollars after he paid to upgrade the hotel, rent a car, and pay for food. He commented, “This vacation really set us back financially.”

- Give attention to the pastor’s children. Sometimes it is hard for kids to adjust to a new place and to make new friends. Laypersons can help by including PKs with their own children on trips to the zoo, a weekend vacation, or an evening of cooking hamburgers and playing games. This also allows the pastor and spouse to have some all-alone time together.

A pastor in California still remembers a senior couple who served as adopted grandparents to his children. “They spent quality time with them, loved them,” the pastor wrote. “They became Grandma and Grandpa. They never forgot our kids’ birthdays, and they helped with special celebrations. Their thoughtfulness was a wonderful gift to us and to our kids.”

Let’s not forget that while our pastors are our shepherds, they are also sheep who need to be fed and lovingly cared for.

language of “person-in-community.” Mark’s article is superlative as it helps us begin to see how our personhood and our community of faith (Church) are interdependent and not dichotomous entities. Hopefully this view will move us beyond the language of individualism, institutions, volunteerism, and contractual relationships. Biblical language seems to talk more about communities, covenants, family relationships, and even “bodies” (organic entities). . . .

I particularly appreciated the way Mark moved through the article since it ultimately places community in a positive light as the place of nurture, confidence (or Mark’s word “courage”), and hope. . . . Mark’s article provided a great service, pointing to a rich and necessary resource for a reader of the Herald — A Letter from Home

Dean G. Blevins, Nashville

The Herald — A Letter from Home

For over 60 years I have been a reader of the Herald of Holiness. It has been like a “letter from home” all my adult life. The August 1998 issue came yesterday. The artwork and layout are exceptionally well done. The concept of back-to-back periodicals preceding Holiness Today is brilliant. The articles and information are first-class. Thanks, and congratulations!

Reeferd L. Chaney, Richmond, Va.

Non-Nazarene Appreciates Herald

I have been receiving the Herald for over a year now, and I think it’s time I wrote to tell you what I think of the magazine. (It’s not bad.) I am not a Nazarene, although some of my beliefs lean toward it. I have occasionally attended the Norway Church and found the pastor and the congregation very friendly. Anyone and everyone was made to feel welcomed.

I find your magazine very interesting and helpful. For those of us who aren’t Nazarenes, it helps us to understand our brothers and sisters in Christ and what they believe. I even pass my issue to others in my church where I attend. Keep up the good work.

Joe Gilpatric II, Oxford, Maine

October 1998

When Nightmares Come True

MARLO M. SCHALESKY

I woke with a surge of fear. O God, my baby! The words shot through me as I sought to distinguish reality from the image of a miscarriage still vivid in my mind.

I let out a long breath. It wasn’t real, I told myself. It was just a dream.

I lay back and stared at the ceiling fan whirling slowly through the darkness. Surely God wouldn’t allow anything to happen to this baby. After all, we had been trying to get pregnant for almost three years.

Later that day, I went about my business, forgetting the dream. Then, it happened. The nightmare. I started to bleed.

Cold terror gripped me as I rushed to the doctor’s office.

Within minutes I was ushered into a small examination room. “We’ll need to do an ultrasound, to see if . . . ” The doctor didn’t finish her sentence. She didn’t need to. I knew.

As she moved the probe, I saw nothing on the screen but gray fuzz. She shut off the machine. “I’m sorry. It’s too late.”

My nightmare had come true.

When we reached home, a dozen reminders of my loss assaulted me—a congratulations card on my desk, a baby name book on the coffee table, a bag of maternity clothes on the stairs.

For a long time, I sat on the couch and stared at nothing. “O God,” I whispered, and could get no further.

Finally, in the midst of my grief and hopelessness, a single scripture spoke in my mind: “The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised” (Job 1:21, NIV).

Tears came like a rumbling river.

Shaking, I rose and went to get my husband’s guitar. As I came back, I handed him the instrument. “Play for me,” I whispered. “Not something about me, something about God.”

Without a word, he took the guitar and began to play “Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father . . .”

With a shuddering breath, I squeezed my eyes shut and pushed the words past the lump in my throat.

“Thy compassions, they fail not . . .”

As I sang, my eyes lifted until, through my tears, I saw the cross that sits on our television. God understands the pain of losing a child, I thought. His Son died on the Cross.

Another verse from Job came to me: “Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?” (2:10, NIV).

If I claimed God was good when things were going well, then I needed to be able to say the same thing when times were terrible. I didn’t want to be a fair-weather Christian.

Then, I began to sing again, my voice growing stronger despite the pain, despite the loss, despite the tears that still flowed unhindered down my cheeks. Suddenly, I needed to proclaim that God was good, loving, just, and holy. He was still worthy of all my praise—even in the midst of a nightmare-come-true.
The years teach lessons the days cannot know. Or at least so Emerson and my own reflective heart remind me. “Too soon old, too late smart” may be a cliché, but it is also a profound reality that begs to be reversed.

Every pastor I know aspired to be a good shepherd, but pastors are vessels of clay, vulnerable to all of the temptations, infirmities, and failures of every other person. Still, our culture today is desperately in search of heroes. If the culture has a claim to find heroes anywhere, it certainly deserves to find them among its clergy. It was Oliver Goldsmith who wrote: “No wonder that iron should rot if gold should rust.”

None of the pastors I know would consider themselves heroes. Rather, most of them know they have discovered the real gold—their laity. My ministry years unreel a video kaleidoscope of memories. Unquestionably the main characters in that video are the great laypersons of our congregations. They are my Hebrews 11 Hall of Famers.

What I am—my worth and value to the Kingdom—owes so much to the godly men and women who loved me, prayed for me, and forgave my blunders and failures. They joyfully abandoned themselves to the “building of the wall” with their pastor. No fool’s gold there. Here are just a few of the memories tucked inside my reflective heart.

**Faithfulness**

We could count on them. They were there as often as we were. I can still see them, even in their late 70s, willing to learn better how to share their faith. (And, I wonder, did they do this with every new pastor?) And there they are again, standing precariously on ladders, painting a dingy classroom. Or I see them on a cold winter morning, trudging through the snow to fill a Sunday School bus. I’ve never been able to shake that last image.

Well, you get the idea. One dare not evaluate a member’s Christianity on these things alone, but I shudder to think what our ministry would have been like without a few such faithful people in every church.
Intercession

His face was ruddy, textured by the sun and winds of the Plains. This sturdy farmer of Russian ancestry had survived the Dust Bowl and many other hardships, but he loved the land. He loved his Lord best of all, and he loved to pray, especially with his pastor.

He rarely missed those Friday noon prayer and fasting times, despite the round trip of 35 miles. And if he did miss it, I knew it was harvesttime, and that during this hour, his tractor would stand a silent sentinel in the field.

