There are two words occasionally heard in church circles. When I hear these spoken in our fellowship I am troubled. The two words are 

**conservative** and 

**liberal**. More than likely they will be expressed by one who states he is a conservative. Interestingly, I have yet to hear one say he is a liberal and not a conservative.

I have tried to understand the use of these two terms in our context. I have been forced to conclude that both words have a variety of meanings. That this is true in a political sense there can be no doubt. What was once considered liberal may now be considered conservative, and vice versa. What is conservative in America could conceivably be perceived as being liberal, say, in Russia.

Within our ranks, these terms have had different applications down through the years. Furthermore there are geographical differences in the way they are used. All of which tells me this will probably always be so. Nor am I so naive as to believe a short article of this nature will alter the pattern.

But I am bothered, nevertheless, for there is the danger of creating a spiritual elitism that could border on Pharisaism. This would be divisive because it would bring about a polarization among believers. It has happened in other denominations, and we need to recognize it could happen to us. What a tragedy that would be!

There is another side to this issue. If there are those who are careless with the traditional ethical standards held by the church and upheld by the General Assembly, they are as guilty of creating a climate for possible polarization as are those who would identify themselves as conservatives.

Let's not let this happen to us. Instead, let's all pull toward a middle of the road life-style known as the highway of holiness where we dare not swerve to the right or to the left. Perhaps an identification to be applied to all of us would be "loyalists." Come to think of it, heaven will hardly have divisive factions in its population. It is impossible to conceive of such a place. But we do comprehend the City of God full of loyalists. The Revelation given to John makes this clear: "The Lamb is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers" (17:14, NIV, italics added).

The bottom line to this reasoning is an appeal for all of us to move toward each other from the extremes that divide. Let there not be those who are derisive of those with whom they disagree, but rather let the opposites gravitate toward the middle. The result will assure a vital witness, and a strong voice for Christian holiness, effective in its message, and strengthened by a consistent life-style identified by its high and holy standards.
Single parents were not considered a social norm back when Mother struggled to raise her two boys. Mostly, single mothers were considered social enigmas, but that did not stop her from doing her best. How she managed to pay tithe on the meager income of social welfare is still something of a mystery, but she did pay it. Along with paying her tithe, she taught her sons practical holiness. It was a holiness worked out in the crucible of hardscrabble living.

I remember so well the day earth-movers ripped across the top of my favorite play hill. Progress was coming to our little community. To a boy of eight, the price seemed too high. In the wake of so-called progress lay the sad remains of many of my dearest friends—oaks, silver maples, low shrubs, and hollow stumps. I brought one of my stricken friends home to Mother. It was a small slippery elm. The tattered leaves and dry root ball seemed to cry out for mercy. We planted it in the front yard near the corner of our little house. I watered it every day, coaxed it along, pleaded with it to try again—to live! Somehow, miraculously perhaps, it survived.

Not long after my slippery elm settled into the good life of our front yard, we moved away to a government housing project; it was supposed to be the good life, also. It was not! There was a lot of concrete and brick, but no slippery elms.

Time passed, and not unlike Mother’s tithe and the tree, my brother and I survived. Nearly 30 years later I journeyed back to see the place of my boyhood. The house was gone, the neighborhood was foreign to me. All that remained was the weed-choked rubble of the cinderblock foundation—and the slippery elm. It had changed, too! No longer a struggling transplant, its tall trunk and graceful branches greeted me like a friendly giant.

As I stood beneath my tree, it was as if all the years of my manhood were rolled back, and the boy within saw the living proof of one of life’s small but unfathomable miracles. How could I ever explain to anyone the odds against that tree being there? How could I ever explain to anyone the odds against that husbandless mother as she struggled to raise honorable sons in the aftermath of an awful uprooting? How could I ever explain to anyone the odds against a fatherless, tree-loving boy ever becoming a happy husband, father, and holiness preacher?

I could not possibly explain it to anyone who did not also know of another tree once uprooted by what Satan claimed would be progress, and hence denied the soil of its intended hillside. I thought of that tree as I gazed at my elm. “Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations” (Revelation 22:1-2, NIV).

No matter who you are—mother, father, son, or daughter—whatever odds you face in life, however badly uprooted, if you will but turn in faith to Jesus, He will give you a new life, a good life, a miraculous life. A tree grows in paradise for all who have their hope in Him!
MISSION FIELD?

Is TV a mission field? We disapprove of much of TV and rightly so and probably should turn it off much more than we do.

At the same time we learn that so many interviewed on TV seem to be in the dark about Christian values. Money, gambling, pleasure, and entertainment are the goals of the worldly-minded.

But as Senator Armstrong testified, many of the worldly are hungry for the gospel. Perhaps they have never had a clear witness. There are many TV gospel programs, and it seems that people are without excuse in hearing the gospel. But it may be that there is a need for individual witnesses to challenge worldly characters they see on TV.

Please keep your letters brief (50-150 words). Letters responding to other letters are not printed. We cannot reply personally to letters not selected for this feature. Address: LETTERS, Herald of Holiness, 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131.
As Nazarene couples develop healthy patterns of interaction, the patterns tend to influence their children in a positive way. In contrast, the struggles between a couple can adversely affect the home environment they create for their families.

Perhaps you can begin to understand the complexity of the family system. The temperament of the child begins to interact with the home environment set by the temperament of the parents.

Some parents know very little about healthy patterns of interaction. For example, “How do I make the intent of my communication equal its impact?” In other words if I cannot say clearly what I really mean, I may spend a lifetime sending and receiving coded messages. And the problem with coded messages is that they rarely get talked about, thus clarified. Therefore in our quest to be understood, we can model negative patterns for our children. And we fail to recognize that we are raising little husbands and little wives.

As parents we are the prime source of learning social behavior and spiritual maturity for our children. They see us as powerful. And if we are aggressive and confrontive, we teach our children to be aggressive and confrontive. This will become their dominant mode of interaction as they deal with life as it comes to them.

I have noticed over the years three patterns (there may be more) parents use in their struggles with one another. First there are aggressive patterns where feelings are acted out, usually at the emotional expense of the other spouse. Second, there are avoidance patterns where spouses internalize their feelings—keep everything inside, thus keep each other in the dark. Third...
there are resolve patterns where the couple has learned the skill of working through their differences.

If you had to choose one of the three patterns to model for your children during their formative years, which would it be? A problem arises when we are convinced that modeling either aggression or avoidance is Christian.

Resolve patterns help us learn a Spirit-filled style of interaction that is direct and caring. When the intent of Nazarene families is to be open, honest, and direct, then responsible resolution is at the threshold. I cannot promise that resolve patterns will always work. What I can promise is that when they don’t, nothing else will.

The apostle Paul reminds us to let our conversation be always full of grace (see Colossians 4:6). He also says that our interaction should be seasoned with salt. Resolve patterns are grace-giving and salt-preserving. They are the practical handles on the life of holiness for Nazarene families. And they are attainable.

Resolve patterns have a lot to do with what Paul speaks of in the remainder of the Colossian verse, “... so that you may know how to answer everyone” (v. 6).

It’s the “how to” that causes us problems. Resolve patterns of communication are responsible actions. They deal with family differences directly without blaming, demanding, or being defensive. Resolve patterns express the intention to value both yourself and other family members, even when there is disagreement. These are the Spirit-filled patterns that ask us to speak for ourselves, listen, check each other out, and clarify.

The patterns begin with the temperament of the marriage and slowly but surely they integrate into the interpersonal competency of every family member.

You are modeling some pattern for your child, and your behavior has far-reaching implications. The marriage is where it all begins.

Jesus reminds us that “the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you” (John 14:26, NASB). And what the Holy Spirit teaches us is to avoid capitulating back to such patterns as dominance, denial, or putting distance and alienation between us. He empowers us to live out His mandate, “Apart from Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5, NASB).

Our children must catch this mandate from us. We must teach it diligently, talk of it when we sit in our house, and when we walk by the way—when we lie down and when we rise up. It must be written on the doorposts of our hearts (see Deuteronomy 6:4-9).

I am convinced that at the heart of a ministry to Nazarene families is Spirit-filled relationship education for the Nazarene marriage. If I can learn to reach out to my spouse and minister to her, support and nurture her, then the next logical step is to reach out to my extended family. It makes for a healthy church. And the nonbeliever is attracted to a healthy church.

We are mandated to carry out the Great Commission, but we cannot afford to ignore the Original Commission in the process, “A man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24, NASB).

I had been seated only briefly on the flight from San Antonio to St. Louis when the flight attendant announced a two-hour delay. Since I was the only one in first class, the attendant and I soon were conversing. When she discovered that I was a counseling therapist, she said, “We are having real problems with my husband’s 15-year-old son.” The other attendant joined the conversation with, “Oh, I know the feeling. My husband’s two children are in conflict with our two children.”

These women graphically illustrated an area of concern that is ever widening in American society. An increasing number of stepfamilies are being formed as previously married spouses remarry. A stepfamily is a family in which at least one spouse has a child from a previous union.

Stepfamilies are different. They are families who have been born from loss. At least one spouse and child have suffered a ruptured relationship through death, divorce, or desertion. Therefore, though the new family may be born with hope and great expectations, its birth is different from that of intact or nuclear families. Creating a stepfamily is similar to merging two corporations, each with its own organization and methods of operation.

Stepfamilies differ from nuclear families emotionally. Since there are more people and more relationships, there has to be more emotional space. Children have only one set of birth parents, but in a stepfamily, the parenting role is shared with someone else.

Stepfamilies often stumble over names. “Mom” and “Dad” are emotional words. A child may think, “If I call my new parent ‘Mom’ or ‘Dad,’ I will be disloyal to my birth parent.” Remarried parents can help their...
child at this point. They may lessen the emotional struggle over names by talking to the child about this subject. If, over time, the child wants to call the new parent “Mom” or “Dad,” that should be allowed. If some other title is more comfortable, everyone should accept that. Don’t make names a battleground of loyalty. Allow all stepfamily members emotional space for their significant others. Stepfamilies can function effectively with looser emotional boundaries than nuclear families do.

Society has norms and expectations for families. Couples are expected to love each other, to marry, to have children, to respect each other, and to work for the common good of the family. Nuclear families develop emotional bonds and are bound together by blood ties. Stepfamilies, however, are only partially bound by blood ties and may not be bonded emotionally. Society has not developed norms for the feelings of stepfamily members.

For stepfamilies, it is as though someone threw away the rules, but the game is already underway. As a result, they may fall back on the rules society created for nuclear families and expect every member to love and be bonded with every other member.

In the light of such unreal expectations, stepfamily members may often feel like failures. They may not love all the new members of their family—strangers who may have been suddenly thrust into their world. Stepfamilies will be healthier if they set reasonable expectations for themselves. They should expect and give mutual respect and allow emotional bonds to develop as they will. They may want to give themselves permission to be more loosely related than nuclear families.

Stepfamilies also differ structurally from nuclear families. Awkwardness arises sometimes from different last names or from people who ask, “Which ones are your children?” Stepchildren have a birth parent elsewhere; even if that parent is dead. The absent birth parent may not be a topic of daily conversation, but stepfamilies must always reckon with this structural difference.

Stepchildren may be members of two households. Each family has its rules and methods of operation. If children are confused by this, remind them that they can be flexible. When they go into the rooms of different teachers at school, they know what each teacher expects and they behave accordingly. They can do the same in their two households. It may be helpful for them to have private space in each house—a shelf, chest, or room where some of their things stay. Whenever they come to the house, it should be referred to as “living” there, not “visiting,” even though it may be only once a month. Having a bit of private space and being treated as a resident instead of a visitor can add stability to their dual household living.

In a stepfamily, a child has to share a birth parent with the new spouse and perhaps with stepsiblings as well. This structural change can be the source of much conflict. In addition, stepchildren have at least one extra set of grandparents and a host of new extended family members. Stepfamilies may feel overwhelmed by these new relationships.

Stepfamilies differ from nuclear families, but they can choose to live in Christian harmony. When stepfamily members enlist the aid of the Holy Spirit, they can build healthy relationships. If they criticize each other and bemoan their complicated family structure, Satan may lead them to yet another family rupture. But with the help of the Holy Spirit, they can choose to celebrate the differences. When they do this, stepfamilies, though different, can find a new level of peace and harmony.
A TASTE OF THE BITTERSWEET

by HAROLD IVAN SMITH

Now, who has the most children here today?” That or a similar question is a big memory in my mind from the annual celebration of Mother’s Day. My dad was church custodian, and we always went early on Mother’s Day to arrange all the plants to be given away in several categories: youngest mother, oldest mother, mother with most children living, most children present, etc. Our church always gave at least a potted petunia to every mother present.

It was always quite an exciting service as we honored the mothers of our congregation.

However, since then I have learned that Mother’s Days can be bittersweet experiences for many women — and not just for unmarried women. Oh, many women will never say anything publicly, but in the quiet canyons of their hearts a wound remains. The contrast between this Mother’s Day and previous ones can be quite painful.

The prophet Jeremiah talked about hearing a voice in Ramah “mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because her children are no more” (Jeremiah 31:15, NIV).

