



THE GOOD NEWS



The Chic Shaver Center for Evangelism Newsletter December 2015

Christmas: Fear Full or Faith Full

In my eighty years of life, I never remember a time our national or our international life has been more dysfunctional. Jesus Christ predicted, "On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world..." (Luke 21:25-26).

Anguish, perplexity, terror, and apprehension all speak of a fear-filled world. It became apparent to me that two predominant types of fear have emerged in Scripture. One is fear of the Lord and His divine overtures to people. There is the healthy fear for the Lord or reverence for the Lord approved by Scripture (Proverbs 9:10). And there is the fear that if I let God get too close to me, He will interfere with the way I have been living. The rich young ruler turned away from Jesus because he feared Jesus' claim on his wealth and total life (Matthew 19:21-22). The well-known Christmas story tells of an angel messenger from God reporting the birth of Jesus Christ. And what did he have to say? "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy" (Luke 2:10). When God came very close to Moses, "Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God" (Exodus 3:6).

Beyond fear of the Lord, a second type of fear is fear of the pressures on personal life and society. God powerfully speaks to that. "The Lord is my light and my salvation-whom shall I fear?" (Psalm 27:1). "When I am afraid, I will trust in You" (Psalm 56:3). "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid" (Hebrews 13:6).

Amazing-the God we are often afraid to be close to wants to be close to us and help us with our fears. A year ago, I wrote in our Christmas newsletter about the thirteen-hour cancer surgery that removed much of the neck and the voice box of our son, Paul, at Indiana University Hospital. We were able to report that in prayer before the surgery, the peace of God descended on me in Alabama, on Nancy in Leawood, Kansas, and on Paul in Muncie, Indiana (Philippians 4:6-7). Now, more than a year later, this report...

Since the thirteen-hour surgery, Paul has had four reconstructive surgeries. Paul has been working full-time at his truck-driving job and two part-time jobs. During a recent time with Paul, Nancy peppered him with questions about his condition, his feelings, his future. Repeatedly he answered, "He (God) knows my name." Even if Paul could not give detailed answers about the future, he had such confidence in the God who knows him by name, personally. His sisters questioned Paul in another setting about how he handled loss of voice box, such invasive surgery, and follow up surgeries. He answered simply, "I've never had a bad day." Courageous! Strong! Joyful!

"He knows my name," and "I've never had a bad day." Paul is not "fear full," but "faith full" toward a prayer-hearing, personal, helping, loving God.

In light of our troubled world this Christmas, let us be "faith full" to the message, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy."

- Chic Shaver

721,000

Beacon Hill Press reported as of Sept. 2015, Basic Bible Studies for New and Growing Christians had passed 721,000 copies sold in the English language.

A lay couple in a recent local church revival wrote, "Thank you for a lifetime of material to continue God's work with his disciples and unsaved to last a lifetime and generations to come."

Revival Reports

It was the distinct privilege of the Fulton Church of God (Holiness) to host Dr. Chic Shaver for our fall revival. His teaching and preaching was easy to understand, but profound in depth. Several people made spiritual decisions during the revival, and what a joy it is to see new believers faithfully participating in the Basic Bible Studies that Dr. Shaver authored. I believe this to be the best, most fruitful revival we have had in the last ten years!

Travis Saylor, pastor

Church of God (Holiness), Fulton, MO

We just concluded an excellent revival with Dr. Charles "Chic" Shaver. We chose to have a "Witnessing Without Fear" seminar on Saturday morning. Our people were blessed with four hours of training, this time alone worth the cost, prayers, and work of revival preparation! The closing service focused on Rev. Shaver's testimony and the conversion of his parents. This service, all by itself, was also worth all the effort and preparation for revival! In between, our speaker preached an evangelistic message on Sunday, at which time we had a number at the altar, as we did also at the closing service on Wednesday. His messages are Scriptural, right on target, and certainly relevant for today's church. Dr. Shaver's burden for evangelism, whether personal or public, is most apparent. His ministry fit right in with the atmosphere of soul winning and evangelism that we have tried to foster at our church. Don't let his "mature years" fool you—he still has much to offer the church in preaching, teaching, and training. He was just as sharp as he was many years ago when he was my professor of evangelism at Nazarene Seminary.

Gary A. Williamson, pastor

First Church of the Nazarene, Paris, IL

There was enthusiastic reception to Dr. Shaver. I was amazed at the attendance of 56 people at the Witness Without Fear seminar, and it is having lasting effects. The Lord, Teach Us to Pray seminar was positively received, and our people have intensified their own prayers. The atmosphere of the services was uplifting. It was one of the best revivals we've had in years. Fruit continues as two young men expressed calls to preach two weeks after the meeting.

Dan Wine, lead pastor

Williams Lake Church of the Nazarene, Waterford, MI

MINISTRY UPDATE

	Total Attendance	Seekers
Church of God (Holiness)		
Fulton, MO	365	13
Witness Seminar	38	
Williams Lake Church of the Nazarene		
Waterford, MI	956	70
Witness Seminar	56	
St. Paul's Church of the Nazarene		
Kansas City, MO—Witness Seminar	16	
Church of the Nazarene		
Paris, IL	290	12
Witness Seminar	18	
Church of the Nazarene		
Ligonier, IN	124	5
Prayer Seminar	13	

*Due to this newsletter going to press in November, other November meetings will be reported in the next newsletter.