Peering intently across those golden heads of grain capped with shimmering beads of bright Kansas sunlight, one might even be able to detect the silhouette of a kneeling man beside that tractor. It is no mirage.

Concern for Excellence in Ministry

She was knowledgeable and efficient. She was prompt and reliable. She was kind to all and pleasant to work with. She was appropriate in dress, conduct, and ethics. She was confidential. She was sacrificial. She was loyal to her church, her pastor, and her Lord. Can anyone ask more of a pastor’s secretary?

It was a busy Sunday morning. As I walked through the Sunday School classrooms, I paused to thank God for a teacher who not only prepared her lesson but also prepared her classroom attractively. I knew that one who cared that much would also prepare her heart through prayer.

As I stepped behind the pulpit, I saw a note. It read simply: “Fresh water, 2-4-90. Praying for you, Pastor.” Such a little thing, but it spoke volumes. How invaluable—this knowing that it is all the little things done right that make a ministry effective.

Expressions of Appreciation

He pulled his pickup close to the parsonage door. As I stepped out to meet him, he rolled the window down, and with a boyish grin and a soft-spoken voice, he said, “Pastor, my wife and I want you and your family to come for dinner Sunday.” I gratefully and eagerly accepted the invitation, and we chatted briefly. Then, before he drove away, he drawled, “By the way, Pastor, we have a half a beef we want to give you if you can find room for it.” We did.

A familiar sonnet asks, “How do I love thee? Let me count the ways” (Elizabeth Barrett Browning). Well, I don’t think we could count the times we opened the door and our “grandmotherly member” was standing there with a freshly baked apple pie for the parsonage family. What a delicious way to show love and appreciation for the pastor’s family.

For pastors, Sunday sermons keep coming like boxcars on an endless freight train. It’s hard work building sermons, but a little appreciation creates miraculous, weekly sermon-building energy.

He was big and strong and the outdoors type, yet tender enough to give me a hug each Sunday and say, “That was a great message, Pastor.” Will he remember those sermons? I doubt it, but I will always remember his appreciation and affirmation.

Attentiveness to Financial Needs

I had left a modest but secure teaching income to enter the ministry. We quickly exhausted what little savings we had and wondered what the future held for a family with two teenagers and a younger child. But it took only a few board meetings to realize that the pastor and his family had advocates who were determined to provide for not only our needs but also our comforts.

And this was the first, but not the last, church to furnish us with a new vehicle when our older ones gave out. Did we feel “loved and cared for” standing in front of our church, receiving the keys to a beautiful yellow and white Apollo Buick? How blessed is the pastor who has such a caring congregation.

How often, when in the fiery furnace of ministry trials, has the “form of the fourth” appeared in the friendship of a good and faithful layperson. I salute not only the laypersons of my own past congregations but also the multitude of selfless, sacrificing, loving, and load-bearing laypersons who make up the Bride of Christ everywhere.

Your medals have been too scarce, your honors too few, and your recognition too meager. You have been building not only the Kingdom but also great pastors—pastors who will never forget you, pastors who may very well line up behind you when the heavenly rewards are passed out.

Q Isn’t starting new churches too expensive? Aren’t there more cost-effective ways to win people to Christ?

A Actually, the Church of the Nazarene cannot afford NOT to start new churches. Because churches are closed each year, if we were not starting new churches from year to year, the day would come when there would be far too few churches to drive an international mission effort that is at the heart of our existence.

In terms of actual costs, the reality is that churches that are started the right way become self-supporting churches very quickly. That means new churches produce income rather than deplete it.

Yes, there are significant up-front dollars that are necessary to start a new church, but if reaching people for Christ is the most important measure of our effectiveness, then this is truly a wise investment. Because new churches are most effective at reaching and winning the lost to Christ.

Bottom line: Postponing starting a new church until there is sufficient money for the project is similar to postponing a marriage indefinitely until the couple can afford it.
John Short, A. B. Riggs, and H. N. Brown were dubbed the “Three Wise Men from the East” by early Nazarenes. The men were New England pastors with prominent roles in the Holiness Movement along America’s Eastern seaboard. They earned the nickname by crossing America in 1906 to explore a merger between their own Association of Pentecostal Churches of America and Bresee’s Church of the Nazarene on the opposite coast. The visit was fruitful. Bresee journeyed east the next year, and plans were laid for the First General Assembly of a new denomination that united Holiness churches on both coasts.

The “wise men” had significant New England Holiness ministries, and John Short’s was in historic Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he enjoyed a distinguished 28-year pastorate near Harvard University.

Short was born in rural Massachusetts in 1841 to immigrant parents from Scotland and Ireland. Converted at age 12, he felt called to preach 6 years later. He tested this call by ministering for 2 years in the Troy Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Satisfied the call was genuine, Short entered Boston University School of Theology to prepare more thoroughly for his lifetime of ministry.

He entered the New England Conference upon graduating, and Bishop Wiley ordained him an elder in 1873. A string of Methodist pastorates followed, including those in Reading, Stoneham, East Cambridge, Lowell, and Beverly.

Short became active in the Holiness Movement. At Asbury Grove Camp near Hamilton, Massachusetts, he professed the grace of entire sanctification under Alfred Cookman’s preaching. Short eventually assumed responsibility for Asbury Grove Holiness Camp and took a significant role in the Douglas Camp Meeting, one of the better-known and better-attended Eastern Holiness camps, which he served for many years as vice president. Short’s contributions to the Holiness cause are well documented in the Christian Witness, the paper of the National Holiness Association, published in nearby Boston.

These activities gradually drew Short away from the M. E. Church. In 1894 he transferred to the Evangelical Association, a German Methodist denomination with a stronger commitment to Christian perfection. But Short had grown tired of the Methodist itinerant system, whereby bishops appoint pastors to churches and move them on a regular basis. He made another change in 1900 into the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America, a Holiness denomination with a congregational government. Here he found the congenial company of William Howard Hoople, H. F. Reynolds, Susan Fitkin, and many others.

Short’s ministry in Cambridge began in 1894 as a home mission project of the Evangelical Association. His decision to leave the Evangelical Association led to an unfortunate split in the congregation, for many of its members wanted to follow Short and continue under his pastoral guidance. Short organized them into the Cambridge Pentecostal Church, and they worshiped in a rented hall for several years. In 1914 they erected a new building just off Cambridge’s central square, where the Cambridge Church of the Nazarene still worships today.

Intensely pietistic but also intellectual, Short led the congregation until his death in 1922. He was regarded by his peers as one of the finest preachers in the Nazarene movement.
Vocation

Rob L. Staples has made a career of teaching the Christian faith as a pastor and as a professor at Southern Nazarene University and Nazarene Theological Seminary.

