



THE GOOD NEWS



The Chic Shaver Center for Evangelism Newsletter December 2019

The Star of Bethlehem

In October of this year, a star appeared over Bethlehem once again. No, it was not a bright shining star in the sky above this town. However, it was a star of hope that shone as brightly as the star that announced the birth of the Christ child. The people of the Promised Land Church had an opportunity to set aside the busyness of life that often overwhelms us and listen to the voice of God. Rev. Chic Shaver was the messenger that God sent with incredible words of encouragement and challenge.

We experienced altars where people sought the Spirit of God for sanctification. It was a time to reflect deeply and ask the Lord for forgiveness and insight into His will. We are a small church, but big things happened in the hearts of our people. We have begun to think again with the mind of Christ. Hope has certainly replaced doubt and discouragement. Several have indicated we can't let this hope drift away. We look forward to growing deeper in the sanctified life and nurturing those who are unaware or suspicious of this thing called the "second blessing." We are excited by challenge and humbled by what lies ahead.

The star of Bethlehem is shining brighter than ever in Bethlehem. Revival was not just a passing event on our calendar, but a reality that burns in the hearts of our people at Promised Land. Our hope is that the same star will find its way to others, and to you. Thank you, Rev. Shaver, for your life, your obedience to Jesus Christ, and your Spirit-filled anointing in Bethlehem and beyond!

- Bryan Rosenberg, Pastor

Promised Land Church of the Nazarene, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Open for Ministry

It was 1958. I was praying in the balcony of Nazarene Seminary. I was a young student and had just accepted a church planting assignment about three weeks earlier. Suddenly, I heard God say, "You are to be an evangelist." I knew I must complete the church planting, and I left it well established after 9 years. I began full-time evangelism in 1967. Now, after 53 years, I am completing that evangelist assignment. Since 2020 will be my last year of revival ministry, I am now open to schedule meetings for that year. Already scheduled is Venice, Florida, in February and Muncie, Indiana, in March. Contact me at (913) 491-5021 if interested.

- Chic Shaver

Our Amazing Advantage!

When most people think about evangelism, regardless of personality, history, or background, the first thoughts that cross our mind are usually fear, anxiety, lack of confidence, and stress.

Scripture, however, gives us an edge that prepares the way for disciples in their evangelistic work. This spiritual edge is what Wesleyans call "prevenient grace." God's prevenient grace tenderizes a pre-Christian's heart with an awareness of the divine. In Romans 5:8, Paul writes, "While we were yet sinners Christ died for us." In 1:19-23, he reminds us that all creation is aware of the presence of God. According to Paul, this awareness of God is present, even in the darkest and most sinful places. Additionally, in John 6:44, Jesus reminds us that no one can come to the Father unless the Father who sent Jesus draws them.

Personally, prior to coming to faith, I experienced this keen awareness of God and eternity amidst the horrible emotions of mourning the loss of my brother who passed at 19 years of age. While living through this difficult time, I realized I had a choice as to how I would spend eternity and that I needed to respond to God. I sensed an appetite and a desire to move towards God. Additionally, I remember that when crisis came into my life, I would "inadvertently" hear a minister on the radio or see a church sign that reminded me of eternity, and my soul was drawn to the thought of God. These were moments of prevenient grace!

I praise God for His prevenient grace in my own life that was preparing me for a certain moment in 1976 when a young man asked me if I would be one of the few to make it to heaven. In the moments that followed, on a 40-minute

drive from Virginia Beach to Williamsburg, Virginia, all these moments of God's prevenient grace raced to the forefront of my memory. In that strategic moment, that Christian took a risk and made a contact with me. It became apparent to me that God's Spirit had been investing in my life and soul from birth for that strategic encounter. As I drove, those memories of God's fingerprints in my life from childhood became more real every mile. Upon arriving home, the investment of the Spirit and the risk taken by a young Christian all culminated in a moment of faith that changed my life forever.

I believe the Spirit is faithful to do His work in the following ways:

1. He gave us His Word.
2. He sent us His Son.
3. He gave us His Holy Spirit.
4. His prevenient grace is active in this moment, in the hearts and lives of every pre-Christian preparing them for moments of encounter with us.
5. We are asked by Jesus to go make disciples.

How encouraging it is to know that God's prevenient grace goes before us. We should be encouraged to know how small, yet vital a role we play in the disciple-making process. Jesus said, "Go and make disciples." As you are going, remember God goes before you and with you!

Praise God for the promises in His Scripture, such as John 4:38, where Jesus tells his disciples, "I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work and you have reaped the benefit of their labor." Be encouraged today that the Spirit has done the hard work! Go, share your faith and reap the harvest knowing that God has gone before us and goes with us!

