



# THE GOOD NEWS



*The Chic Shaver Center for Evangelism Newsletter March 2020*

## Completing the Call

With joy, excitement and anticipation, I have launched into my final year (2020) of revival ministry. I believe the Lord has clearly led me to do this, and I sense an awesome anointing of the Holy Spirit upon me. Revival meetings are scheduled for Florida, Indiana, Montana, Wyoming, Missouri, and a preaching service at Kansas City First Church of the Nazarene. More are developing. Through the years, over 360 churches have asked me to begin their revivals with a four-hour Saturday seminar on *Witnessing Without Fear*. If you want me to be part of revival and hopefully major spiritual movement with your church in my last year, contact me at (913) 491-5021 or (913) 634-6560.

For Christ, the lost, and church renewal,

*Chic Shaver*

## Intentional Parenting

Recently, while traveling in Southern California, I preached a message from Deut. 6:4-5. These two verses in the Jewish tradition are referred to as the Shema. Shema is a Hebrew word that means "hear" and stands as the first word in this Jewish text, "4 **Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.** 5 **Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.**" Jesus, of course, quoted the Shema when asked, "What is the greatest commandment?" Adding the command to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18), Jesus revealed that all of the other commandments flow from these two commands!

These two commands continue to hold the most vital place in the hearts of holiness people today. As Nazarenes, we hold firmly to the belief in the work of entire sanctification. It remains our theological distinctiveness in a sea of Protestant churches and was part of the reason for the birth of the Church of the Nazarene in 1908. The Manual of the Church of the Nazarene states, "We believe that entire sanctification is that act of God, subsequent to regeneration, by which believers are made free from original sin, or depravity, and brought into a state of entire devotion to God, and the holy obedience of love made perfect" (Article of Faith, X). Loving God and loving others are the greatest expressions of the life of an entirely sanctified believer.

What I found particularly interesting in studying Deuteronomy 6 is that immediately following the Shema is a strong admonition to parents, "6 **These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.** 7 **Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.** 8 **Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.** 9 **Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates**" (Deuteronomy 6:6-9). Moses was calling parents in the Israelite community to teach this fully surrendered life in God to their children!

I began to reflect on whether or not Nazarene parents are impressing the fully surrendered life in God on their children as Moses instructed. I have heard parents plead to God for the salvation of their children. Nazarene parents talk about the need for their children to repent and put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation. They teach their children to pray and read Scriptures. And, praise the Lord, Nazarene parents often lead their children into saving faith in Jesus.

In twenty-six years of pastoring, however, I must admit that I have not seen this same passion and intentionality in Nazarene parents for helping their children experience God's grace of entire sanctification. While we believe in this second work of grace, sadly we don't seem as committed to helping our children experience the joy of walking in such a wonderful relationship of full surrender to God. I don't hear parents pleading with God for their children to be entirely sanctified. I rarely hear testimonies of children who have entered this wonderful relationship of the abundant life in Christ. Think about this for a moment. Do we want our children to know the forgiveness of sins but to never experience the "holy obedience of love made perfect"?

Over the next year, Nazarenes around the globe will learn of our new global framework for discipleship. This framework will serve to guide our discipleship efforts with intentionality. Our new framework defines Nazarene discipleship as "A Journey of Grace." We recognize that discipleship is a journey that lasts for a lifetime. Along that journey, we encounter the grace of God and are called to respond to His grace. The journey of grace includes God's preventive grace, saving grace, and sanctifying grace. Through preventive grace, God goes before us to make a way and draw us into relationship. Through saving grace, Jesus rescues us from sin and leads us into the truth that sets us free. Through sanctifying grace, the Spirit empowers us to live a life fully consecrated to God. As Nazarenes participate in the mission of God in this world, we commit to joining others along the journey from grace to grace through grace.

