



# THE GOOD NEWS



*The Chic Shaver Center for Evangelism Newsletter March 2015*

## Sowing to Please the Spirit

*"The one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:8-9*

"Hi sir" his January 10, 2015, e-mail began. The message continued:

My name is Joe Kumor. I participated in my ordination board today at Lakeside Nazarene Church in Hastings, NE. I hope to become a military chaplain. The pastor, Rev. John Whitsett, asked if I knew Frank and Peggy Kumor. They are my parents, although my mother passed away a number of years ago. He thought it amazing that he remembered an evangelism class taught by you around "35 years ago" that mentioned my parents and he was grilling their kid in an ordination board.

Do I ever remember young adults, Frank and Peggy Kumor! They had visited the local church where I was on staff as Minister of Outreach. They were so open and friendly that I asked if we could visit with them further about their lives and the beliefs of our church. Yes! That's what they wanted.

Two laypeople called with me in their home that Thursday night. The Holy Spirit opened doors and their hearts and on February 13, 1975, at 11pm, both Frank and Peggy received Jesus Christ into their hearts and lives as Savior and Lord (Rev. 3:20). By the next night they had both completed the first lesson of Basic Bible Studies for New/Growing Christians. Amazing, they had never studied the Bible like this before. By the eighth week after accepting Christ, they had completed all the studies successfully. Spiritual growth was strong and rapid - victory over tobacco, beginning joyous tithing, joining the church by profession of faith. Patty began writing some awesome spiritual truth. Three weeks after her conversion she wrote, "February 13, at 11pm, I was happier than I've ever been. I believe what amplified the initial happiness was knowing this particular happiness is enduring. Knowing that Jesus has given me a place in heaven gives me daily happiness."

Frank completed his watch-making school training in Kansas City. Soon after they moved back to their native Nebraska. He began work in a jewelry store, and they became leaders in a local Nazarene church. Frank eventually became owner of the store. They became parents to seven children.

I had a contact with them in 1996 while preaching at an Omaha church. Peggy had been through one battle with cancer and soon after faced a second such battle. She told me she was so glad she could teach her children about eternal life. Soon, Peggy herself would be standing in the Lord's presence.

And now time had passed and in 2015 I received the Joe Kumor e-mail. I just had to call him and catch up on the family. I discovered:

- Joe is associate pastor of a Nazarene church.
- Dad, Frank, now married to Pat, and still owner of the jewelry store is active in the Nazarene church.
- One brother, in the Air Force as a medical doctor has served at short term assignment at the mission hospital in Papua, New Guinea.
- Four of the children are active in the Church of the Nazarene.
- Two are active in other churches.

I could only praise God. It was obvious the grace of God was all over this family and they were walking in it. How encouraging that what was sown to please the Spirit in 1975 was reaping such a harvest in 2015, 40 years later. Let us sow—and in the proper time reap. —Chic Shaver

## Recreating a Culture for Evangelism

Since 1992, the Chic Shaver Center for Evangelism has existed and has been publishing "The Good News" which goes hard copy to over 1600 leaders, pastors, and concerned laity in the USA. Additionally, it goes by email and website to other parts of the world. Following is the repeat of a June 2005 article which I believe is the single most important article I've ever written. Yes—so important—I'm repeating.

### MINISTRY UPDATE

**December 8—Class Lecture: MidAmerican Nazarene University, Olathe, KS**

**Dec 30—Memorial Service: Grant McClure**

**Jan 28—Memorial Service: Jean Thompson**

**Feb 9-11—Participant: M15 Conference, Kansas City**

**Each Sunday—Teacher, Disciples Class, First Church of the Nazarene, Kansas City**

**Writing a Devotional Book**

## *A Concerned District Superintendent*

Recently a District Superintendent emailed me his concern about “the evangelism crisis in the Church of the Nazarene.” His concern so well expresses my concern that I have sought and gained his permission to print part of his words. He says,

Dr. Shaver,

I read your evangelism paper with great interest and thrill. It was a delight to read the testimonies of changed lives from all ranges of life.

