



THE GOOD NEWS



The Chic Shaver Center for Evangelism Newsletter June 2022

Doubled During Covid

Come with us to Redlands, CA, the Ark Church of the Nazarene, which was founded in 1911. Rev. Kevin O'Conner has been its pastor since 2011. It had grown under his ministry to an average Sunday worship attendance of 145 by March 2020.

Then Covid struck. March, 2020 saw the state of California calling for lockdown, including closing churches for Easter Sunday. As pastor prayed, he sensed the Lord saying, "My Son put the disciples on lockdown in prayers in the upper room until the day of Pentecost. You are to be in lockdown for prayer. Come back on Pentecost."

Prayer intensified among the members of the church. When services began, there was special group praying before each service. When the church had a board meeting, there was twenty to thirty minutes of prayer. Same with staff meetings. Wednesday night was a prayer meeting. Pastor believes prayer moves the heart of God. In regard to finances, he has believed for years, "we cry out in prayers in private so we don't have to beg in public."

On May 31, 2020, Pentecost Sunday, in-person worship service began. Two medical doctors guided the church through procedures for the greatest safety. A second service was started to provide social distancing. People wore masks, temperatures were taken, and the doctors prescribed medicine where appropriate. The church began live-streaming their services for those who felt safer at home. The church offered community communion to live-stream viewers and neighbors of church members. Starting with 30 in each morning service, within a month the church was running 50 in the first service and 100 in the second service.

The church prayed out of Psalm 91 for the health of the people and deliverance from fear. A significant number of people contracted Covid, but none were hospitalized. One person with cancer and heart issues was hospitalized. He contracted Covid in the hospital and passed away.

Amazingly dramatic cancer healings happened. A man with cancer so severe he was given only six weeks to live was completely healed. A woman with aggressive skin cancer in for surgery – the doctor stymied, the cancer disappeared. A lady with brain and bone cancer, fully healed.

People from other churches which remained closed began to attend Ark Church. Eight home groups were started running ten to twenty persons each. There had been none before Covid. Live-streaming viewers grew from 50 to 960. People were getting saved from the live-stream. In a recent week, reports of conversions came from Missouri, Michigan, and Ohio. Twenty-five percent of the church giving came from live-stream viewers.

Dramatic conversions began among the in-person attendance. A couple living together on the verge of even breaking up that relationship found Christ, got baptized, got married, joined the church, and gave their testimonies to the church Sunday morning services. A man and his adult son both found the Lord, began meeting together regularly and disciplined each other.

An adult Sunday school teacher found an old set of [Basic Bible Studies](#). The church had been praying for several weeks for a way to disciple their people. When the teacher brought the studies to the pastor, he felt that was the answer. They now have given out 225 [Basic Bible Studies](#), twenty-five percent to their live stream people and seventy-five percent to their in-person congregation.

Giving increased. An extra \$140,000 was raised and January, 2021 they burned the mortgage. In February the church hired an outstanding couple to lead their music program. The church went from 88 giving units, before Covid, to 148 by January 2022. Yearly giving went from \$320,000 to \$500,000.

Since May 2020, more than 60 have been baptized. Since September, 2021, 101 have been received into membership by profession of faith. Average Sunday worship attendance have moved from a before-covid 145 to a present 258.

Pastor O'Conner decided on a theme for the church – "Journey to the New," built on the "Journey" theme in the [Basic Bible Studies](#). The church put up a gigantic prayer board and urged people to attach names of people for whom they were praying. Pastor got another idea. Since so many people had done the [Basic Bible Studies](#), why not invite the author, Chic Shaver, to come, speak in a service and sign their completion certificates. A phone call led to Dr. Shaver's agreement to come for a Sunday to Wednesday revival. Prayers were raised; a special meal was planned prior to each evening service, Sunday to Wednesday. Special advertising was prepared and distributed; people were urged to invite people they were praying for.

