

the evangelists'

perspective

OPRAH IS WRONG!

see page 21

fall/winter 2008-09

Where there
is no
vision,
the people
perish.

Proverbs 29:18

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Fall/Winter 2008-09

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from the editor



CHUCK MILLHUFF

THE VISION, THEN THE GOAL

I admit it: I'm a sports nut. Just about any contest is fascinating to me. In every sport there is that moment when the vision of the goal is achieved; a player crossing home plate, the puck or ball crashing into the net, the ball burning the cords as it rips through the basket, the leap over the line-men as the goal line plane is broken, the tape wrapped around the runner's chest as the finish line is crossed, and I could go on and on. There is not a single athlete who does not carry these visions prior to the achievement of the goal. In fact, little boys like me dreamed of catching a high inside curve on the barrel of the bat and pulling the ball high over the fence in the bottom of the ninth in Comiskey Park and winning the World Series for my beloved Chicago White Sox with a home run. Well, that's the vision that never took place, but I still see it and feel it when I see the Sox on WGN-TV. Without that vision, I or any other ball player would be merely swinging a stick at a 90 mph missile!

A church without a vision of its goal is little more than a stick-swinger, although the Church is so much more important than a game. The preacher must see the altar filled, the Sunday School growing, the believers—most importantly—really saved and sanctified, and then developed in the work of the Holy Spirit over the years into giants of the faith. The vision and the goal are inseparable if winning or success in Kingdom work is to be accomplished. In sports, if the vision is not burning in the belly of the athlete, he or she will soon become a spectator and not a player. So it will be in the heart and life of the clergy if the vision is not clearly there.

Solomon said in Proverbs 29:18, "Where there is no vision the people perish" (KJV).

This is my last *Evangelists' Perspective*, my last chance at the editorial plate. God knows that, in these last eight years as the Revivalism Coordinator, I have done my best to energize revivalism and preserve the doctrine. My visions and goals for the church are definite. I am not merely swinging a stick at the plate.

- My vision is for the rebirth of the revival meeting using our Nazarene Evangelists with the goal of the prophetic element restored into our churches, schools and conventions.

¿Dónde Están? [WHERE ARE THEY?]

The Need for Hispanic Nazarene Evangelists

by *David Garibay*

one devoted to traveling and preaching the Gospel, and who is authorized by the Church to promote revivals and to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ abroad in the land.” (2005-2009 *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*, paragraph 408)

I grew up in McAllen, Texas, in the Rio Grande Valley, where speaking both Spanish and English was normal to me as a second-generation Hispanic. Now as a Nazarene Evangelist, God has given me the privilege and opportunity to preach to both English- and Spanish-speaking congregations. The truth is that only one bilingual Nazarene Evangelist is listed with the Church of the Nazarene in the United States and Canada. Recently, I came from a revival held in my hometown. As a result, souls were saved, Christians were sanctified and the church experienced revival. Praise God! Unfortunately, many Spanish-speaking churches don't have the financial resources to hold revivals, but the need for revivals and Hispanic Evangelists is greater today than ever before.

It is not uncommon to walk down the streets of an American city today and hear Spanish spoken. About 50 percent of Hispanics have origins in Mexico, and the rest come from other countries. The term “Hispanic” was coined by the federal government in the 1970s to refer to the people who were born in any of the Spanish-speaking countries of the Americas. The population of Hispanics in the United States was 44 million in 2007. By the year 2050, it is estimated that 103 million Hispanics will be living in the United States. The five states with the most Hispanics are: California with 13.1 million, Texas with 12.2 million, Florida with 3.6 million, New York with 3.1 million, and Illinois with 1.8 million. As the Hispanic population

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I can't help noticing stores, restaurants, job ads, schools and many other organizations in search of and in need of people who are bilingual. I am writing this article for one reason alone: to inspire Hispanics to do “THE WORK OF EVANGELIST.” “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists and some to be pastors and teachers” (Ephesians 4:11 NKJV).

An Evangelist is a messenger or one who announces good news. The responsibility of the Evangelist is “to present Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit that men (and women) shall come to put their trust in God through Him, to accept Him as their Savior, and to serve Him as their King in the fellowship of His church.” The Nazarene “Evangelist is



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Evangelist,
Church of the Nazarene*



A Preferred Future:

Making The Climb

by J.K. Warrick

That first sighting divided John Bowling's life into two phases: before Mount Kilimanjaro and after Mount Kilimanjaro. The magnificence of the mountain captured his imagination and adventurous spirit. Bowling, president of Olivet Nazarene University, was in unfamiliar surroundings. Yet this mountain he had never seen before beckoned him, perhaps in spite of himself. Even as the mountain caused him to dream of things he would like to accomplish in his life—new goals, new adventures, new challenges—the image of Mount Kilimanjaro brooding over the African plain drew him once again. “Me first,” it said to him.

The story of Bowling's subsequent climb to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro and how it changed him forever is a metaphor for life. All of us face “mountains.” Some of those are heartbreaking moments of loss, betrayal, disappointment, illness, or other uninvited and unexpected life crises. But there are other “mountains” as well—joyous peaks of achievement, accomplishment and dreams fulfilled.

The greatest “mountains” are those that do not come to us. They stand in the distance beckoning us to come to them. Some of them say, “Me first.”

Life is full of opportunities that loom before us, calling us to something greater than we have ever achieved,

challenging us to something we have never attempted, promising a reward we have never known. Mount Kilimanjaro did not come to John Bowling; John Bowling chose to make the climb.

In “Learning to be Last,” LeBron Fairbanks and Stan Toler describe the effective leader as one who holds in one hand an honest assessment of the “present reality” and in the other a clear understanding of the “preferred future.” For those who hear the call, the two are almost never the same. The present reality and the preferred future are mountains to be faced and conquered.

This year we celebrate the Church of the Nazarene's 100th year of holiness evangelism. Today more than ever the Church needs pastors, evangelists, missionaries, and lay people who have the courage both to come to grips with the present reality and to lead toward the preferred future.

PRESENT REALITIES

The mission of the Church of the Nazarene is “to make Christlike disciples in the nations.” This is more than a statement; it is becoming the mission embraced by the church around the world. God himself is instilling in us a



*“I saw in the distance a sight that nearly took my breath away.
It was Mount Kilimanjaro. I stood and stared...
I was drawn to it by the magnetism of its grandeur.”*

—John Bowling, *Making the Climb*

new awareness and excitement about the mission. We give Him praise for this invigorating renewal of His mission!

