



THE GOOD NEWS



The Chic Shaver Center for Evangelism Newsletter September 2012

"Yeah! I Can Make It!"

Three different groups of inmates at the Federal Detention Center, Leavenworth, Kansas were my congregation for their one day revival. Polite, reverent, respectful they were—but some so young, my heart went out to them. I was thankful for the leadership of the detention center staff and years of godly chaplain investments by Vicki and Suzie.

I proclaimed a complete forgiveness by Jesus Christ. Yet I felt very constrained to say more—Christ will also come to live in your hearts, at the center of your personality, and his presence will be your power to live a different life in your future. You don't have to go back to your old sins.

I was reminded of an earlier jail visit in one of my pastorates and told these congregations about it. A friend urged me to call on Chuck at the county jail, with the report that Chuck had recently accepted Christ. When Chuck discovered I was a minister he greeted me warmly and told his story. He'd been involved in drugs, committed robbery to buy drugs, had dramatically accepted Christ as Savior and Lord. Instantly he was delivered from his drug desires. He went to the police, reported his crimes, and was now in jail. He was radiant in his faith. He started Basic Bible Studies for New Christians, and we agreed to a weekly discipleship meeting to review his studies.

On the meeting for the third study, he was troubled. He reported the old desire for drugs was coming back. I reminded him of his previously memorized verse, 1 Cor 10:13, "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."

"Chuck", I continued, "God won't let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. He knows with His help you can overcome it. I had sins in my life. They controlled me. I didn't control them. But when Christ came into my life He gave me power I never had before. Not once have I returned to those sins. He can do it for you!"

"Yeah!" he said, "I can make it!" And Chuck went on from there in victory.

- He completed each week's Bible Study successfully.
- He led several other prisoners to Christ.
- He was filled with joy and devotion.
- He never went back to drugs.

Finally he was released from jail. The judge required him to be under the roof and influence of his family's Baptist minister. The last time I talked to him on the phone, "Chuck, how are you doing?" He said, "I'm doing great. I'm planning to go to Bible school. I think God has called me to the ministry."

Over 80 prayers of commitment to Christ were made that day in Leavenworth—in part because, "Yeah! I can make it!" And so can you.

Chic Shaver

A Phone Call from Honolulu

On an August afternoon he phoned. The words of Rev. Gordon Wong went something like this:

I was reminded that thirty years ago, on August 2, 1982, I accepted Christ in an indoor Campmeeting at Honolulu First Church. You were the preacher and preached from Genesis 18 and 22. I am eternally grateful to God and thankful to you.

Thirteen years ago, Rev. Wong began the Bridge Church in Honolulu which has been so effective in reaching military families for Christ. He also was lead pastor where Asa and Jolene Chung served more recently as associates. Today, Asa and Jolene serve in air force chaplaincy.

Today I rejoice at the intensity of a campmeeting, the power of the planted Gospel seed, the chain of spiritual influence, the faithfulness of God. Thank you Gordon Wong for making this day especially bright for me.

Chic Shaver

A Required Power Level

Trevor Johnston, South Central Ohio District Superintendent, Church of the Nazarene, emailed these kind word about the recent campmeeting on his district:

Thank you Dr. Shaver for being used of the Holy Spirit during the five evenings you spoke at this year's camp meeting. Many people have let me know how much your messages were of spiritual help to them. The illustrations you used and the biblical passages you chose, challenged them to take stock of their personal spiritual health, and for quite a few, it led them either to the altar in the tent or to their knees at home after the services. Several came to ask if you would be returning to the district in the future. I certainly hope that that can be arranged.

For a considerable time I have been impressed with the importance of intensity to achieve spiritual breakthrough in personal lives. The reason for this was cited in an article by Dr. Richard Taylor. (I'm depending on my written notes of his article—so a few words may be missing. Here's as close to his quote as my notes allow)

It is part of the human situation to run down and need new power—physically, mentally, spiritually. There are so many strident voices that only as the church focuses

City	REVIVAL UPDATE	
	TOTAL ATT.	SEEKERS
Broken Arrow, OK	651	25
Witnessing Seminar	32	
Nancy's Out of the Box	130	
Belton, MO	345	16
Witnessing Seminar	14	
Nancy's Out of the Box	52	
Overland Park, KS	110	
Church of God (Holiness) Convention		
Leavenworth, KS	89	81
Fed. Detention Center		
Logan, OH Camp Mtg	2434	41
Portsmouth, RI Camp Mtg	908	45
Witnessing Seminar	26	
Whitney, TX—to be reported later		
Mineral Wells, TX—to be reported later		

its energy into a highly concentrated special mission—do we get attention of even our members.