• MARY has always looked forward to Mother’s Days. Other women in the church have long teased her about her bachelor son. “When’s he gonna settle down and get married?” A few have even nominated their daughters for that opportunity. And Mary has dreamed a lot about her eventual role as a grandmother. Because she is a florist by profession, she has helped hundreds of brides and their mothers plan weddings. Moreover, Mother’s Day is the second biggest day on a florist’s calendar. Naturally she had big plans for her son’s eventual wedding.

But this year, Mary is grieving because of a discovery. One conversation with her son has dashed her hopes of being a mother-in-law or a grandmother. Her son is gay. Oh, he’ll send flowers and a card, but it won’t be the same. And Mary can’t talk about it.

• CHRIS. Another year has passed and her longing to be married has been postponed—again. She turned 38; she hears the steadily increasing volume of the biological time clock. Time is running out for her to be a mother. And she had such high hopes that her relationship with Jim was going to make it.

• SUSAN. “Now don’t wait too long. We don’t want to be old grandparents.” That’s what her parents will say again at brunch. By late afternoon, she will have cried. Susan doesn’t date and that seems to be a prerequisite to getting married, to having children, etc. Her parents tease her as if it is her fault that so few men come up to her high spiritual expectations for a husband.

• BETTY AND MARGARET—a widow and a divorcée. This year was the first year that they did not have a corsage. Their children are too young to know the tradition; and it’s not as much fun to buy your own. How their worlds have changed since last Mother’s Day!

The list could go on. Of mothers whose children have broken their hearts. Of mothers of sons who died in Vietnam or Korea or the Pacific—sons who would have married, who would have given them grandchildren and memories. Then there are mothers who have “prodigal” sons or daughters.

Rarely do we take these women into consideration in planning the day’s celebration. Paul said, “As we have [or make] opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers” (Galatians 6:10, NIV). Oh, if only they would tell us, it would be easier for us to be sensitive to their feelings.

Some would simply wish away the day. As one single woman said, “That’s the day I stay home.” No doubt, some single men are that way on Father’s Day.

What can you do as a pastor, or a singles’ leader, or a teacher to “salvage” the day many experience as “tough one”?

1. Specifically, because the day is so commercialized and hyped, the church needs to be more sensitive to those whose day will be strained or spoiled. With all the FTD florist commercials on TV, how can you forget or ignore it?

2. Plan to include. Is there room for one more at your brunch table that day? Encourage your members...
to invite singles or single mothers and their children for lunch or brunch or an after-evening-service fellowship.

3. Think specifically about single parents. Write a note to them praising their tenacity and courage. Sponsor a special luncheon for them that day. Include a specific word of praise in your sermon or lesson that would encourage them. Use an illustration of a single mom who made a difference.

4. Test your words for impact. Today is not a good day for a harangue about divorce, welfare mothers, or Jane Fonda—the old "what's getting into women, these days" routine that will generate an easy "amen." Your words—however accurate your opinions—could become an audiotape the enemy will play over and over to build resentment against you. "He doesn't understand!"

On sentimental days like Mother's Day, it is somehow easier to put one's foot into one's mouth. In our exuberance and spontaneity, words and thoughts get twisted and misunderstood. And those are the words most likely remembered.

5. Include all in giveaways. Whether a potted plant or a Bible marker, include every adult woman. The added expense for such a policy will be minimal to the goodwill it will create.

6. Include all in your prayers. I have not forgotten hearing Dr. Paul Cunningham, pastor of the large College Church of the Nazarene in Olathe, Kans., on a Mother's Day several years ago. "For some, O Lord, this isn't their best day... it's a tough day... and the enemy would seek to rob them of their joy. Help them on this bittersweet day... to be aware of Your love for them and help us to be more sensitive to their needs." Believe me the single adults gained a special appreciation for their pastor that day.

Earlier in his call to worship, Dr. Cunningham had noted the number of mothers in the congregation with corsages. He applauded them. But he also specifically spoke to the single women and single mothers. "Don't put this service on automatic pilot."

For single adults, this is a good day to be reminded that Jesus' coming into the world shattered the Jewish concept that immortality was gained through progeny. Remember Anna—the aged widow—was deliberately included in Luke's report of Jesus' birth.

It is a good day to remind singles that God wants to be the Lord of our longings, desires, and hopes and even our ashes. Hannah's lament might be a helpful base. Here was a barren woman—the worst possible thing that could happen to a woman in Old Testament times—praying,

*He raises the poor from the dust*
and lifts the needy from the ash heap;
he seats them with princes
and has them inherit a throne of honor.
(1 Samuel 2:8, NIV)

Years pass and the Psalmist, who must have known the story of Hannah and Samuel, observed,

*He raises the poor from the dust*
and lifts the needy from the ash heap;
he seats them with princes,
with the princes of their people.

Then the Psalmist adds, "He settles the barren woman in her home as a happy mother of children" Psalm 113:7-9, NIV), which confirms the story of Hannah.

Mother's Day this year could be painful for many women, but God and His people understand. By His grace they can face those special days tinted with the bittersweet.

HAROLD IVAN SMITH is a Nazarene layman, free-lance writer, and frequent speaker at seminars and conventions. He resides in Kansas City, Missouri.

Clusters from CANAAN!

"Clusters from Canaan" are still to be found, here in life's wilderness, treading earth's ground!
The anticipation of joys yet to come, awaiting in Glory, earth's battles all won, can brighten our pathway and bring sweet release from pressures around us, and in our hearts—peace.

Clusters from Canaan!

Oh, would we could share these riches with others, and show that we care!
Let's reach out, rejoicing that others may see, if yielded to Jesus—what joys there will be!
Peace upon earth, His presence, His care, and later on—home, He's gone to prepare!

—ALICE HANSCH MORTENSON
Racine, Wisconsin
I wish you could have been with me when I went to see Denise. She visited our Sunday School class the Sunday before for the first time, with her husband, from whom she is presently separated.

After Sunday School I went to her and said, “Hi! My name is Beverly. We are glad you visited us today.”

She said, “I’m glad I came, too. I brought my 5½-year-old daughter. She went to her class.”

“Do you have other children?” I asked.

“No, she’s our only child.”

“I hope you enjoyed our Sunday School class.”

“Yes, I like the class,” she replied.

“I visit people who come to our class. Would it be all right if I came by some evening to get better acquainted?”

“Yes,” she replied, “that would be fine.”

“What about this Thursday evening? Are you available then?” I asked.

“Let me see ... yes, I don’t have anything else going on that evening,” she replied.

I asked, “Is about seven o’clock a convenient time for you?”

“Yes, that will be all right,” she answered.

“See you then,” I said, and went to greet someone else.

I took two friends, Rene and Fred, with me to Denise’s home. I was glad I had said, “About 7:00.” We were detained by road construction work. I apologized for being late.

The summer evening was warm, so we sat on the big open porch of the house where she lived.

For about 20 minutes we talked about home, employment, loved ones, and hobbies. I then guided the conversation to her church background and what she liked about our church.

After a brief discussion, I gave a short personal testimony—how I received the gift of eternal life, how He helped me raise two daughters and was always there when I had a problem. I told her of the peace I have, knowing that if anything should happen to me I would go to heaven.

Then I asked her, “Denise, have you come to the place in your life where you know for certain that if you were to die tonight you would go to heaven?”

She shook her head and said, “No.”

“Denise, suppose that you were to die tonight and stand before God and He were to say to you, ‘Why should I let you into My heaven?’ What would you say?”

I smiled to relax her and let her know I was speaking friend to friend. She smiled back and said, “I feel you should love people, have a clean heart, and help people.”

I proceeded to present the gospel to her. There were many interruptions because her daughter kept asking her questions. Fred finally took the daughter into the front yard and played with her. Since we were on the porch and traffic was pretty heavy, I moved my chair closer to hers to be sure she was hearing everything I was saying.

I explained that: Eternal life is a free gift, not earned.

BEVERLY BURGESS is program manager for Evangelism Ministries at international headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri.
or deserved. That man has sinned and cannot save himself, but God is merciful and wants to save us. He entered this world in the person of Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for our sins. Christ rose from the dead and is in heaven preparing a place for us. He offers us the gift of eternal life that may be received by faith.

I explained that saving faith is repenting of your sins and trusting Christ alone for eternal life. Scriptures and true-life stories were used to enable her to apply all this to her own life.

After our brief discussion I asked her if she would like to receive the gift of eternal life. She nodded her head and replied, “Yes, I would.”

We prayed together. After the prayer she said “The load is gone!” A little later she added, “I feel cleaner.”

We gave her a Bible study and a few words of encouragement.

On the way home I thanked God that He had prompted me to visit her, that He has given me courage to witness, that I had been trained by my pastor to present the gospel.

A lot of follow-up is needed to help Denise become established in the faith. We need to help her find new friends and to encourage her to be reunited with her husband. So far, everything is positive. But our work has just begun.

I wish you could have been there to have felt the joy of leading someone to Christ. Are there any Denises attending your church? You’ll never know until you make yourself acquainted with the visitors of your Sunday School class and church services.

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CHAPLAINS AND CHANGED LIVES

Lost Sheep in the “Rank and File”

by MIKE HRUBY

Twelve years ago I was serving in the U.S. Air Force as a 19-year-old military journalist. Accepting Jesus Christ as my personal Savior was the most life-changing encounter I ever experienced.

My initial realization of Christ’s forgiving love occurred late one Sunday night in August 1975 while I was stationed on a small pilot-training base in rural Mississippi. My decision for Christ as I knelt beside my dormitory bunk that night was largely the result of the godly care, prayers, and ministry of Nazarene Air Force Chaplain James P. Hall.

I was born and raised in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. My father, an army veteran, influenced my decision to enlist in the Air Force. I maintained a high scholastic level through high school, even with extracurricular activities in debate, journalism, swimming, wrestling, weight training, and a part-time job after school. I earned several scholarships as a senior. But the emptiness of my inner being was not satisfied. I was haunted by an aching curiosity regarding the big questions: Who am I? Why am I here? If I die tomorrow, or a year from now, or 70 years from now, what possible, lasting difference could my life make?

I faithfully attended chapel services. During the first rugged weeks of technical school for military journalism, I would spend anywhere from a few minutes to half an hour alone nightly at chapel, thanking God for His help, and asking His help for the following day. I had yet to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

Following graduation from technical school, I was assigned to Columbus Air Force Base headquarters as a military journalist. Here I lost track of God completely for a while. The crowd I hung out with at the NCO club thought drinking was more “manly” and “cool” than talking things over with God. I couldn’t accept their reasoning, but I felt far from God, despite my praying, and I was getting desperate in my search for an answer.

An emergency in the life of a roommate prompted me to make an appointment with Nazarene Chaplain James Hall. From the first time I met with Chaplain Hall, I sensed his genuine concern. This man cared, and he hardly knew me! He listened with “warm ears,” in spite of my foul language and antagonism.

I began attending chapel on Sundays, hit and miss. More often I’d make appointments with him during the week, intent on challenging and scoffing at the Bible and the church, or asking him what made Christianity any better than the Eastern religions, or whatever philosophy or cult I could think of.

Sometimes I’d get angry because I couldn’t get him upset, despite all my skill in debate. He was consistent, caring, committed to God, and willing to listen. Deep in my heart I admired him! His was the kind of peace and active concern that I wanted in my life. Under Chaplain Hall’s preaching this “lost sheep” soon realized that he wanted to be a Christian more than anything. That was the night in 1975, when I knelt by my bunk and asked Christ into my heart—and had the best night’s sleep of my life!

Many young people enlist in the military today in search of personal identity and answers to life’s tough questions. Thank God for His military chaplains and their devoted commitment to sharing the Good News of salvation with lost sheep in the “rank and file.”

MIKE HRUBY is the pastor at Gibson City, Illinois, Church of the Nazarene.
A Tribute to the Mother of Methodism

by HERBERT McGONIGLE

In London’s City Road stands John Wesley’s Chapel, hailed by Methodists everywhere as the “Mother Church” of the denomination. Opened by John Wesley in 1778 it served, with its next-door house, as his home for the last 12 years of his life. There he died and behind it he was buried in the Wesleyan cemetery where many more of the early Methodists were laid to rest.

But immediately across City Road from Wesley’s Chapel is Bunhill Fields cemetery, and it also has Wesleyan connections that are important to recall. Among the graves in the famous resting place of England’s Puritans is that of Susanna Wesley (1669-1742), mother of John and Charles and 17 other children. Of all the human influences that made John Wesley what he was—his ancestry, his immediate family, his Oxford education, his environment in early 18th-century England—none was so important as the lasting impressions made on him by his mother, Susanna.

From Jesus’ mother Mary to the present, the Christian Church has had a galaxy of good and godly mothers whose contributions to the blessing of the world are simply incalculable. Among that host the name of Susanna Wesley will always have a special prominence. Gifted and dedicated, hardworking and sacrificial, loyal and protective through years of crippling poverty, Susanna made a contribution to the Church of God that can never be fully estimated.