It is important to recognize and access our “present reality.” We are a vibrant, growing church of 1.8 million members, worshipping in nearly 21,000 congregations located in 151 world areas. We recognize that in many parts of the world, we are experiencing rapid growth, while in other areas growth has been minimal at best. Last year, the church around the world grew at a rate of just over seven percent. Two-thirds of our membership now reside outside the United States and Canada. We are slowly learning what it means to be an international church. These are our realities.

It is equally important that we recognize that we are a uniquely “message-driven” church.

The primary objective of the Church of the Nazarene is to advance God’s kingdom by the preservation and propagation of Christian holiness as set forth in the Scriptures. (2005-2009 *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*, Foreword)

In order that we may preserve our God-given heritage, the faith once delivered to the saints, especial-

ly the doctrine and experience of entire sanctification as a second work of grace... (2005-2009 *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*, Constitution, Preamble)

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. (2005-2009 *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*, Articles of Faith, X)

This is our message. We offer no equivocation, no apology, no hesitation.

Though we are adamant in our message, we must confess that in recent years we have stumbled a bit over the articulation of this message. Admittedly, this has resulted in some confusion in the church and perhaps a reluctance among some of our pastors to preach the message of holiness with conviction and passion. Some have even suggested that we are experiencing an “identity crisis.” That is a discussion for another time. Today we must concentrate on getting a firm grip on the “present reality.”

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evangelists give witness to...

The Call

SNACKS AROUND THE TABLE

by David A. Gallimore

Growing up in the parsonage, many of my favorite memories came from late-night snacks around the kitchen table after a great revival service, and a visiting preacher telling “war stories from out there on the trail.” Even as a young lad, I was somehow attracted to that kind of mythical figure, “The Evangelist.”

My Father was good at getting the church ready for revival. Around the community there was excitement in the air...the Evangelist was coming to town. We were seldom disappointed. I had the privilege of hearing many of the giants of the Holiness Movement preach. When it came time for the Evangelist to leave...I always noticed three things. The church was always energized...the community was always evangelized...and my Father (the Pastor) was always encouraged. Even though we hated to see him go, we were always glad that the Evangelist had come!

When I was 19 years old God called me to preach. Even at the onset, I sensed that my calling was to preach evangelistically. However, after completing my undergraduate schooling, the door did not open for me to go into evangelism, but rather into a senior pastorate. I spent 20 wonderful years leading and growing churches in Texas, Georgia, Florida, and Oklahoma. I must confess that even during those successful years of pastoral ministry, there was a restless spirit within. I had full-time evangelism in my blood.

In 2005 I was Senior Pastor of Western Oaks Church of the Nazarene in Oklahoma City. During an extended time of prayer and fasting, God definitely called me into full-time evangelism. Let me ask you a question: Have you ever said to God, “I’ll do anything you want me to do,” and then He asks you to do it? When I sensed that God was asking me to leave a great church that took wonderful care of me and my family, and take a huge step of faith and enter the field of evangelism, my response to God was, “Say what???”

I quickly reminded God that we now live in a different day! Many churches do not even have revivals anymore. Although I had a “fire in my bones” to preach evangelistically, I had serious doubts about whether or not that would work in the “real” world. I then did something that I had never done before. I put a fleece out. I basically said to God, “If the phone starts ringing, and I start receiving invitations to preach revivals and camp meetings, I will not turn them down.” Between January and June of 2005, I scheduled 30 revival meetings for 2006. My good friend and mentor, Stan Toler told me, “I would be afraid NOT to go” after God confirmed His call on my life with that kind of response!

Still...I was hesitant to take the plunge. I was out running one day around Lake Hefner in Oklahoma City, and I was just having a pity party with God. I said, “If I leave the security of the pastorate and go into evangelism, we won’t even be able to pay the bills.” My pity party was suddenly interrupted by a bunch of birds that flew out of a tree directly in front of me. It startled me to the point that I stopped running. To this day, I do not know what kind of birds they were, but what I will never forget...they all had “fat” bellies.

The message to me was clear: God was saying, “Look at those birds; I take care of them. Not one sparrow falls to the ground without me knowing it. Look at those flowers over there...I DID THAT! If I take care of the flowers of the field and the birds of the air, how much more am I going to take care of you?” I ran home and grabbed my wife, Tammy, and said “We’re going to do it! We’re going to trust God, like we always have, and He is not going to disappoint us!” And He hasn’t!

We answered God’s call into full-time evangelism at the end of 2005 and God has literally opened hundreds of doors of opportunity for which we would have never dreamed. We built a beautiful home in Georgia where we

“Many of my favorite memories came from late-night snacks around the kitchen table after a great revival service.”



“Little boys like me dreamed of catching a high inside curve on the barrel of the bat and winning the World Series for my beloved Chicago White Sox.”



• My vision is for there to be a rebirth of dramatic personal soul winning in every church with a goal of 100,000 professions of faith next year. I see a passion for the unsaved the norm in the heart of every Nazarene, a heart for every single person you meet regardless of where that may be in spite of your personality type. Do something!

- My vision is for there to be a stunning cell ministry in many different locations based on the Sunday School model already in place for the discipling and nurturing of the people we bring in.
- My vision is for there to be an emphasis of crisis theology in the context of the process but always there in all that we are. This relates to our schools most especially with the goal of turning out confrontational pastors, missionaries and evangelists pointing to a transformation moment of grace as well as leading in spiritual growth before and after the event.
- My vision is for there to be a grassroots prayer movement with the goal of a genuine spiritual

awakening among our leaders and people sweeping across our church like nothing we have ever seen all over the world. I am impassioned for us to see a holy God in a holy church thrust into the culture and changing it one person at a time.

Yes, I actually see these visions. May the vision see the goal and may the goal explode before our very eyes like the winning basket or that slap shot into the net. Without this vision these goals and many others will never happen. Many of these goals have the potential of becoming miracles. As in the days of Jesus' glorious Galilean campaign, the crowds were there into the thousands because such remarkable goals were being accomplished. Do you feel Jesus had the vision of all of this prior to the goals? What do you think? I think he had a homerun in mind or in His vision every time. **ep**

base the ministry, the schedule is constantly full, and the calls keep coming. I've been humbled over the past three years as I've had opportunity to preach to so many diverse groups of people. From some of our denominations largest pulpits and camp meeting platforms to rural churches and even international destinations, I have had opportunities to bridge the gap between the revival days of old and the modern day multi-sensory worship era. I consider my 20 years of pastoral experience to be an invaluable asset. When I walk into a church, I know what that pastor and his family are facing. I have found that a big part of my ministry is not only evangelizing and equipping the local church, it is encouraging the local pastor as well.

