



THE GOOD NEWS



The Chic Shaver Center for Evangelism Newsletter June 2020

When We Do Not Understand

“Why were you searching for me?” he [Jesus] asked. ‘Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?’ But they did not understand what he was saying to them. Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.”

Luke 2:49-52

One of the godliest women in the history of the world was Mary, mother of Jesus. “[An] angel went to her and said, ‘Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.’”

At Mary’s troubled heart, the angel continued, “Do not be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David...his kingdom will never end.”

And further, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:28-35).

When Jesus was twelve, the family journeyed to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. As extended family members headed home, Jesus’ parents realized Jesus was not among them. They returned to Jerusalem, found Jesus, and questioned his actions listening to the temple teachers. He replied that he had to be in his Father’s house, but they did not understand.

Despite all God’s angel had so clearly announced to Mary, at this stage of Jesus’ maturing life, they did not understand. Yes, it is possible that there are issues the godly do not understand.

At this stage of history in our world (2020), I am asking, “Why the coronavirus?”

- Is it because of an accident in an experimental lab, or that meat or fish was provided in unsanitary conditions in a Chinese market? Once into humans, the virus spread to other humans.
- Is it simply because the world’s pattern includes periodic major diseases like SARS, Ebola, HIV?
- Is it a judgment from God on disobedient people? The grumbling, disobedient Israelites in the wilderness angered the Lord, “and he struck them with a severe plague” (Numbers 11:43).
- Is it simply because we live in a damaged, off-balance world ever since sin entered the human race, but even so, we live in the hope “that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God”? And more, “we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies” (Romans 8:21 and 23).
- I don’t know, I don’t understand, but I have been praying God will use this tragic series of events to draw people to Himself—Savior, Forgiver, Healer, the Lord.

I do know millions of people have pulled away from other people, some in self-imposed quarantine, to stop human transmission of the disease. What do people do, who normally are very busy in work, school, sporting events, entertainment, shopping when most everything stops? When they sit at home day after day, what is going through their minds? What are they thinking about? Is it possible that God might be getting their attention?

—Chic Shaver

Influence

Shortly after the article, “When We Do Not Understand,” was posted on Facebook and the Nazarene website, “Sharing Hope,” a request came from South America. Since then, this article has been translated into Spanish, Portuguese, French, Korean, Russian, Bengali, and Swahili.

Blessings in Indianapolis

The Southport congregation has retained the custom of scheduling two revivals and a youth revival each year. When we heard that Dr. Charles Shaver had an open date in March, the church board followed my suggestion to call him for revival. The board members did not know him. I had experience with Dr. Shaver preaching a revival at the Castleton Church of the Nazarene when I was serving there. It was outstanding, and

the congregation was blessed and helped. Out of the joy of that revival, they freely gave the largest offering they had ever given to an evangelist before. I was confident that God could work a similar spiritual miracle through Dr. Shaver as He had done for Castleton. Here are a few of the blessings I saw in this revival:

1. Better attended by far than any revival we have had in the past ten years
2. The Holy Spirit was present, and there was a strong sense of conviction.
3. People went to the altar as soon as the altar call was given.
4. The revival was well attended by all age groups, including children.
5. Many people who have never responded to altar calls freely went forward and found assurance of salvation.
6. The Saturday seminar on witnessing without fear also armed the members with the information to be better altar workers and led them to volunteer to do follow-up Bible studies with the newly saved. That seminar was well attended by people who are not the usual church workers.
7. Many people prayed to be entirely sanctified.
8. The church board was encouraged by this revival. They planned a second revival in May, this year, with a seminar on prayer and the revival focusing on entire sanctification. It will conclude on Pentecost Sunday.

The revival has helped us to weather the cancellation of services due to our country’s struggle with COVID-19. The thing I keep hearing as I call members of our church is their determination to keep the date for revival for the end of May. Many are already talking about the blessings they are expecting. Dr. Charles Shaver is clearly concerned about one thing. It is the Kingdom of God. He will be all out for your people if you are able to schedule him.

—Rev. William E. Sweezy, Pastor

Southport Church of the Nazarene, Indianapolis, Indiana

Wesley on Sanctification

He often used hymns to teach this truth...