She was born Susanna Annesley, daughter of Dr. Samuel Annesley (1662-1735), likewise a child of Nonconformity who had joined the Church of England. They were married in the summer of 1689 and a year later they were appointed to their first pastoral charge in the small village of South Ormsby in Lincolnshire, some 140 miles north of London. They remained there six years, then moved to another Lincolnshire parish—Epworth, and in many ways the Wesley story really begins with Epworth. It would be interesting to follow the full story of the Wesley family in Epworth; of the 14 children born there, of the years of hardships and poverty, of Samuel’s imprisonments because of his debts, of the often violent opposition from some of his parishioners, but that is not our purpose now. Our interest is Susanna’s influence on her 15th child, John, born June 17, 1703.

At important points in his life Susanna’s influence was to be decisive in the teaching, training, and preparation of the future “apostle of England.”

On the night of February 9, 1709, the Wesley home was burned to the ground, almost certainly the result of arson. The family narrowly escaped death and little John’s rescue was dramatic, but to his mother it was the good hand of God. In her private diary she wrote: “I do intend to be more particularly careful of the soul of this child that Thou hast so mercifully provided for... Lord, give me grace to do it sincerely and prudently and bless my attempts with good success.”

That mother’s prayer was more than abundantly answered! All the children were schooled at home, their education beginning on the day of their fifth birthday. As well as teaching them all the essentials of a sound education, Susanna taught them Scripture and the truths of God. Each child had a fixed time every week when he was alone with his mother to be counseled and...
instructed and prayed for concerning his spiritual life. Here were the beginnings of Methodism—in the teaching and discipline and spirituality of that Epworth home.

John’s private time with his mother was on Thursdays, and many years later he wrote to her from Oxford where he had been elected Fellow of Lincoln College. He was unsure of which way to go, and part of his letter read: “In many things you have interceded for me and prevailed ... If you can spare me only that little part of Thursday evening which you formerly bestowed upon me in another manner, I doubt not but it would be as useful now for correcting my heart as it was then for forming my judgement.”

In 1711, while Samuel was away in London on church business, Susanna grew very concerned as attendance at church services slumped, mainly because of the incompetence of the curate. Her response was unheard of in that day in the Established Church; she began services in her kitchen and in a matter of weeks some 200 parishioners were attending. Ecclesiastical laws prevented Susanna Wesley from preaching, so instead she read to her congregation the best sermons she could find and also led them in other religious exercises. How like John Wesley’s future “society meetings” were these gatherings in the Epworth kitchen and among that congregation was eight-year-old John!

Hearing of this “new thing,” Samuel Wesley wrote from London, strongly advising Susanna to cease these “illegal” meetings. Part of her reply is a masterpiece of passionate pleading and cogent reasoning: “If you do, after all, think fit to dissolve this assembly, do not tell me that you desire me to do it, for that will not satisfy my conscience; but send me your positive command, in such full and express terms as may absolve me from all guilt and punishment for neglecting this opportunity of doing good, when you and I shall appear before the great and awful tribunal of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Samuel’s opposition evaporated!

During his years at Oxford University, particularly when he was an undergraduate, John Wesley wrote to his mother about many things. He asked her advice about the books he was reading and sought her counsel on the theological problems with which he was wrestling. Of Thomas á Kempis she answered: “I take á Kempis to have been an honest, weak man, with more zeal than knowledge, by his condemning all mirth or pleasure as sinful or useless, in opposition to so many plain and direct texts of scripture.” Later in that 1726 letter she gave her now-famous definition of sin, incidentally the only nonbiblical quotation found in the Manual of the Church of the Nazarene: “Take this rule: whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, or takes off the relish of spiritual things; in short, whatever increases the strength and authority of your body over your mind, that thing is sin to you, however innocent it may be in itself.”

When John asked her about predestination, she replied: “The doctrine of predestination, as maintained by rigid Calvinists, is very shocking and ought utterly to be abhorred, because it charges the most holy God with being the author of sin.” When Susanna’s full answer on this point is examined carefully, it is seen to be identical with what John later maintained and preached and defended for half a century.

When her husband, Samuel, died in 1735, Susanna went to live with some of her family, then four years later returned to her native London to live with John in the Foundery, now his home and the headquarters of the revival movement. Here she spent the last three years of her life, a member of John’s “Methodist society” and rejoicing in the great work that was spreading all over England. And even now her influence on John was still crucial. So far in the revival’s work all the preaching had been done by John and other ordained ministers. Then an incident occurred that was to have the most significant and far-reaching repercussions.

John Wesley’s lay assistant at the Foundery, Thomas Maxfield, began to preach and, on hearing it, John rode back to London to reprimand him. Reading John’s intentions, Susanna interposed: “John, you know what my sentiments have been. You cannot suspect me of readily favouring anything of this kind. But take care what you do with respect to that young man; for he is as surely called of God to preach as you are. Examine what have been the fruits of his preaching and hear him yourself.” Again John Wesley listened to his mother’s advice, heard Maxfield preach, and concluded: “It is the Lord, let Him do what seemeth Him good. What am I that I should withstand God?” How sadly different might the course of the revival have been had John Wesley ignored his mother’s wise counsel.

On July 23, 1742, Susanna Wesley passed quietly to her rest and John recorded: “We stood round the bed and fulfilled her last request, uttered a little before she lost her speech, “Children, as soon as I am released, sing a psalm of praise to God.”” On Sunday, August 1 she was buried in Bunhill Fields—and what a scene it was! Two months earlier John had preached on his father’s grave in Epworth churchyard, an event well known and later committed to canvas. But no less striking was his sermon delivered at the open grave of his mother, there in that resting place of Daniel Defoe, John Bunyan, and a host of other Puritans. Standing among the tombs of England’s men and women of faith, he laid the body of his beloved mother to rest and took for his text the words of Revelation 20: “I saw a great white throne ... I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God.” In his Journal he wrote: “It was one of the most solemn assemblies I ever saw, or expect to see on this side eternity.”

From that materially poor but spiritually rich rectory in Epworth, Mrs. Wesley prepared her family, and especially John and Charles, to go out and bless the world. And how her prayers and counsels and influence were to be rewarded! Six and a half thousand hymns from the pen of son Charles—and who can estimate the life and work and lasting good of son John and the revival, of which, under God, he was the chosen instrument? Thank God for Christian mothers and especially for Susanna Wesley—the Mother of Methodism.
The principalities, powers, and rulers of darkness of this age continually strive to overcome us. But the whole armor of God offers protection and defense.

by ROBERT E. MANER

I am profoundly impressed by how little the Bible says about Satan. He is real; his footprints can be seen throughout Bible history. He is no less with us today. Evidence of his power can be seen when we look at his work in contemporary culture. It would seem that a strong focus on Satan, his methods, his activities, and the obvious danger he represents would have been advantageous to Christians past and present. But the Bible writers didn’t seem to see it that way.

His voice is heard but three times in Scripture. In Genesis he is heard in the serpent speaking to Eve—very effectively, we might add. He is heard to speak again, this time to God, in the Book of Job. It is frightening to think he has the power to speak, even to appear, in the presence of God. Again he speaks to the hurt and ruin of man. The third time we hear his voice is in the temptation of Jesus. This time he actually tries to get Jesus to sin. We do have to give him credit for being an optimist.

Jesus, in Luke’s Gospel, mentions seeing Satan fall like lightning from heaven. But it is most difficult to get much of a picture of him from this brief encounter. Perhaps Jesus is speaking of what John also saw—the great dragon “called the Devil, and Satan” as he is cast to earth (Revelation 12).

Paul does not give us much information about the archenemy of God and man. In 2 Corinthians 2:11 we find a reference about Satan taking “advantage of us.” We read on where Paul says, “for we are not ignorant of his devices.”

“Go on, Paul, give us a list of his devices.”

But no luck here. Paul moves on to his experiences at Troas. Four or five times in all he makes reference to Satan, but always we would like to know more.

The entire Old Testament does little more than refer to Satan. Other than the references in Genesis and Job, little information is given. In the entire Bible we have only occasional references. It is almost as though we just get a glimpse of him, never a detailed picture.

The prophet Isaiah mentions Lucifer (chapter 14), but commentators insist the reference here is to the king of Babylon, not Satan. At most, it is only a reference to a satanlike king.

Satan’s other frequently mentioned name is the devil. The King James Bible does not distinguish between the devil and demons, calling all devils. Most modern translations make a clearer distinction. There is only one devil, thank God. There are many demons.

But when we look in the Bible for every reference on the subject, we are left with a lot more questions than answers. And even some of our answers are mere conjectures, not equally held by all pious and capable scholars.

Perhaps this is the point God is trying to make about...
Satan. We live in a day of freaky preoccupation with Satan. I stopped by to see one of our district campgrounds recently. It was spring, well before the beginning of the camp season. On an end wall of the open tabernacle, written in graffiti style, were the words, "SATAN IS ALIVE." While none have had cause to doubt it, to see it where we did was disturbing.

Maybe the message of the Bible is that it is not spiritually advantageous to focus on Satan. We should keep our eyes on God. To become preoccupied with God's great enemy is to play into his hands. I am sure the Bible has given us all the information we need. Perhaps more knowledge would be dangerous?

Almost as a footnote in the Bible is a reference to the devil. I have never heard a sermon on this text. In the little one-chapter Book of Jude, in verse 9 are the words, "Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee."

If even an archangel showed the devil that respect, I have a feeling we should be careful what we say. The numerous occult and Satan worshipers, along with their fellow travelers, have no idea of the bottle they have uncorked. The unleashed evil sweeping our world should be warning enough. Certainly God's people will realize what is happening and avoid Satan's trap.

It is comforting to know Satan is not eternal. John, in Revelation 20, assures us that his final end in the lake of fire and brimstone will be God's solution to him as a problem.

Our only defense today is in the refuge of God's grace and power. He alone can cope with such a formidable adversary. Paul refers in Ephesians 6 to our warfare as wrestling. The principalities, powers, and rulers of darkness of this age continually strive to overcome us. But the whole armor of God offers protection and defense. With it, and prayerful watchfulness urged in verse 18, we have assurance of victory.

A final note of triumph is sounded by John in his first Epistle: "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (4:4). □

ROBERT E. MANER is a registered evangelist in the Church of the Nazarene.

Book Brief

THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE AND THEIR CENTRAL MESSAGE IN EVERYDAY ENGLISH

by NAZARENE PUBLISHING HOUSE STAFF

Every once in a while, a book comes along that you really ought to own. The Books of the Bible and Their Central Message is one of those books. Since I slipped my copy into the front of my Bible, I've found several good uses for this small volume.

If, like me, you are attempting to read the Bible from cover to cover this year, The Books of the Bible . . . will give you a brief (usually less than one page) synopsis of each book, and a better understanding of what you're about to study. In addition to explanations of each book's central theme and key figures, The Books of the Bible . . . also suggests a verse to underline and memorize. If I put into practice what I'm proposing here, by December 31, 1987, I'll not only have read the Bible through, I will have memorized a verse from each book. I'd love to hear about it if you reach this goal along with me!

Just as this little book is helpful for personal Bible study and devotions, Sunday School teachers and small-group leaders will find answers to many Bible-related questions that arise as well.

Pastors, for new converts this would be a great companion to the Basic Bible Studies. The Books of the Bible . . . is written in a beautifully simple, easy-to-read style and wouldn't intimidate even the newest Christian. As the Basic Bible Study explains and helps establish them on their new walk with Christ, The Books of the Bible . . . complements their study, tying the separate books together for a clearer understanding of the Bible as a whole.

Whether you're a pastor, Sunday School teacher, Bible study leader, or just an "ordinary folk" like me, as you use The Books of the Bible . . . , you'll soon agree: this is one of those books you really ought to own. □

—Susan Downs
Owego, New York

Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City
Paper, 64 pages. To order see page 23.

MISPLACED APOLOGY

Forgive me, Lord, for grieving You,
'Twas such a stupid thing to do...
I yelled at him and saw him wince,
And haven't felt Your presence since.

My words cut through him like a sword . . .
I'm sorry now. Forgive me, Lord.

With gentle words God chided me:
"O, child of Mine, do you not see?
Before My peace can comfort thee,
Apologize to him, not Me."

—CONNIE Rogers, Arkansas
FAMILY WEEK? GREAT!

May 3-10 has been designated Nazarene Family Week among our people.

With families and homes under ceaseless bombardment by satanic forces, we need to recognize, appreciate, and emphasize the values and blessings of Christian family life.

Where marriage and family are concerned, if I cannot speak with authority, I can speak from experience. On May 1 Doris and I observed our 45th wedding anniversary. I would not take a million dollars for any of those years, and I would welcome 45 more.

Through most of those years we were kept busy and broke raising children. Calling children "a heritage of the Lord" and "arrows," the Psalmist declared that man happy who had "his quiver full of them." Four sons and one daughter filled my quiver and kept me quivering.

Doubtless we made many mistakes with our children, but they knew they were wanted and loved. Now grown and raising our 12 grandchildren, their hearts and doors are open to us as ours are to them. We prize the times we can be together and keep the phone lines buzzing when we are apart.

Doris remains my lover and friend. She is a joy to live with and I could spend every day and night in her company and never weary of it. I have some friends who can make an hour seem a day. She makes a day seem an hour. The 45th year of marriage was the best yet, but it cannot hold its championship title against the present contender—46.