Once again, I know that times have changed, and our church has changed. But what I've discovered during the

past three years of travels is that our church needs revival more than ever. You can call it something else if you please...renewal, refreshing, etc. My plea to pastors is to pray for revival. Prepare your people for revival. Call an Evangelist. Churches still need to be energized. Communities still need to be evangelized. Pastors and their families still need to be encouraged. And, who knows...there might even be another little boy or girl listening to a story after church one night, and God may birth a dream, and a purpose, and a passion in that child's spirit, and one day he too will answer "the call." **ep**



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THE BURDEN OF UNBELIEF

by *G. Stuart McWhirter*

The burden of proof is far greater for atheism than it is for Christian faith. It is far more difficult to believe intelligent humans emerged haphazardly and accidentally from chaos and the amino acids of primordial soup than it is to believe in a personal God who created the worlds. It is more difficult to defend atheism than it is to look at the accumulated historical clues that build an astounding probability for the bodily resurrection of the dead Jesus of Nazareth alive from the grave, and conclude that this truly happened.

Impoverished by atheistic materialism, modern man feels alone in the universe, agonizing in the absence of meaning. Militant atheism is on the rise in the world. Its spokespersons are becoming steadily more strident and shrill. Grossly unjustified arrogance, presumption and condescension often characterize contemporary atheists. Many Christians seem to be intimidated and muted by this. Too long, Christians have kept a defensive posture. We greatly need to shift from defense to offense, not with hostility or lack of humility, but with informed minds and intelligent conviction. Atheists often project an unfounded air of intellectual superiority. An unmasking of this charade is long overdue.

Christopher Hitchens and Richard Dawkins, seething with bitterness and rage, are prominent atheists who have recently launched verbal volleys of hate and blasphemy against belief in God. Hitchens has said religion poisons everything. That sounds strikingly similar to Lenin's statement that religion is the opiate of the people. I suppose Hitchens thinks materialistic

atheism poisoned nothing and no one in atheistic, Leninist-Marxist Russia. Does Hitchens think atheism poisoned nothing and no one in atheistic Maoist China? Does Hitchens not know that an estimated 100 million people were put to death under atheistic Communism? Do Hitchens, Dawkins and their ilk suffer from convenient amnesia? If atheists believe atheistic materialism offers a better and more beneficial human society, why is it there has not been even the least evidence that this is true?

But as Christians we must admit that while the greater burden of proof falls on unbelief, a burden of proof also falls on belief in God. There is much in our world that seems to contradict faith in God. Many sincere, honest people, who have not accepted atheism, have observed or experienced great tragedy and suffering. They feel they simply cannot believe in a personal, loving God. For many people, the presence of evil in our world seems to be a horrible obstacle to faith in God.


But the darkness of evil is pierced with light: goodness, kindness, the beauty in much of nature, art, great music, love, the quest for justice, the profound wonder of human language. These are incessant hints of purpose and an intelligent mind behind creation. And how did goodness appear in a world without God?

Think also of the human experience of hope. How did hope get into our world? How is it that humans are creatures who hope? What is humanity and civilization without it? Surely hope is not a product of happenstance, existing only to torture our emotions and mock our dreams and aspirations.

But, as Christians we cannot have a meaningful dialogue with skeptics unless, at the outset, we admit we cannot prove there is a God. We cannot produce objective, empirical evidence that God exists. We should not try to do so. We can only present probabilities for the presence of a personal, loving God. But these are great and numerous probabilities, so great that intellectually honest people cannot dismiss them out of hand and remain intellectually honest and objective.

Christians can make a strong argument for the probability that there is a personal God who created all things. However, Christians propose far more than a merely probable God. We are to do more than make an argument. We are called to make an announcement.

Consider the audacity of this announcement. Here we are on one of the smallest planets in our galaxy, which is located in the suburbs of this galaxy. We are as specks on a seemingly insignificant planet. And the bold, breathtaking announcement we Christians make is that God himself has visited our unlikely, lesser planet Earth. He has not left us lost or forgotten among the stars. We do have a cosmic friend.

God can only be known if he chooses to reveal himself. The core truth of the New Testament Gospel is that God has given the crowning and saving revelation of himself in Jesus. In Him all truth is uniquely and eternally embodied. In Him we meet God. 



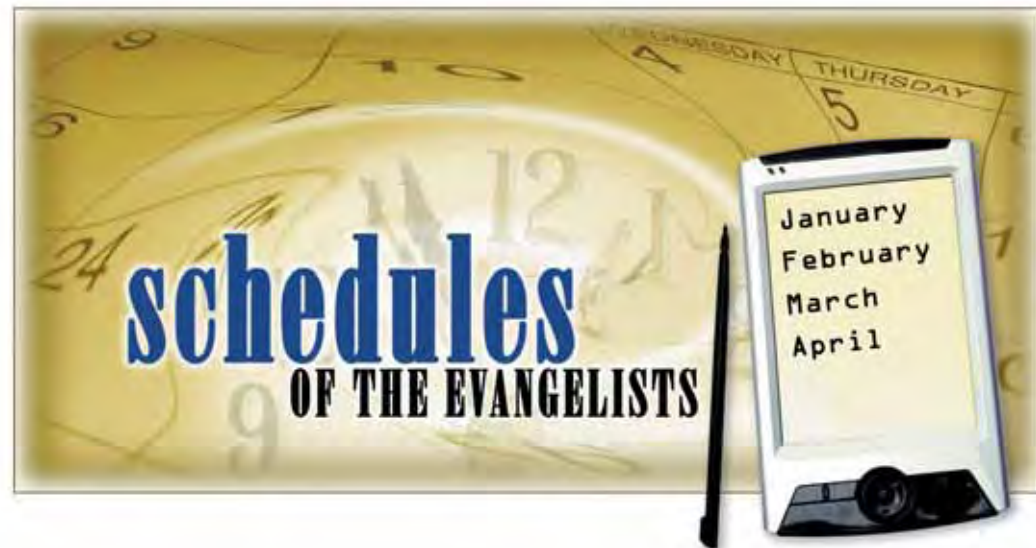
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ADAMS, MICHAEL D.
 Jan 4-8 Flint, MI (East)
 Jan 11-14 Melbourne, FL
 (Harbor City)
 Jan 18-21 Lemoore, CA
 Jan 25-28 Taft, CA (West
 Hills)
 Feb 1-4 Dinuba, CA
 Feb 8-11 Yuma, AZ (Desert
 Gardens)
 Feb 15-18 Rockledge, FL
 Feb 26-28 Columbus, IN
 (Free Methodist Adult
 Retreat)
 Mar 1 Columbus, IN (First)
 Mar 8-11 Seymour, IN (Zone
 Indoor Camp Meeting)
 Mar 13-18 Mackey, IN
 (Mackey)
 Mar 22-25 Sturgis, MI
 (Evangelical Church)
 Mar 29-Apr 1 Shelbyville, TN
 Apr 5-8 Crossville, TN
 (Mayland)
 Apr 12-15 Newport, TN
 Apr 26-29 Lenoir City, TN
 (Crossroads)