There was some uneasiness over the fact they had not had a Sunday night nor a four-day revival for years. Dr. Shaver preached clear-cut salvation and sanctification messages. Sunday morning's attendance was 294 with 32 visitors, primarily those on the prayer board. Sunday night 132 showed up. Monday through Wednesday crowds ran from 113 to 127, with total visitors for the week were at 53. Seventy-two sought God publicly at altars of prayer. Above all, there was a tremendous sense of the Lord's presence throughout the week. Executive Pastor Carol Theotig, who has been in the Nazarene Church for 29 years said, "This journey revival, to the best of my remembrance, has been the most fruitful, powerful, specific and Holy Spirit-filled time in my life." Doubled during Covid and more! Great glory goes to Almighty God.

Kevin O'Conner and Chic Shaver

A Wesley Duet on Pentecost

June 5 is Pentecost Sunday, the remembrance of the promised out-pouring of the Holy Spirit on 120 praying disciples of Jesus. Imagine John and Charles Wesley singing the second verse of Charles Wesley's great hymn, "Love Divine, All Love Excelling."

*Breathe, O breathe Thy Loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit,
Let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning.
Alpha and Omega be;*

End of faith, as its beginning,

Set our hearts at liberty.

Living Hymns of Charles Wesley (Winona Lake, Indiana, 1957) 41

Would you like to sing with them?

A Father's Day Challenge

1 Timothy 3:4-5, " [An elder] must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)"

In 1994, I had a full-time job overseeing the laboratories at a nursing school in Fort Wayne, Indiana. God was at work redirecting my life's vocation from medical science to His call in pastoral ministry. I was newly married when the church asked me to start serving as their part-time discipleship pastor. Added to these responsibilities, I was taking my first steps in the required education for ordination.

Life was busy. I needed to learn the art of balancing work, church, family, and education. I heard experienced pastors speak of prioritizing. The order of importance usually went like this:

1) family, 2) church, 3) work, and 4) education. I am thankful today that God gave my wife and me ten years of marriage before children were added to our family. Over those ten years, I witnessed many pastors and lay leaders struggle to find a healthy balance of church and family. Often the children suffered as these leaders would choose their calling over their family. Occasionally, the church suffered when pastors and lay leaders chose their family over the church.

One of the lessons I learned was that my family did not need to compete against my call to serve God's church. Instead, my family is part of God's church and therefore is part of my call. In fact, my family became the first expression of the church in my life. As I served my family, we would together serve Christ's church.

When Bekah and Sarah were born in 2004 and 2008 respectively, I determined that I would take my wife and my two daughters on dates every month. I was "the blessed one" who had three dates each month! Dates for a four year old look quite a bit different than dates with a seventeen year old, but they are important at every age as I cared for the spiritual lives of God's church within my home. In addition to the monthly dates, I planned that when each of my daughters reached thirteen years of age, I would take them on a dad/daughter date trip. Bekah turned thirteen when we lived as missionaries in Ukraine. We spent five days together in Paris, France! Sarah turned thirteen last September, and we spent five days together at a cabin in the Rocky Mountains!

I wouldn't change these memories for anything this world has to offer. The effort I put forth to learn the heart of my wife and daughters is today reaping benefits in faith, family, and ministry. Christian fathers, it is never too late to date your wife and daughters. They are the church in your home. Serve them, and through them, serve the entire church! Happy Father's Day!

Scott Rainey

17 District Superintendents

Seventeen district superintendents have [purchased Living in the Blessing](#) to give to their pastors. These have been given at pastor retreats, district assemblies, and some are planning for Christmas banquets. Take advantage!

I'm In

I am so committed to our policy of raising publishing funds to keep the price of [Living in the Blessing](#) at \$19.99 that I will invest my own \$4300.00 to take our printing 7000 to 7999. By researching, we discovered that \$4300.00 is needed for each thousand more books to make them available for \$19.99 rather than \$25. Another group of givers are providing funds to go to the next thousand, 8000 and above. Thank you, givers! Many more people have the book because of what you are doing.

Chic Shaver

Responses to the Book

[Living in the Blessing](#) began arriving in churches and homes about March 14. Since then, a continuous stream of phone calls, texts, emails, and letters have been praising the book.