I once read the testimony of a Christian businessman who said: “I own a shoe store, but my real business is outside the store, being a witness for Jesus Christ wherever I go.” It made me wonder what kind of witnessing he did inside the store—not merely in talking to customers about Jesus, but in making sure they got good merchandise for a fair price. It seemed to me he had compartmentalized his life into two segments, one secular and one sacred.

Several years ago there was a British-produced public television series called Upstairs, Downstairs. It depicted life in the older mansions owned by the gentility of an earlier age. The living area, dining room, library, and drawing room were “upstairs,” and the servants’ quarters, basement, kitchen, and cellar were “downstairs.” Those who lived upstairs were higher on the social and economic scale than those who worked downstairs.

This contrast gives us a rough analogy of the differing conceptions of the religious life as held by medieval Catholicism and by the Protestant Reformation. The former made a distinction between the sacred (the upstairs) and the secular (the downstairs). The highest ideal of the sacred life was to become a monk, shutting out the world, giving oneself to prayer and meditation. This was the pure religious calling, more pleasing to God than any secular alternative.

But not everyone had the temperament for this, so there was a second way for one to be a Christian. This was to remain in the secular sphere in some “worldly” occupation. Those who did not have the aptitude for the “upstairs” life could live an acceptable life “downstairs” as a butcher, baker, or candlestick maker. Those in such secular callings depended on the religious folks “upstairs” to pray them into heaven.

In the 16th century, the Protestant Reformation sought to erase such a distinction. Luther contended that the shoemaker working at his cobbler’s bench was doing the work of God as surely as the priest serving Communion at the altar. The Reformers declared that there is one common level—the ground level—at which we receive the redeeming grace of God. “God is no respecter of persons” (Acts 10:34; see Romans 2:11). The monk in the monastery or the nun in the convent has no spiritual advantage over the believing peasant working the soil or the pious mother in the home. It is the New Testament witness that we must overcome the world, not by escaping from it. Instead, we must overcome the world by living in it precisely where divine providence has placed us.

When Paul admonished Christians to “lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called” (Ephesians 4:1, NRSV), he was not speaking primarily of tent making or fish mongering or cloth weaving. He was speaking of a lifestyle that must characterize the Christian in all that the Christian does.

It is unfortunate that the word vocation, or calling, has come to refer merely to the way one earns a living, what one does when not on vacation. Originally it meant the calling of a Christian to be a Christian. It meant a vocation from which there is no vacation. Today if one is asked, “What is your vocation?” the likely reply will be: doctor, nurse, farmer, lawyer, or teacher, to name a few examples. One might not immediately think to say, “I am a witness for Christ.” Yet, for Christians who take their primary vocation seriously, that is precisely the correct answer.

It is true that the world at the threshold of the 21st century is far more complex than the world of Luther. In the interrelatedness of our technological age, it may be difficult to discern if we are serving God through our work—at least more difficult than it was for Luther and the shoemaker at his cobbler’s bench. Some occupations today would be hard to qualify as God’s work.

Originally, vocation meant the calling of a Christian to be a Christian.

But if what we do for a living contributes to the betterment of humanity, rather than to its detriment, and if we give an honest day’s work for the wages we earn, or sell a product at a fair price, and refuse to take advantage of anyone, then we can be sure that our secular work is a sacred Christian witness. Of course, we are supposed to witness with the mouth also, but our words will count for naught if they are undercut by our work.
Nazarenes Participate in the Challenge 2000 Alliance

Nazarene Youth International (NYI) Ministries announced its partnership with the Challenge 2000 Alliance in encouraging local churches to commission their youth as campus missionaries, a plan that has the support of the Board of General Superintendents.

September 13 was “Challenge 2000 Sunday” in the Church of the Nazarene to acquaint people with the alliance’s goals and for pastors to commission their youth as campus missionaries.

The Challenge 2000 Alliance was formed in recent months between leaders of more than 50 denominations and youth organizations. “Specifically, we are praying that God will raise up a ministry of evangelism and discipleship in some form on every middle school, junior high, and senior high campus by the year 2000,” said Fred Fullerton, NYI Ministries director. “The groups involved in this mission have recognized the window of opportunity that now exists to reach a whole new generation with the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

“No one denies the fact that our campuses are mission fields truly ‘ripe unto harvest,’” Fullerton said. “Student missionaries are greatly needed. Certainly adults can support this mission effort, but we firmly believe that the most effective missionaries in these areas will be our students themselves.”

Further information about the Challenge 2000 Alliance may be obtained by contacting NYI Ministries by phone at 816-333-7000 ext. 2215 or by e-mail at <nyi@nazarene.org>.

SNU Plans Centennial Celebration

Southern Nazarene University (SNU), the first Nazarene institution of higher education to reach the century mark, will remember its centennial with three seasons of celebration in 1998-99.

The theme for the first season, November 13-15, 1998, is “Pressing Toward the Mark.” in which heroes of the first 100 years will be honored. The theme for the second season, May 13-16, 1999, will be “Reaching the Mark,” which will highlight the church and spiritual leaders, award recipients, and representative alumni. The theme for the final season of celebration, November 12-14, 1999, is “Marking the Future,” which will feature a black-tie event that shares the SNU message with city and corporate community. The celebration will end with a concert by Larrine Harris and a 100th birthday party.

The Centennial Celebration will start with an “It Is Time” kickoff on November 13, 1998, followed by an “It’s About Time” founder’s chapel. Other events include a Heritage Fair, basketball games, class reunions, dedication of the Sawyer Convocation Center, and speaker Stephen Green.

Between the seasons of celebration, SNU will host a variety of special activities, such as a Robert Hale concert.

For more information, contact the SNU Alumni Office at 405-491-6312.

Harlan Heinmiller Dies

Harlan Heinmiller, 88, former General Board member, died July 24 in Olathe, Kans.

During Heinmiller’s distinguished career, he served as secretary of the Eastern Michigan District Advisory Board, the president of the district NYPS, and as board member of Detroit First Church. He was elected to the General Board in 1952, a position he held for 20 years.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Dorothy. Survivors include Pauline, his wife of 25 years; son, Donald; daughter, Joenne McCoy-Chen; and two stepchildren, Ronald Suroll and Gary Suroll.

R. W. Cunningham Dies

Raymond W. Cunningham Sr., 96, died August 6 at his home in Institute, W.Va., after a long illness.

Cunningham was the retired president of the former Nazarene Bible College in Institute. During his career, he served as director of the Nazarene Bible School, which is housed at South Charleston First Church and is an extension of the Nazarene Bible College in Colorado Springs. Cunningham pastored the Institute Church of the Nazarene for over 20 years. He had also pastored churches in Zanesville and Cleveland, Ohio.

During a memorial service on August 9, Pastor Morton Estep delivered the message and eulogy and General Superintendent James H. Diehl brought reflections and comments.