There is a required power level for each level of achievement. The power in an idling jet is enough to propel a kiddie car but not yet enough to shake a giant plane from it's inertia. Many churches keep their engines running all year and have a measure of power, but not quite enough to accomplish some things which need desperately to be done. Some will never be sanctified unless there is a higher tide.

Is not this truth adequate reason for your church and mine to conduct revival, spiritual renewal week, and campmeeting?

And congratulations to the South Central Ohio District who broke ground for their new ministry center building on their campground property on July 22.

Chic Shaver

Dr. Jim Crutcher in Retreat

The medical doctor and medical school professor, Dr. Jim Crutcher, Tulsa, Oklahoma, will speak in a weekend retreat on issues of addiction, depression and aging at Lake Quivira, Ks Country Club and Kansas City First Church of the Nazarene, October 6-7. Contact Geo Snyder for details, 913-268-3597, or geolot@juno.com

Basic Bible Studies March On

Beacon Hill Press reports in March, 2012, that Basic Bible Studies in English sold 4352 copies in the previous six months. Counting its youth and English as a second language versions, total sales in English now surpass 695,000.

John Wesley to Mr. C, May 2, 1786

Neither you nor he can ever enter into glory, unless you are now cleansed from all pollution of flesh and spirit, and perfect holiness in the fear of God.

A Young Adult Reflects

Ryan Ardrey is student body president at Nazarene Seminary, Kansas City. He writes:

The first time I listened to the good Dr. Shaver preach was at a Family Camp in Southern New York. My biggest worries then were how to cram swimming, boating, and visiting the snack shack into one day. Much has changed since those days at Camp Taconic. However, 15 or so years later as I listened to Dr. Shaver once again at Victory Hills Church of the Nazarene, I realized that our need for God's Spirit to move in us and through us remains poignantly relevant.

My soon-to-be wife and I were helpers for this particular revival last Spring and so we commuted together with Dr. Shaver each night. As we soaked up the stories from his ministry it was clear that evangelism and discipleship did not end when the meetings were over. With this kind of full surrender to God's will we are bound to see commitments to Christ established and lives changed. The good news is that God's faithfulness as we participate in His mission is the same today as it ever was.

Another young adult:

First of all, I want to thank you for your gift towards the Evangelism award at NTS. I was this year's award recipient and I'm very grateful. To tell you a bit about what I do towards evangelism, I currently do ministry at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, KS. It is a largely unreached population (under 1% of the student population is involved in a campus ministry). This last year since I began at NTS, I have had the opportunity to share the gospel with numerous students

there. It is truly amazing how often I come across students who have yet to truly hear the gospel! I will be starting ministry on campus there full-time in the fall, a major part of which will include evangelism to students, as well as training other Christians on campus to do the same.

Thank you for your gift, and may God bless you! - Jeb Flynn

Because You Gave

Thanks to your gifts, CSCE has been able to give:

- 32 Basic Bible Studies to the pastors of the South Central District, Church of the Nazarene, USA
- Evangelism materials to pastors and leaders at the Global Ministry Center, Kansas, Ohio, Rhode Island, Texas, Oklahoma, Massachusetts
- Small Group Bible studies to college ministry leaders in greater Kansas City
- Bible studies to the chaplains at the Leavenworth, KS Federal Detention Center
- Basic Bible Studies to the Kansas City Rescue Mission
Trevor Johnston, District Supt, So. Central Ohio Church of the Nazarene emailed:

I am taking the Bible Studies on sanctification, that you kindly offered me without charge, to the UK, where I plan to leave them in one of the churches I will be preaching in for the people to have an opportunity to dig deep into this biblical truth that is at the heart of the victorious Christian life.

With special challenges in a major mailing, and expending resources to further Christ's Kingdom, would you consider a financial gift to the Evangelism Center, just now?

Chic Shaver's Upcoming Ministry Schedule

September 8-12	Church of the Nazarene Bristow, OK	Revival
September 15-19	Church of the Nazarene Leavenworth, KS	Revival
September 22-26	Church of the Nazarene South Weymouth, MA	Revival
September 28	Church of the Nazarene Logan, OH	Dist. Pastor Training
Sept 29-October 3	Church of the Nazarene Logan, OH	Revival
October 13-17	Church of the Nazarene Portland, MI	Revival
October 20-24	Church of the Nazarene Lisbon, OH	Revival
November 3-7	Valley Mission Church of the Nazarene Bedford, IN	Revival
November 10-14	Point Township Church of the Nazarene Mt. Vernon, 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.