Any marriage can succeed where both marriage partners serve the Lord and live unselfishly toward one another. Love as mere emotion will not weather the storms and changes of time, but love as devotion conquers every obstacle. The answer to a troubled marriage is not divorce; it is repentance, forgiveness, unselfishness, and above all mutual dedication to the will and word of God.

Let Family Week remind us of what matters most—of who matters most, and let's strengthen the home in special, grateful ways.

BURIED MESSAGES

Not long ago, in Athens, Ala., a monument flanking the grave of a pioneer Cumberland Presbyterian preacher was uncapped. The preacher was Robert Donnell, and the monument contained his personal Bible, some rare books, and "a motheaten sermon manuscript.”

My first thought, upon reading the newspaper account of this historic find, was, "What strange appetites moths have!" I thought, too, that some motheaten sermons are delivered from pulpits today.

Then, as usually happens, more serious reflection was stimulated. The contents of the monument were items whose values as artifacts was only secondary. The primary value of such objects depends upon circulation. An unread book is a defeated purpose. An unconsulted Bible saves and guides no one. An unpreached sermon stirs no one to action for God.

Books, sermons, and Bibles can be buried in many ways and in many places. Books sitting on shelves, picked up only to be dusted occasionally, might as well be sealed in monuments. Sermons ignored by careless or rebellious hearers are entombed within forfeited opportunities. Bibles used only to adorn coffee tables exert no saving, healing impact upon their owners. Circulation, audience, and usage are what gives these messages their value.

When I was teaching college I was impressed—and saddened—by how many students sold unused textbooks at the end of their courses.

As a pastor and evangelist, I was grieved by the number of persons who came to and went from church services without really hearing and heeding the truth proclaimed.

On the flyleaf of a Bible I read the pledge of a young man to read God's Word daily. He hasn't read the Bible for years.

The illustrations are many, the outcomes are tragic. We need to take God's messages out of the monuments and circulate them. No one can benefit from buried books, sermons, and Bibles.
Until God’s arm shrinks there is no reason for my faith to shrink. Possibility is not measured by the waning strength of an aging man, but by the unabated strength of the ageless God.

NO CHRISTIAN TERRORISTS

A spate of bombings terrorized Paris in the fall of ’86. Responsible for the deaths and injuries resulting from the bombings was a terrorist group demanding the release of French prisoner Georges Ibrahim Abdallah.

Abdallah is a Lebanese leader of terrorists who regard themselves as freedom fighters for the Palestinian cause—the Lebanese Armed Revolution Faction. According to French investigators, the core of this group is comprised of “Leftist Christians,” and news stories label Abdallah a Christian.

That any terrorist should bear the name of Christ is a travesty. Cowardly and indiscriminate slaughter of innocent people in order to make political statements or demand political changes is totally foreign to the spirit and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Increasing numbers of people, including some theologians, have attempted in recent years to identify Jesus as a Zealot, to link His teaching with Marxist principles, and to justify atrocities in His name. To do this, they must radically rewrite history and reinterpret the New Testament. Truth is not on their side.

A man who places a bomb on a plane, or in a market, or in a restaurant and spills the blood of innocent people may call himself Christian, but he lies. Jesus did not ally himself with any political group or cause, and He specifically forbade His disciples to advance His cause with the sword. When two hotheads among the disciples wanted to call down fire from heaven to consume an inhospitable village, Jesus rebuked them, saying, “The Son of man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.”

Terrorists would be better named after Satan, not after Christ, for the devil was “a murderer from the beginning” and “the father of lies,” as Jesus declared.

Jesus Christ is the final Judge of all men. In the last judgment the crimes of violence that have been committed in His name will be exposed as satanic strategies for smearing that name with dishonor.

“Christian” and “terrorist” can never be true synonyms.

GERIATRIC GRACE

Recently, as I was reading Scripture, this thought struck me—I am paying more attention than ever before to passages relating to old age!

Not long ago I was comforted by Isaiah 46:4, where God promises, “Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you” (NIV).

A glance in the mirror and a consultation with my joints assures me that I qualify for the promise. I take comfort from it, especially on winter days and during late-night activities. It’s encouraging to know that while my strength declines, God is as young and strong as ever.

As I age I speak less and creak more. I’m charier with advice, for I was smarter—so I thought—in youth. Experience has taught me a lot, including how little I know. I’m slowing my pace; wouldn’t want to run over the youngsters, you know. When I was a young preacher a favorite text was, “Loose him and let him go.” Now “I will sustain you” sounds wonderful.

Another passage that heartens me as the arteries harden is Numbers 11:23. “Has the Lord’s arm been shortened?” (NKJV). A number of miraculous events are attributed to the arm of the Lord in the Bible, including the Exodus. Having freed the people, can He not feed them, Moses argues?

Until God’s arm shrinks there is no reason for my faith to shrink. Possibility is not measured by the waning strength of an aging man, but by the unabated strength of the ageless God. That being true, I can achieve victories in Kingdom service now as surely as when my skin was smooth, my hair was brown, and my eyesight was 20-20 unaided by glasses.

Aging has few compensations except to sharpen one’s interest in the resurrection. Nonetheless, every season of one’s life can be joyous and productive when the promises of God are activated by claiming, venturing faith. Just last Sunday I preached the gospel, and the altar filled with seekers after God.

Gang way for the old man—he has things to do for the Lord!
DOES CHRIST HEAL THE BROKENHEARTED TODAY?

by JANE KRISTOFFERSEN

I was crushed. At age 14 I felt rejected for the first time in my life. My mother had just informed me that my piano teacher would no longer allow me to take lessons from her. The reason? I had skipped several measures of a certain piece during my recital. My mother, who also was a piano teacher, quickly added that she felt the real reason was that I was too advanced. She thought my teacher wanted only beginners. At any rate, I was heartbroken. I remember finding a place of prayer and pouring out my heart to God. Instantly, healing came. It was incredible! I no longer felt any pain over what I considered to be unfair treatment. I felt as though nothing had happened.

Several years ago, now as an adult, I faced one of the deepest of all hurts—much more serious than losing a piano teacher. I was losing my husband through a tragic divorce. Could God still heal? The pain was so great that I wondered how a person could suffer so much and still live. At various stages, and over a period of many months, there were numerous times when God touched my aching heart and I found healing. At other times he used a friend or a scripture (especially a psalm) to aid my progress. But there came a final day when I felt that His touch reached the depths of my being, and I knew the healing was complete. A tremendous load was lifted. I couldn’t praise God enough. The battle and sorrow had been so great; now the victory and joy were equally as great.

Through my experiences I have learned some important steps toward emotional healing:

1. **Face reality.** We must not deny or avoid our feelings. They must be acknowledged before God. The injurer may be avoiding reality by not taking responsibility for his or her choices. But we, the injured, have to face the total, subsequent pain of those choices. We cannot mask the situation and find complete healing.

2. **Forgive the one who has hurt us.** How can we hold resentment when “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23)? There was a time when we needed God’s forgiveness.

3. **Find God’s healing.** We must tell God about our heartache and ask Him to heal. He will. Many times I made prayer the order of my day. After fulfilling my necessary obligations, I spent much of the remaining time in prayer. Social activities often took a backseat. I needed to commune with God and let Him restore order to my life. Seeking His will was utmost.

4. **Focus on the future.** After God heals our damaged emotions, we can work toward His will and purpose. The enemy delights in keeping us grieving, but God wants to heal and give us a future.

Christ said, “He hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted” (Luke 4:18). I am living proof that He still heals today.
A FAMILY EVENT

There is no better way to observe a diamond jubilee than to bring the family together for remembering, appreciating, and focusing in on bright days ahead. That’s how it was on February 17 at Nazarene Publishing House. The day we observed our 75th anniversary.

While looking back in celebration is a natural exercise at such an event, the heart of this observance was the dedication of land, buildings, and equipment that line both sides of the street in the 2800 and 2900 blocks of Troost Avenue in Kansas City.

Employees Were Honored

Expectation was high as 270 NPH employees moved into a temporary auditorium that had been created in one of the plant’s massive warehouses. On the well-appointed platform sat the Board of General Superintendents and the company’s Corporate Board. In the audience were Nazarene Headquarters directors and officers and a few specially invited guests.

But the honored participants for this red-letter occasion were the NPH employees—the workers who sat there in their workaday “uniforms” jeans and ties, and suits, and overalls. Each man and woman sensed the unusual importance of his or her job. Each task assumed greater importance in the light of the mission of Nazarene Publishing House, so eloquently outlined by members of the board. We were the performers who make the publishing house a leader in supplying curricula, periodicals, music, church supplies, books, and holiness evangelism materials to our denomination and beyond.

Our singing of “To God Be the Glory” took on more brilliance with the help of the Mid-America Nazarene College brass ensemble, led by Terry Baldridge (above). Corporate Board member Walt Moore places documents in the Landmark chest, to be opened in the year 2012, as Dr. Eugene L. Stowe looks on (l.).
We Give God Praise and Thanks

A Litany of Celebration for 75 Years of Nazarene Publishing House Ministry, read by General Superintendent Raymond W. Hurn and all of us present, expressed what we felt.

Leader:
To the glory of God our Father, to the praise of Jesus our Savior and His Church, and to the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit,

Congregation:
We celebrate 75 years of printing Christian literature.

For the early pioneers who envisioned a church and publishing house that would propagate holiness literature,
We give God praise and thanks.

For a church that exalts the ministry of the open Bible, with its faithful record of human life, its unfolding of the redeeming grace of God through Jesus Christ, its message of warning, inspiration, comfort, and hope,
We give God praise and thanks.

For the talents of faithful artists, writers, and craftsmen who have attractively prepared the materials and the written word,
We give God praise and thanks.

For the ministry of composing music that faithfully communicates the gospel message, expresses the spiritual experiences of the people, and offers worship and praise to the triune God,
We give God praise and thanks.

For the instrument to communicate renewing cleansing power of the Spirit to the church,
We give God praise and thanks.

To many, the highlight of this dedication celebration was the presentations of symbolic products that are part of the ministry of Nazarene Publishing House. Books and periodicals and the like that reflect our purpose and responsibility. These were placed in a brass Landmark chest, to be opened on the occasion of the company's 100th anniversary, in 2012. In committing the symbolic contents of the time chest, General Superintendent Eugene L. Stowe declared, "I lock these tokens representing the mutual commitment of NPH management, employees, and the Church of the Nazarene to its mission with the strong belief that . . . when the centennial celebration is held we will find still in place the Landmarks that have distinguished this great house of service."

And It Was a Time of Fellowship

With the words and spirit of soloist Darwin Speicher, of Olivet College Church, still singing in our hearts, we all moved to the second floor into the festive atmosphere of a dining room replete with china and crystal appointments and a catered luncheon.

At each plate the diners found a printed card announcing the general superintendents' establishment of the M. A. Lunn Holiness Literature Fund, a trust established in honor of retiring NPH manager Bud Lunn for the development of books and other resources that reflect our Wesleyan-Arminian theology.

As employees returned to their work stations; to desks and presses, drawing boards and computer terminals, one smiling worker was overheard commenting to her friend, "Sometimes you wonder why you are here, but today my being here has been reaffirmed."

—Paul M. Miller
Director, Sales & Marketing
1987 LILLENAS MUSIC CONFERENCE DRAWS RECORD CROWD

We really must have done something right,” says Ken Bible, director of the music department of Nazarene Publishing House. He was speaking of the 1987 edition of the annual Lillenas conference on church music. “A year ago February we had 210 in attendance. This year we crowded the facilities with over 400.”

Participation in the three-day event, held February 5, 6, and 7 at Olathe (Kans.) College Church of the Nazarene, was broad. An unusually large number of pastors were present, along with ministers of music, volunteer choir directors, accompanists, and drama ministry directors.

Clinicians and other resource people provided reading sessions for new works and panel discussions on worship planning. Guest resourcers were Tom Fettke, Doug Hoick, and Mosie Lister, all writers and arrangers of Lillenas music.

Workshops on many related topics were enthusiastically received. They covered interests for accompanists, children’s music leaders, drama enthusiasts, handbell directors, and those who work with small choirs. Cassette recordings of the workshops and panels are available from Nazarene Publishing House. Write for particulars.

Opening night of the conference was the scene of a banquet held in the Mid-America Nazarene College dining room. Entertainment for the first part of the evening was provided by the college English handbell choir, Resounding Joy, directed by Carlton Wood.
Rounding out the first night dinner was pianist/comedian Mark Reighard of Bethany, Okla.

The traditional conference concert, which is open to the community, was staged Friday evening in the College Church sanctuary with 2,500 in the audience. Featured was popular soloist and recording artist Gary McSpadden of the Bill Gaither Trio and Vocal Band. Also on the program, performing scripts recently published by Lillenas Drama Resources, was the First Drama Ensemble, directed by Paul M. Miller.

Conference Coordinator Sandy Harmon announces next year’s conference dates, February 4-6, again in Olathe, Kans.

Pianist-comedian Mark Reighard (r.) demonstrates the unusual styles of church pianists at the Thursday evening banquet. (Below) Hands-on experience was part of Carlton Woods’ workshop on church handbell choirs.

Writer/arranger Mosie Lister leads his “Help for the Small Church Choir” workshop.