“We are deeply grateful for his 50 years of ministry as an ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene,” Diehl said. “His godly influence impacted people from the Atlantic to the Pacific and far beyond. He was an example of a preacher, teacher, administrator, husband, father, and friend. In the truest sense of the word, Dr. Cunningham was a churchman.”

Cunningham is survived by his wife, Annette Mona, and two sons, Raymond W. Jr. of Arlington Heights, Ill., and Barry Kendall of San Diego.

T. R. Partee Dies

T. R. Partee, 82, died July 10 in Fullerton, Calif.

Partee, an Advisory Board member on the Southern California District for many years, owned an insurance business in Whittier. In 1958, he helped to found the Nazarene Credit Union.

He is survived by his wife, Evangeline; four children: Richard, Sandra Williams, Carol Hubbard, and Wayne; 10 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.
**Nazarene Family**

The Association of Retired Ministers (ARM) has been organized for the central Oklahoma area. About 90 retired ministers meet for breakfast, fellowship, support, and prayer each Tuesday morning. Sam Stearman and Ralph E. West serve as cochairmen and Art Evans is the secretary. A “phone brigade” contacts each minister weekly.

**NTS Names Harold Frye, Dean of Administration**

Harold F. “Hal” Frye has been appointed dean of administration for Nazarene Theological Seminary (NTS), according to Gordon Wetmore, NTS president. Frye began his responsibilities August 1.

Frye has more than 30 years experience in the fields of progressive senior level health care and medical association management as well as management experience in multiple corporations, Wetmore said, including such positions as executive director of Nazarene Health Care Fellowship, program manager of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, and administrator of the Nazarene hospital in Papua New Guinea.

Frye has also been an adjunct professor at MidAmerica Nazarene University and Colorado Christian University.

Frye and his wife, Jan, live in Olathe, Kans. They have three adult children.

**MVNC Faculty Member Dies**

Tamara Sue (Provanse) Bolender, 39, faculty member at Mount Vernon Nazarene College (MVNC), died August 4 of a possible aneurysm.

Bolender held a B.A. from MVNC and an M.B.A. from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Bolender had been an associate professor of accounting at MVNC for the last 12 years, where she had been recognized three times with the President’s Award for Outstanding Teaching. Bolender was a member of First Church of the Nazarene in Mount Vernon, where she led Bible quizzing teams that won several district competitions.

“Professor Bolender had the unique ability to beautifully combine the responsibilities of wife, mother, and educator,” said LeBron Fairbanks, MVNC president. “Ministry was a lifestyle for her. We will miss her greatly as an esteemed faculty colleague, outstanding Christian, and devoted wife and mother.”

Bolender is survived by her husband, Ronald Keith Bolender, and two sons, Chad and Chase.

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**MK Pitches for Israeli Little League Team**

Reuben Browning, son of Lindell and Kay Browning, missionaries to Israel, was featured on FOX Cable News USA in July when he pitched the Little League Jerusalem all-star team to the Israeli national championships.

The team of 13- to 15-year-olds defeated the Sharon all-stars 19-11, according to Reuben’s father. In addition to pitching, Reuben hit a home run and was named the game’s most valuable player. Earlier in the year, Reuben led the team to a 12-1 season to win the Jerusalem League title.

Reuben was the only Gentile on the team; the remaining players were religious Jewish young men, Lindell Browning said. “It was another neat experience Reuben has had being raised here in Israel.”

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The Surprise of His Truth

JOHN M. SMEE

I don’t even remember her name, but I’ll never forget what she said. It happened at the conclusion of a Nazarene church service. People were streaming out of the house church in a city southeast of Havana, Cuba. The crowd seemed to be everywhere. The people had filled the house, and there were probably as many outside, looking in the windows and doors at the fortunate ones who had arrived early enough to occupy a chair inside. It was hot! As soon as the benediction had been prayed, I had made my way out the back of the house and around to the front of the building. Standing in the dark street, where there was a slight breeze, I could watch the excited crowd. My thoughts were producing a multitude of emotions.

Suddenly, I heard her. “Where’s the big Senor?” she cried out. Pushing her way along, an older lady kept yelling: “Where’s the big Senor?”

I soon realized she was making her way to me, and I began hoping that “big Senor” referred to my height. She stopped calling out as she stood in front of me. She was very small. She looked like someone’s sweet little grandmother. And she had a smile that covered her entire face.

“You,” she said. “I want to tell you something.”

“Oh, of course. What is it that puts that smile on your face and gives you such determination to see me?” I asked.

“I just wanted to tell you that I’ve been a Nazarene for more than 45 years!”

“What?” My mind raced across the time span. Could she be right? Forty-five years? During that time there had been a political revolution, difficult years, silent years, while North Americans had no idea what was actually happening in Cuba—the largest island of the Caribbean. Now she was saying that through all of that, she had been a Nazarene. Could she really be right?

I simply replied: “For 45 years?”

“Yes!” she nearly shouted.

Then she explained. She had been a young mother in her 30s, living in a city some distance from where we now stood.

“A Nazarene missionary lady stopped by my yard and invited me to church. I politely told her no; I wasn’t interested. Yet, every time she passed my house, she called my name, we talked, and we became friends. She always invited me to church services. She was so kind. Her smile was contagious. Eventually I told her I’d go to her church. To my surprise, that very lady was preaching the first service I attended. Soon I became a Christian. Within a few weeks, that same Nazarene missionary prayed with me, and I was sanctified. I became a Nazarene. That was 45 years ago, and I’ve never turned back!” she said with a smile. “Still a Christian and a Nazarene after all these years.”

And she laughed with her hands raised until we all stood there in the darkness. Some laughing. Some singing. As they walked into the night, you could still hear them praising God.

How could you ever forget a moment like that? I was not expecting it, but I should have known. It’s right there in the Scripture. “A man [or woman] reaps what he [or she] sows” (Galatians 6:7, NIV).

Nearly half a century ago, the seed was sown. Even when some of us knew nothing about it. Even when that Nazarene missionary had to leave this beautiful island and continue the remainder of her ministry in South America. Through all of the changes of those years, God’s Word remains true. When the “seed of His Word” is planted, it grows! And it produces “new seeds,” and they grow. This is His Church. This is the Church of which the Scripture says, even the “gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18).

It took a couple of hours to drive back to our hotel. While others in the car were talking, I kept thinking, What am I sowing? In 45 years, what will the seeds of my life have produced?

That night had been a surprise to me. Yet it was really just a beautiful reminder of “His Truth.”
Q. What do you think of the doctrine of holiness as presented in the enclosed clipping? It states: “We now know that the Soul (mind, will, emotions) is . . . the nonmaterial part of the body and is no more cured than a broken leg would be . . . at the point of the sanctifying work.”

A. The author of that statement is a friend of mine. I respect him. His thoughts on sanctification have come out of his struggle to make sense of his own personal, spiritual, and psychological problems. I commend him for “working out his own salvation,” but I am less enthusiastic about his attempts to inflict his notions on the rest of us.

