



# THE GOOD NEWS



*The Chic Shaver Center for Evangelism Newsletter June 2021*

## **LIVING IN THE BLESSING** **365 Daily Devotionals to Guide You** **to Live in the Blessing**

*This is the projected title of Dr. Shaver's new book.*

### **Give Him a Little Room!**

*(This is one of the devotionals in Dr. Shaver's new book.)*

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is...patience...." Galatians 5:22*

*"Love is patient...." I Corinthians 13:4*

On time! Yes, I would be to my job on time. I had to drive narrow residential streets with a 25-mile-per-hour speed limit and little opportunity to pass another car. The car in front of me began to slow—20, 15, 10, then 5 miles per hour. The man driving kept peering out the passenger side window. What was he looking for? Finally, he stopped dead in the street with no signal. Oblivious to all other drivers, he finally found what he was looking for—a garage sale.

For some time now, I had been enjoying the Spirit-filled life. Oh, don't get me wrong, I had my challenges. I considered one of my biggest weaknesses to be my tendency to impatience. I was on a mission for God, I had much to do—no roadblocks, please.

I stopped my car dead behind his car. What else could I do? I didn't yell at him, I didn't honk my horn, and, for some reason, my patience/impatience meter hadn't even registered yet.

Then I heard that "Voice"—"Give him a little room!" Yes, that's it, "Give him a little room!" It was like a page of a new chapter opened to me. Whatever my mission, all my life, I will rub shoulders with, meet, encounter, and talk to people living their own lives with their own interests, challenges, cares, hopes, burdens. The Spirit of God and love both tell me to "give him a little room."

It's been years since I heard that "Voice" that day. The other driver finally pulled to the side, let me pass, and I made it to work on time. But far more important, I learned a lesson from the Spirit. At least 100 times through the following years of my life, under irritations and obstacles, those words have come back to me. And, 100 times, I've been able to "give him a little room." How grateful I am that the Spirit who fully invades our hearts at sanctification will speak and guide and grow us into greater Christlikeness—even in areas of weakness. "Give him a little room!"

### **Here is an Example Of A New Outreach** **Asian Indian Ministry at University of Texas Arlington**

Greetings Friends ,

At University of Texas Arlington our Lord is doing great things! In the months of November and December 2020 we shared Gospel to more than 25 students. Kavita, my wife, cooked some authentic Indian food during Thanksgiving fellowship. For a few of our student friends, it was the first time to be at Thanksgiving! We shared a bit about Thanksgiving; later they shared why they are thankful to God. It was a neat experience for them. During this Thanksgiving Day, one of the student friends saw the nativity in our front room and asked what it was. Our 9-year-old son Nathan shared the Gospel to this student friend by explaining about this nativity. Later our 15-year-old daughter Natali asked if she is interested in having a Bible so that she can know more about Jesus. She took a Bible with her! We are in touch with this friend and trying to Disciple!

On 25<sup>th</sup> December, we distributed "Christmas Blessing Boxes," to more than 20 student friends in UTA! We got few donations such as snacks, rice, and vegetables. We put those items in the boxes with a personal letter sharing about the Christmas story and especially emphasizing that Jesus came for them. We heard back from a few student friends that they liked the boxes. We are sure that they are blessed through God's Love in Action!

We request your prayers for Asian Indian Ministry in DFW area with West Texas District Church of the Nazarene!

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### **Be Encouraged, Mr. District Superintendent**

In 2018 district assembly, superintendent Dr. Eddie Estep challenged the crowd:

- Pray once a day, fast once a week.
- Pray for two people you will help grow in Christ.
- Pray for three people you will help know Christ.

In December 2020, Pastor Clark Armstrong, Marshall, MO. emailed the following message to Dr. Estep:

Good afternoon, sir!

In case, on certain days, it feels like no one is following your

leadership or you have no ways to measure it as a D.S. —I felt compelled to send you a simple update today on my Vineyard 123 Prayers. I accepted that challenge when I came back last year from Asia. I see it again every week on the Monday Update and it keeps me centered. Since last week was a good week, I should share some of it to encourage you.