My wife, Jenni, and I want to declare our desire for both our daughters, Bekah and Sarah, to experience not only the grace of salvation in Christ but also the Holy Spirit's work of entire sanctification by grace through faith. We pray that our girls "may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:19). We earnestly pray, "night and day...that we may...supply what is lacking in [their] faith" (1 Thessalonians 3:10). We pray that "the God of peace, [will] sanctify [our daughters] through and through. May [their] whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:23). We commit to impressing this on our children and calling other parents to do the same. We will not rely on the children's ministry of the local church to lead them into this relationship with God but will be thankful for the support we receive from our church community. We receive this responsibility personally as parents, and we commit to discipling our children through the entire journey of grace! Will you join with us in making this commitment to intentional parenting?

*Scott Rainey, Global Director of SS & Discipleship*

*Ministries International, Church of the Nazarene; Co-Director of GSCE*

## Positives from Alzheimer's

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.* James 1:2-4

We had finished lunch together. About an hour later, my wife asked me, "Do you want me to fix your lunch?" Sadly, she couldn't remember. But more challenging, "Honey, I left my shopping cart at the store. I couldn't find my credit card." Five days later, we found the credit card in our home. You see, my wife has had the disease Alzheimer's for eight years. Despite difficulties we experience, we have gained some positives in facing this disease.

James speaks of trials. Some trials may be persecution that comes to us because of our Christian life. Other trials may simply be challenges from our minds or bodies wearing out. Either way, the result can be trials testing faith which produces perseverance which produces maturity. Oh, it's not automatic. We decide. James says, "Let perseverance finish its work."

I've considered my tendency to impatience to be one of the greatest weaknesses of my Christian life. Guess what? Many Alzheimer's-produced events in our family are teaching me lessons of patience I never knew before. I believe I'm mellowing.

Some thoughts that help us:

- \* Her words or actions are coming from a damaged mind.
- \* She is not intending to be hurtful.
- \* We talk freely about her condition and are able to laugh at some things together.
- \* I am having the privilege of living out my marriage vow "in sickness and in health, for better or for worse."

When Nancy first became ill with Alzheimer's, she was depressed, agitated, anxious, and angry (totally unlike her earlier demeanor). As I tried to guide her, she curtly said, "You're trying to micromanage me." I said, "Yes, I am, because you're facing challenges needing special help." We began to work together to handle the disease. Through wonderful doctors, great Alzheimer's association sharing groups, great medicines, people's prayers and God's grace, things changed for the better. Not the disease—it's still progressing—but our response to it.

A year-and-a-half ago, Nancy and I were lying in bed holding hands and just talking. Nancy said, "I think I'm the happiest I've ever been. And I love you more than ever!"

Wow! I'm taking that to the bank. We are having some of the sweetest days in our marriage. I believe the trials are making me a better Christian.

What trials are you facing?

*Chic Shaver*

## Wesley on Sanctification

"Certainly sanctification (in the proper sense) is an 'instantaneous deliverance from all sin,' and includes 'an instantaneous power then given, always to cleave to God.' Yet this sanctification (at least, in the lower degrees) does not include a power never to think a useless thought, nor ever speak a useless word. I myself believe that such a perfection is inconsistent with living in a corruptible body..."

I want you to be all love. This is the perfection I believe and teach."