In spite of his “We now know” phrase, no credible Wesleyan-Holiness theologian—or any other Christian theologian that I know of—teaches that sanctifying grace has no more effect upon the soul than on a broken leg.

The notion that entire sanctification (the making holy of the consecrated believer’s heart, renewing it in the image of Christ) has no effect on the mind, will, or emotions is in striking contradiction to Christian experience, Wesleyan-Holiness teachings, Christian theology, and the Scriptures themselves. Holiness instills the mind of Christ, according to John Wesley. It enables the fragmented person to “will one thing—the will of God,” to use Søren Kierkegaard’s terms. Entire sanctification fills the soul with divine love, expelling sin and enabling loving responses in any situation. Holiness is loving God with all the heart, mind, soul, and strength and your neighbor as yourself.

The assertion that the body and its alleged functions (willing, choosing, thinking, feeling) cannot be made holy is gnosticism pure and simple. Gnosticism claims that true holiness can exist only on a higher plane, the spiritual. That’s what the author of the clipping thinks too. The spirit is sanctified, not the soul, which he equates with the body. The Church has rejected this idea in every age.

Note, however, that our brother is trying to address a real problem. He is opposing the idea that all anyone needs to do is “pray through and get sanctified.” Sanctification will cure all emotional, mental, marital, psychological, and spiritual problems, some folks have loudly proclaimed. They seem unwilling to commit to the nurture, mentoring, and counseling often required. The truth is that an instantaneous religious experience does not cure all things, leaving life simple and easy. Sanctification does not automatically erase the psychological scars left by an alcoholic father, an adulterous mother, a domineering and legalistic pastor, or the wounds of racial persecution. Overcoming such scars may require nurture, thought, prayer, counseling, and hard work for years—even for the sanctified.

This is the concern that our brother is trying to address. But he uses a driver when a putter is called for. The simplistic get-sanctified-and-it-won’t-be-a-problem folk go to one extreme. He goes to the other extreme, declaring that sanctifying grace will not help bad thinking patterns, emotional wounds, weak wills, and psychological scars any more than it will cure a broken leg. The truth lies somewhere between these two extremes.
Nazarene Bible College (NBC) exists to glorify Jesus Christ as Lord by preparing adults to evangelize, disciple, and minister to the world. So reads NBC’s mission statement.

Birthed in 1967, NBC has faithfully adhered to its mission. During the three decades of its existence, the college has produced 2,648 graduates who are serving in ministry assignments around the world in 36 countries. Although NBC’s alumni are involved in a variety of ministries, by far the large majority are Nazarene pastors. In fact, 20 percent of all credentialed ministers in North America attended NBC.

Three Nazarene pastors, two of them alumni, share about NBC.

**A Short Story of a Long Journey**

by Clyde Komp

I single-handedly pushed the average age of the Nazarene Bible College student up by several years during my tenure there. You see, I was 47 when I enrolled as a freshman in 1993. Of course, there is a story behind this—as there always is.

After many years of shuffling around the world, in and out of different churches, I found my way back—to a Nazarene church in Spokane, Washington—to a paradigm I thought I had erased. It was a pleasant surprise to discover that many of my negative memories of the church were unfounded and overexaggerated, but no surprise that I found in those people a full spectrum of the human race. I had no intention of being numbered among them. What I had not counted on was that they would love me anyway, and before I knew it I was in a home Bible study group. Soon after, the pastor made a keen but strategic observation: he observed a sort of bitterness in me. Truth is, I was as mad as you know what. Yet the church—even with all its faults and foibles—proved to me it really cared.

Three years later, I realized God was calling me into full-time service. (I still blame an NBC brochure for “false advertising.” You see, I thought NBC stood for National Broadcasting Corporation.) It took about a year before I could even speak to anyone about it. As a banker, I was not ready or prepared for ministry.

Though God used many people and means to help me during this journey, two things made a great impact: a prayer partnership and a supportive pastor. The prayer partnership with two other fellows allowed me to confront my call and determine it was real.

My pastor, Kent Conrad, took me seriously, not patronizing or pushing me. He simply let God do His work. Then Rev. Conrad helped me find the place I needed to go for training—Nazarene Bible College. The rest is history. We moved to Colorado Springs, I earned a bachelor’s degree in biblical studies, and I now pastor a Nazarene church.

Obviously, many details have gone unmentioned. However, I must underscore the strategic role of the pastor and the church in helping the “called ones” fulfill their calling. The day someone confesses he or she “feels called,” the roles of the church and pastor in the life of the “called ones” really never ends. You see, although my membership is no longer with my sending church, my heart is. I know they still love, care, and pray for me in my place of service, where, in like manner, I love, care, and pray for my congregation. After all, isn’t that the way God set it up? If we, the church, keep nurturing people just as I was, God will send us out to nurture others.

Rev. Komp is pastor of CrossRoads Community Church of the Nazarene in Palo Alto, California.

The Role of the Local Church in the Calling of a Pastor

by Kent Conrad

The atmosphere of a local church has a lot to do with the responsiveness of men and women to both hear and follow the sovereign call of God into pastoral ministry. It is God’s responsibility to do the calling and the individual’s responsibility to honor and obey the
Lord’s direction. The privilege of the local church is to support those who hear the call of God.

One of the most important aspects of a local church is what I like to call the “acoustics factor.” By this, I simply mean the ability to hear the clear, small voice of God. What characterizes a church with good acoustics? (1) A primary focus on the authoritative Word of God; (2) a genuine spirit of servanthood on the part of pastors and lay leaders; (3) a consistent spirit of anointing on times of corporate worship; (4) a deep level of appreciation and respect for pastoral leadership.

When Clyde and Nancy Komp came to Spokane First Church, I believe they came to a church with good acoustics.” They were loved unconditionally and given opportunities to serve the Lord. Clyde, a church board member, taught a dynamic adult Sunday School class. The church responded with supportive enthusiasm when the Lord called Clyde to prepare for pastoral ministry. The Komps moved to NBC, where the baton was passed from a local church to an educational institution.

Acoustic factors are also an important part of an educational institution. NBC is a place where people can continue to hear from the Lord in an environment of scholastic excellence, spiritual development, and ministry mentoring. It really is a team effort. Spokane First Church of the Nazarene is proud of the Komps and most thankful for Nazarene Bible College.

Rev. Conrad is pastor of Spokane, Washington, First Church of the Nazarene.

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“What Goes Around Comes Around!”
by Chuck Wilkes

I first heard the statement “What goes around comes around” while working as a prison correctional officer after graduation from Northwest Nazarene College. This common prison talk, repeated like a mantra, roughly embodies the scriptural concept of “what you sow, you reap”—a concept I believe in.