I'm concerned about the evangelism crisis in the Church of the Nazarene. What concerns me more than anything is the culture of the church is not supporting it. The doctrine and the theology, and even the aspirational values of the congregations support it. But behaviorally, I do not frankly see evangelism being supported. In fact, I was disappointed to hear a denominational leader say that confrontational evangelism frankly does not work anymore. I know there are at least twelve styles of evangelism in the Bible, and think all should be used. I understand that friendship and relational evangelism is key for the unchurched to begin their evangelism trek, but at some point the question must be pressed upon them for the claims of the gospel to be received by faith.

My father was a Nazarene preacher all my life. But I was raised in an independent Baptist high school...and even though I did not embrace the Calvinism, nor the fundamentalism and am happy to be a Wesleyan/Arminian, I did get a glimpse of the strong evangelism culture that undergirds their belief system. That is missing from our church. Salvation and evangelism is foundational for Baptists, and although they constantly preached on one theme alone, and I felt they could have enlarged their preaching themes to include growth and maturity, never-the-less they were always focusing on soul winning. In my reading on early holiness literature, that culture was laced through our early denomination as well. A.M. Hills in Holiness & Power said that in his early preaching ministry he had seen 2500 salvations, but that he had avoided being sanctified until age forty-seven. Although he was proud of his early ministry, his guilt amounted to what God could have done through him had he yielded earlier to the Spirit filled life. I'm not sure how far I'd go down that way of thinking, but it illustrated to me how our early church viewed the necessity of soul winning. That is missing.

### **SO WHAT???**

I guess the question is “so what?” Where is all of this leading?

Now I find as a DS, and taking more of a regional view than I did as a local church pastor, that I am constantly confronted with this very essential doctrine having been reduced to being merely an aspirational value. I frankly see only two of my churches that are engaging in any form of personal evangelism. I have been preaching a message as engaging in any form of personal evangelism. I have been preaching a message as frequently as I can entitled; “A Savior for Sinners”.

Nothing sensational about it, or stellar about the message, or for that matter my preaching, but I'm calling and urging my churches to re-engage in the task of evangelism. I know that re-creating the culture is an arduous task. I'm wondering if there is anything that more quickly accomplishes that task?

### *Something to Fight For*

I have preached in over 500† local church revivals and renewal series. Almost always I will offer the pastor my willingness to go with him to call on a person with whom he has built a relationship with the goal of sharing Christ. Most often the pastor does not take me up on the offer.

Recently I was preaching in a smaller church that had grown under its present pastor. He was loving, concerned for his people, hard working, godly. I offered to make a personal evangelism call on one of his people with him during my week there. As the week progressed, he had not made any suggestion to me.

During the week, I had noticed Jeff, a young adult man, sitting near the back of the church with his family. By talking to his wife, I learned he had little church background, but was showing some spiritual interest. I asked the pastor if it would be okay to approach Jeff about the possibility of meeting with Pastor and me to talk. Pastor agreed and Jeff was willing.

We met for lunch with Jeff and his wife. We had built some relationship through the week and everyone was comfortable. Jeff told of limited early church experience. He had never been to a previous revival in his life. He admitted his spiritual need. We shared the good news of Christ with him.

Because the restaurant where we met was busy and many stopped to visit with Jeff, we decided to conclude our conversation at the church, a few blocks away. Jeff said he would accept Christ if I would help him pray. He repented and invited Christ into his heart. With evident feeling he said, “Jesus is in my heart.” Then he said “thank you” to his pastor, “Thank you” to me, “Thank you “ again. I asked him why he had not accepted Christ in the public service since I had carefully explained the way of salvation. Jeff replied, “I didn't know what to say.” It dawned on me once again, how many spiritually hungry people are around us, who would accept Christ if someone would only lead them in “What to say.” Or as the Ethiopian said to personal witness Philip, “*How can I unless someone explains it to me?*” (Acts 8:31)

We started Jeff on Basic Bible Study. I asked him to come forward to the altar in that night's Wednesday closing service to make public his acceptance of Christ. He had told me he had not been one to step out before others, but now that Christ was in his heart, he was more than happy to do so. Both the pastor and lay leaders of the church had told me that the people of their area were very slow to move publicly. That night as the invitation was given in the final revival service, another couple stepped out, hand in hand, weeping, to the place of prayer. Jeff was on his way next, and eighteen people sought God that night. I saw again how personal evangelism can enforce and support public evangelism.