My list has constantly been fluid (or dynamically changing) across these nineteen months. An example from last week is that a young lady names Madi has been cutting my hair in a salon here in Marshall over the last six months. I have been building a relationship with her and soft witnessing to her every time (which has been about every five weeks). Last Tuesday, she seemed extra responsive, so I presented the gospel using the true meaning of Christmas angle. Right there beside her chair when we finished, Madi prayed to accept Christ. She is in her twenties and just went through a divorce leaving her alone with two little preschool girls, but now they also have Jesus in their family. I moved her up from my "three persons who need to find the Lord" list to my "two people that I am discipling" list, and on Thursday, she began Chic Shaver's Basic Bible Studies lessons.

That left a vacancy on my "three people who need to receive Christ" list, so I added a first-time visitor from last Sunday (November 29) to my list. She is named Ashley and she is nineteen. Ashley is due with her first child on December 17, but is not married to the father. However, this is where it starts getting really interesting. The father is the brother to a young adult lady named Kirstin (in her thirties), who was on my "needs to know Jesus personally" list last year with her boyfriend Brandon. Kirstin had invited Ashley to church because Kirstin is now a soul on fire. Both Kirstin and Brandon had been on my list when I set out to find them because they were former members we discovered when we had our Membership Audit in 2019-2020 church year. We found them and restored their relationship with the Lord along with Brandon's fourth grade daughter Aryana. They are now on my "new and growing Christians" list which, by the way, is a good deal bigger than two persons.

Ashley only lasted two days on my "needs to get saved" list because Brandon and Kirstin, who are growing by leaps and bounds, brought her with them to Praise Team rehearsal on Thursday night, and while Brandon was in the sound booth where he has been helping and Kirstin was on the stage with the Praise Team that she now sings in, Ashley came to my office where she turned her heart and life over to Jesus. I used the, "would you like to know more about what our church believes" starter on that one. She is scheduled to be baptized on January 10 and wants to have her baby dedicated sometime soon after it is born as well. I put her immediately on the Basic Bible Studies and she was excited to begin. In about a half hour, Kirstin comes running into my office when practice ended with Ashley and says: "Hey! You never had us do that one!" So, Kirstin and Ashley are going to do Basic 8 as partners.

We tried last year to also find Brandon's mom and stepdad (Debbie and Perry) who had been members about twenty years ago. For a while, they were also on my "needs to know Jesus again" list. But since then, they have come back to the Lord and the church as well. Now they have donated their car to an eighteen-year-old young man named Corey who needs to go out on his own now.

You guessed it, Corey used to be on both the "needs to know Jesus" and then on the "being disciplined" list. On October 11, he joined the church. He was reached in 2019 through the care and love of one of his high school friends (Jaxson) and their family who attend our church. He will graduate high school at the end of December and can no longer stay in the home of his mom and stepdad after that. He would like to play on the Marine Corps Band. He is a drummer and has excelled in marching band. I do not know how to guide him toward that goal yet.

By the way, I found out that now Letti, who cuts hair beside Madi in the salon, heard it all last Tuesday and has a highly increased curiosity. She will now take Madi's place on the "needs to know Jesus" list since Ashley didn't last very long on that list. I will head over there tomorrow to check on Madi's first Basic 8 lesson. Maybe it will become Letti's "Born On" date.

Never sit in your easy chair and wonder if anyone is out there working the plan, No, sirree, Bob. That is what the devil wants you to think. We are stomping out the grapes in the Vineyard. With God's help and all to His glory, of course.