Lord, I believe a rest remains,
 To all thy people known;
 A rest where pure enjoyment reigns,
 And thou art loved alone;
 A rest where all our soul’s desire
 Is fix’d on things above;
 Where doubt and pain and fear expire,
 Cast out by perfect love.
 O that I now the rest might know,
 Believe, and enter in!
 Now, Saviour, now the power bestow,
 And let me cease from sin!

The Works of John Wesley
(Kansas City, MO: Nazarene Publishing House, n.d.) XI, 382

My Final Six Months of Revival Ministry

I expect June—December, 2020, to be my final months of revival ministry. Contact me at (913) 491-5021 or (913) 634-6560 if you want me to be a part of revival and hopefully major spiritual breakthrough in your church.

—Chic Shaver

A Seeking Savior

Jesus is a Seeking Savior!

My father did not have the blessing of growing up in a Christian home or going to church. When he was a young man, he remembers often seeing a billboard near his hometown with the Bible verse, “Matthew 6:33, ‘Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.’” He would wonder about these words for many years. Before my dad started following Jesus, he knew ONE Bible verse, and it wasn’t John 3:16! It was Matthew 6:33.

In the spring of 1972, my dad entered a Church of the Nazarene for the first time by the invitation of a neighbor. Mike Couch, a seminary student from Nazarene Theological Seminary, was doing a homework assignment in an evangelism class taught by Dr. Chic Shaver.

My father was lost, broken, and living in sin. There was an evangelist who was preaching that Sunday named Paul Martin.

but my dad says that it felt like the evangelist had followed him around his whole life and was preaching RIGHT AT him that day.

Do you know what passage Paul Martin preached from that first Sunday my dad went to church? Matthew 6:33, the one verse my dad knew! Jesus was seeking my dad! At the end of that first service in the Church of the Nazarene, my father met Jesus at the altar of the church. His sins were forgiven. He was a healed man. He had met Jesus. His shame and disgrace was transformed by the mercy and grace of God. I had a new dad!

Jesus is a Seeking Savior!

- Dr. Scott Rainey, Global Director of SS & Discipleship Ministries International, Church of the Nazarene; Co-Director of CSCE

Power of Prayer

Wow! What a wonderful time we had with Dr. Chic and Nancy Shaver for our revival February 15-19, 2020. We began Saturday with the "Witnessing Without Fear" workshop, and what a great way to begin. With 54 in attendance, we all took in Dr. Shaver's knowledge, insight and passion in sharing our faith with others. Our people were excited and encouraged...and revival services hadn't even begun yet! Beginning earlier in the month, we made a commitment to "40 Days of Prayer." We have been praying every day, asking the Lord to teach us and help us grow in our prayer life, and of course, saturating our revival and Dr. Shaver in our prayers, too. The Lord's clear anointing was on our services, and there were great altar responses throughout the week, but especially as the Lord quickened our hearts Sunday night with Dr. Shaver's clear message on "Life in the Spirit" and the sanctified life. We also enjoyed Nancy's music as she shared with us in special music two of the nights. We fell in love with the Shavers, and we are so grateful for their sharing with us. We will never be the same. Thank you, Dr. Chic and Nancy! You will forever remain our dear and treasured friends at Venice Church of the Nazarene!

-Rev. Kip Hasselbring, Lead Pastor
Venice Church of the Nazarene (Venice, Florida)

Evangelism Award to William Robel

The Nazarene Bible College Evangelism Award is awarded to the student who shows the greatest concern for and effectiveness in reaching lost people for Christ. It is provided by the Chic Shaver Center for Evangelism, a ministry that recognizes the importance of highlighting evangelism among our pastors and people. The 2020 recipient is William Robel. Here is his testimony:

I spend about four days and four evenings a week working with those in my community that struggle with substance abuse issues. My primary goal is leading them into a relationship with the Lord and discipleship. We spend a great deal of time on mentorship and spiritual formation. We work on past issues as well as their relationship with God. I also speak regularly at addiction treatment centers and serve on a committee as a contact for those leaving treatment. One of my greatest opportunities for evangelism is being involved in leading a church service for both men and women at a local substance abuse treatment center. It's a powerful service where we get to share the gospel and love of Christ with each person before leaving treatment. In the last two years, we have seen 500 people give their lives to the Lord. Evangelism is my passion. God has given me a voice to share the good news every week with those struggling with addiction. It is a powerful ministry. I am in recovery myself; this is why I relate so well with these folks. God has transformed my own life.