An exceptional response came from Rod Laughlin, who has been a Southern Baptist pastor, has been in a prayer ministry at Colonial Presbyterian, and recently has been attending First Church of the Nazarene, Kansas City. First Church has made 250 copies of the book available to its attendees. Rev. Laughlin has just finished editing [The Readable Bible](#). Here is what he emailed me on April 2.

Last week as we were walking out of KCFC I asked Becky, "Do you want a copy of Dr. Shaver's book?" She said, "No I've read enough devotionals." I understood as she is a constant Bible reader, preferring to read, meditate, wait on the Lord, and pray. It's her wonderful daily habit. After her response I said, "Me too." After fourteen years working fulltime on [The Readable Bible](#), I find myself pretty much glued to God's Word, not men's writings.

Well, yesterday I was straightening up my desk and my eyes fell upon "Living the Blessing" file you gave me at lunch. The Lord told me to read it, so I sat down and did so. And God used your writing to show me how much a person can be blessed by the writing of others who love His Word. I loved, and found such love, in what you have written. I was truly blessed by each of the ten or so devotionals you had printed out for me. When I read the last one, I found myself disappointed that there were no more to read.

When I am back at KCFC next week (Becky and I have altar prayer team responsibilities at Colonial Presbyterian tomorrow), I will pick up a copy of "Living the Blessings". I will use it for daily devotions over the next year. Praise God for giving you His vision, and for you seeking to fulfill it. I am looking forward to meeting with God assisted by what He has done through you.

Chic Shaver

A Welder Visits Revival

Only heaven will reveal all that God was able to do in any given scheduled revival meeting. Having been a full-time itinerant evangelist for over fifty years, there have been many revelations of victories and answers to prayer that have come during and after the revival dates. One outstanding conversion occurred in Danville, IL, when my former pastor invited me to hold a revival meeting for him.

Marshall Cox was a hard-working welder in Danville, Illinois. While not a church-going man, he and his wife raised a beautiful family of well-behaved and courteous children. One son became very involved in the Boy Scouts of America. He achieved many honors and on one occasion invited his family to attend an awards ceremony. The master of ceremonies, having witnessed the lifestyle of the scout, assumed that he and his family were Christians and invited Marshall to pray the invocation. Marshall, not knowing how to pray, very politely deferred to someone else. I learned later that this incident was so embarrassing to him that he decided he was going to learn how to pray so as to never fail his family again in this area.

Marshall had never been to a revival meeting but noticed that the Nazarene Church was going to have meetings every night for a whole week. He reasoned that he should be able to learn how to pray in a week of lessons. He and his family attended the opening service and when the invitation was given to give his life to Christ he simply stepped out and came forward to the altar. A very wise and gifted pastor, Sam Smith, told Marshall, "Praying is just talking to Jesus who knows all about you and loves you."

That night Marshall not only learned how to pray but became a born-again follower of Jesus. He and his family attended every service of the revival and before the Sunday night closing service came, the entire family had been to the altar. After the closing service, Marshall asked the pastor, "What should I do now?" Pastor Smith recommended that Marshall tell others what God had done for him. Pretty soon Marshall was bringing his friends and other family members to church and Sunday School. He especially enjoyed listening to others in the congregation testify to what God had done for them.

His new lifestyle included given up some bad habits and choices and adding some new priorities. His first testimony was rather interesting. "I discovered that I had more than enough money left over to tithe after I gave up my cigarettes, beer, and lottery tickets." Marshall found out that the men in missions could use a good welder on their trips to other countries. In years to come, he and his wife, Joyce, gave of their time and talent on many mission fields.

In subsequent revivals Marshall would ask me questions about entire sanctification and the witness of the Spirit. He had faithfully been walking in the light and asked the Lord to sanctify him through and through. He stated that he was not telling God how to let him know but was waiting for the assurance that the work was done.