In the process of completing my studies for ordination, I became aware of extension classes offered by NBC. Taking advantage of Tuesday night classes in Denver, I found them to be a rich source of information. Plus, the class members have become like a small support group—praying for and encouraging each other. The professors are people of spiritual depth as well as academic excellence. While thoroughly enjoying the classes, I have actively recruited new participants.

When I was called to full-time ministry, I had been an attorney for almost 15 years. I know the value and necessity of continuing education. When asked to plant a new church in suburban Denver, I began to think about the kind of church I would like to pastor. One goal is the development of well-educated Sunday School teachers. After all, it’s not called “school” for nothing.

Shortly thereafter, our church board adopted a policy for helping our Sunday School teachers obtain education as part of their professional development. The church matches the tuition charge for auditing NBC extension classes. It’s not a major investment, but already the returns have been obvious.

Take the case of Ryan Vieth. A graduate of MidAmerica Nazarene University, Ryan is an adult Sunday School teacher and a church board member. After the board’s action, Ryan joined me in taking an NBC class. Week after week, we spent Tuesday nights together, studying systematic theology. Each week he discovered things to share in his Sunday School class.

The results of Ryan’s participation are apparent. He now teaches with a new confidence. He’s ready for the tough questions, actually welcoming them. He has developed a greater understanding of our Wesleyan-Arminian heritage and doctrine. Most important, he has found a calling for Christian service. While he’s not yet sure of God’s full leading, he has decided to take classes for credit with an eye toward earning a degree from NBC.

The remarkable change in Ryan has more than repaid our church for the small investment we’ve made. Other interested teachers will be taking classes in the future. I expect the board’s policy to revolutionize the way we do Sunday School, and I’m confident it will have a profound effect on our young church.

I want to say thank you to Nazarene Bible College for reaching out to prospective learners in a nontraditional way. NBC has done great things for me, for Ryan, and for our church. I expect it to continue to do so long into the future.

Rev. Wilkes is pastor of Highlands Ranch Community Fellowship Church of the Nazarene in Denver.

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Nazarene Bible College is now offering ministerial preparation through on-line education. For further information, call 1-800-873-3873, or visit the web site at www.nbc.edu.
The Dennises—a Family of Pastors

Six Nazarene pastors in one family? Yes, you read right. Six! Few parents can match the proud claim of Stanley and Alice Dennis—three sons and three grandchildren in Nazarene parsonages. Plus, the Dennises quickly add, all their children are actively involved in Nazarene churches.

How is it this lay couple produced such a “pastoral” family? According to Donna, daughter number two, theirs was a “wonderful Christian home.” And church attendance for the Dennis kids was never an option, she adds. Be it Sunday services, Wednesday prayer meeting, or revivals—the Dennises were always there. Without fail.

Though Stanley Dennis and Alice Wilhoit were both born in Kentucky, at early ages their families relocated to southwestern Ohio.

The pair met in their late teens while working at a canning factory in Middletown, Ohio. Attraction. Romance. Courting. Engagement. Marriage. Their vows to “love, honor, and cherish” were made on November 16, 1936—almost 62 years ago.

Since Stanley was raised by parents who did not go to church, in the early years of his marriage he was always “too busy” to attend. Until he became a Christian, Mother Dennis and her two oldest children rode a church bus to services. In fact, the Christian heritage the family enjoys today is the direct result of the old-time bus ministry of the late '40s and early '50s.

Southwestern Ohio has been home for the Dennises for more than six decades. And for the past 47 years, they have been valued, rock-solid, you-can-always-count-on-them members of the Trenton Church of the Nazarene. Stanley has been a church board member, Sunday School teacher, visitation team leader, soul-winning program director, and choir member. As an octogenarian his voice is strong, and he still blesses people with his singing.

Alice, even though she raised six children, accepted her share of church responsibilities, ministering in her own ways. She taught three-year-olds in Sunday School for many years. She used her cooking and baking skills to prepare delicious and appreciated meals for the ill and bereaved. She also maintains an ongoing greeting-card ministry. The U.S. postal system often delivers to her family and friends a card or note—just when a word of encouragement is needed the most.

The Bible says, “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it” (Proverbs 22:6, NIV). This promise has special meaning for the Dennis clan, which now numbers 45. And children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are rising up and calling Stanley and Alice Dennis “blessed.”

Six Nazarene pastors—and counting. I wonder how many more the Lord will call from this unheralded couple’s family?
**The Dennis Children**

Gary, a retired steelworker, is a layman in Franklin, Ohio, Church of the Nazarene. He has served on the Southwestern Ohio District Sunday School Board for almost 25 years. He and his wife, Betty, are also the district Senior Adult Ministry directors.

Marla Raisch and her husband, Marlin, own a business in Germantown, Ohio. She serves on the church board, teaches Sunday School, and sings in the choir in Germantown Church of the Nazarene.

Donna Wilson is a secretary at Trevecca Nazarene University (TNU), where her husband, Steve, is director of maintenance. They are active in various ministries of TNU and Whispering Hills Church of the Nazarene in Nashville.

Larry is pastor of Highland Park Church of the Nazarene in Lakeland, Florida, and serves on TNU’s Board of Trustees. A 1971 TNU graduate, he also holds an M.A. from Olivet Nazarene University. He and his wife, Debbie, have finished 27 years of ministry.

Michael, pastor of the Xenia, Ohio, Church of the Nazarene, serves on the Southwestern Ohio District Advisory Board. His B.A. and M.A. degrees are from TNU. With his wife, Debbie, he has been in ministry for 16 years.

Martin (Marty) is pastor of the Champion Church of the Nazarene in Warren, Ohio. A 1989 graduate of Trevecca, Marty and his wife, Carrie, have completed 9 years of ministry.

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**Wisdom on the Water**

**Victor Schreffler**

Victor Schreffler is senior pastor of Blue Springs (Missouri) First Church of the Nazarene.

I think I learned something about masculinity the other day. It wasn’t at a megagathering of men in a stadium filled with praise and preaching. It wasn’t in a book packed full of practical principles for perfect parenting. It was on a lake under the hot summer sun.

Andrea, my 11-year-old daughter, and I had set out on bicycles for an adventure that would culminate with an afternoon of sailing. As we rode along, she commented on how happy she was to be able to survive such a strenuous activity. That inward glow of healthy self-confidence was boosted by the accomplishment.

Other joys were shared as we sailed up the lake in search of a good spot for a swim. We didn’t always say very much, but as the scenery drifted by and the peace of the setting soaked into our hearts, something very much like grace began to blanket the expedition. My approving gaze and her admiring glance combined to complete us both in who God had made us to be.

But it was while we were swimming that the lesson became most clearly focused. We’d tied the boat to a mooring buoy, and the wind gently but firmly pushed the stern back and forth in a slow-moving arc on the water. At one point, Andrea didn’t quite get out of the way as the ladder came around, and the motion pushed her head under water.