*- Mark Bane, Director of Evangelism and New Church Development
USA/Canada Region Church of the Nazarene*

Well Done, Kim

Kim Rowley, husband of our daughter, Rachel, went to be with the Lord on Sunday, September 8th, after a three-and-a-half year battle with cancer. On September 3rd, Kim and Rachel observed their 15th wedding anniversary. Kim had purchased a beautiful ring for Rachel in advance of the day and arranged for Miriam, Rachel's sister, to present it to her.

Rachel was fantastic in her love and care for Kim to the end in their home. I had a very meaningful visit with Kim on July 16. I asked him about his relationship with the Lord. He said, "The Lord and I have been having a lot of deep conversations. I feel as close to the Lord as I've ever felt." In light of his words, I quoted John 17:3, Jesus' definition of eternal life: "Now this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." Kim responded, "That's what I'm looking forward to."

The final song sung at Kim's funeral was "Well Done." Yes, well done, Kim!

- Chic Shaver

Cancer—To the Glory of God

When our son Paul had cancer removed from his neck in 2014, the surgeon also had to remove his voice box. In all the ensuing events, Paul and his wife Lori regularly prayed that somehow this would bring glory to God.

Since that day, Paul has lived joyously for Jesus Christ. He regularly has spoken of God's blessing and has proclaimed, "He knows my name."

Earlier this year, Paul's friend from Olivet days, Steve, invited Paul to speak at the South Carolina church Steve pastors. Paul spoke in two services to 2200 people of triumph through Jesus. God got more glory.

Paul is now facing the challenge of another cancer—this time on his esophagus. He is at peace, taking the drug Keytruda, working full-time, and still glorifying God.

- Chic Shaver

Wiseharts

Lenny and Joy Wisehart are re-entering the field of evangelism. They are outstanding. Contact them at: (317) 371-0817.

His First Revival

It was a great honor and pleasure to have Dr. Shaver as our evangelist! It was my first revival as a lead pastor. Dr. Shaver was very helpful in the weeks leading up to revival. He sent materials to help us be ready for what God was going to do in our time together.

The services were wonderful! Dr. Shaver's humble but excited presence served our people well. We were on the edges of our seats as he told stories that beautifully illustrated what God had done and could do for us. Multiple people walked out of our services talking about the new sense of clarity that they had regarding sanctification! One man in particular stood up from the altar after a service and said, "Pastor, I understand what you've been talking about now."

One of the most telling stories from our time together is from the final service. I prayed with a woman at the altar who I didn't know. When we were speaking afterward, I asked her who she was and how she happened to be with us. She told me that she was the head of housekeeping at the hotel where Dr. Shaver was staying!

Chic Shaver is the 'real deal,' and my church is so much better off since he's ministered to us.

- *Jeremy Alger, Pastor*

Church of the Nazarene, New Cumberland, West Virginia

Prayers & Answers

As pastor, I felt that our church needed a stirring and renewing in our commitment. I was praying for and working with several persons but not seeing spiritual results in their lives. Dr. Shaver and our board began to pray specifically for those names. Almost all of those names for whom we were intensively interceding attended at least one service and sought help from God!

Each church has challenging factors; ours include long distances of travel in heavy city driving and a high percentage of people who are only temporarily in our area. So I was concerned about turnout. But, for our size congregation, we had encouraging numbers in the services over the weekend and during the weeknight services, as well.

The *Witnessing Without Fear* seminar on Saturday morning was well attended, and Dr. Shaver answered each of the most-asked questions and insecurities that people have regarding being a witness. Dr. Shaver gave many positive and very respectful approaches for handling objections and for easing the fears of those who witness as well as those we are seeking to reach.

- *Philip Heap, Pastor*

Church of the Nazarene, Rockville, Maryland

Grace is Not a Blue-eyed Blond

After visiting adult Sunday School classes in my new assignment as Minister of Outreach at Kansas City First Church in 1974, I made a decision. I approached lead pastor James Ingalls and asked if I could begin a class that would be geared to new people who did not have a church background. He said, "Yes." I got six faithful members to help start the class, with agreement the class would be conducted in understandable language for all. Thus, "grace" was not a blue-eyed blond, but the kindness that God showed to us when we didn't deserve it.

The class was named Disciples. It grew. At its height, it was averaging 95 per Sunday. Many people in the class found Christ as Savior and joined the church. Now the class is averaging 55 a Sunday and growing again. I have been the major teacher since its beginning.