Clark Armstrong

### **Contributions Were Made in Memory Of:**

Dr. James Crabtree, Evangelist  
Dana Peck  
James Spear

Vern Knierim  
Tom Ray  
Marcus Sanford

## Because You Gave We Gave

- 137 Basic Bible Studies For New And Growing Christians and 137 Basic Bible Studies For The Spirit Filled and Sanctified Life to graduates at:
  - Kansas City Christian College
  - Kentucky Mountain Bible College
  - Nazarene Bible College
  - Nazarene Theological Seminary
- The Evangelism Award to "That Student who shows the greatest concern for, and effectiveness in reaching lost persons for Christ" at Nazarene Seminary and Nazarene Bible College. The Award is the DVD album Witnessing Without Fear and a check
- Bible studies to a big city church to start a follow up ministry
- Basic Bible studies to two Evangelists
- Over 25 more devotional books given away
- Over 200 Basic Bible Studies for the Spirit Filled and Sanctified Life given to pastors and leaders at an Indiana conference.

### Charles Wesley on Sanctification

O that is me the sacred fire might now begin to glow;  
Burn up the dross of base desire, and make mountains flow! .....

Refine fire, go through my heart; illuminate my soul;  
Scatter thy life through every part, and sanctify the whole.

*"Jesus Thine All Victorious Love", Living Hymns of Charles Wesley (Winona Lake, IN., Light and Life Press, 1957), 54.*

### The Dunnellon Revival

The year was 2006; we had just moved into our brand new sanctuary in North Central Florida in 2003. In 2004 and 2005, in the State of Florida, we had some of the worst major hurricanes that we had seen in a long time. 2006 brought respite, and we needed revival. Dr. Shaver was connected with a couple in our church by the name of Joe and Anita Farley, who have known him over the years. He accepted the invitation to lead us in revival and the Farley's family led us in music. Those experiences have continued to bless us over many, many years.

One that stands out for me is how a gentleman in our church, through the revival experience, accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior. This one gentleman has been a blessing to me all the years since. He was a retired mechanic and he has taken care of my vehicles and given so much of his resources to make sure I can travel and share the love of Christ with so many others. The timing was just perfect for Dr. Shaver to come in our midst and give us Bible-based theology. He truly touched him and the rest of us as well.

We are a United Methodist denomination, so we were so thankful Dr. Shaver was willing to share with us across the denominational boundaries. We have grown into truly a very strong, traditional, orthodox Bible-based church. We have used his Basic Bible Studies time and time again, not only in membership classes, but in other blessings for folks. Thank you, thank you, thank you Dr. Shaver for your many years of ministry to the entire world.

I had the special blessing to visit with him on the phone a few weeks back, asking that even in his retirement, he might minister to our congregation. We gave him an open opportunity whenever he is in Florida, if he feels the nudge to preach, to give us a call. As a result he will preach to us June 6.

—Pastor Eddie Fulford, First United Methodist Church  
Dunnellon, FL

### Spirit-Led Evangelism

We met her first. Caitlyn was a new graduate of Kansas State University. She was engaged to be married to Nick, and she had just moved into the townhouse next to ours. Nick and Caitlyn quickly shared of their newfound faith in Jesus and recent baptism in a church near their alma mater. We quickly became friends with this young couple as they asked for spiritual mentoring in their new walk with Jesus and their upcoming marriage.

Along the journey, we met Caitlyn's stepfather, Scott. Scott works in construction and remodeling. On multiple occasions, Scott visited our townhouse to help us with projects. I felt a friendship with him from day one.

Caitlyn began to share her desire to see her stepfather, Scott, come into a closer relationship with Jesus. She was praying for him and asking God to open his heart to become a fully-devoted follower of Jesus. I remember the day Caitlyn shared of the first visit Scott made with her to their local church in the Kansas City area. As the preacher was speaking, Caitlyn had a strong sense in her heart that she should reach down and hold her stepfather's hand. At that very moment, Scott had been feeling anxiety in his heart. Little did Caitlyn realize what this action would mean to Scott. She reached out and held his hand for twenty minutes of the service. Scott later expressed in tears what this action meant to him.

That week, Caitlyn asked if I would reach out to Scott. We met for lunch on Thursday, February 25. Scott was so open to Jesus that day. His heart had been prepared by the work of the Holy Spirit, and I simply needed to walk with him across the line of faith. Jesus entered Scott's heart that afternoon as he repented of his sins and put his trust in Jesus for his salvation!