(Above) Lynda Cohagan presents the comedy monologue “The Substitute Children’s Worker” as part of the concert. (Below) Drama enthusiasts gathered from many states to participate in the two workshops presented by Paul Miller, Lillenas drama editor.

Members of the First Drama Ensemble, Rick Edwards (l.) and Dale Jones, present the new Lawrence Enscoe play “The Job” during the Friday night concert.
A Tobaccoless Society

Forty years after faithfully smoking her favorite brand of cigarettes, Mary was diagnosed with bronchogenic carcinoma, a lung cancer common to those who ingest cigarette smoke. The addicted smoker sued the cigarette companies for "conscious indifference and utter disregard for the life, health, safety, and welfare of their customers." Fifteen other lawsuits have been filed against cigarette manufacturers in the United States.

Expert estimates reveal that 350,000 people die premature deaths because of tobacco use. Fifty-three million Americans still "light up." Cigarette marketers spend $2.7 billion to entice people to keep puffing their products. Cigarette manufacturers work to build their image by sponsoring jazz festivals, concert series, tennis tours, and other activities.

Cigarettes remain popular even though linked to cancer, coronary disease, obstructive lung disorder, and many other disorders. A medical statement established in 1963 states: "Cigarette smoking is a health hazard of sufficient importance to warrant remedial action." Cigarette makers pulled all of their ads off the airwaves as equal time given to antismoking ads hurt them.

The tobacco industry points out that they provide 2 million jobs and pay $29.9 billion in wages, and $22 billion in federal, state, and local taxes. But the American public could save $100 billion annually if we could get rid of tobacco.

A shift in the cost of smoking from the general public to the smoker and tobacco industry should be made. More people should bring litigation against cigarette companies. Favorable plaintiff verdicts will say a lot about the tobacco product and economy.

Two hundred thousand tobacco farm families in southeastern U.S. depend on the cigarette consumer to survive. Tobacco growers have difficulty in thinking of anything else that they can produce to earn as much money as tobacco brings. Many tobacco states are diversifying, but the process is slow.

The surgeon general has set a goal for a smoke-free society by 2000. Ninety percent of all smokers would like to quit, 70 percent of those who try begin smoking again within three months, about the same recidivism rate as for heroin addiction. A new generation of nonsmokers must be raised.

A generation of nonsmoking young people by the turn of the century is possible. Increased education about medical consequences of smoking is helping.

The church's role in the war against the tobacco industry can be significant. As the church works with children and youth it should be tied in positively with organizations that are working for a tobaccoless generation by 2000. The church located in tobacco states should share the facts that, even though tobacco generates about $52 billion in wages and taxes, it also costs Americans $100 billion in damages, and 350,000 lives annually. States should be encouraged to diversify their industry as the state of North Carolina is doing.

Tobacco doesn't do any good for the Christian or non-Christian. Tobacco does not honor Christ. God does not give His blessing to the use of tobacco (Colossians 3:12; 1 Corinthians 19:31). While Christians determine to fill their lives with the good things of God (Philippians 4:8), they will not only personally reject tobacco but also work for children and youth to be a part of the tobaccoless generation by 2000.

by WILLIAM GOODMAN

William Goodman is a Nazarene elder serving as the Salvation Army's director of Correctional Services for Western Missouri and Kansas District. He resides in Leavenworth, Kansas.
A LADY WITH A SMILE

by PETER BOURKE

She was just a little old lady with a radiant smile. She was never on a church board, nor elected to any “important” position. She never had time to be, having accepted the Lord Jesus as her personal Savior in the last two years of her life. She was in fellowship with us at the Hamilton Church of the Nazarene for that short span.

But, oh, how the church has missed May Weller Merrilees since she recently passed on to be with her Lord.

When Mary and Theo Reinsfield told us that Mary’s mother was living in a tiny flat on her own, my wife, Gladys, and I decided to pay her a visit.

We found a gracious lady who apologized for not being able to make us a cup of tea, as three of her grandchildren were sprawled across the carpet of her living room-kitchen watching TV. She didn’t want to disturb them and neither did we.

She chatted about her family, and then we got on to church matters. She confided, “I occasionally go to church but have always felt it was place to go to praise God. I don’t know anything about knowing God personally.”

We assured her that knowing God was possible and necessary for salvation. Shortly afterward her son-in-law, daughter, and some of our church people conversed further with her about Christ.

Mrs. Merrilees leapt at the chance to accept Christ. It was obvious the Holy Spirit was at work and made the message clear to her.

Her joy was uncontrolled, and she witnessed shortly afterward at a service before coming into membership in the church.

Her life had not been easy. There were hard times when bringing up a family of nine. But while food and clothing were scarce at times, love was plentiful and she was never in too much of a hurry to listen to her children’s troubles and soothe the aches and pains of their growing up.

Mrs. Merrilees was found in her shower, where she had apparently been all night, unconscious. She was taken to the hospital where her daughter, son-in-law, and a Christian sister kept a week-long vigil.

By turns they read the Scriptures and prayed. She was unconscious, and at times restless. However, on many occasions she calmed right down when her sister said, “Jesus is with you. He will look after you.” The end came peacefully.

The small Hamilton church overflowed for the funeral. Many of her relatives were unbelievers. Several wept openly. An evangelist at heart, Theo gave a short but challenging spiritual eulogy.

The Rev. John Bennett, who officiated, spoke of the wonder of God’s love, who sent His only Son to die for us on a cruel cross.

There was not a dry eye among the children and grandchildren who formed a guard of honor in the church foyer as the coffin was slowly taken out. Mrs. Merrilees had been a keen gardener and the front of the church was packed with lovely spring flowers.

But perhaps the greatest tribute of all came in a comment by another new member who, when told of Mrs. Merrilees’ death, said, “Oh, yes, she was the lady who was always smiling.”

Mrs. Merrilees’ Christian family have no doubt that her friendly smile helped to light the pathway to heaven for many young new Christians.

ANONYMously APPrEciAtEd

From one sister to another, your article on “No” votes was excellent. You were truthful and very kind in your observations. I pray that when people entertain the thought of voting no that they will reread your article and spend time truly seeking God’s will.

Another Pastor’s Wife

PETER BOURKE is the church secretary for the Church of the Nazarene in Hamilton, New Zealand.

“By ALL MEANS...
Save Some”
Rev. Stan Meek holds a recent copy of the Herald of Holiness, remembering how important it was to him when he was a serviceman. "The literature of our denomination had a great deal to do with my conversion," he said in a letter to Mr. Bud Lunn, "and with my spiritual development. During the Korean War the Herald was sent to me free of charge. Even though I was not a Christian at the time, I would slip off by myself and devour them." During that time the call of God upon Stan's life was clarified, and he now pastors Dodge City, Kans., First Church.

NAZARENES SERVE IN TEXAS LEGISLATURE

Two laymen from the Dallas District were inducted into the Texas House of Representatives in the first session of 1987, according to Dr. W. M. Lynch, Dallas district superintendent. Mr. Kenny Marchant of Carrollton and Mr. Glenn Repp of Duncanville were elected to their posts in November.

Kenny Marchant  Glenn Repp

Marchant is a banker and a member of Carrollton, Tex., First Church. Repp is an aeronautical engineer and a member of Dallas First Church.

The Nazarene lawmakers are two of only seven newly elected members of the Texas House.

GROUP TERM LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAM GROWS

Nearly 12,000 Nazarene ministers, church-employed laymen, and families were covered under the Group Term Life Insurance Program for the 1986 policy year. Dr. Dean Wessels, director of Pensions and Benefits Services USA, indicates that total coverage, including the Accidental Death and Dismemberment rider, exceeded $402 million. This represents a 17 percent increase.

Additional highlights for the 1986 policy year include:

- Life insurance claims totaled $810,000.
- The two Long-Term Disability Income Protection Plans provided protection for 474 enrollees. Claims paid totaled $16,702.
- Enrollment in the Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance Plan grew to 213. Coverage volume was almost $33 million.
- Effective October 1, 1986, coverage was increased for ministers in the Nazarene Basic Group Term Life Insurance Plan. The base coverage for district-licensed ministers increased from $1,000 to $1,500. For ordained ministers the base coverage increased from $1,500 to $2,500.
- The policy of providing double, triple, and double-double coverage for ministers on those districts reaching a Pensions and Benefits Fund payment of 90 percent, 95 percent, and 100 percent respectively, continues to apply to this new basic amount of insurance. Maximum coverage for ministers over age 70 remains double coverage.

Dr. Wessels reminds all pastors, full-time lay church employees, and evangelists that they are eligible for the Nazarene Group Term Life Insurance Program. Specific details and costs are available from Pensions and Benefits Services USA, 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131.

PRAISES

Let us rejoice in the 219 churches represented in the Evangelism Conference in Kansas City actively sponsoring a new work in 1987. We know there are many more that could not appear personally.

We should be praising God for an outstanding Easter Offering. Early reports indicate that it could be one of the best of record.

We are praising God for the South America Regional Council meetings and Conference led by General Superintendent John A. Knight and Regional Director Rev. Louie Bustle. South America is leading all regions in growth. Let us praise God for these great victories.

RAYMOND W. HURN, Secretary
BOARD OF GENERAL SUPERINTENDENTS

Prayer Partners

Petitions

Pray for our 567 certified evangelists (176 commissioned, 391 registered). The itinerant evangelist has always been a key element in extending the work of holiness evangelism as well as in the renewal of existing churches. The summer of 1987 would be a great time for each cluster of 10 churches to sponsor an old-fashioned revival in an unreached community, employing a certified evangelist! Will you pray about this? May is a prime time to lay plans to plant a new work in a revival atmosphere.

Pray for the new district in southern California as our largest district in the world divides to become two entities. Pray for these two districts (Southern California District and Anaheim District) as they organize to double the effort in southern California.

Praisings

Let us rejoice in the 219 churches represented in the Evangelism Conference in Kansas City actively sponsoring a new work in 1987. We know there are many more that could not appear personally.

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RAYMOND W. HURN, Secretary
BOARD OF GENERAL SUPERINTENDENTS
AFRICA REGION TRAINS FOR MARITAL HEALTH

The first Nazarene Marriage Enrichment Leadership Training Retreat was conducted in the Republic of South Africa by Trainer Couple, Gerry and Gayle Hayse.

The Hayses write, “Our vision for these seven couples is that they become channels through which the Holy Spirit will minister to others.”

A primary goal of marriage enrichment is characterized by 2 Corinthians 2:14, that He will always “lead us,” and through us spread “everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him” (NIV).

Each of the seven couples has exhibited a vibrant hunger for growth in their marriage and an excitement to pass it on to others for Jesus’ sake. We welcome them to the growing Marriage Enrichment family!

Stan and Cecile Bengtson
COUPLE CONDUCTS FIVE-NATION TOUR FOR NAZARENE MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

Stan and Cecile Bengtson of Sundre, Alta., conducted a two-month, five-nation tour on behalf of Nazarene Marriage Enrichment. The Bengtsons offered their time, finances, and energy to lead seven retreats plus a number of speaking engagements throughout the Caribbean.

They were invited by Rev. Jack Hawthorne, Church Growth coordinator of the Caribbean Region. He reports that feedback from the various districts visited by the Bengtsons is enthusiastic of the effectiveness of marriage enrichment.

Mr. and Mrs. Bengtson will be coordinating other events in the Caribbean, especially the Nazarene Marriage Enrichment Leadership Retreat. This will train nationals as leader couples from their respective areas.

Stan and Cecile report they were warmly received throughout the Caribbean. Couples were receptive to the concepts of Nazarene Marriage Enrichment and open to the leading of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

One positive experience was the retreat in Barbados. District Superintendent Clyde Greenidge had a well-organized and functioning District Marriage and Family Life Committee. The committee found a beautiful retreat setting, Erdston Teacher’s College. The quiet atmosphere provided the 15 couples with the needed rest and retreat from their normal routines.

“The results were rewarding. For us it was a positive experience. We felt a spirit of support and caring. A sense of unity developed within the group. We felt barriers breaking down as the Holy Spirit was allowed to touch the hearts of couples in very specific ways.

“We rejoiced when two husbands prayed to accept Christ as their Savior. This occurred on Sunday morning during the final session devoted to the Lordship of Christ over the marriage relationship.

“Husbands and wives reaffirmed their commitments to spiritual growth. Many were willing to allow the Holy Spirit to smooth some rough edges of their relationships.”

The quadrennial theme, “That the World May Know,” becomes tested by the quality of life in our Nazarene homes. Christ’s love is real. He does make a difference.

J. Paul and Marilyn Turner, reporting

DR. KNIGHT “PREACHER OF THE YEAR” AT NTS

Dr. John A. Knight, general superintendent, was honored as the 1987 “Preacher of the Year” at Nazarene Theological Seminary. He spoke in chapels at NTS, March 10-13.

Dr. Knight graduated from Bethany Nazarene College and holds the M.A. degree from the University of Oklahoma and the B.D. and Ph.D. degrees from Vanderbilt University.

He pastored on the Tennessee District for a decade and taught in the Department of Religion at Trevecca Nazarene College, Bethany Nazarene College, and Mount Vernon Nazarene College. He was chairman of the Division of Religion and Philosophy at both TNC and MVNC. Prior to his election to the general superintendency in 1985, he served as president of Bethany Nazarene College.