- Written to Miss Furly, September 15, 1762

*The Works of John Wesley*

*(Kansas City, Mo.: Nazarene Publishing House, n.d.) Volume XII, p. 207.*

## I Changed My Mind about Revival

I never had a great experience in revival meetings until I met Dr. Shaver and attended revival services with him and a team from Nazarene Theological Seminary almost twenty years ago in Rogers, Arkansas. Still, I was a bit reserved in having an evangelist come to my church in this 'day and age,' where everyone is so busy. Who would come? The Lord challenged my heart on this. And I am so glad Dr. Shaver came. First, the impact of having five services in a row created an opportunity for people to reprioritize their lives to what really matters. Second, Dr. Shaver was able to say things to my congregation that I never could, in a powerful direct way. Third, the sanctifying and saving power of God came in such a powerful way every night that it created major impact on all who attended. Souls who had not yet responded to salvation or God's work of sanctification responded immediately to Dr. Shaver's fresh voice and clear message. Fourth, having an altar call every service is necessary for heart cleansing, and it did our church good to see the altars full. Fifth, having Dr. Shaver pray for, meet with, encourage, teach and preach was like having another pastor on staff, only better! Sixth, the revival launched my church forward spiritually in so many powerful ways. They are reaching more unchurched souls for Christ. They are faster in their response time to God. They are digging deeper in their Bibles. They took the opportunity to resource themselves with holiness messages to listen to at home. They have new tools for sharing Christ with their unchurched friends. Seventh, Dr. Shaver's prayerful perspective offered new insights into how I might sharpen my pastoral practices for greater Kingdom impact.

I am so thankful for the powerful work God did through Dr. Shaver to impact the Kingdom of God in Oregon. I changed my mind about having revivals in my church. God can do more in a soul in one concentrated week than in a year of preaching. Let's fill Dr. Shaver's last year of revival ministry for 2020 as the Church of the Nazarene is forever changed because of his powerful ministry.

*Pastor Kelli Westmark, Lincoln City Church of the Nazarene*

## Bitten Off More than I Can Chew

"Lord, have I bitten off more than I can chew?" That was my honest prayer on that Wednesday morning. I had just returned the night before from spending eight days with my parents, who were 1800 miles to the East, as my mom had recently gone through open heart surgery. And on that Wednesday morning, with leading a Bible study that night, picking up Dr. Shaver from the airport on Thursday, prepping for revival on Friday, attending to the Evangelism Class on Saturday, revival services on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, a Men's Breakfast on Saturday morning and wedding in the afternoon, Sunday's sermon, Monday's Veteran's Day Service, and speaking at my daughter's school on Tuesday—with all of that racing through my head on that Wednesday morning—my simple prayer was, "Lord, have I bitten off more than I can chew?"

But it did not take long for the Lord to answer my heart-felt prayer. As I knelt by my bed, from somewhere deep inside of me, I heard/sensed the Lord saying to me, "Darin, it was My idea to have Dr. Shaver come here." God's message to me was concise, clear, and it had the tone of my confident Shepherd. Right then and there, I knew it was going to be OK, and my stress level was reduced by about 90%. I knew then that the outcome was in the Lord's hands. All I had to do was be responsible for the logistical/hands and feet part, and the Lord would take care of the rest.

Looking back, we had wonderful services every time Dr. Shaver preached. One young man had such a wonderful change of heart that he has now finished his first *Basic Bible Study* with his bride-to-be and has attended Sunday morning worship service as well as our Friday night "Home Group" gathering. He's interested in baptism, church membership, and anything else that the Lord has for him. He truly has had a change of heart.

The one thing I have learned from this is that, when it's the Lord's idea, we can relax knowing that He'll take care of the outcome. In his book, "Created to be God's Friend," Henry Blackaby writes, "...when God takes the initiative, He brings to completion all that is on His Heart." I truly believe that it was the Lord's idea to have Dr. Shaver come to Junction City, Oregon, and the Lord was absolutely faithful in completing all that was on His Heart. When I know it's the Lord taking the initiative, even if it seems like I'm biting off a little more than I can chew, I can relax, knowing that the outcome is in God's good and capable hands.

*Darin G. Olson, Pastor*

*Junction City Church of the Nazarene*

## Holy Spirit, Rain Down

For a few months our prayer had been, "Holy Spirit, rain down..." The congregation gave themselves to prayer and support of the revival, and the Lord is still answering our prayers. As Dr. Shaver gave himself to be used by God to speak the truth and to share the messages of salvation and sanctification, our congregation listened intently and responded as the Lord spoke. Both young and old heard the clear word of both works of grace that God has for us, and four came forward for salvation, one or two for rededication and two for sanctification. Our people have been talking about the revival as the best-attended and most exciting revival that we have had in a very long time, and we are still rejoicing. Our prayer of thanksgiving includes our desire for the Lord to keep pouring it upon us. "To God be the glory."