ARMSTRONG, B. LEON ①
 Jan 28-Feb 1 Newport News,
 VA (Bibleway Fellowship
 Church)
 Feb 3-8 Swainsboro, GA (First)
 Feb 18-22 Selma, AL (First)
 Mar 4-8 Fort Walton Beach, FL
 Mar 11-15 Henderson, TX
 Apr 7-12 Macomb, IL
 Apr 14-19 Ellisville, IL
 Apr 22-26 South Lebanon,
 OH (Crossroads)
 Apr 29-May 3 Rockhill
 Furnace, PA (Orbisonia)

BURKHALTER, PAT ①
 Feb 4-8 Post, TX
 Mar 4-8 Jackson, MO
 Mar 11-15 Wright City, MO
 Mar 20-29 Macon, MO
 Apr 1-5 Des Moines, IA (First)
 Apr 15-19 Brookfield, MO

CHAPMAN, JAMES R.
 Mar 7-8 Royalton, IL (Youth
 Weekend Refocus)
 Mar 20 Dardenne Prairie, MO
 (Presbyterian Mission
 Conference)
 Mar 27-29 Carthage, MO
 (Carthage First)
 Apr 5-8 Auburn, IN (Auburn)
 Apr 15-19 Mount Vernon, IN
 (Point Township)



COVINGTON, NATHAN A. ①
 Jan 11-14 Mesa, AZ (Mesa
 First)
 Mar 1-4 Hensley, AR (Little
 Rock Springlake)

DELL, JIMMY ①
 Jan 4 Coolidge, AZ (Coolidge
 Valley Community
 Fellowship)
 Jan 11-14 Fresno, CA (First)
 Mar 1-4 Tichnor, AR (Nady)
 Mar 8-11 Globe, AZ
 Mar 22-29 Gladewater, TX
 Mar 31-Apr 5 Arenzville, IL
 (Bethel Community)
 Apr 19-22 Weirton, WV (First)
 Apr 24-26 Batesville, AR (N.
 Arkansas Laymen's
 Retreat)

DONNERBERG, JOHN J.
 Jan 4-7 Glenwood, AR (First)
 Feb 1-4 Capitan, NM (Angus)
 Mar 8-11 Vestavia Hills, AL
 Mar 15-18 Anna, IL (First)
 Mar 22-25 Lakeview, OH
 (Indian Lake Northside)
 Mar 29-31 Selma, IN (Harris
 Chapel)
 Apr 12-15 Pittsburg, TX
 Apr 26-29 Britt, IA (Zion)

**FERGUSON, ANTHONY
 SCOTT**
 Jan 11-14 Dalton, GA (First)

FLINT, ROBERT E.
 Jan 19-30 Findlay, OH
 (Winebrenner Seminary)
 Feb 2-16 Marysville, OH
 (Ministry Development
 Center)
 Mar 12-26 Marysville, OH
 (Ministry Development
 Center)
 Apr 19-22 Spencerville, OH
 Apr 26-29 Andover, OH
 (Cherry Valley)

GALLIMORE, DAVID A.
 Jan 18-21 Fort Oglethorpe,
 GA (Battlefield Parkway)
 Jan 25-28 Sandersville, GA
 Feb 8-12 Olathe, KS (College)
 Feb 9-12 Olathe, KS (MNU
 Chapel Services)
 Feb 15-18 Rainbow City, AL
 (Church at Mercy Hill)
 Mar 1-4 Oak Hill, WV (Gospel
 Tabernacle)
 Mar 8-11 Chester, GA
 (Rowland Chapel)
 Mar 15-18 Warner Robins,
 GA (First)
 Mar 22-25 Marion, IN (First)
 Mar 29-Apr 1 Jumping
 Branch, WV (Gospel
 Tabernacle)
 Apr 8-12 Wrightsville, GA
 (Mount Olive)
 Apr 19-24 Macon, GA
 (Shurlington)
 Apr 26-29 Lockbourne, OH
 (CCCU)

GESSNER, DON AND SHIRL
 Jan 1-31 Indianapolis, IN
 (Grace Pointe
 Evangelism Focus)
 Feb 1-28 Indianapolis, IN
 (Grace Pointe
 Evangelism Focus)
 Mar 1-31 Indianapolis, IN
 (Grace Pointe
 Evangelism Focus)
 Apr 1-30 Indianapolis, IN
 (Grace Pointe
 Evangelism Focus)

GOSS, MARILYN
 Jan 11 Buena Vista, CO (High
 Country)

GRAY, BOB AND BECKY
 Feb 6-8 St. Simons Island,
 GA (Waiting School 8)
 Feb 22-25 Robeline, LA
 (Friendship)
 Feb 27-Mar 1 Upland, CA
 (Waiting School 9)
 Mar 4-8 Danville, IL (Chicago
 Zone Crusade)
 Mar 15-18 Odessa, TX (First)
 Apr 19-21 Ashland, KY (First)
 Apr 23-26 Panama City, FL
 (First)

**GREENE, CAROLYN
 BRASWELL**
 Jan 16-17 Fredericktown, OH
 (Klown Kollege)
 Feb 20-21 Fredericktown, OH
 (Klown Kollege)
 Apr 28 Mt. Vernon, OH
 (Women in Minstry
 Network Day)

① Tenured Evangelist is recognized by the church as a lifetime assignment. See *Manual 407.3*