A former editor of the Herald of Holiness, Dr. Knight wrote the commentary on the letter to the Philippians in Beacon Bible Commentary, and on the same book and Colossians and Philemon in Beacon Bible Expositions. He is the author of The Holiness Pilgrimage and In His Likeness and has contributed to religious periodicals and journals as well as other theological works, including the Wesleyan Dictionary of Theology. He is past president of the Wesleyan Theological Society.

—NN

READ SERVES AS VISITING PROF AT NTS

Rev. Terry Read has been appointed visiting professor of missiology at Nazarene Theological Seminary for the remainder of this school year, according to Dr. Terrell C. (Jack) Sanders, Jr., NTS president.
Almost 25 representatives from international Nazarene schools were present for the 7th Theology Conference in Kansas City. Many of them are pictured here (l. to r.): Dr. Charles W. Gates, World Mission Division Ministries coordinator; Rev. Robert McCroskes, Jr., Indonesia Bible College professor; Dr. Jonathan Salgado, Costa Rica Seminary academic dean; Rev. James Williams, Taiwan Theological College director; Rev. Jeanine van Beek, Haitian Seminary director; Rev. Alberto Guaman, Mexican Seminary president; Rev. Darryl Stanton, Africa; Rev. Mario Zani, Guatemalan Theological Institute director; Rev. Samuel Ovando, Mexico; Dr. John A. Knight, responsible general superintendent for Education Services; Rev. Ernesto Rulloda, Luzon Bible College director; Rev. Eduardo Gonzalez, Theological Education coordinator for South America; Dr. Enrique Guan, Costa Rica Seminary rector; Rev. Gary Bunch, Brazilian Seminary professor; Dr. Angelito O. Agbuya, Asia-Pacific Seminary professor; Rev. Roy E. Copelin, Visayan Bible College professor; Rev. Timothy Mercer, Korean Theological College professor; Rev. J. Elton Wood, Brazilian Seminary director; Rev. Federico Melendez, Guatemalan Theological Institute director; Rev. Timothy Diamini, SNU master's program—Swaziland Bible College; Dr. Ruth Saxon, Caribbean Theological College academic dean; Dr. Theodore P. Esseltyn, Africa Theological College president; and Dr. Mark R. Moore, Education Services secretary. Not pictured were: Rev. Walter Crow, European Bible College president; Dr. E. Lebron Fairbanks, Asia-Pacific Seminary president; Rev. Thomas Findlay, European Bible College professor; and Rev. Herbert McConnigle, British Isles College president.

He replaces Dr. Jorge Barros who has resigned the post.

A missionary since 1972, Rev. Read had been on furlough doing deputation work this year and had received an additional year’s leave of absence to finish his doctor of missiology degree at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Chicago.

The Reads served in Haiti from 1972 until 1982 when they were transferred to Brazil. In northeast Brazil they opened new work, served as mission director, and planted 12 new churches.

Rev. Read’s wife, Joan, is the daughter of the late Dr. Don Gibson and his wife, Evelyn. Mrs. Gibson now serves as the Missionary Candidate secretary in the World Mission Division. The Reads have two daughters and a son.

A native of Alberta, Canada, Rev. Read holds the Th.B. from CNC, the B.A. from Olivet, the M.Div. from NTS, and has completed most of his work toward the D.Miss. degree at Trinity.

A highlight of the conference was the presentation of an overview of the systematic theology, Grace, Faith, and Holiness, by Dr. H. Ray Dunning of Trevecca Nazarene College. Dr. Dunning, who spent eight years writing the work, gave his listeners a sense of the dynamics involved in the process of bringing the book to completion.

He highlighted some of the distinctive characteristics of the work, showing how its central focus was an attempt to be faithful to the Wesleyan understanding. The doctrine of prevenient grace, as a distinctive Wesleyan category, was emphasized as a formative concept giving unique shape to a number of central doctrines.

Papers were presented on the topics of Hermeneutical Integrity, Theological and the Church, Sin and Systematic Evil, Sanctification and Human Experience, and Ecclesiology. Seminars were held on Liberation Theology, Eucharist and Baptism, and Ethics and Nazarene Higher Education.

“This was the first time that a Nazarene theology conference included professors of religion from other world areas to this extent,” said Dr. Albert Truesdale, chairman of the program committee.

“I found the fellowship affirming and the dialogue stimulating,” said Dr. Millard Reed, pastor of Nashville First Church. “I was especially pleased by the healthy level of conversation that flowed between teachers and administrators—and for the first time, pastors and teachers from other world areas.

The conference is sponsored by the Board of General Superintendents, the Council of Education, and Nazarene Publishing House.
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How to Improve Your Prayer Life. Practical tips on such vital subjects as how to pray for healing and what to do about unanswered prayer. Leader: PA083-411-1586 Pupil: PA083-411-1594

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No Easy Answers. Twenty-six Christians go head-to-head on 13 tough issues such as Christian schools, divorce, and life-support systems. Leader: PA083-411-0644 Pupil: PA083-411-0652

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Chaplain Herbert Ailing (r.) was chosen as the Chaplain of the Year in the West Virginia Wing of the United States Air Force Auxiliary. Col. John P. Ratcliff (l.), Wing Commander of the West Virginia Wing, presented the award at the Wing Banquet in the Marriott Hotel, Charleston, W.Va. The award is presented for meritorious service above and beyond the call of regular duty. In a later ceremony at the Wheeling Composite Squadron, Lt. Col. Bernard Dalton, Squadron Commander, promoted Chaplain Ailing from the rank of captain to major. Chaplain Ailing pastors the Bellaire, Ohio, church.

### DISTRICTS JOIN NAZARENE HEALTH AND HOSPITALIZATION PROGRAM

Seven more districts have joined the Nazarene Health and Hospitalization Program (NHHP) since January 1, 1987. According to Dr. Dean Wessels, director of Pensions and Benefits Services USA, these districts are Minnesota, Eastern Kentucky, Northern California, Southern California, Los Angeles, Sacramento, and Central California.

NHHP is a denominational medical reimbursement plan designed for United States districts and church agencies. It makes available medical insurance coverage for pastors, church-employed laypersons, and their families. NHHP is uniquely designed to allow portability of coverage in transfers between districts without having to reprove insurability and without waiting periods or new preexisting limitations. Coverage can also be converted into retirement at reduced rates.

Currently 48 districts and two church agencies participate in NHHP.

**FOR THE RECORD**

### DISTRICT ASSEMBLY INFORMATION

**CANADA QUEBEC**—June 2. First Church, 455 Spring Garden Rd., Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Que. HB 112. Host Pastor: Ivan Lahprop. General Superintendent: Dr. William M. Greathouse.


**NORTH CENTRAL OHIO**—June 16-17. First Church of the Nazarene, 807 Coshohcton Ave., Mount Vernon, OH 43050. Host Pastor: Jack Archer. General Superintendent: Dr. Raymond H. Wurm.


### NAZARENE CAMP MEETINGS


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Designed in a handy saddle-stitched, 8-page, soft-cover, with gummed strip for insertion in the back of the hymnal and convenient for frequent congregational singing. Also appropriate for personal use as well as solo and choral performance. 5½" x 8½".

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NEBRASKA—June 24-27, evenings; June 28, 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. North West High School, Grand Island, NE 68801. Special workers: evangelist Carlson Mills, Barry Swanson, music; Dwight E. Neuschwander, district superintendent.


NORTHWESTERN ILLINOIS—June 29—July 5. District Center, Manville Campgrounds, Rte. 1, Box 181, Manville, IL 61339. Special workers: Jack Armstrong and Stephen Manley, evangelists; Larry Lesko, singer Floyd H. Pounds, district superintendent.


MOVING MINISTERS

CHARLES R. ARMSTRONG to Henderson (N.C.) First
DAVID C. BENTLEY, to Colorado Springs (Colo.) First
T. WESLEY BURNS from Moorhead (Minn.) First to Streator (III.) First
JEFFREY COLLINS to Saline (Mich.) First
RONALD E. COURTNEY from Cayuga (Ind.) First to Kewanee (III.) Grace
DAVID C. CROFFORD to Spring Hill (Kans.) Mission
MITCHELL DAVENPORT, student, ONU, to Princeton (III.) First
DAVID L. EDWARDS to Clovernood (Ind.) First
MICHAEL E. FARMER from Macon (Ga.) Shurlington to Barnesville (Ga.) First
DENNIS FELLENGER from Steubenville (Ohio) First to Minerva (Ohio) First
RON FLACK, student, MVNC, to associate Elyria (Ohio) First
LORAN L. FORGES from Shattuck (Okla.) First to Beatrice (Nebr.) First
BRANDT F. FREEBURG from Spencer (Iowa) First to Council Bluffs (Iowa) Community
CHARLES H. HAIL from Craig (Colo.) First to Capitan (N.Mex.) Angus
ROLF D. KLEINFELD to associate, Kansas City First
TODD LAFOND, student, ONU, to Ottawa (III.) Southside
JOHN M. MELLISH from Margate, Fla., to Ypsilanti (Mich.) Merritt Road
MICHAEL N. MYERS to Ellensburg (Wash.) First
HILBERT O. MILLER from World Missions, to pastor Bourbonnais (III.) First
KEVIN E. NOEDERHUIS from Belle Vernon (Pa.) First to Brunswick (Ohio) First
CHARLES W. NELSON, student, NBC, to Manzano (Colo.) First
LOIS CRASLEY to Pierre (S.Dak.) First
DONALD N. RUCKER from Ypsilanti (Mich.) Merritt Road to associate, Dublin (Ohio) Northwest
G. BRAD SAFFELL from Green River (Wyo.) First to Palouse (Wash.) First
ROBERT A. SCHMIDT from Man (W.Va.) First to Bennettsville (S.C.) First
GEORGE E. SHUNK, Jr., student, to Poik (Ohio) Northside
DANIEL W. THEW from Fort Washington (Md.) to Washington Trinity to Kansas City (Kans.) Highland Crest
ROBERT K. WELCH to Attica (Mich.) Beulah
STEVEN WEST from Saginaw (Mich.) Central to Pontiac (Mich.) First
FRED L. WILSON to Leon (Iowa) First
DANNY R. YATES, student, to Newport (Ark.) First

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REV. BRUCE and RUTH BLOWERS, Papua New Guinea, Field address: PO Box 416, Mt. Hagen, WHP, Papua New Guinea
REV. BOB and NORMA BRUNSON, Costa Rica, Field address: c/o Hendrix, 6355 Oak Ave., No. 10, Temple City, CA 91780
REV. MARK and ROVINA HATCHER, Korea, Field address: Shin-jin Clover Apt. 307, 178 Young-jon Taejon 300, Korea
REV. HILBERT and NORMA MILLER, Malawi, Furlough address: PO Box 443, Bourbonnais, IL 60914
REV. KURT and SUSAN SCHMIDLIN, Chile, Field address: Casilla 744, Antofagasta, Chile
MISS MARY WALLACE, Chile, Field address: Apartado Aereo 100,028, Mt. Hagen, WHP, Papua New Guinea

CORRECTION

We were furnished a wrong number for information concerning the Pawhuska, Okla. church's 50th anniversary, June 7. The correct number is 918-287-4501.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Nebraska District will celebrate its 75th anniversary during the district assembly June 25-26. The celebration will begin during the NYI convention Wednesday, June 24, and climax Sunday afternoon, June 28. The special camp meeting speaker will be Carlton Mills portraying Uncle Bud Robinson. All former pastors and members are invited to attend.

The Providence, R.I., church, which originally organized as the People's Evangelical Church July 21, 1887, will commemorate its 100th anniversary July 21-26. The theme will be "100 Years of Holiness Witness in New England." Former pastors will be speaking in some of the services.

Dr. Stephen Nease, president of Eastern Nazarene College, will speak Sunday morning. Following a dinner in the church's fellowship hall, Rev. Neale McLean, district superintendent, will speak in an afternoon service. Correspondence may be sent to the pastor, Rev. P. Edgar Thompson, 2151 Cranston St., Cranston, R.I. 02920 or call 401-944-9533.

July 26, 1987, Minot, N.Dak., First Church will celebrate its 75th anniversary. A special invitation is given to former pastors, members, and friends to attend the events planned for that day. It will begin with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and an afternoon service is planned.
Dr. L. D. Holmes was installed as pastor of the Topeka, Kansas, Wanasaker Wood Church, March 3, 1985. Dr. Holmes is the minister of the Kansas City District, is entering the ministry.

Oval L. Stone, Northeastern Indiana District superintendent, is entering the ministry.

Dr. Richard Guilfoil, associate pastor, and Chuck Jackson, ministries coordinator, of the district superintendent. Dr. Eagle L. Porter, Jr., 2610 Mar. 4, 2614, Hubbard, Ohio, will celebrate its 60th anniversary July 19. Dr. John A. Knight, general superintendent, will speak in the morning worship service with special music and a sharing time. There will be a 2:30 praise service with special music and a sharing time by former members.

Of full-time evangelism. I am happy to commend him to pastors in the Church of the Nazarene with confidence that his ministry will be a blessing to the church. Contact him at 530 Grace, Olathe, KS 66061, or 913-762-4402. —Rev. Clarence Davis, Rev. Paul Williams, and Rev. Kenneth Kern.