When she surfaced, there was a momentary look of fear and disorientation. She looked around, but it wasn’t for the ladder. It wasn’t for the rope dangling in the water. It wasn’t for land or some other avenue of escape to safety. It was for me.

Me.

In her moment of need, in all that lake, what my daughter wanted to see most was me. And the instant our eyes met, her fears fell away in the realization: "Daddy’s here. It’s going to be all right."

Guys, does that do something for you? It does for me.

I’m no Olympic swimmer. I’m not a trained lifeguard. In fact, my CPR certification has lapsed. Yet what my little girl needed was not my skill or competence. She just needed me. What a terrible blessing and an incredible relief.

I’ll leave it to the psychologists to explain the powerful need of a daughter for her daddy, how that shapes her identity and affects every other male relationship she’ll have for the rest of her life. What I learned that day was that by the grace of God I’ve got what it takes to be what she needs if I’ll just be there.

I’m a pastor by calling. During that week I prepared sermons, counseled families, coordinated worship, strategized for the advance of the kingdom of God through the salvation of souls.

But I have a quiet comfort in knowing that there was nothing more important, nor was I any closer to the center of God’s will, than on that Monday afternoon with my little girl.

Hey, Dad, when was the last time you went out with your daughter? 

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**Third-Generation Pastors**

Ted Eltzroth is senior pastor of the Georgetown, Ohio, Church of the Nazarene. His wife, Julie, is a daughter of Gary. Tod is a 1989 graduate of Mount Vernon Nazarene College.

Ted Herold is youth pastor of the Trenton, Ohio, Church of the Nazarene. His wife, Jill, is also Gary’s daughter. Ted will soon complete course work for his ordination through a Nazarene Bible College extension.

Dennis (Denny) Wilson is senior pastor of the Germantown, Ohio, Church of the Nazarene. A 1992 Trevecca graduate, he is the son of Donna. His wife is Annette.

Information provided by Donna Wilson.
Deaths

DEMA M. AKESTER, 86, Smithton, Pa., July 28. Survivors: husband, Rev. Thomas; son, Charley; daughter, Janice Dietz; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.

RODELL BYERS, 77, Wellington, Tex., July 25. Survivors: wife, Dorothy (Gibbs); son, Charley; daughter, Janice Dietz; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

THOMAS BURETTE CLOUD, 92, Fruita, Colo., July 25. Survivors: wife, Dorothy (Gibbs); son, Charley; daughter, Janice Dietz; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

ROBERT DEAN HATTEN, 73, Mesa, Ariz., July 25. Survivors: wife, Marilyn Davis; two sisters; two grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

REV. ERNEST CONRAD JR., 76, Bella Vista, Ark., Aug. 5. Survivors: son, Herman; grandson, Mark.

REV. ROBERT ROLSTON, 67, pastor of many years, Fruitland, Idaho, June 10. Survivors: wife, Joyce; sons, Brad, Rob; daughters, Laurie Buick, Becky Dunphy; seven grandchildren.

REV. ROBERT ROLSTON, 67, pastor of many years, Kitchener, Ont., June 30. Survivors: wife, Joyce; sons, Brad, Rob; daughters, Laurie Buick, Becky Dunphy; seven grandchildren.

REV. LYMAN C. SALISBURY, 79, pastor of more than 40 years, Rainer, Oreg., Apr. 21. Survivors: wife, Aileen; sons, Lyman, Eldon; daughter, Joann Williams; brother, Milton; sisters, Adele Goodnough, Lenore Goodman; ten grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.


REV. CHARLES WILLIAM SMITH, 69, pastor of 39 years, Muskogee, Okla., July 25. Survivors: wife, Elise; daughters, Margaret Rohmiller, Marchita Hayslip; sister, Leona Dickson; seven grandchildren; one great-grandson.

SUSAN E. STINNETT, Louisville, Tenn., May 7. Survivors: daughters, Carolyn Stinnett; Emma Cunningham; sister, Annis Whitehead; one granddaughter.

WANDA LEE ROBINETTE TAYLOR, 66, Kettering, Ohio, Aug. 2. Survivors: husband, Rev. Robert; son, Robert; daughter, Pamela Whitacre; sisters, Betty Lawrie, Linda Blankenship; Nancy Buchenroth; six grandchildren.

DOROTHY DELL TERRY, 66, retired missionary, Shreveport, La., Aug. 1. Miss Terry began her missionary service in September 1964 as a bookkeeper for the Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital in Swaziland. She served a total of 31 years in Swaziland before her retirement in November 1995. Survivors: sister, Francis Scarborough.


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Woodward, Oreg., celebrated their 50th anniversary Aug. 5. Their children hosted a dinner-reception in honor Aug. 1. The Flemings have two sons and three grandchildren. Greetings may be sent to 39 Hillview Ct., Howard, OH 43028.

Announcements

BETHANY (OKLA.) CALVARY CHURCH will celebrate its 45th anniversary Nov. 15. For more information, call 405-789-6034.

CANEY, KANS., CHURCH will celebrate its 75th anniversary Oct. 18. For more information, call 316-879-2436.

EDINBURGH, IND. CHURCH will celebrate its 50th anniversary Oct. 11. For more information, call Marsha Terry at 812-376-8766.

GREENVILLE (TEX.) PENIEL CHURCH will celebrate its 90th anniversary Oct. 11. For more information, call Pastor Johnny Davis, 903-495-6417.

KENT, OHA CHURCH will celebrate its 75th anniversary Oct. 18. For more information, call 330-673-6000.

NASHVILLE (TENN.) BETHEL CHURCH will celebrate its 65th anniversary Oct. 9-11 and Nov. 8. For more information, con-
tact Pastor Michael Hancock, 615-262-782-3840.

FOR THE RECORD
Moving Ministers

KEVIN M. ANGEL, from Tavares, Fla., to PAUL J. BASTIEN JR., from student to pastor, East Millinocket, Maine

PHILLIP P. BELT, from student to associate, Derby, Kans.

KEVIN G. BORGER, from associate, Nampa (Idaho) College, to associate, Akron (Ohio) First

WILLIAM H. DOAN, from Omaha, Ill., to DAVID E. BUCHER, from Altus, Okla., to DAVID T. CAUTHEN, from student to pastor, Tarpon Springs (Fla.) First

LARRY R. CAMPBELL, from pastor, Lawton (Okla.) First, to EVANGELISM TO DAVID E. BUCHER, from pastor, Woodburn, Ore.

RICHARD E. JOHNSON, from student to associate, Clarksburg, W.Va., to PARKERSBURG (W.Va.) FIRST

MATTHEW R. LEE, from student to pastor, Thomasville, Mich., to Savannah (Ga.) First

KENNETH M. MACDONALD, from associate, Glendale (Ariz.), to pastor, Woodburn, Ore.

