



THE GOOD NEWS



The Chic Shaver Center for Evangelism Newsletter March 2017

Fruit That Will Last

It must have been about 1989. Kansas City First Church of the Nazarene embarked on the "Neighbor to Neighbor" project. Its plan was to introduce ourselves and invite nearby neighbors to church through a "left at the door" packet. Nancy and Jennifer, her daughter, responded. Now 2017, the fifth and sixth grade classes join for one Sunday with the adult Disciples class for inter-generational learning. The same Jennifer and her husband, Jonathan, are teaching the combined class. How did this happen over a span of 28 years? Here is the story in the words of Jennifer and Jonathan, as they shared with the class that day.

Jennifer

My story begins when I was roughly the same age as our 5th and 6th graders that are joining you today. My parents had made the decision to move to a new home in Kansas City during my 5th grade year, and it just so happened that our new home was built roughly a few streets northeast from a church called Kansas City First Church of the Nazarene. At that time, the church did not look like it does now; it didn't have a steeple or a sanctuary, and my mom even told me that, for a while, she thought it may have been an electric company. We would drive past it daily - going to and from school, running errands, and such - and, in that first year of living there, I recognized the building in my young mind simply as a landmark at the corner of the subdivision in which I lived, but not much more than that. Up to this point in my life, I had only been in church a handful of times.

Then one day, after having been out, my mom and I returned home to find a simple packet had been left on our doorstep. When it was opened, we discovered that it was from Kansas City First Church of the Nazarene as part of a community outreach program. I couldn't tell you exactly what information was in the packet, but I do remember it being enough to spark the idea in my mom that it wouldn't hurt to give Kansas City First Church a try. I mean, it was just right there within a minute's drive from our home, and curiosity prevailed.

Since my dad worked on Sundays, it was just my mom and I who began attending. I remember, from that first Sunday, feeling so welcomed and such a warmth that just made us feel right at home. The pastor during those first months of our attendance was Keith Wright, and I remember eagerly listening to his sermons on Sundays and soaking up his messages, thinking to myself that church was interesting and not boring at all! After a few weeks, the decision was made that I should begin attending Sunday School. I remember going to the children's department and, on that first day, immediately recognizing a girl from my 5th grade class at school, who I was surprised was also attending church here. Some of you may even know her - her name is Kindra Bible, daughter of Ken and Gloria Bible. I was happy and relieved to see a familiar face, which made my transition to attending Sunday School all the easier. Some of you may also know one of my first Sunday School teachers, Buella Postlewait, who is currently still teaching in the children's department and has taught my son, Jackson, and is currently teaching my daughter, Hadley, in the 4-year-olds' class. During that first year at Kansas City First church, I began

to learn so much about the Lord, and my mind was becoming open to the plans He had for me.

During this time, my mom was approached by Pastor Chic Shaver, who was interested in coming to our home and learning more about us. It was during this visit that Pastor Shaver began talking with us about praying to accept the Lord into our hearts. We sat around our kitchen table talking about what that would mean. I remember Pastor Shaver showing us a card of Jesus standing at a door and knocking, and that the door represented the doorway to our hearts, and that Jesus wanted to be invited in and dwell with us there. I felt excited to do so, and my mom and I both prayed with Pastor Shaver for the Lord to come in. It has been such a journey since then!

I have no doubt in my mind that God was leading and guiding us to Him all along through our initial move, the packet found on our doorstep, and through the many wonderful people of Kansas City First Church of the Nazarene.

Jonathan

My story of when I accepted Jesus Christ into my heart happened when I was 21 years old - a little later in my life than in my wife's story.

I was raised as a Catholic growing up. My family regularly attended church for awhile, but for whatever reason, that sort of faded away sometime in my later elementary school years.

It wasn't until I met Jennifer that I started going to church again. I began accompanying her off and on throughout our dating years. At that time, I wouldn't say I was a religious person, but I was open to attending with her. The services that we were attending at First Church were often very impactful and meaningful to me, and my faith was growing, but I still hadn't fully committed myself to the Lord.

After I proposed to Jennifer in the summer of 2000, we knew we wanted to be married at KC First Church. We chose Pastor Shaver to officiate our wedding and met with him several times to discuss our spiritual lives going into our marriage and the details of our ceremony. Being that I had not yet fully accepted Christ at that time, Dr. Shaver encouraged us to do a Bible study with another couple, Fabian and Kandy Pearson, at their home. Fabian had a career in the financial industry similar to mine, and he was taking courses through Nazarene Theological Seminary to become a pastor, so Pastor Shaver thought we would be a good match. Through the course of our meetings over several months, I came to understand what it meant to be a Christian and to have Jesus as the center of my life. It was during one of those meetings, sitting at the Pearson's kitchen table, when I felt the call to pray and accept Jesus into my life and heart. For me, in that moment, I felt an inner contentment and a warmth I had not felt before. I am so thankful for the path on which God put me and look forward to whatever my future holds, good and bad, because I know I can rely on Him to guide me.