For further information please contact the church office. First Church of the Nazarene, 2500 W. Central, Minot, ND 58701, or call 701-838-8704.

Tidewater Central Church in Virginia Beach, Va. (formerly known as Norfolk Central Church) announced a 50th anniversary celebration July 31—Aug. 2. Former pastors and members are invited to attend. Write Tidewater Central Church of the Nazarene, 5514 Parliament Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23452, or call 804-497-8703 for details.

Junction City, Kans., First Church will celebrate its 60th anniversary July 4-5. Activities will begin Saturday evening with a picnic at Milford Lake. Following the Sunday morning service there will be a potluck dinner on the grounds. There will be a 2:30 praise service with special music and a sharing time by former members.

All former pastors, members, and friends are invited to the celebration. Those who cannot attend are encouraged to send greetings with a family picture to the church, P.O. Box 272, Junction City, KS 66441. Phone 913-762-4402.

St. Paul, Minn., First Church will celebrate its 60th anniversary July 19. Dr. John A. Knight, general superintendent, will speak in the morning worship service and the afternoon service following a noon meal together on the grounds. All former pastors, members, and friends are invited to attend or send greetings. There will also be a reunion and renewal. October 12-13, when former pastors will be present during the celebration.

For more information, call Pastor Paul B. Hicks at 612-774-2770 or write him at 540 E. Wheelock Pkwy., Box 17202, St. Paul, MN 55117.

Announcements should reach us three months prior to the date of the event announced.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend KEN B. YINGLING as a fine young evangelist, just entering the field of evangelism. In addition to his preaching ministry, he has an excellent baritone voice and can carry a good music program. He will be a blessing to any church. He can be contacted at 1003 3½ E. Smith St., Yorktown, TN 47396. His phone number is 317-759-5327 or 317-284-3630.—Oval L. Stone, Northeastern Indiana district superintendent.

REV. HUGH McELROY, who is a licensed minister on the Kansas City District, is entering the ministry.
ARTHUR G. WILLIAMSON, 86, Feb. 25, Columbus, Ga. Survivors: daughters Louise Harper, Helen Wilson, Julia Ragan, Venis Poteete, Betty Baily, Geandine Clarke, Patricia West; son Clark; 44 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; 7 great-great-grandchildren; 1 sister; 2 brothers.

BIRTHS

to REV. TERRY AND BECKY (ZACHOW) ARMSTRONG, Medford, Okla., a girl, Amy Jo, Jan. 29
to ROYCE A. AND KATHY (FERRYMAN) COLE, Bourbonnais, Ill., a boy, Adam Scott, Mar. 11
to DON AND VICKI (HONEA) COPP, Oakland, Calif., a girl, Megan Elizabeth, Mar. 6
to GREG AND JENNY (REEVES) FRITZGERALD, Bloomington, Ind., a boy, Zachery Gage, Jan. 7

to KENDALL AND ALEICTA (WILLIAMS) HOLDER, Liberal, Kans., a girl, Kendra Joy, Feb. 20
to LT. TIMOTHY AND ALICE (SWEZER) KUHN, Blomington, Ind., a boy, Zachery Gage, Jan. 7

to RICK AND PEGGY (FRITZGERALD) McNEELY, Decatur, Ill., a girl, Beth Anne, Dec. 18

to PAUL AND HONEY VEE (CHAMBERS) MICHAEL, Homestead, Fla., a girl, Kayla Michelle, Feb. 21
to EUGENE M. AND ELDORA (BROWNING) PHILLIPS, Independence, Mo., a girl, Emily Estelle Marie, Mar. 20

to DEAN AND BRENDA (COBURN) POTTS, Madison, S.D., a boy, Trevor Nathan, Mar. 2
to DAVID WAYNE AND LURA (VOTT) RUNYAN, Kansas City, Mo., a girl, Janna Cathleen, Dec. 24

to Rev. DAVID AND LORA (STADLER) WOOSTER, Kansas City, Mo., a girl, Chasssa Ruth, born Dec. 20, 1986, in Guatemala, adopted Feb. 10

MARRIAGES

KAREN JOY McPHEE and JEFFREY LOUIS TAVARES at Annapolis, Md., Feb. 21

ANNIVERSARIES

REV. AND MRS. VANCE M. ANDERSON celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary March 7 with a renewal of vows ceremony. The couple was married in Blufield, Va., March 9, 1937. They have four children: Mrs. Joyce Browning of Vienna, W.Va.; Mrs. Donna Browning of Wichita Falls, Tex.; Mrs. L. C. Anderson of Colorado Springs; and Mr. A. D. Anderson of Ponca City, Okla.

The Andersons have pastored churches on the West Virginia, Northeast Oklahoma, Mississippi, and Arkansas districts. They are retired and attend Muskogee, Okla., First Church, where Rev. H. F. Boltenjack is pastor.

SHOWERS OF BLESSING'S

MASTER plan™

May 10
“Kingdom Family: The Kingdom of God is Relationship”

by Stephen L. Manley, speaker

May 17
“Kingdom Family: Relationship Is Obedience”

1,000-YEAR HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY IN RUSSIA TO BE CELEBRATED IN 1988. In 1988, millions of people in the Soviet Union and throughout the world will commemorate the 1,000th anniversary of the coming of Christianity to ancient Russia. At the end of the 10th century, Prince Vladimir invited representatives of all the world's religions to Kiev. After careful consideration, he decided to adopt the Byzantine rite, which he believed would serve best to unify his people because of its spiritual strength. In A.D. 988, the people of Kiev were collectively baptized in the River Dnieper, thus marking the founding of Christianity among the Eastern Slavic peoples of ancient Russia (at the time, referred to as “Rus”).

To mark this celebration, Russian Travel Bureau, Inc., an American company, is offering a series of escorted tours from 10 days to 18 days. Cities of special religious significance, such as Kiev, Zagorsk, Vladimir, Suzdal, Novgorod, Ereven, Tbilisi, Moscow, and Leningrad, are included in various itineraries.

CONVENT AT AUSCHWITZ WILL BE CLOSED. Roman Catholic authorities have agreed to close a Carmelite convent at the site of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp within two years. The 10 nuns at the convent will be moved to a new interreligious center to be built a mile or so away from the camp.

The 1984 establishment of the convent in a former theater just outside the Auschwitz camp angered Jewish groups, who said it was an affront to the millions of Jews killed there during World War II.

The new interreligious center will provide a place for Jews, Catholics, and others to meditate and pray, while leaving Auschwitz "the stark warning site it is now," which is the desire of Dr. Yitzhak Arad, director of the Yad Yashem, the official Holocaust remembrance authority.

AMERICANS APPROVE OF RELIGION IN SCHOOLS. Most Americans favor teaching about religion and using the Bible in public schools, according to a recent Gallup poll.

The survey showed that 75 percent of adult Americans do not object to the Bible being used in literature, history, and social studies. Then, 79 percent do not object to teaching about the world's major religions, and 74 percent favor making the school facilities available for use by student religious organizations.
The Hickersons have five children: Phyllis Baker of Memphis, Tenn.; Donna Weaver of Kent, Wash.; Shirley Antholz of Renton, Wash.; Lloyd Hickerson of Port Angeles, Wash.; and Carol Tanner of Chicago. They have 17 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

MR. AND MRS. TROY JOHNSTON celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary April 6, 1987. They were honored by an anniversary celebration given by their son, Curtis, and his wife, Marsha; and their daughter, Carlaene Couch. They have three grandchildren; Kristin, Kimberly, and Nicholas.

REV. AND MRS. AMIL PETERSEN of Brantford, Ont., celebrated 50 years of marriage April 2. They were married in Drumheller, Alta., April 2, 1937 by Emily's father, Rev. A. H. Eggleston. Amil and Emily have four children; Marilyn of Branford, Keith of Branford, Reginald of Cambridge, and Sharon of Spruce Grove, Alta. They have 12 grandchildren.

S checklist the word "revelation" to refer to the meaning of the Bible is controlled, of course, by what the Lord intended to say through the authors of Scripture, first to its original readers but also to the church throughout its history. In this sense, meanings are never merely individual and private.

Is there a scripture that says that "God is married to the backslider"? If so, would you please explain the meaning of this.

Jeremiah 3:14 reads, "Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am married unto you." Some later versions read, "for I am your master."

The primary meaning of the Hebrew word (ba'ail) is to be lord or master, and secondarily to be married. The two concepts merge in the Semitic husband-wife relationship.

Israel is addressed in this passage from Jeremiah (as often elsewhere) as a faithless wife who has forsaken her true master-husband, Yahweh, to commit adultery with pagan idols. God, however, has remained faithful to the covenant relationship.

This divine fidelity does not mean that Israel will be saved from judgment regardless. A call to repentance is sounded, and righteous judgment is threatened, in the prophetic messages.

When the people of Israel do return, it will be only as a remnant of the former great nation—"I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion." No doctrine of unconditional security is taught here, but the integrity and fidelity of a loving God is emphasized.

Approximately two years ago our church, by a near unanimous vote, launched a vigorous building program that involved borrowing thousands of dollars. The building is now complete, but since it was started we have lost nearly one-third of our members due to their moving away and various other reasons.

My question is this: Do not these members who no longer members of our congregation?

I don't think so. People who move and unite with other churches are immediately involved with the church's building program. □

Continued membership is a built-in, though tacit, obligation to continue to contribute to the repayment of these loans even though they are no longer members of our congregation?

Your hope lies in the work and sacrifice necessary to bring you to Zion. The "unwritten law" has been that "you pay where you belong and attend." A call to repentance is sounded, and righteous judgment is threatened, in the prophetic messages.

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As I read the Bible certain portions stand out to me. Are there revelations for me only? Is it possible for God to reveal that verse for someone else?

Technically, what you refer to as "revelations" would be better termed "illuminations." We usually reserve the word "revelation" to refer to the meaning of the Scripture itself, and what you speak of comes under the heading of our understanding of what scriptures mean and how they apply.

Certainly the Holy Spirit is able to tutor you, but all other believers as well. Often, as we read the Word, the Spirit enlightens our understanding and applies the teaching of the Bible to specific situations in our lives.

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GENERAL BOARD HOLDS 1987 SESSION

The 64th annual session of the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene met February 20-23 at the Vista International Hotel in Kansas City. It was marked by the commissioning of 12 new missionaries and the retirement of two men who have devoted their lives to the service of the church, Nazarene Publishing House Manager and Communications Division Director M. A. (Bud) Lunn, and Dr. Mark R. Moore, Education Services secretary.

In the report of the Board of General Superintendents, Dr. John A. Knight reported that 13,892 Nazarenes have become Prayer Partners with them to pray daily for revival. “We believe He will hearken to the intercession of His people,” said Dr. Knight. “Evidence of His working is apparent in numerous places throughout the church—for which we are thankful.”

The report highlighted significant 1986 statistics concerning the church, including: 3.91% gain in church membership; a Sunday School responsibility list of 1,231,288 (a gain of 3.15%) with an actual attendance increase of 5,264 to 626,758; per capita giving of $466.27 (of which 80% went to local interests, 5% to districts, 3% to education, and 12% to general interests); a Thanksgiving Offering of $9,789,865.78 (the largest single offering for world evangelization in the history of the denomination); and the launch of the Thrust to the City of Chicago (which saw the planting of 13 new works and continues toward a goal of 30 by the end of 1987).

With the retirement of M. A. (Bud) Lunn, the General Board chose to divide the responsibilities he had carried and to elect Dr. Robert L. Foster as NPH manager and Dr. Cecil R. Paul as Communications Division director. Dr. Foster has been business manager of Point Loma Nazarene College since 1966. Dr. Paul has been the director of graduate studies at Eastern Nazarene College since 1979.

Each headquarters division served the denomination faithfully during 1986. Here are a few brief highlights as reported to the General Board:

CHRISTIAN LIFE & SUNDAY SCHOOL
—Sunday School statistics showed a gain for the fourth consecutive year (worldwide)
—The Aldersgate curriculum for junior high and senior high students was examined and a decision was made to include some important themes such as teenage suicide, alcohol and substance abuse, abortion, and sexuality in the senior high lessons beginning this fall
—There was an increase of 1,000 Sunday School teachers and officers

CHURCH GROWTH
—20 churches produced by 11 Pioneer Areas
—The first Pioneer Area became the Northern Michigan District and the Space Coast Pioneer Area voted to become a district in 1987.
—567 certified evangelists (176 commissioned; 391 registered)
—7,374 revivals were held (an increase of 167 from 1985)
—63 churches fully organized (of which 23 were ethnic), 84 church-type missions, 33 language Bible classes, 62 extension Vacation Bible Schools

COMMUNICATIONS
—Africa Nazarene radio is now in eight major languages
—868 persons enrolled in correspondence course with “La Hora Nazarena”
—MASTERPLAN on 286 stations
—Two “Welcome” campaigns to markets of 2.6 million

The 12 missionary appointees of the 1987 General Board are shown (l. to r.): Debra Flippo, Karen Frye, Rev. and Mrs. Wayne LaForce, Rev. and Mrs. David Runyan, Rev. and Mrs. John Sprunger, Rev. and Mrs. Timothy Trout, and Dr. and Mrs. Harry Wiese.