Evangelism Award to Jenee Noriega

The recipient of the Nazarene Theological Seminary Evangelism Award is Jenee Noriega. Her testimony will be in the September CSCE newsletter.

Whispering Distance

"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come." John 16:13
"And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face...." I Kings 19:12-13

In our senior years, my wife and sweetheart, Nancy, had to face the challenge of memory impairment. We both are trying to work together to effectively manage everyday living.

We decided it was best for us both to order the Medic Alert bracelets which give a twenty-four-hour phone number which may be called if anyone should discover either of us in distress situations. After several website visits and ten weeks of discussing our plans, a day arrived when I would call in the order. An extensive questionnaire had to be filled out first—and then a phone call to the California office. I felt stress over this phone call, but increasingly I have been learning to pray about everything—even everyday affairs. I prayed the Lord would give me the right counselor on the phone. In a positive, compassionate one-hour conversation, the most wonderful counselor got the

information she needed and answered the questions I had. In less than a week, we had our engraved bracelets.

Every spring, Nancy decorates our lawn and gardens with live flowers she buys and plants. After thoroughly doing that this spring, she felt a compulsion to buy more flowers whenever she saw a sale on leftovers. After several days of such purchases she arrived home to show me one more flower. I felt tempted to explain about too many flowers, extra work, and flower budget funds gone. But I paused and asked God to show me what to say. Then I heard a whisper, "Rejoice with her over her flower. Tell her how pretty it is. Don't worry about one more flower. It's made her happy. And, besides, it didn't cost that much."

So, we rejoiced together. You see, I read in Samuel Logan Brengle's devotional book, *Take Time to Be Holy*:

Now if you want to keep the blessing [entire sanctification], you must constantly lift your heart to God for light, not only in the crises of life, but in all its details. By practice, you can get into such a habit of this that it will become as natural for you as breathing.... Keep within whispering distance of God always.*

That's what I want to do: "Keep within whispering distance of God always."

-Chic Shaver

*Brengle, *Take Time to Be Holy*, ed. Bob Hostetler (Tyndale Momentum, 2013), 200

Because You Gave We Gave

- *Basic Bible Studies for New and Growing Christians and Basic Bible Studies for the Spirit-Filled and Sanctified Life* to graduates of:
 - * Kansas Christian College
 - * Kentucky Mountain Bible College
 - * Nazarene Bible College
 - * Nazarene Theological Seminary
- Discipleship materials to a substance abuse ministry in Pennsylvania
- Bible study materials to a ministry to students from the country of India attending college in Texas
- Discipleship materials to pastors and leaders in Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Florida, Wyoming, and Montana

Contributions Were Made in Memory Of:

Marsha Ashland	Eric Nelson
Walter Crow	Adeline Owens
Chet Galloway	Arlen Siegfried
James Hamilton	Dan Steele
Marcia Hayse	Dr. Eugene Stowe
Dr. Jerald Johnson	Anna Tremaine
Marge Knierim	

CHIC SHAVER'S UPCOMING MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Aug 29-Sep 2	Church of the Nazarene Great Falls, MT	Revival
Sep 5-9	First Church of the Nazarene Riverton, WY	Revival
Sept 12	Kansas City, MO	Wedding
Sep 19-23	Church of the Nazarene Harrisonville, MO	Revival
Oct 10-14	Church of the Nazarene Bonner Springs, KS	Revival
Oct 24-28	Southport Church of the Nazarene Indianapolis, IN	Revival
Oct 31-Nov 4	Church of the Nazarene Auburn, IN	Revival

MINISTRY UPDATE

	Total Attendance	Seekers
Church of the Nazarene Venice, FL	1015	71
Witness Seminar	53	
Southport Church of the Nazarene Indianapolis, IN	737	20
Witness Seminar	37	
Southside Church of the Nazarene Muncie, IN	CANCELLED (CORONAVIRUS)	
Trinity Church of the Nazarene Independence, MO	POSTPONED (CORONAVIRUS)	
First Church of the Nazarene Kansas City, MO	POSTPONED (CORONAVIRUS)	
Church of the Nazarene Auburn, IN	POSTPONED (CORONAVIRUS)	
Southport Church of the Nazarene Indianapolis, IN	POSTPONED (CORONAVIRUS)	

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