



THE GOOD NEWS



The Chic Shaver Center for Evangelism Newsletter September 2019

A Glorious Conclusion

To God be the glory! I am amazed at the empowering presence of the Lord that is on my recent revivals. These are some of the most blessed days of my Christian life.

I believe it is now close to 1000 revivals, campmeetings, or preaching-teaching missions God has privileged me to conduct. My energy level remains amazingly high.

Recently, I believe I have received some signals from the Lord and from the events of life that I should make 2020 my concluding year of revival ministry. Other than some unusual circumstances, that shall be the case.

I still have other ministry plans including witnessing, continual writing of a devotional book, personal ministry to family members, and leadership of the Evangelism Center.

The level of peace and joy I have in this decision amazes me, but I am mostly thankful. The excitement level at what God will do in the next months of revivals is both real and uplifting. I sense it will be a glorious conclusion.

- Chic Shaver

Scott Rainey Testifies

Dr. Scott Rainey has been a godly husband and father, a pastor, a missionary, Global Director of Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries—Church of the Nazarene, and a dear Christian brother. I've asked him to share a story about his family.

- Chic Shaver

Rainey Family Testimony

Their names are Curt and Jan. They met as juniors in high school in the mid-60s. Jan had just moved into town and Curt was "interested" in this new, pretty girl. It wasn't long before they were dating and falling in love.

Curt's family was far from God. Broken by sin, Curt's father was an alcoholic and a womanizer. Curt and his four brothers were known trouble-makers in the school. Jan's family, who attended church every week in a well-known denominational church, was also far from God. Church was a religious club where people went to try to be better people. Christianity to Jan was humanity's attempt to please an angry God. Hopefully, she would do enough to please Him.

Sometime into their young relationship, Jan discovered that she was pregnant from Curt. She told her parents. They were shocked and embarrassed. "What would people at the church think?" They made a decision to keep this information from everyone. Jan would be sent to an unwed mother's home in a city 90 minutes away, but they would all agree to tell people she was moving to another state to live with her uncle and aunt. Even Jan's two brothers and one sister never knew she was pregnant. Nine months later, Jan delivered her first child, a beautiful baby girl. She held her for five minutes, and at her parent's direction, signed state documents to give her up for adoption.

Jan returned to her senior year of high school and continued to date Curt. They graduated. Jan, at her parent's wishes, headed to her freshman year of college. Curt began to work in a local retail company in his hometown. Jan didn't want to be in college. Her desire was to be married to Curt and to become a mother. She thought, "I'm now an adult. My parents can't make my decisions for me. If I get pregnant again, they will let me marry Curt." Her plan worked to perfection. Soon, she would drop out of college and return to Curt's hometown for a quick wedding so no one would know she was pregnant before marriage. Six months after their wedding, their second-born, a son named Chip, was born.

Brokenness, sin, and separation from God described their home. After two short years, their marriage was suffering from bitterness over a child given up for adoption, increasing alcohol consumption, and unfaithfulness by Curt. Curt was following the life he saw his own father live. Into this environment came a third child (their second son). His name was Scott.

Soon, Jan learned of Curt's unfaithfulness. On the day of this discovery, she picked up a few things from the home,

took her two sons, and headed for her parents' home. Divorce, it seemed, was their only future. While traveling out of town, Jan stopped at a church. She sat in her car weeping, and a knock came to her car door. It was a woman from that church who engaged her in conversation. Jan was invited into the pastor's office where she heard the Gospel for the first time. Jan said, "If what you are telling me is true, I want to know Jesus personally." That day, Jan repented of her sins and asked Jesus to be her Savior and Lord! Scott and Chip, Jan's two sons, had a brand new mom!

Curt didn't want to lose his two sons like he had already lost his daughter. He would travel to see them on the weekends. What he discovered was that Jan was also changing. Something was new. He was "interested" again. Curt's work transferred him to Kansas City, Missouri, and Jan agreed to go with him if he promised to attend church. The family was reunited in Kansas City.

It was the fall of 1972. Dr. Charles "Chic" Shaver was a new seminary professor at Nazarene Theological Seminary. He had given a practical homework assignment for his evangelism class. "Go knock on five doors of your neighborhood. Ask them five questions. Report on the results." The last question they were to ask was, "If you don't have a church home, would you come visit our church?"