Dr. William M. Greathouse (l.) thanks M. A. (Bud) Lunn for his four decades of service to the cause of holiness publishing.

Dr. John A. Knight (l.) salutes Dr. Mark R. Moore for his many years of service to the church.

General Board member Merritt Mann (l.) is honored for his contribution to the development of the “Thrust to the Cities” program.
Sessions of the General Board are interpreted into Spanish, Portuguese, and Korean. Hispanic members pictured here include (l. to r.): Rev. Solomón Barboza of Peru, Mrs. Lidia Birardo of Argentina, Rev. Ramón Campos of El Salvador, Mr. Enrique Rojas of Mexico, Rev. Danilo Solis of Guatemala, and Mr. José Treviño of Mexico.

Three persons with a passion for missions. (l. to r.): Dr. James Hudson, Caribbean Regional director; Rev. Nina Gunter, general NWMS director; and Dr. Robert Scott, World Mission Division director.

Rev. Eustace McDonald (l.) is a newly elected member of the General Board from Georgetown, Guyana. He is seated next to Dr. Melvin McCullough of Bethany, Okla., who was recently reelected to the board.

Ministerio, a magazine for Spanish pastors, and Puntos Cardinales, a Spanish mission education magazine, were launched

- 72 new titles released by NPH
- 819,517 books printed by NPH (498,745 new; 320,772 reprints of standing volumes)
- 74,258 Manuals printed (book with largest number of copies printed in 1986)

Bimonthly copies of the Herald of Holiness in braille were provided to almost 450 persons

- 26 books, 23 choral anthems, 15 cassette, and a variety of accompaniment tapes and orchestrations were developed by Lillenas

Educacion Services

- Colleges increased their net worth by $10,830,561
- Total college enrollment of 11,185 (an increase of 989)

- Awarded 772 bachelor’s, 132 associate’s, and 178 master’s degrees and 30 certificates

Finance

- 2,954 persons were assisted in preparation of a will (of these 1,000+ included a bequest to one or more ministries of the church for a grand total of $15,308,412)
- Agreement totals with Life Income Gifts Services reached an all-time high of $4,551,460
- $5.5+ million distributed to the several ministries of the church through bequests
- 2,916 retirees served by the Basic Pension Program ($4,810,082 paid out)
- 13th- and 14th-month bonus checks were sent to all members on Pension Roll
- 107 individuals were aided through Emergency Medical Assistance
- P & B Fund payment reached 91.31%
- 13 Districts paid 100% or more of P & B Fund (highest in history)
- 1,890 churches made the Stewardship Honor Roll

World Mission

- Work was conducted in 84 world areas in 60 languages
- 617 career missionaries
- 58 unpaid full-time volunteers serving in 20 world areas
- 1,470 elders and 1,493 licensed ministers serving in World Mission areas
- 300 new churches planted
- 3 Nazarene hospitals and 36 medical clinics served 290,587 persons
- $710,472 provided by Nazarenes for compassionate ministry
- Church membership rate of growth was 9%
- $180,000 received toward the Wanda Knox Memorial Sunday School Literature Offering

Dr. William M. Greathouse praised retiring NFH Manager M. A. (Bud) Lunn for his more than four decades of service to the denomination. “I think that everyone in our church has a place in their heart for Bud,” said Dr. Greathouse. “He is known everywhere as ‘Mr. Publishing House,’ and he is also a great Christian and a great human being. He has demonstrated for all of us a life of unselfish servanthood that has called us all to a closer walk with Christ, and I think that more than anyone else that I know in the church, Bud Lunn has earned the right to say, ‘Follow me, as I follow Christ.’”

Dr. John A. Knight commended Dr. Mark R. Moore for his many and varied contributions to the ministry of the church as a chaplain, professor, district superintendent, college president, and Education Services secretary. He noted particularly Dr. Moore’s contributions as a church planter. “Dr. Moore planted more than 50 churches as a pastor and district superintendent and about 80 percent of them are still active and in existence today and providing service to their members and communities.

“We want to wish you and Mrs. Moore well. She is a marvelous lady, and you have made a marvelous team over the years. We appreciate you and love you. May the Lord continue to use you and bless you in your retirement years.”

Other actions by the board included the authorization of two studies: one by the World Mission Department to examine the feasibility of establishing an annuity plan for missionaries; the other study would be conducted by a commission established under Pensions and Benefits International to look at the matter of pensions in regular districts in areas outside the United States and Canada.

Board member Merritt Mann of Silver Spring, Md., was honored by the Church Growth Division for his role in the development of the idea of Thrust to the Cities.

“Thrust to the Cities emerged because of the burden of Church Growth Department member Merritt Mann,” said Dr. Bill Sullivan, Church Growth Division director. He added that a preliminary motion proposed by Mr. Mann in 1984 was fashioned into a resolution that resulted in the creation of the Thrust program.

Mr. Mann was presented with a “Helping Hands” bronze statue by Dr. Charles H. Strickland. The work of art was designed to honor persons for their contributions to making the Thrust successful.

With the 1986 Thrust to the City of Chicago continuing, the 1987 Thrust to Mexico City picking up momentum, and the plans rapidly progressing for the 1988 Thrust to the Cities of New York and Los Angeles, the General Board voted to make Paris, France, New York City picking up momentum, the 1989 Thrust City for 1990.

The 65th session of the General Board will be held February 29—March 2, 1988.
MEXICO CHURCH GROWTH TRAINING CONFERENCE

Three districts in Mexico joined together for an outstanding Church Growth Training Conference in Torreon, Mexico, March 16-19, according to Rev. Samuel Ovando, Mexico branch office director. Superintendents from the Northwest, North, and Northeast districts were present, along with 110 pastors and laymen. Special conference speaker was Rev. Juan Carlos Miranda, an Argentinean and consultant for Fuller Evangelical Association, who lectured on church growth.

Pastors present made faith projections that totaled 4,500 new members, 172 new churches, and a goal of 350 new pastors, God-called and committed to ministerial service—all during the next year.

A final church growth conference in this series is planned later for the Mexico South Pacific and East districts.

CELEBRANTS AT SEA DONATE $13,000 TOWARD WORK IN DOMINICAN

Almost 1,200 Nazarenes, including superintendents from 12 districts and presidents of four Nazarene colleges, from across the United States participated in Celebration at Sea II, January 16-23, 1987. The cruise docked at St. Thomas, San Juan, and Nassau.

The week-long retreat on the SS Galileo included 44 worship services; a variety of seminars; sight-seeing; excellent food, fun, sun, and fellowship. Special speakers included Dr. Leslie Parrott, Olivet Nazarene University president; Rev. Mrs. Nina Gunter, general NWMS director; and Dr. Bill Sullivan, Church Growth Division director. Special music was provided by the Speers, Sherman Andrus, and Mike and Denise Cork.

A special Sunday morning service with Nazarene missionaries and church members in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, was cancelled due to a medical emergency on the ship. But passengers donated more than $13,000 to build a church in Puerto Plata and to make repairs to existing churches in the Dominican Republic. Also, hundreds of pounds of used clothing were left by passengers in Nassau for distribution.

Celebration at Sea '88 will sail January 8-17, 1988. The nine-day cruise will include stops at the San Bias Islands, Panama City, and passage into the Panama Canal. A worship service with Nazarenes in Haiti is planned for Port-au-Prince on Sunday morning. Speakers will include Dr. Eugene L. Stowe, general superintendent; and Dr. Edward Lawlor, general superintendent emeritus. Dr. Audrey Williamson and Dr. Reuben Welch will serve as devotional leaders. Special music will be provided by Mark and Jacque Cork and Tharon Daniels.

Passengers carry bundles of used clothes to a Nazarene church bus at the dock in Nassau. (By the end of the day the bus was completely full.) Originally, the clothes were to be left in the Dominican Republican, but a scheduling delay prevented docking there.

For NEXT QUARTER'S Sunday School Lessons

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WORLD MISSION REGIONAL CONFERENCES SLATED FOR '87

Each world mission region will hold its second Regional Conference in 1987, according to Dr. Robert H. Scott, World Mission Division director. The conferences are designed to bring Nazarenes together as a region for inspirational and educational meetings.

The 1985 General Assembly established Regional Councils to “facilitate the work of the region and semi-legislatively deal with matters pertaining to the respective region under the chairmanship of the general superintendent in jurisdiction.”

The 1987 conferences are scheduled as follows:

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<td>South America</td>
<td>Apr 28-30</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
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IMMIGRATION CONFERENCE HELD IN L.A.

The Los Angeles District sponsored a special conference on immigration for interested pastors and lay members, March 28. Coordinated by the compassionate organization, Towel & Basin Ministries, the conference attracted more than 30 persons.

The half-day meeting was geared toward helping individuals to understand how the new immigration law will impact ethnic pastors and parishioners in Nazarene churches in the Los Angeles area and how the church can use it to minister to the needs of ethnics in the community.

Speakers included: Ms. Heidi Schoedel, director of Legalization Programs for World Relief; attorney Charles Miller, a specialist in immigration law; Ms. Yvette Velasquez, a Nazarene who is a legal representative with International Institute in L.A., a legal services organization in East Los Angeles; and Dr. Steve Ratlief, pastor of Long Beach Cambodian New Life Church of the Nazarene and Asian Ministries consultant for Church Extension Ministries.

“The Los Angeles District is pursuing further ways in which it can provide counseling and training of workers to respond to the needs of people affected by the new law,” said Rev. David Best, Compassionate Ministries director for L.A. ‘88.

According to Dr. Paul Benefiel, Los Angeles district superintendent, about 3,000 or 25 percent of the persons attending churches on the Los Angeles District are from non-Anglo ethnic groups.

The controversial Immigration Reform and Control Act was passed in November 1986 by Congress to slow the flow of illegal immigrants into the United States and to deal with those who are already living and working in the country. The new law becomes effective May 1, 1987.

VAN DYNE SELECTED COORDINATOR OF L.A. ‘88

Rev. Glen L. Van Dyne, 55, has been selected as the L.A. ‘88 Thrust to the City of Los Angeles coordinator. The announcement was made this week by Dr. Paul Benefiel, Los Angeles district superintendent, and Rev. Michael Estep, Thrust to the Cities director. The appointment became effective April 20.

Rev. Van Dyne comes to the post from Nazarene headquarters where he most recently served as video coordinator for Pastoral Ministries and producer-director of Videonet/MISSION TODAY. From 1983 to 1984 he was Mission Alert editor for Church Extension Ministries.

“I am grateful to the Church of the Nazarene for the opportunity to be a part of the development of this ministry to a multicultural city,” said Rev. Van Dyne.

From 1958 until 1983, he pastored churches in Boulder, Colo.; Jonesboro, Ark.; Wahiawa, Hawaii; Sun Valley, Calif.; Santa Barbara, Calif.; Sitka, Alaska; and Klamath Falls, Ore. He planted the first two churches he pastored. During this time he held numerous district positions. He founded ACTS-TV, a Christian TV production company for Native Americans in Alaska and also directed a citywide crusade with Bill Glass in Sitka.

A graduate of Southern Nazarene University, he holds the B.D. in biblical literature from Nazarene Theological Seminary.

He has authored many articles in various periodicals and has written two books, Villages Nearby and Never a Dull Moment.

Rev. Van Dyne and his wife, Mary Jo (nee Scott), have two children, Cheri, a commercial airplane pilot in Alaska, and Peter, an NNC graduate working in Dallas.

THRUST UPDATES...

MEXICO ‘87

Forty-one missions are now holding weekly services in Mexico City, and two churches have been organized, reports Rev. Michael Estep, Thrust to the Cities director. Another 38 targets have been identified for planting churches as soon as persons are trained for leadership. Seventy-six persons are now in training to be church planters.

Rev. Julio Perez, Mexico-Central district superintendent and Mexico ‘87 coordinator, recently challenged students at the Mexican Nazarene Seminary to become involved with the Thrust.

Fifty thousand copies of a first-of-its-kind newsletter, ENCUEENTRO, were shipped to Mexico City from Kansas City last week. The brain-child of Dr. Sergio Franco, Spanish Herald of Holiness editor, ENCUEENTRO, seeks to introduce Christ through a series of articles that are aimed at specific publics, from women to politicians, to the general populace.

“ENCUEENTRO is probably the most innovative evangelistic tool for urban ministry that has ever been created by the Church of the Nazarene,” said Dr. Bennett Dudney, Publications International director.

The attractive magazine will be distributed through crusades, churches, and Work and Witness teams during the Thrust to Mexico City.

NEW YORK ‘88

The New York District has adopted a goal of 5,500 converts during the Thrust to New York City, “New York ‘88,” according to Rev. Dallas Mucci, New York district superintendent.

“This equates to each member on the district reaching one other person for Christ,” said Rev. Mucci.

Among other goals, NYC Thrust plans to plant 21 churches and to develop a variety of compassionate ministry programs ranging from substance abuse counseling to development of a food program for the elderly and homeless. Special evangelistic campaigns and plans for promoting the Thrust in the media are also being developed.

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