Marshall continued to love revivals. He would drive many miles after work to visit other meetings and evangelists. I will never forget seeing Marshall come into a meeting several miles from home with a huge smile on his face. When we met in the aisle he said, "Well, God gave me the witness! As a delegate to district assembly, I was listening to pastor's reports in the hot sanctuary of college church and God blessed me with assurance! I almost shouted!" I have a feeling he may have been joined by the Heavenly Host!

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Evangelism Award at NTS

Rev Jeni Hall, pastor at Newport, Oregon, has received the Evangelism Award given at graduation, and provided by the Evangelism Center. Her Evangelism Professor reports her church Sunday attendance and small group discipleship has doubled over the last year. Dr. Sharpes says she is "God Dependent." Congratulations Jeni Hall! Here is her report.

Evangelism in Turbulent Days

The chaos of 2020/2021 caught most of us by surprise: global pandemic, political unrest, intense social division, and the list goes on. I will be quick to state that none of it surprised God. However, in the turmoil of leadership in such divisive times, I found myself disoriented and yet deeply compelled by the life of Jesus as a leader. Jesus' famous Sermon on the Mount became my lifeblood as I sought to lead God's church in Newport, OR through uncertain days. Something in my spirit whispered, "the only way forward is to follow the way of Jesus." Truly, W.W.J.D? (What would Jesus do?) After all, Jesus' ministry was born into quite a hostile environment as well. The Church of Jesus Christ was birthed amid sin, division, perverted power, and moral decay. Sound familiar? I find hope in the fact that it is an era of anything but peace that God chose to situate the triumphant story of his Son, Jesus Christ.

As I listened to this call to relentlessly follow the way of Jesus as outlined for us in the Gospels, I could not help but surrender to the fact that God was de-programming me from my "go-to" ways of propelling the Gospel forward and beckoning me to be re-programmed and reoriented to the humble, gentle, and compelling methodology of Jesus. The truth is: His ways are uncomfortably unconventional. In a transformational moment with the Lord, I felt him teaching me, "the world shouts. I whisper. So, don't shout. Whisper." This is frustrating. The enemy wants to convince us that if we don't shout our message will get lost amongst the noise. But alas, I committed to following the way of Jesus, so the prayer became: God, show us how to whisper your hope in our community.

As I sat at a table week after week with my team of leaders, "whispering" began to take shape as something that looked a lot like compassionate ministry and the power of presence. We began to get the sense that what our community needed from the people of God was not a loud declaration of theological truth, but a humble, compassionate people who followed the humble King who rode donkeys and washed feet. For us, this looked like a lot of "no-strings-attached" generosity. A tangible example of this is delivering "blessing boxes" full of goodies to our local hospital, police department, DHS office, school district office, etc. We didn't extend a church invitation. We simply said "thank you" for the ways in which these entities serve our community. Similarly, we collected gift cards to local grocery stores and delivered them to foster families in our community. Again, no invitation to church. No tract. No 4 spiritual laws. Just a note acknowledging the hard work they do. No matter how backwards it felt evangelism in a turbulent culture began to look an awful lot like compassionate ministries and showing up in spaces no one expected the Church to be unless we were carrying bull horns and Bibles.

We absolutely experienced growth as a result. Evangelism in the classic sense happened. Our church grew numerically and baptisms occurred. Thanks be to God! But I do not want to skip over another significant thing that happened: we – as the people of God – began to look more like our humble King Jesus and less like the world. I am convinced that when the people of God truly follow the way of Jesus our very lives

become the whisper of the Kingdom of God. Our very lives become evangelism.