Just think - an unchurched 5th grader who comes to Christ now teaching 5th graders about Jesus 28 years later. What a pay-off for a church involved in outreach and witness. Or as Jesus put it, "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last..." (John 15:16).

- Chic Shaver

A Devotional for the Book

A major goal in my writing of a devotional book is to explain "holiness" in a way understandable to all. Yet, I am addressing other issues affecting one's spiritual life such as science vs. faith. With that in mind, here is a recently authored article with the help of my scientist friend, Joe.

A Scientist and God

"Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens." Isaiah 40:26

A battle for some: science and faith are enemies. Yet for others, science and faith embrace each other.

Anti-church attitude was built into Joe. Negative church experience reported by his Czechoslovakian father was behind it. But when he met Doris during college, his attitude began to change. Doris was raised in a Christian family, made a commitment to God at the age of fourteen during a revival service, and enjoyed living a life of relationship with Christ. When Doris explained Christ and church to Joe, his understanding opened, and he took Christ and the church into his heart.

They married just prior to graduation when Joe knew that, because of the war in Korea, he would be drafted into military service. During his time in the army, he completed his basic training as a tank commander, went on to officer training, and eventually was assigned to work in the army's chemical laboratory.

After release from the army, Joe worked for Standard Oil of California for nine years. Then, he obtained a position in Bayer's lab in Kansas City and worked for them as a senior chemist for 25 years before retiring. With fourteen chemists working for him, their objective was to develop, redevelop, and improve various pesticide recipes that Bayer was selling.

Once retired, Joe started his own laboratory. One of his customers called from Europe, explaining that their chemists had worked on a special recipe for three years, but were having difficulty resolving a problem: the container bottles kept exploding. Knowing the chemistry that they were trying to improve, he undertook the responsibility to solve their problem. That evening, he went to God and asked for help. God told him he already knew the answer, and to apply his chemistry knowledge to the problem. Within three days, he had the answer from his earlier medical training.

Incredulous, the president and staff came to Joe's lab to see for themselves. They could hardly believe that none of the bottles were exploding, regardless of the temperature at which they were stored or for how long they were stored.

Joe now owns fifteen basic patents and 253 total patents, counting all those associated with various companies throughout the world.

What a blend - the chemical scientist and faith in a living, prayer-answering God. No wonder Isaiah said, "Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name" (40:26).

- Chic Shaver

John Wesley on Sanctification

"Our word does not profit, either as to justification or sanctification, unless we can bring them to expect the blessing while we speak."

Written to Charles Wesley, April 26, 1772

The Works of John Wesley,
(Kansas City, MO: Nazarene Publishing House, n.d.),
Vol. XII, p.139

Because You Gave, We Gave

- * Discipleship materials to pastors and leaders in Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, California, Kansas, and Missouri
- * Evangelism scholarship to Nazarene Theological Seminary
- * Spanish Bible studies to missionaries to South America
- * Discipleship materials to two church plants

Contributions Made in Memory of:

- * Barbara M. Clingerman
- * Owen "Joe" Kittredge
- * Paul Marshall
- * Rev. Ray "Don" Sanders
- * Doris R. Smith
- * Rosalie Whittington

Dr. Shaver conducted memorial services for Paul Marshall and Rev. Don Sanders.

Basic Bible Studies

- * Adult Sunday School in Excelsior Springs, MO, is studying Basic Bible Studies.
- * Nazarene Publishing House reported in December recent sales of Basic Bible Studies. Now, the English versions have exceeded 731,000.
- * These studies ended up in 40 different prisons in Nigeria.

Basic Bible Studies

for the Spirit-Filled and Sanctified Life

- * Were part of the curriculum in the online Doctrine of Holiness Class at Nazarene Bible College
- * Sold 1,913 copies in 2016 according to Nazarene Publishing House

CHIC SHAVER'S UPCOMING 2017 MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Mar 5-8	Church of the Nazarene Pennsville, NJ	Revival
Mar 11-15	Sunday Morning Breakfast Mission Wilmington, DE	Revival
Mar 18-22	Church of the Nazarene Frederick, MD	Revival
Mar 25-29	Church of the Nazarene Petersburg, PA	Revival
Aug 26-30	First Church of the Nazarene Casey, IL	Revival
Sept 9-14	Parkview Church of the Nazarene Anderson, IN	Revival
Sept 16-20	Valley Mission Church of the Nazarene Bedford, IN	Revival
Oct 21	South Arkansas Pastor Witness Training Place to be announced	Seminar
Nov 4-8	First Church of the Nazarene Chanute, KS	Revival

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Our financial commitment to you: The CSCS 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 CSCS 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.