GREENWAY, KENNETH NEAL ①

Jan 1-4 N. Kannapolis, NC (Bible Way Community Church)
 Jan 17-21 Raleigh, NC (First)
 Jan 25-28 N. Myrtle Beach, SC (Faith Wesleyan)
 Mar 1-4 Hillsborough, NC (Wesleyan)
 Mar 8-12 High Point, NC (West Fairfield Baptist)
 Mar 15-18 Ransour, NC (Holly Springs Friends)
 Mar 19-22 Siler City, NC (Pleasant Grove Wesleyan)
 Mar 29-Apr 2 Archdale, NC (Wesleyan)
 Apr 5-8 High Point, NC (Covenant Life)
 Apr 12-15 Soperton, GA (Christian Family Center)
 Apr 19-22 Chesness, SC (Wesleyan)

HAINES, GARY W. ①

Jan 4 Englewood, CO (Denver First)
 Jan 18-21 Little Rock, AR (First)
 Feb 8-11 Borger, TX (Trinity)
 Feb 22-25 Topeka, KS (Lakeview)
 Mar 8-11 Nashville, TN (Bethel)
 Mar 22-25 Guyton, OK
 Apr 5-8 Longview, TX (First)
 Apr 19-22 Casper, WY (First)

HANCOCK, TIMOTHY B. ①

Jan 17-21 Garner, NC (Raleigh First)
 Feb 1-4 New Brighton, PA
 Feb 8-11 Sparks, NV (First)
 Feb 22-25 Florence, KY (Immanuel)
 Mar 1-4 Leesburg, FL
 Mar 15-18 Pelham, TN (Chapman's Chapel)
 Mar 22-25 Ravenswood, WV
 Apr 5-8 Newport, KY (First)
 Apr 19-22 Mt. Sterling, OH
 Apr 26-29 Paden City, WV

HUDDLESTON, BILLY A.

Jan 2-4 Canton, OH (Dueber United Methodist)
 Jan 16-18 North Bloomfield, OH (United Methodist)
 Jan 25 Portsmouth, OH (Rubyville Community Church)
 Feb 1-4 Fort Mill, SC
 Feb 8-11 Cross Lanes, WV (Community Chapel)
 Feb 15-20 Beavertown, PA (St. Peters Independent Bible Church)
 Feb 25-Mar 1 Richmond, IN (Richmond Indoor Zone Camp meeting)
 Mar 8-13 Middleburg, PA (Wayside Bible Church)
 Mar 15-18 Albany, GA (First)
 Mar 22-25 Franklin Furnace, OH (Plymouth Heights)
 Mar 29-Apr 1 Dinuba, CA
 Apr 5-8 Mannington, WV
 Apr 12-15 Follansbee, WV (First)
 Apr 19-22 Sikeston, MO (First)
 Apr 26-29 Zanesville, OH (Northside)

JONES, EDDIE R.

Apr 12 Butler, IN

KEARCE, DOUG & DARLA

Jan 30-Feb 1 Gatlinburg, TN (Grace Church)
 Feb 6-8 St. Simon Island, GA

LANCASTER, JONI

Jan 1-31 San Angelo, TX (Trinity)

LECKRONE, LARRY D. ①

Jan 10-14 New Smyrna Beach, FL
 Jan 17-21 Belleview, FL
 Feb 12-22 Lakeland, FL (Florida Holiness Camp)
 Mar 14-18 Moultrie, GA (First)
 Mar 28-Apr 1 Sharpsburg, GA (First)
 Apr 11-15 Lebanon, TN (First)

LEIDY, ARNOLD G.

Jan 1-31 Edgewood, NM (Edgewood Outreach)
 Feb 1-28 Edgewood, NM (Edgewood Outreach)
 Mar 1-31 Edgewood, NM (Edgewood Outreach)
 Apr 1-30 Edgewood, NM (Edgewood Outreach)

LORD, J. RICHARD

Jan 1-31 Madison, TN
 Feb 1-28 Madison, TN
 Mar 1-31 Madison, TN
 Apr 1-30 Madison, TN

MANLEY, STEPHEN L. ①

Jan 4-8 Phoenix, AZ (Monte Vista)
 Jan 9-12 Phoenix, AZ (Cross Style Conference)
 Jan 11-14 Phoenix, AZ (Desert Hills Fellowship)
 Jan 18-21 Las Vegas, NV
 Jan 23-25 Stockton, CA (Horizon Christian Fellowship)
 Jan 28-Feb 2 Pixley, CA
 Feb 8-11 Bonney Lake, WA (Living Hope Community)
 Feb 13-16 Renton, WA
 Feb 18-23 LaGrande, OR
 Mar 1-4 Carrollton, MO
 Mar 7-11 Waterford, MI (Williams Lake)
 Mar 13-16 Elizabethtown, PA (Conoy Brethren in Christ)
 Mar 18-22 Dayton, OH (Vandalia)
 Mar 25-30 Elyria, OH (West Cleveland Holiness Crusade)
 Apr 1-5 New Boston, OH (Cedar Street CCCU)
 Apr 8-13 Trenton, OH
 Apr 15-20 Owego, NY
 Apr 22-27 Harrisburg, PA (Bethany)

MILLER, C. WESLEY

Mar 22-25 Paris, TX (First)
 Mar 29-Apr 1 Caddo, OK

MILLHUFF, CHARLES RAY ①

Mar 11-15 Mount Erie, IL
 Apr 8-12 Conway, AR (First)

MILLS, HENRY L.

Jan 18-22 Ruskin, FL (Community)
 Jan 24-25 New Port Richey, FL (Trinity)
 Apr 10-12 Huntsville, AL (University)
 Apr 19-22 Ephrata, PA
 Apr 25-26 Sheridan, AR (First Assembly of God)

MITCHELL, ROYCE G.