Mike Couch (a seminary student in Dr. Shaver's class) and his wife Linda ventured across their street to complete the homework assignment and knocked on the door of their new neighbors, Curt and Jan. Knowing nothing of the story and pain just described, they simply asked the five questions. Curt and Jan agreed to visit Shawnee Church of the Nazarene.

When they arrived at church, they sat near the back. A Nazarene evangelist was speaking—Rev. Paul Martin. As he spoke, Curt felt the conviction of the Holy Spirit. The message seemed directed at his heart. He was broken. At the conclusion of the service, Curt and Jan were at the altar of the church, and Curt was confessing his sins before a loving and forgiving God. That day, Chip and Scott received a new dad!

Curt had no idea how to be a Christian, a good husband, or a good father. This had never been lived before him. Mike Couch would meet Curt often after work to throw catch as both men loved baseball. For the next year, Mike discipled Curt with a baseball in their hands. Curt would watch the men of the church and literally copy their actions. If a man in the church put his arm around his wife during the service, Curt would follow. If a father would put his arms around his son and tell him he loved him, Curt, who never received such parenting, would follow. Godly Sunday School teachers shared God's word with Curt and Jan, and they grew daily in their relationship with God.

Curt and Jan have continued to follow Jesus through the past 47 years. God has reunited them with their daughter, Pam. Their sons, Chip and Scott, are both serving as pastors today. Dr. Scott Rainey, their son, is currently serving as the Global Director for Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) with the Church of the Nazarene.

It started with the prevenient grace of God drawing Curt and Jan to Jesus. Then, a homework assignment from a professor committed to teaching personal evangelism, a knock at a door by a disciple of Jesus, the preaching of the Word by an evangelist, the saving grace of Jesus, and a church and parents committed to make disciples who make disciples. Thank You, Jesus! Thank you, Dr. Shaver! Thank you, Mike and Linda Couch! Thank you, Church of the Nazarene!

- Dr. Scott Rainey

Phineas Bresee on Sanctification

"The gift purifies the heart. That means the destruction of the body of sin, the removal of the carnal mind. It is more than a housecleaning. This gift is the gift of himself. The house is cleansed, purified, in order to receive the Guest."

From *The Quotable Bresee*, Harold Ivan Smith, comp. (Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 1983), 54.

The Revival Pattern

Most of the revivals I have conducted in the last twenty years begin with a four-hour Saturday seminar on *Witnessing Without Fear or Lord, Teach Us to Pray*. The witness seminar includes DVD testimonies of five new Christians led to Christ through witness. I have taught this seminar over 340 times. Pastors call for this repeatedly due to concern to improve witnessing effectiveness among their people. The prayer seminar sets a gracious devotional tone for the following week of preaching.

After the Saturday seminar, I preach Sunday through Wednesday. Messages emphasize personal salvation and entire sanctification. In the light of moral decline in America, a message entitled "People, Sex, and God" is drawing encouraging crowds. In a number of places, nightly attendance has surpassed Sunday morning worship attendance.

If you believe God would wish us to work together in revival or campmeeting between now and the end of 2020, contact me at (913) 491-5021.

- Chic Shaver

Because You Gave, We Gave

- ◆ 100 *Basic Bible Studies* to Africa
- ◆ Discipleship materials to pastors and leaders in Kansas, West Virginia, Oregon, and Missouri
- ◆ *Basic Bible Studies* to a military chaplain in Germany
- ◆ *Basic Bible Study* to a Jehovah's Witness visitor
- ◆ Discipleship material to a man beginning an evangelist's ministry

Contributions Were Made in Memory Of:

Vi Freeborn *Howard Rickey*
Marilyn Jarvis *Wanda Lytle Taylor*
J.V. Morsch *Mildred Wolf*
Denny Noland

Only 23 Short

From 1967-1970, as I preached in church after church across the USA as an evangelist, I became concerned that there was no systematic plan of discipling new Christians. I felt led of the Lord to develop a step-by-step Bible study in understandable language to guide new believers in the most basic issues of living the Christian life. In 1972, Beacon Hill Press published *Basic Bible Studies for New and Growing Christians*. Later versions were developed—*Now That I'm a Christian: Basic Bible Studies for Youth*, 1991, and *Basic Bible Studies in Everyday English*, 2003. At the M19 Conference, February 2019, The Foundry Publishing released *Basic Bible Studies for New and Growing Christians* in electronic format to be received on the convert's smartphone.