Recently, I wrote in the September edition of this newsletter that "I have received some signals from the Lord and from the events of life that I should make 2020 my concluding year of revival ministry." I further asked the Lord what I should do about my teaching of Disciples class. I sensed indication that January, 2020, should be the last month of that assignment. I thought, "Which day?" Without consulting a calendar, I said, "first Sunday." I looked at the calendar, and it was January 5th, which is my 85th birthday. I have loved this class. I thought I would cry over giving up this assignment. Instead, I felt great peace and joy.

So, on January 5, 2020—my 85th birthday, I will teach my last regular class of Disciples. Pastor Siegfried has appointed Scott Rainey as the major teacher with many other great teachers to teach when Scott is out of town on denominational assignments. January 5, 2020, will make 45 years of blessed teaching of this one class. Thank You, Lord.

- *Chic Shaver*

Meet Scott Rainey

You may remember him as the author of a remarkable story in the September 2019 newsletter. It is the story of how his family came to Christ.

I introduced him in September in this way: Dr. Scott Rainey has been a godly husband and father, a pastor, a missionary, Global Director of Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries—Church of the Nazarene, and a dear Christian brother.

Now I wish to add that Scott and I have been in numerous projects together. Our hearts beat in unison for Christ and reaching the Lost. I have asked him to join me as a Co-Executive Director of the Chic Shaver Center for Evangelism. He has agreed. I rejoice. The Center will be stronger.

- *Chic Shaver*

Because You Gave We Gave

- ◆ 100 *Basic Bible Studies* to Africa
- ◆ *Basic Bible Studies* to two plumbers who worked in our house
- ◆ Gospel of John studies to start a small group in Idaho
- ◆ *Basic Bible Studies* to World Gospel Mission for Africa
- ◆ Discipleship material to God's Bible School
- ◆ Discipleship materials to pastors and leaders in Kansas, Michigan, Maryland, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Oregon
- ◆ *Basic Bible Studies* to Nazarene evangelists
- ◆ Evangelism scholarship to Nazarene Seminary in memory of Shirley Crabtree
- ◆ *Basic Bible Studies* to WV Lutheran hunters
- ◆ 18 *Basic Bible Studies* to a class of Methodist ministerial candidates in WV
- ◆ *Basic Bible Studies* to Kevin Dennis, DS WV North for his pastors

Contributions Were Made in Memory Of:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Don Bird</i> | <i>Marselle Knight</i> |
| <i>Doris (Jackson) Carnahan</i> | <i>Adeline Owens</i> |
| <i>Shirley Ann Crabtree</i> | <i>Kim Rowley</i> |
| <i>Nola D. Fogo</i> | <i>Doris R. Smith</i> |
| <i>Chuck Gates</i> | <i>Ricarida Valenzuela</i> |
| <i>Harold Greer</i> | <i>Roxie Wessels</i> |

CHIC SHAVER'S UPCOMING MINISTRY SCHEDULE

| | | |
|----------------|--|---------|
| Nov 2-6 | Church of the Nazarene Junction City, OR | Revival |
| Nov 9-13 | Church of the Nazarene Lincoln City, OR | Revival |
| Nov 16-20 | Church of the Nazarene Canby, OR | Revival |
| Feb 15-19, '20 | Church of the Nazarene Venice, FL | Revival |
| Mar 14-18, '20 | Southside Church of the Nazarene Muncie, IN | Revival |

MINISTRY UPDATE

| | Total Attendance | Seekers |
|---|------------------|-----------|
| Church of the Nazarene Johnson, KS | 185 | 17 |
| Witness Seminar | 28 | |
| Church of the Nazarene Rockville, MD | 145 | 22 |
| Witness Seminar | 20 | |
| Church of the Nazarene New Cumberland, WV | 306 | 14 |
| Promised Land Church of the Nazarene Bethlehem, PA | 130 | 15 |
| Witness Seminar | 18 | |
| Church of the Nazarene Ravenswood, WV | 311 | 11 |
| Witness Seminar | 9 | |
| Church of the Nazarene Spencer, WV | 193 | 11 |
| Witness Seminar | 16 | |

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Joy Parke, Managing Director

VISIT US at: www.drchicshaver.com

Our financial commitment to you: The CSCE pledges integrity in gift management and financial accountability. We are committed to honorable stewardship of the money God has given us to do the work of evangelism. We are a faith ministry and depend wholly upon God to supply our needs through the sensitivity and obedience of His people. All contributions to CSCE are 100% tax deductible. As a ministry under K.C. First Church of the Nazarene, you will receive a yearly record of your donations from the church.