Jan 11 N. Highlands, CA (Capitol Free Will Baptist)
 Jan 16 Los Altos, CA (First Baptist Church)
 Jan 17-18 Menlo Park, CA (Menlo Park Presbyterian)
 Feb 8 Mesa, AZ (Good Life RV Resort)
 Feb 10 Tempe, AZ (AZ Community Church INJOY!)
 Feb 19 Tempe, AZ (Grace Community Church XYZ Seniors)
 Feb 19 Apache Junction, AZ (First Baptist Church)
 Feb 21-22 Sun City, AZ (American Lutheran Church)
 Feb 22 Quartzite, AZ (First Baptist Church)
 Feb 25 Sun City, AZ (American Lutheran Church)
 Mar 1 Yuma, AZ (Country Roads Community Church)
 Mar 8 Oro Valley, AZ
 Mar 12 Mesa, AZ (Valle Del Oro RV Resort)
 Mar 15 Apache Junction, AZ (Community Christian Church)

MOORE, NORMAN L. ①

Jan 11-14 Prescott Valley, AZ
 Jan 25-28 Gainesville, FL (First)
 Feb 1-4 Portland, OR (Central)
 Feb 8-11 Tempe, AZ
 Feb 15-18 Apache Junction, AZ (East Valley)
 Feb 22-25 Anderson, IN (First)
 Mar 4-8 Joliet, IL (Zone Holiness Crusade)
 Mar 15-18 Williamsburg, IN
 Mar 22-25 Dayton, OH (Parkview)
 Mar 27-29 Wichita, KS (Woodland Lakes Community)
 Apr 19-22 Ashland, KY (First)
 Apr 26-29 Rock Island, IL (First)

① Tenured Evangelist is recognized by the church as a lifetime assignment. See *Manual 407.3*

NICHOLAS, CLAUDE G.

Jan 25-28 North Fort Myers, FL
 Feb 22-25 Lakeland, FL (Eastside)
 Mar 1-4 Temple, TX (First)
 Mar 8-11 Crowell, TX (First Methodist)
 Mar 15-18 Toledo, OH (Northpoint)
 Mar 22-25 Belle, WV
 Mar 29-Apr 1 Dunbar, WV
 Apr 5-8 Ashland, KY (Grace)
 Apr 12-15 Saint Paris, OH
 Apr 19-22 Marysville, OH
 Apr 26-29 Flemingsburg, KY

PERDUE, NELSON S. ①

Jan 13-18 Brooksville, FL (Wesleyan Village Camp meeting)
 Feb 22-25 Nelsonville, OH (Nelsonville Indoor Camp meeting)
 Mar 1-4 Grove City, OH (Darbydale)
 Mar 11-15 West Milton, OH
 Mar 20-22 St. Marys, OH (First)
 Mar 25-29 London, OH (CCCU)
 Apr 1-5 Payne, OH
 Apr 15-19 Jamestown, TN (Pleasant View)
 Apr 26-29 Jackson, OH

PETTIT, BENJAMIN AND AMANDA

Jan 5-23 Jackson, MS (Wesley Biblical Sem.)
 Feb 6-8 St. Simons Island, GA (Waiting School 8)
 Feb 27-Mar 1 Upland, CA (Waiting School 9)
 Apr 5-8 Kankakee, IL (Eastridge)
 Apr 23-26 Cherryvale, KS
 Apr 29-May 3 Collinsville, OK

PETTIT, ELAINE C. ①

Jan 17 Thomasville, GA (Prayer Awakening Event)
 Jan 18-21 Thomasville, GA (First)
 Jan 24 Excel, AL (Prayer Awakening Event)
 Jan 25-28 Excel, AL (Enoch Johnson Memorial)
 Jan 31 Riverdale, GA (Prayer Awakening Event)
 Feb 1-4 Riverdale, GA (Timberlake)
 Feb 6-8 St. Simons Island, GA (Waiting School 8)
 Feb 21 Upland, CA (Prayer Awakening Event)
 Feb 22-24 Upland, CA (First)
 Feb 27-Mar 1 Upland, CA (Waiting School 9)
 Mar 14 Kalamazoo, MI (Prayer Awakening Event)
 Mar 15-22 Kalamazoo, MI (South Side)
 Mar 28 Dundee, MI (Prayer Awakening Event)
 Mar 29-Apr 1 Dundee, MI (Community)

PETTIT, JEREMY & KATIE

Jan 17 Thomasville, GA (Prayer Awakening Event)
 Jan 18-21 Thomasville, GA (First)
 Jan 24 Excel, AL (Prayer Awakening Event)
 Jan 25-28 Excel, AL (Enoch Johnson Memorial)
 Jan 31 Riverdale, GA (Prayer Awakening Event)
 Feb 1-4 Riverdale, GA (Timberlake)
 Feb 6-8 St. Simons Island, GA (Waiting School 8)
 Feb 21 Upland, CA (Prayer Awakening Event)
 Feb 22-24 Upland, CA (First)
 Feb 27-Mar 1 Upland, CA (Waiting School 9)
 Mar 14 Kalamazoo, MI (Prayer Awakening Event)
 Mar 15-22 Kalamazoo, MI (South Side)
 Mar 29-Apr 1 Dundee, MI (Community)

RITTGERS, DELBERT L.

Jan 11-15 Fort Dodge, IA
 Mar 10-15 Minneapolis, KS
 Apr 19-23 Grinnell, IA

RUSHING, TRACY AND TERRI

Feb 1 Watonga, OK (Watonga)

SCUTT, MORRIS V.

Mar 27-29 Terre Haute, IN (Terre Haute South Side)
 Apr 19-22 Hurricane, WV (Hurricane First)

SHAVER, CHARLES F.

Feb 15-18 Poteau, OK (Green County Zone Holiness Convention)
 Mar 7-11 Rockford, IL (First)
 Mar 14-18 Caldwell, OH (First)
 Mar 21-25 Marietta, OH (First)
 Mar 28-Apr 1 Claremore, OK
 Apr 4-8 Columbia, MO (Rockbridge Church of God Holiness)
 Apr 18-22 New Harmony, IN (Harmony Chapel)
 Apr 25-29 Mifflinburg, PA

SHELBURNE, JEFFERY J.

Feb 1 St. Petersburg, FL (Victory)

SHELLENBERGER, SUSIE

Jan 31 Madison, WI (Closer: Moms & Daughters)
 Feb 5-9 Colorado Springs, CO (BRIO Cruise)
 Mar 1-4 Winter Haven, FL (First)

SMITH, DUANE ①

Jan 25-28 Chattanooga, TN (Zone Indoor Camp)
 Feb 1-4 Bradenton, FL (Bayshore)
 Mar 29-Apr 4 Hugoton, KS (Lone Star Friends Church)
 Apr 2-5 Wray, CO
 Apr 19-22 Owensville, IN
 Apr 26-29 Oak Hill, WV

ULMET, WILLIAM A. ①

Jan 30-Feb 1 New Ellenton, SC (New Life)
 Feb 4-8 York, SC
 Feb 11-15 Columbia, SC (Grace)
 Feb 18-22 Royalton, IL (First)
 Mar 4-8 Tilton, IL (South Zone Indoor Camp)
 Mar 26-29 Kenmare, ND
 Apr 4-5 Muncie, IN (South Side)
 Apr 7-12 Alma, MI
 Apr 19-24 Chrisman, IL

VINEYARD, JOANN LOIS

Jan 11 Buena Vista, CO (High Country)

WHITWORTH, MARCUS

Jan 25-28 Gainesville, FL (First)

WILLISON, RICK L.