Who gave Caitlyn the desire to see her father-in-law come to faith? Who prompted her to hold his hand? Who made the way for the meeting to happen with Scott and me? Simply listening to the Holy Spirit is really all the witness does.

Are you listening? Respond when He speaks and reach out your hand!

—Scott Rainey

### Revival Resurgence

Dr. Richard Taylor said that there is a required power for every level of achievement. The power of an idling jet is enough to pro-

pel a kiddie car, but not enough to shake a giant plane from its inertia. Many churches keep their engines running all year and have a measure of power, but not quite enough to accomplish some things which need desperately to be done. Some Christians will only be sanctified when they are exposed to a sustained cumulative spiritual thrust

### Revival Still Makes a Difference

by Rev. Susie Shellenberger, D.D.

I'm an ordained and tenured evangelist in the Church of the Nazarene, speaking 43 weeks or weekends during the year (unless there's a pandemic!). When I start to wonder if revival is still making a difference, God is faithful to bring specific examples to my mind. Here are a couple.

### Salvation

"I turned my life around because of a revival. I wasn't living right and had fallen into depression and resentment. I was questioning everything—even my marriage. I was resentful that my husband had lost his job and wasn't happy with him managing a skating rink where immodestly-dressed teen girls clung to him.

Another man entered my life who gave me the attention I craved. What began as a friendship quickly turned into a sinful relationship. I knew it was wrong—and I even prayed several times for forgiveness but realized it was futile because I refused to turn from my sin.

One weekend I traveled from my home in Georgia to Claremore, OK where my brother-in-law pastored the Nazarene church. I was excited to spend time with my sister. Susie Shellenberger was holding a revival in their church that weekend.

God seemed to shake me during the very first service. He revealed how my sin was not only hurting my family but Him as well. I gave my life to Him that first night of revival and am no longer living in sin. I now have a healed marriage, and best of all, it's a marriage that honors God. I'm so grateful I was able to be in revival the weekend; I truly needed it. God definitely changed my life forever!" —Cledia, GA

### Sanctification

"My pre-teen daughter, Makayla, and I had been talking about sanctification during lots of car rides and dinner times. I was trying to make it simple, but I just wasn't getting through.

Susie Shellenberger spoke at our church—Fairlawn Church of the Nazarene one weekend, and her Sunday morning message was on sanctification. Makayla didn't go to the altar, but she had a thousand questions right after church.

We had a good crowd—maybe 550 people in attendance. I told her she could talk with Susie as people were exiting the sanctuary. I felt this issue couldn't wait, and I wanted my daughter to 'get it,' I just knew Susie would understand the importance.

We waited for her to enter the lobby, and I asked if she could help Makayla with a few questions. Susie began talking with Makayla immediately. She answered all of her questions and even prayed with her. We *felt* as though we were the only ones there. Susie wasn't looking around or trying to catch the eye of someone else. She took the time to help this pre-teen girl who was desperate for more of Christ.

Since that time, Makayla has been totally sold-out for God. She shares Jesus with those she meets and when she was 18 spent 40 days in Ecuador sharing the gospel. When she turned 19, Makayla spent 50 days in South Africa doing the same. She now has a sustainable studies master's degree and is looking for a church in which to serve.

The light bulb truly went on in Makayla's life that revival Sunday, and she has never been the same since."

—Shelly, KS

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### A Great Day

On March 29, we turned the complete text of Living in the Blessing over to Bonnie Perry, Editorial Director, The Foundry Publishing. Pray for Bonnie and the Foundry staff as they bring this book to production.

### MINISTRY UPDATE

	Total Attendance	Seekers
First Church of Nazarene Hutchinson, KS (April 11)	301	30

### CHIC SHAVER'S UPCOMING MINISTRY SCHEDULE

June 3— Meeting Leaders, Francis Asbury Society (Wilmore, KY)

June 6— Preaching at First United Methodist Church (Dunnellon, FL)

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