I am reminded of words from John Eldrege encouraging the

idea of a caring fellowship in his book, *Waking the Dead*, (p. 197-198)

Most churches survive because everyone keeps a safe distance, they have short meetings, and we settle for safety in numbers. No one is really being set free but no one is really at odds with each other, either. We are like an army that keeps meeting for briefings, but never breaks into platoons and goes to war.

In similar fashion, to do evangelism we will need to “break into platoons” and go “to war.” We will have to carry the battle to individual people. And all of us, pastors, people, and evangelists will have to fight to rebuild our culture of evangelism.

### *What about “Confrontation”?*

In a few days, Nancy and I will celebrate our forty-sixth anniversary. I remember afresh our courtship. I did deeds of kindness and showed her my love (presence). I told her, “I love you” (proclamation). Finally I “confronted” her with a decision question, “Will you marry me?” (persuasion). She said “yes”, and what a life we have had for forty-six years. We constantly work on our marriage and our marriage constantly works (preservation).

I am so glad I confronted her. I doubt that we would have married if I had not asked the decision question. I have asked countless married couples about this. Almost unanimously they tell me presence and proclamation are necessary, but will not produce marriage unless there is persuasion. Obviously continuing nurture is needed for preservation. And so in evangelism. The prospect may feel my love, and hear the story—but finally he will need to be challenged to make a decision.

### *Fear and Spiritual Power*

I’m positive fear is subconsciously hindering both pastors and people in this matter of witness. Where is the “power for service” our Scripture, history, traditions and living experience tell us about? Paul prayed for Christians at Ephesus, “*He may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being*” (Eph 3:16).

We have just concluded a twelve week Thursday night class in personal evangelism training at Spring Branch Church in Houston. Ben and Isabel have been a part of the class. Isabel is a young adult, newly married, from Venezuela, a Christian for a little over two years. She has now developed in her skills where she can confidently testify and share the Gospel message. A few days ago on a call, she shared the Gospel and a new young adult accepted Christ. I also must tell you that during the same time as her evangelism training Isabel was sanctified “through and through” (1 Thes. 5:23) and filled with the Holy Spirit. A few days after she had seen her new friend accept Christ, she testified. “When I started this class, I was afraid to present the Gospel. Now that God has sanctified me, I’m not afraid anymore. I’m confident, excited, more alert to my opportunities.” By the power of the sanctifying Spirit, let us overcome our fears.

### *Leaders are Needed*

I’ve made three extended visits to Willow Creek Church in the greater Chicago area. I’ve been in small group and personal conversation with Bill Hybels and Lee Strobel. After Willow Creek had trained so many of their people in personal evangelism, the leaders felt they could enter a season where they would not have to promote witnessing. After all, their people were well trained. The result was a drastic drop in their evangelistic fruit. The leadership decided that never again would they allow their evangelism program go on without strong pastoral leadership.

Spring Branch Church, I am completing my second round of twelve weeks training in personal evangelism. I challenge you, pastors and witnesses, to make sure you continue to lead in personal witness. I do not foresee being among you to do this training again. Only you can. Will you do it? Will you promise God you will continue as a church committed to personal witness by many? And what I have just challenged Spring Branch to do, I challenge hundreds of churches and leaders across our world to do too. If they will do so, they will win many to Christ and also become model evangelism churches for others.

### *A Culture for Evangelism*

John phoned me. He had been witnessing to a co-worker. He wanted me to speak to his friend. I did. The friend agreed to visit the church with John and his family and to talk to somebody about how to have a relationship with God. John has not been in our personal evangelism class—but as the culture of Spring Branch Church has become increasingly evangelistic, he has been impacted by the culture—and he showed his spiritual concern for another in the work place.