Jan 14 Indianapolis, IN (Westfield Intermediate)
 Mar 6 Sidney, OH (Holy Angels School)
 Mar 22 Kokomo, IN (Kokomo Bon Air)

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Contact Don Gessner, (317) 837-6621

www website directory

Adams, David & Charlene www.adamsvoice.net
 Adams, Michael www.michaeladamsevangelism.com
 Armstrong, Leon www.armstrongfamilyministries.org
 Baker, Judith www.judithbakerministries.com
 Birt, Alvin www.clownsforhire.com
 Black, Rick D. www.purefaithministries.com
 Bolich, Jeremiah www.jeremiahbolich.com
 Bond, Gary www.bondministries.com
 Bullock, Rex www.dayspringradio.com
 Burg, Steven www.home.earthlink.net/~t-shuva/
 Burkhalter, Pat & Donna www.burkhalterministries.org
 Cervantes, Rudy www.heavenlytrumpet.com
 Chapman, Jim www.bigchap.org
 Covington, Nathan www.lifemenders.org
 Cundiff, Vickie www.vickiecundiffministries.com
 Dell, Jimmy www.jimmydell.org
 Diehl, Robbie & Deb www.dyno-might.org
 Donnerberg, John www.johndonnerbergministries.org
 Downing, Ann www.anddowning.com
 Dunham, Scott www.scottdunham.com
 Ferguson, Anthony S. www.fergusonfamilyministries.com
 Flint, Bob www.bobflintministries.com
 Fox, Jay David www.jayfoxmusic.com
 Fox, Jeremy www.adamsvoice.net
 Fruehling, Robert www.avivministries.org
 Fuller, Stefanie Coburn www.stefaniecoburnfuller.com
 Gallimore, David www.davidgallimore.com
 Garrick, John www.eternalimpact.org
 Gee, C. Eugene www.familylobby.com/Gee/
 Gessner, Don & Shirl www.gessnermusicministries.org
 Goss, M. Mikki www.mnjministries.org
 Gray, Bob & Becky www.bobandbeckygray.faithweb.com
 Greene, Carolyn www.instepliving.com
 Greenway, Kenneth www.greenwayministries.com
 Haines, Gary www.garyhaines.com
 Hampton, Deborah www.deborahhampton.org
 Hance, Larry www.larryhance.com
 Hancock, Tim www.ncodistrict.org (click on Hancock link)
 Hicks, John David www.faihtencounter.org
 Huddleston, Billy www.billyhuddleston.com
 Hull, Bethany www.resurrectionsministries.com
 Hutchison, Rick www.barnabas-ministries.org

Jackson, Paul & Trish www.gojetstream.net
 Jones, Terry & Laquita www.terryjonesministries.org
 Juneman, John www.cstrainingcenter.com
 Kearce, Doug and Darla www.crossstyle.org
 Leckrone, Larry www.leckroneministries.org
 Legg, Charles www.middlecrossministries.org
 Leidy, Arnold www.nazarene.ch/upwardcall
 Lewis, Christopher www.chrislewisministries.org
 Liddell, PL www.liddellministries.com
 Liversage, Jerry www.jerryliversageministries.org
 Lord, J. Richard www.truckpastor.com
 Lothenore, Bob www.lothenoreministries.com
 Love, Howard www.antiochgroup.com
 Manley, Stephen www.crossstyle.org
 McCarty, Fred www.do notdoubt.com
 Millhuff, Chuck www.millhuffministries.com
 Mitchell, Royce www.libertyquartet.com
 Moore, Benjamin www.interactiveministries.net
 Moore, Norman www.normanmooreministries.org
 Murphy, Mark www.murphyministries.com
 Nestor, Stephen www.newspiritevangelism.org
 Pearson, Rick www.funson.com
 Perdue, Nelson www.perdueministries.com
 Pettit, Ben & Amanda www.elainepettitministries.org
 Pettit, Elaine www.elainepettitministries.org
 Pettit, Jeremy www.elainepettitministries.org
 Phelps, Phillip www.jslweb.com/phelps
 Phipps, Paul www.phippsrevivalministries.com
 Pickering, Dean & Twanda www.pickeringministries.com
 Pickle, Robert www.rpsetfree.org
 Raeburn, Steve & Janet www.RedNoseMinistries.com
 Reed, Sherman www.shermanreed.org
 Rittgers, Del www.delrittgersministries.com
 Rushing, Tracy and Terri www.therushings.org
 Scrivner, Vickie www.ihsministries.org
 Sharpe, Vance and Jeannie www.thesharps.com
 Shelburne, Jeffrey www.theshelburnes.com
 Shellenberger, Susie www.AmbassadorAgency.com
 Showalter, Keith www.showalterevangelism.com
 Smith, Duane www.duanesmithministries.com
 Spears, Danny www.spearsfamilyministries.org
 Stephens, Ken www.speakingtoamerica.com
 Tharp, James W. www.crmin.org
 Thompson, L. Alan www.thompsonministries.com
 Ulmet, Bill www.ulmetministries.com
 Vineyard, JoAnn www.mnjministries.org
 Ward, Dale www.freedomquest.org
 Whitworth, Marcus www.marcuswhitworth.com
 Wetnight, Rick www.RickWetnight.com
 Willison, Rick www.radicallysaved.com
 Willits, Erik www.erikwillits.com
 Winchester, Larry www.grace-outreach.org

I wondered how I had lived so long without knowing God's blessing upon these people called Nazarenes. The Church had become my deep-hearted treasure, as her doctrinal truths became a reality in my life. I wanted everyone to find the same joy and truth I had found in Christ. I wanted everyone to know these people called Nazarenes.



Nothing Else Compares

by Elaine Pettit

In 1981, my husband Rick and I, along with three young sons, attended our very first Nazarene service. Although we had both grown up in Michigan, we had never heard of the Nazarenes. A friend had insisted that we visit his Church, Chapman Memorial Church in Vicksburg, Michigan. To make him happy, we went, intending a one-time visit. But what we experienced that Sunday so impressed us that we are Nazarenes to this day.