*Pastor Dave Shirer*

*Ravenswood Church of the Nazarene, Ravenswood, WV*

## 45 Years of Sunday School Ministry

On January 5th, the Disciples Sunday School class at KC First Church of the Nazarene honored Dr. Shaver and his wife Nancy for 45 years of leadership, teaching, and ministry to the class. At its start, the Disciples class was a group of six; on this special day of celebration and thanks to the Shavers, over 100 people attended class. Countless others have been impacted.

Special music, spoken tributes, cards and cash gifts, four tickets to the Kauffman, and a personally carved walking stick were expressions of praise to the Lord and gratitude to the Shavers. Because January 5th was also Dr. Shaver's birthday, birthday cakes and balloons were part of the celebration, too.

Dr. Shaver and Nancy will continue as Disciples class members. Scott Rainey is the new lead teacher, assisted by other key leaders, teachers, and volunteers in the class.

*Joy Parke, Disciples class member*

## A Year in Review

In 2019, Dr. Shaver had the privilege of preaching and teaching in seventeen U.S. cities from Rockville, MD to Lincoln City, OR. This included seventeen revivals, two district-sponsored seminars on witnessing, and thirteen local church seminars. At the revival meetings, training, and seminars, there were 4685 people in attendance, and 304 people sought the Lord in prayer. Dr. Shaver is scheduling revivals for 2020 which will be his last year of revival ministry. He is also continuing to write a devotional book.

Because of donations to CSCE, evangelism scholarships and materials were provided to students at Nazarene Theological Seminary and Nazarene Bible College, and many *Basic Bible Studies* and other discipleship materials were donated to various individuals and ministries.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support this past year.

*Joy Parke, Managing Director, CSCE*

## Because You Gave We Gave

- ◆ Evangelism Scholarship Funds to Nazarene Seminary
- ◆ Follow-up *Basic Bible Studies* to the leadership of Disciples Class, KC First Church of the Nazarene
- ◆ Discipleship materials to pastors and leaders in Oregon, Florida, and Indiana

## Contributions Were Made in Memory Of:

Malcolm F. Eudaley	John Hinton
Dr. Crawford Howe	Danny Moore
David Moyer, Sr.	Adeline Owens
Paul Stubbs	

## 3/4 Million

The September 2019 report of six months of sales by The Foundry has been released. As the result of the sales of *Basic Bible Studies* in its four English versions, total sales have now passed 3/4 of a million—the count now at 751, 804. Praise to God!

### CHIC SHAVER'S UPCOMING MINISTRY SCHEDULE

<b>Feb 15-19</b>	<b>Church of the Nazarene Venice, FL</b>	<b>Revival</b>
<b>Mar 7-11</b>	<b>Southport Church of the Nazarene Indianapolis, IN</b>	<b>Revival</b>
<b>Mar 14-18</b>	<b>Southside Church of the Nazarene Muncie, IN</b>	<b>Revival</b>
<b>May 3</b>	<b>KC First Church of the Nazarene Kansas City, MO</b>	<b>Sunday messages</b>
<b>Aug 29-Sep 2</b>	<b>Church of the Nazarene Great Falls, MT</b>	<b>Revival</b>
<b>Sep 5-9</b>	<b>First Church of the Nazarene Riverton, WY</b>	<b>Revival</b>
<b>Sep 19-23</b>	<b>Church of the Nazarene Harrisonville, MO</b>	<b>Revival</b>

### MINISTRY UPDATE

	Total Attendance	Seekers
<b>Church of the Nazarene Junction City, OR</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>6</b>
Witness Seminar	18	
<b>Church of the Nazarene Lincoln City, OR</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>25</b>
Witness Seminar	34	
<b>Church of the Nazarene Canby, OR</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>16</b>
Witness Seminar	28	

### CSCE CONTACT INFORMATION

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*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.*