Spring Branch is doing many things. Forced to move by highway expansion, they have purchased a new church building to which they will move their congregation in March. But they have also purchased ten acres in Katy for a future church because they are committed to church planting. They have one of the strongest Spanish speaking ministries on the South Texas District of the Church of the Nazarene because they are committed to reaching all cultures. They are strong financially and give generously to missions because they believe in good stewardship. Their congregation includes different races and nationalities because they believe Christ is for all. They sponsor a feeding program to show compassion on the hungry and homeless of the city because they believe in ministering to the whole person. Their members and converts come from all ages, the professional and working class, former drug addicts, former alcoholics, former prisoners because they believe Christ is powerful to save. But most of all—you would say the culture of the church is evangelistic—to bring lost people into a living relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Over these twelve weeks, these twenty-three people in personal evangelism have intentionally gone to call on people to share Jesus. Over sixty calls have been made and the Gospel has been presented over forty times.

A few days ago, Angela confronted my wife with amazement. She is a young adult and has been coming to this church for only a few months. Though she has a long previous church history, she exclaimed, "I have never been in a church like this. Every week someone is saved or sanctified." Do you see what is happening? A culture for evangelism is being created in this place. I am pleading along with my District Superintendent friend for hundreds of churches and leaders to join this cause—"Recreating a Culture for Evangelism."

-Chic Shaver

† Now 875

†† Now over 55

††† Now called 'Living Word Church'.

### The Paul Shaver Story Continues

The Christmas and Cancer story, Dec, 2014, of our son Paul's October 23, 13 hour neck cancer and voice box removal surgery evoked tremendous response. Thank you for prayers, gifts, words of encouragement. You will rejoice with us to know

- The first week of December he phoned me with his new deep voice
- December 6, he returned to work as truck driver, six states, delivering food to Kroger Stores. He has worked full time since
- In January he refereed his first volleyball games since surgery
- He is walking around in grace and living close to God.

Chic Shaver

### In Memory and Honor

Gifts have been given to the Evangelism Center:

- In Memory of Grant McClure
- In Honor of Scott Lytle
- In Honor of Paul Shaver

### Because You Gave, We Gave

- Discipleship materials to missionaries in Manila, Philippines, Kiev, Ukraine, North Ireland
- Discipleship materials to the Francis Asbury Society in Wilmore, KY
- Discipleship materials to Pastors and Leaders in Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, and local prison ministry

715,000

Beacon Hill Press reported as of September, 2014. Basic Bible Studies for New and Growing Christians had passed 715,000 sold in the English language.

Basic Bible Studies for Spirit-Filled and Sanctified Life sold over 3,100 in English in 2014.

### Dear Grandpa

Chic,

Thank you for being my grandpa for 26 years! Thank you for shaping, raising, developing, and preparing Miriam and my dad to be Christian parents to me. That has greatly affected how I grew up and who I am today. Thank you for always loving, supporting and caring about me over the years. Now you care and pray for my family. I am very grateful for all you do. I have never been so happy in my life. I am a blessed Christian woman, mother, daughter, sister, granddaughter, and friend. Thank you for helping me to get to where I am today. I love you so very, very much. Happy Birthday!

Love,  
Patti

### Wesley's Charge to His Preachers

'It is not your business to preach so many times, and to take care of this or that society; but to save as many souls as you can; to bring as many sinners as you possibly can to repentance, and with all your power to build them up in that holiness without which they cannot see the Lord.'

-Quoted in Robert Coleman, Nothing to Do But to Save Souls (Nappanee, IN: Evangel Publishing House, 1990), 16.

#### Chic Shaver's Upcoming Ministry Schedule

<b>April 18-22</b>	<b>First Church of the Nazarene</b> Joplin, MO	<b>Revival</b>
<b>May 2-6</b>	<b>Westside Church of the Nazarene</b> Olathe, KS	<b>Revival</b>
<b>June 13-19</b>	<b>Iowa Holiness Association Camp</b> University Park, Iowa	<b>Camp Meeting</b>
<b>Sept 19-23</b>	<b>Williams Lake Church of the Nazarene</b> Waterford, Michigan	<b>Revival</b>
<b>Oct 10-14</b>	<b>First Church of the Nazarene</b> Paris, Illinois	<b>Revival</b>
<b>Oct 17-21</b>	<b>Church of the Nazarene</b> Monticello, Illinois	<b>Revival</b>

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*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.*