- ◆ The Foundry has just released the report of sales for October 2018-March 2019. By adding the sales of these different versions of this Bible study, the total now stands at 749,977, just 23 short of 3/4 of a million in English.
- ◆ We believe the English version has now been translated into at least 55 languages of the world.
- ◆ Recently, the *Basic Bible Study* has been posted on the Wesleyan Holiness Digital Library in 27 languages. This means people in many nations can download the Bible study.
- ◆ We have a report of possibly the first person who has just completed the *Basic Bible Study* in its electronic format.
- ◆ I never dreamed all of this would happen. I was simply following what I understood to be the leadership of the Lord. Amazing Grace!

- Chic Shaver

The Lord Was With Him

*"But the Lord was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love."
Genesis 39:21 (New Living Translation)*

It was an early men's prayer meeting. Kim reported his colon cancer had moved to his lungs and liver. His possible answer was moving into an experimental drug testing program. He also reported, "This is the best I've felt in three years. I thank God for everything. Life is good."

My son Paul, after five major cancer surgeries from ages 33 to 55, said in a raspy voice over the phone, "The blessing of God was on me before my cancer. The blessing of God was upon me after they removed my voice box. The blessing of God is upon me today."

When my wife Nancy and I entered the saddest period of our lives after our daughter's divorce and ungodly life style, repeatedly God spoke to us through the words of a song, "At the end of broken dreams He's the open door."

Here's the report of my friend Tim from his prison cell. His Christian friend "visited me the very day I watched my mom's funeral video, which was emotional for me. Again, this Christian brother, through God's love and timing, was there to help comfort me. Some people would call that coincidence. I call it no accident. God's love and timing are perfect. Prison can be a lonely place, but with God's love I have been growing as a Christian. Though my freedom is bound by a razor wire fence, I have never felt more like a free man, and that is because I have been filled with God's love in my heart."

In the very hard places in life, the Lord will be with you. Going through the hard place does not mean God is gone from your life. He can be present and real in that difficult place.

In Genesis 39:3, "Potipher noticed this and realized the Lord was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did" (LNT). Potipher noticed this when Joseph was a slave. Another unfair and difficult time.

Later, Genesis 39:21—"The Lord was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love."

The Lord may be with you in every situation. The living presence of the Lord is the most important factor in facing all of life.

- Chic Shaver

Thank You

- ◆ Thank You, Lord, for your great grace continuously shown to Nancy and me.
- ◆ Thank you to numerous people who support us and the ministry with powerful prayers.
- ◆ Thank you to many who support the ministry of CSCE financially. As a result, we are meeting all our financial obligations.
- ◆ Thank you to so many who sent us uplifting greetings for our 60th wedding anniversary.

- Chic Shaver

CHIC SHAVER'S UPCOMING MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Aug 17-21	Church of the Nazarene Johnson, KS	Revival
Aug 30-Sep 2	Evangelists Gathering Indian Lake Nazarene Camp, Vicksburg, MI	
Sep 14-18	Church of the Nazarene Rockville, MD	Revival
Sep 22-25	Church of the Nazarene New Cumberland, WV	Revival
Sep 28-Oct 2	Promised Land Church of the Nazarene Bethlehem, PA	Revival
Oct 12-16	Church of the Nazarene Ravenswood, WV	Revival
Oct 19-23	Church of the Nazarene Spencer, WV	Revival
Nov 2-6	Church of the Nazarene Junction City, OR	Revival
Nov 9-13	Church of the Nazarene Lincoln City, OR	Revival
Nov 16-20	Church of the Nazarene Canby, OR	Revival
Feb 15-19, '20	Church of the Nazarene Venice, FL	Revival
Mar 14-18, '20	Southside Church of the Nazarene Muncie, IN	Revival

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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.