MAURO PORZELT, from student to associate, Akron (Ohio) First

BRETT P. MASSEY, from associate, St. Louis (Mo.) Ferguson, to associate, Springfield (Ohio) Maplewood

JAMES B. JENKERSON, from student to pastor, Paden City, W.Va., to PARKERSBURG (W.Va.) Kenneth City, to associate, Enid (Okla.) First

RAYMOND A. JONES JR., from student to pastor, Springfield (Ohio) Maplewood

PAUL E. KINSEY, from associate, Bethany (Okla.) Williams Memorial, to associate, Lindsay, Okla.

CALVIN T. LAVIGNE, from associate, Fairview Village, Pa., to associate, Freder­ick, Md.

DONALD R. LAWSON JR., from associate, Canton (Ohio) First, to evangelism

JOSEPH F. POSTIN JR., from associate, Brookings, Oreg., to Prineville, Oreg.

MATTHEW R. LEE, from associate, Highland, Idaho, to pastor, Springfield (Ohio) Maplewood

RICHARD 0. NEVARD JR., from student to associate, Portage, Mich., to Savannah (Ga.) First

R. SCOTT OSTENDORF, from Jacksonville (Fla.) Oak Hill to Gardencile, Ala.

G. Randal PARMER, from associate, Whi­ chita (Kans.) First, to associate, Jasper (Ala.) First

MAURO PORZELT, from student to associ­ate, Warwick (N.Y.) Valley

JACK T. SMITH, from pastor, Birmingham (Ala.) Tarrant, to associate, Oneonta (Ala.) Union Hill

KEVIN R. SNOW, from pastor, Cy-Fair, Tex., to associate, Houston (Texas) First

STEVEN E. HAYES, from student to associate, Auburn, Calif., to associate, Glendale, Ariz.

BRIAN D. HALE, from associate, Richfield, Mich., to associate, Owego, N.Y.

RONALD N. HALVORSON, from Creswell, Ore., to Parkersburg (W.Va.) First

RONALD J. HAMBRICK, from student to associate, Bridgeton, N.J.

CLARENCE L. HAMILTON, from student to associate, Brookings, Ore.

MICHAEL D. HAVENS, from associate, Auburn, Calif., to associate, Glendale, Ariz.

STEVEN E. HAYES, from student to associate, Plant City (Fla.) Wagoner Memorial

WAYNE R. HILBURN, from pastor, St. Peters­burg (Fla.) Kenneth City, to associate, Lake Park, Fla.

KEITH A. HOSTUTLER, from Paden City, W.Va., to Parkersburg (W.Va.) First

SHANE O. HUFF, from student to associate, Lakeland (Fla.) Highland Park

JOHNSON G. IDOWU, from Hahira, Ga., to Decatur (Ga.) Mission

James B. Jenkerson, from student to pastor, Springfield (Ohio) Maplewood

Richard E. Johnson, from student to pastor, Tarpon Springs (Fla.) Community

Raymond A. Jones Jr., from student to pastor, Woodburn, Ore.

Paul E. Kinsey, from associate, Bethany (Okla.) Williams Memorial, to associate, Lindsay, Okla.

Calvin T. Lavigne, from associate, Fairview Village, Pa., to associate, Frederick, Md.

Donald R. Lawson Jr., from associate, Canton (Ohio) First, to evangelism

Jeffrey S. Fletcher, from student to pastor, King's Bay, Ga., to district assignment, Georgia

Richard O. Nevard Jr., from student to pastor, Cortland, Ohio

David R. Dineal, from student to associate, Enid (Okla.) First

Richard D. Wyatt, from associate, St. Louis (Mo.) Ferguson, to associate, Eugene (Oreg.) First

Timothy P. Young, from associate, Auburn, Calif., to evangelism

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The Church of the Nazarene has designated November 8, 1998, as Veterans' Day. We will honor the contributions of all those who have served in the military and their families. This special day is dedicated to recognizing the bravery, sacrifice, and service of those who have fought for our country. In this spirit, we invite you to attend the following events:

1. A community-wide vigil at 7:00 PM in the town square, followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at the veterans' memorial to honor those who have served.
2. A military tribute parade through downtown, starting at 10:00 AM, featuring local military units and veterans.
3. A special concert at the Performing Arts Center, starting at 7:30 PM, featuring live music and speakers from the local community.

Let us come together to celebrate the sacrifices made by our veterans and their families. We are grateful for their service and commitment to our country. Thank you to all who have served, and may we never forget their brave efforts.
Marchant Family Continues to Recover

The family of Ken Marchant, General Board member, is continuing the long road to recovery after the van accident that killed missionary Jim Johnson and dentist Fred Siems in Mexico last January, according to the Marchants’ pastor, James Hill of Carrollton, Texas.

Marchant’s wife, Donna, and their 12-year-old daughter, Dallas, have been released from therapy and are resuming normal activities.

Ken Jr. (K. J.), 14, continues to receive weekly therapy as an outpatient. Although he is making progress, there has been no change in the initial prognosis of permanent paralysis from the waist down. “The Marchants’ faith, their commitment to the Lord, and their service to others are as strong as I have ever seen them,” Hill said. “There are still lots of unanswered questions, but God has been good.”

The Marchant family is grateful for the prayers offered in their behalf, said Susie Miller, administrative assistant to Marchant. They request continued prayer as they adjust to the dramatic changes in their lives following the accident.

Missionaries Safe after Embassy Bombings

No Nazarene missionaries were injured in the bombings of the U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, according to Richard Zanner, Africa regional director. One of the students at Africa Nazarene University, Joyce Njeri, was killed in the Kenya bombing.

The August 7 attacks were the deadliest ever on a U.S. embassy. Twelve of the dead were U.S. citizens working at the Nairobi embassy. Ten people were killed in Dar es Salaam, but no Americans died there.

“We are so grateful that none of our missionaries have been harmed or hurt by this terrible catastrophe,” Zanner said. “Nazarenes in Africa, as well as worldwide, are uplift- ing the victims of these bomb blasts in very special and specific ways. . . . Together, we look to the Lord for protection and security.”

NCC Named Among Best Values

Northwest Nazarene College (NCC) is among the colleges where a student will get the most for his or her money, according to U.S. News and World Report’s 12th annual America’s Best Colleges guidebook.

U.S. News, for the third consecutive year, placed NCC on the best-values list, and for the fifth consecutive year named the school one of the top 10 liberal arts colleges in the West, according to Gil Craker, NCC director of information services.

NCC, rated number 10, has been in the top 10 seven times in the 1990s. U.S. News measures values by relating a school’s quality ranking with the net cost to a student who receives average financial aid. The magazine reports that the best-value rankings were devised to provide a realistic measure of where students can get the best education for their money. The ratings relate the cost of attending an institution to its quality, Craker said.
Holiness!

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