Our small church was blessed with Dr. Chic Shaver's ministry this past week. Dr. Shaver preached messages on Salvation and Holiness that brought decisions, and sent a lot more home with much to think and pray about. It is still producing results afterwards with two ladies sanctified in the days following. The Prayer Workshop was a great success, and I highly recommend it to every church. A great blessing from the Lord.
John Lutton, pastor Church of the Nazarene, Ligonier, IN

God Sent You Here for Me

"...A man of Macedonia standing and begging him, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us'" (Acts 16:15). "Jesus said,...As the Father has sent me, I am sending you" (John 20:21).

Unexpectedly, and on short notice, an Illinois church canceled my scheduled revival with them. Quickly, a Ligonier, Indiana church contacted me and invited me to fill the vacated week with them for their revival. It was a small congregation led by a loving couple, John and Johnnie. I felt a sense of divine appointment in the new assignment.

Dennis and Marilyn had recently been attending the local church. They came to every service, Sunday through Wednesday. When invitation was given for people to raise a hand for prayer if they had a spiritual need, Dennis raised his.

When Dennis learned the pastor was meeting me for lunch one day, he asked if he could join us. We had a great conversation. I learned that Dennis and Marilyn had once owned the prestigious and beautiful Solomon Mier Manor. It had been their family's home, but now served as an elegant bed-and-breakfast. Suddenly Dennis blurted out, "I need to get right with God. I'm mad a lot. Some things in my life-I'm ashamed of myself. I don't know if I've been saved. If I was, it never lasted. I don't read the Bible very much. I almost came to the altar Sunday night (to pray). I've told my wife how I feel."

On Tuesday night, Dennis came forward at the end of the revival service to pray. I explained the famous picture of Jesus knocking at the heart's door. He prayed, confessing and turning from his sins and inviting Christ into his heart. After the prayer, Dennis said, "Jesus has come into my heart. I didn't like myself. Now I'm happy. I feel weepy. Thank you. I believe God sent you here for me!"

I wrote on the back of the picture of Christ that Dennis had opened the door and invited Christ in. Bo joined us, and Dennis told him Christ had come into his heart and asked Bo to sign the picture. Then, he asked his wife, Marilyn, to sign the picture. The pastor came over to us. Dennis told him Christ had come into his heart and asked him to sign the picture. We started Dennis on Basic Bible Studies. Bo said, "You'll sleep tonight." Dennis said, "I only slept three hours last night."

The next night Dennis was at the final service of the revival. He said he'd had a *wonderful* day. He had slept better the night before. He had all the assigned questions done on his Bible study, all correct, showing spiritual insight.

Dennis-a new and true Jesus-follower. Changed so much in forty-eight hours. And to think that in a little congregation in an Indiana town (that I had not even thought I'd be in two months ago), Dennis is saying, "God sent you here for me."
- Chic Shaver

Because You Gave, We Gave

- Evangelism and discipleship materials to Christian Literature for Africa Association, led by Mike and Julie Shalley
- Bible studies to a Japanese family going back to Japan
- Bible studies to a seminary student going to a one-year missionary assignment in Croatia
- A financial gift to help a seminary student with expenses
- Discipleship materials in Spanish to an Indiana pastor
- Discipleship materials to pastors and leaders in Missouri, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Texas, and Idaho

In Memory

Gifts have been given to the Evangelism Center...

- In memory of **Ida M. Lux** (Grandma Tiny)
- In memory of **Ron Jackson**
- In memory of **Darrell Wallingford**

Wesley on Sanctification

"Have you a constant witness of the pardoning love of God?...Have you yet been enabled to give him your whole heart? If so, at what time, and in what manner, did you receive this blessing?"

*August 26, 1788 - John Wesley to Elizabeth Baker
 The Works of John Wesley (Kansas City MO,
 Nazarene Publishing House, n.d.) XIII, 121.*

From A Visit to a Book to a Gift

I first got acquainted with Dr. Chic Shaver when he made a visit to my home with the goal of ascertaining the eternal destination of my terminally-ill husband and, of course, assisting him in course correction, if need be.

Later, I had the privilege of being taught by him in the Disciples' class at KC First Church of the Nazarene and in some intensive Bible studies.

Under his caring tutelage, I found myself dealing with some core issues of trust and safety, originally caused by abuse in childhood, and resurfacing in the presence of a strong, authoritative male figure. Could I trust Dr. Shaver? Could I trust God the Father? Out of painful work, an emphatic "Yes" came and I, thankfully, haven't been the same since.

Through Dr. Shaver's kindness, compassion and thorough teaching, I am now a sanctified, Spirit-filled, Spirit-led woman who seeks to serve and grow in the Lord.

Part of the healing from the losses in my life has included writing—stories, poems, whatever could help me process. I submitted one of my stories about a particularly painful loss to the publisher for the Chicken Soup for the Soul books. The story was accepted for inclusion in the Chicken Soup for the Soul: Think Possible book, and I had an opportunity to give back a little for all I had been given. The Chicken Soup authors are given the option of selling books and donating the proceeds to a charity of their choice. There was only one choice for me—the Chic Shaver Center for Evangelism. To date, CSCE has been the recipient of \$475, and I'm still selling books.

Isn't it wonderful how things work when God is in it?!

- Kathryn D. Cagg

Chic Shaver's Upcoming Ministry Schedule

Oct 31-Nov 4	Indian Hills Community Church of the Nazarene Wichita, Kansas	Revival
Nov 7-11	Church of the Nazarene New Braunfels, Texas	Revival
Nov 14-18	First Church of the Nazarene Pasadena, Texas	Revival
Dec 5-9	Church of the Nazarene Council, Idaho	Revival
Jan 16-20	First Church of the Nazarene Naples, Florida	Revival
Feb 6-10	Church of the Nazarene Hamlin, Texas	Revival
Apr 2-6	Fountain of Life Church of the Nazarene Fairfield, IL	Revival

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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.