Contributions Were Made in Memory of:

Dr. Paul Bassett	Don Cowley
Dr. James C. Crabtree	Dr. Paul Cunningham
Alberta Danner	C. Lee Eby
Willa Fitzgerald	Anna Freed
Linda Hardin	Dale Horton
Ralph Holaday	Elaine Hunt
Frank Kumor	Gerald Manker
Marion McKellips	Carl Moore
Al Parker	Lanney Passmore
B. Winfred Ritter	Vicki Scrivner
Margetta Shaw	Robert Shearer
John Shore	Kathleen Sadowsky
Dick Wasson	Arthur Whittington

Because You Gave We Gave

- 235 Basic Bible Studies for the Spirit Filled and Sanctified Life to participants at the "The Gathering" sponsored by the Holiness Partnership, May 3-5, Kansas City
- Basic Bible Studies for New and Growing Christians and Basic Bible Studies for the Spirit Filled and Sanctified Life for all graduates of
- Kansas Christian College
- Kentucky Mountain Bible College
- Nazarene Bible College
- Nazarene Theological Seminary
- Sanctification studies to a Young Adult Study group and a young adult moving to Georgia
- Over 100 gift copies of Living in the Blessing across the country to college presidents, district superintendents, pastors, lay people, the clerks at the post office and grocery store
- Discipleship materials to pastors and other leaders in California, Georgia, Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, Texas, Montana, Ohio, and more.
- Funds to unite an Ukrainian mother with her daughter in Olathe, Kansas

Over 2000 miles for 10 minutes

Dr. David Bowser, Superintendent, Mid-Atlantic District had ordered 150 copies of Living in the Blessing to give to his pastors at district assembly. He phoned and asked me if I would be willing to fly to the assembly in Baltimore, Maryland on Friday, speak on Saturday and fly back to Kansas City Saturday afternoon. After challenging messages from General Superintendent Crocker and David Bowser, Dr. Bowser was elected to serve as superintendent for another four years by an overwhelming vote. Dr. Bowser had spread 150 copies of the book across the front of the platform. He introduced me, and in ten minutes, I told the miracle of the book to 500 delegates. The assembly dismissed for lunch, and pastors picked up their books. I went to a room where I autographed books and for all who so desired. Then I flew home.

Chic Shaver

The Wesleyan Holiness Digital Library

Is a free, open access, digital resource for books and literature. Basic Bible Studies for the Spirit Filled and Sanctified Life will soon be available in the following languages:

Arabic Spanish Bengali Hindi Haitian/Haitian Creole Korean
Chichewa Portuguese Kinyarwanda Kiswahili Tai Tok Pisin Vietnamese Shaangan/Tsonga

MINISTRY UPDATE– Dr. Shaver

	<u>Total Attendance</u>	<u>Seekers</u>
Mid Atlantic District Assembly Baltimore, MD (April 2)	500	
Redlands, CA Ark Church of the Nazarene (April 24-27) Revival	780	72
The Gathering– Holiness Partnership First Church of the Nazarene Kansas City, MO		
Seminar– "Preach Holiness with Power"	40	
Evening Service " The Miricle Book"	296	
<u>Chic Shaver's Upcoming Ministry Schedule</u>		
June 5	Church of the Nazarene Harrisonville, MO	Sunday Message -Pentecost

MINISTRY UPDATE– Dr. Rainey

Central Gulf Coast District (Chattahoochee Zone) Revival Services, March 6-9, 2022		
Northern Michigan District Pastors' and Spouses' Retreat, March 11-13, 2022		
Northwest District Assembly and SDMI Convention, April 6-8, 2022		
West Texas District Vision Conference, April 20-21, 2022		
South Arkansas District SDMI Team Day, April 23, 2022		
Michigan District "Come to the Table," May 7, 2022		
Colorado District SDMI Team Day, May 14, 2022		
Missouri District Values Conference, May 21, 2022		
<u>Upcoming</u>		
Upcoming (June – July):		
Pittsburgh District Team Day, June 4, 2022		
Topeka Fairlawn Nazarene, Faith Promise, June 5, 2022		
Evangelism and Church Multiplication Training, Jacksonville, FL, June 11, 2022		
Jacksonville University Boulevard Nazarene, June 12, 2022		
North Carolina District Mission Advance Conference, June 23-24, 2022		
PALCON, Northwest Nazarene University, July 11-13, 2022		
West Virginia South District NDI Convention, July 23, 2022		
Southwest Indiana District NDI Convention, July 25, 2022		

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Margo Manning, Managing Director
Sarah Loganbill, Social Media Director

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.