



A Message from Bob Broadbooks

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Someone once said that looking at your denominational roots is like looking into a rearview mirror. If you look too long, you may bump into something ahead of you. However, if you fail to look backward, you may get hit from behind. For this reason, it is important to look into our past as we head into our future.

In 2008, we celebrated our centennial year. Since that time, we've worked to help Nazarene clergy reflect on the meaning of our 100-year journey and get better acquainted with our faith story. This has been accomplished through the Nazarene Roots Project <www.nazareneroots.org>, which is a partnership between the Nazarene Archives and the USA/Canada Office, aimed at helping pastors and church leaders better understand our faith tradition. The Nazarene Roots Project website will have materials added periodically that will not only help pastors understand their history, but also stimulate continuing holiness evangelism efforts.

Some of the resources we've developed are a CD that includes foundational documents (such as early Nazarene *Manuals*), books, articles, and a curriculum for pastors on the lessons they can learn from their faith tradition. We've also developed a DVD of a panel discussion entitled, "Reflecting on our Nazarene Heritage," which is available to clergy as a part of this effort. The panel includes Paul Bassett, Stan Ingersol, Janine Metcalf, and Tom Noble. We cover a series of topics based on questions we have received from Nazarene clergy, which include: The Church's Genesis, Founders and Shapers, Theological Vision, Major 20th Century Challenges, Holiness and Spirituality, Church Polity and Structures, The Church and Compassion, Internationalization, and Nazarene Identity (challenges and opportunities).

I would encourage you to peruse all of these materials and let us know what you think of them. We are here to support your work on the front lines of ministry, and we deeply appreciate all you do on behalf of the Church of the Nazarene and the larger body of Christ.

Pleased with the Prospects,

Bob Broadbooks



Acknowledgements

Like every writer, I've acquired debts.

I am indebted to William McCumber, Wes Tracy, and Ev Leadingham. Each is an editor who allowed me to develop the personality-focused essays in this book. At different points in life, each has also been a friend and an inspiration.

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Bryon McLaughlin understood this book's appropriateness as a publication related to the Nazarene Centennial. He conceptualized the layout and design, and he conceived of the various digital materials that are related to it.

Thanks, finally, to Bob Broadbooks for supporting this project with the anticipation that all who read it, especially pastors, can benefit from a renewed acquaintance with the community of saints whose lives have shaped Nazarene life and culture. Their stories are truly our own.