The congregation was kind, and the pastor preached a powerful message. Yet more drawing than either of these was God's presence in the service. We realized that we had found something special and made it our goal to investigate these people called Nazarenes.

In that day, Chapman Memorial hosted frequent cottage prayer meetings in homes located on the nearby district campgrounds at Indian Lake. We were curious to see what took place at these meetings, so we went. Again, the presence of God was very real. We would come to the meeting carrying the stress and burdens of life and would leave with a new sense of faith and determination to serve God and to be overcomers.

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Rev. Elaine Pettit, Kalamazoo, MI
Evangelist, Church of the Nazarene

Like other mountains that beckon us to deal with them, we must be honest with ourselves that the conviction to preach the message of holiness, articulating it clearly, is indeed a mountain to be climbed. I pray we will have both the courage and the heart to embrace who we are and where we are.

PREFERRED FUTURE

Knowing the future fascinates everyone in some way, even those who fear it. Only a few years ago as we crossed into the third millennia, shelves of bookstores were lined with the predictions of authors on the future of every area of life. While they may have provided for interesting reading, most of them missed the target.

Though we may not be able to forecast the future, we can all have a vision for our “preferred future.”

Those who study demographics and trends tell us that by the year 2030 the Church of the Nazarene will be home to 3 million members. We will, they predict, have a presence in approximately 200 world areas with the great majority of our members residing outside the United States and Canada. While it is impossible to see the future with complete accuracy, we must take responsibility for having a clear vision of our “preferred future.”

In our 2008 report to the General Board, the Board of General Superintendents set before the church some principles that we believe must shape our “preferred future”:

1. Dependence upon God

Jesus instructed His disciples to pray: “In this manner, therefore pray” (Matthew 6:9NKJV). He modeled prayer and time alone with God in His daily life. In this spirit, the Board of General Superintendents has launched a series of Prayer Summits that will eventually circle the globe. We pray that a “prayer movement” will sweep across the church.

2. The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV). We are and will continue to be a people who celebrate the inspiration and authority of the Holy Bible.

3. The Doctrine and Experience of Entire Sanctification

“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 devotement to God, and the holy obedience of love made perfect.” (2005-2009 Manual of the Church of the Nazarene, Articles of Faith, X)

This is the core of the DNA of the Church of the Nazarene—who we are and plan to be throughout the future. There is always the need to use language that speaks to new generations. At the same time, the Articles of Faith introduce biblical language to a world that no longer understands that language.

4. The Local Church

The local church, the Body of Christ, is the representation of our faith and mission. The local church is the Church of the Nazarene, the primary though not exclusive unit of mission. God bless our pastors and laity for all they do in the name of Jesus.


5. New Church Evangelism

Planting new churches is one of the best ways not only to reach people for Christ, but also to make disciples. Future pastors, missionaries, teachers and general superintendents will be raised up when God moves through His people to establish the church.

Will you embrace this vision of our “preferred future?” Will you join with us to move from the “present realities” to this “preferred future?” It will take commitment, sacrifice, and unity of spirit and heart.

In “Making the Climb,” John Bowling expresses some lessons he learned from Mount Kilimanjaro that will help us as we pursue this vision of the future:

- Set a goal.
- Go with a [G]uide.
- Go with a group.
- Prepare for the journey.
- Keep looking up.
- Travel lightly.
- Maintain your balance.
- Stay flexible.
- Don't put yourself in danger.
- Get up every time you fall down!

A mountain much larger and more majestic than Mount Kilimanjaro is waiting for the Church of the Nazarene. May God inspire each of us to get a grip on this “preferred future” and likewise be drawn to make the climb. 



Dr. J.K. Warrick
Olathe, KS
General Superintendent,
Church of the Nazarene

the Vision

by Pete Greig, 24-7 Prayer Movement, www.24-7prayer.com

So this guy comes up to me and says “What’s the vision? What’s the big idea?” I open my mouth and words come out like this...

The vision?

The vision is **JESUS**
– obsessively, dangerously, undeniably Jesus.
The vision is **an army** of young people.
You see bones? I see an army.
And they are **FREE** from materialism.

They laugh at 9-5 little prisons.
They could eat caviar on Monday and crusts on Tuesday.
They wouldn’t even notice.
They know the meaning of the Matrix,
the way the West was won.
They are mobile like the wind, they belong to the nations.
They need no passport.

People write their addresses in pencil and wonder
at their strange existence.
They are free yet they are slaves
of the hurting and dirty and dying.

What is the vision?

The vision is **holiness** that hurts the eyes.
It makes children laugh and adults angry.
It gave up the game of minimum integrity long ago
to reach for the stars.
It scorns the good and strains for the best.
It is dangerously pure.

Light flickers from every secret motive,
every private conversation.
It loves people away from their suicide leaps,
their Satan games.
This is an army that will lay down its life for the cause.
A million times a day its soldiers
choose to lose
that they might one day win
the great “Well done” of faithful sons and daughters.
Such heroes are as radical on Monday morning as
Sunday night. They don’t need fame from names.
Instead they grin quietly upwards and hear the crowds
chanting again and again:

“COME ON!”

And this is the sound of the underground

The whisper of history in the making
Foundations shaking
Revolutionaries dreaming once again
Mystery is scheming in whispers
Conspiracy is breathing...

This is the sound of the underground
And the army is **discipl(in)ed**.

Young people who beat their bodies
into submission.

Every soldier would take a bullet
for his comrade at arms.

The tattoo on their back boasts, “**For me to live is
Christ and to die is gain.**”

Sacrifice fuels the fire of victory in their
upward eyes.

Winners. Martyrs. Who can stop them?
Can hormones hold them back?
Can failure succeed?

Can fear scare them or death kill them?
And the generation **prays**

like a dying man
with groans beyond talking,
with warrior cries, sulfuric tears and
with great barrow loads of laughter!

Waiting. Watching: **24-7-365**.

Whatever it takes they will give:
Breaking the rules. Shaking mediocrity from its
cozy little hide. Laying down their rights and their
precious little wrongs, laughing at labels, fasting
essentials. The advertisers cannot mould them.
Hollywood cannot hold them. Peer-pressure is
powerless to shake their resolve
at late night parties before the cockerel cries.
They are incredibly cool, **dangerously attractive**
inside.

On the outside? They hardly care. They wear
clothes like costumes to communicate and celebrate
but never to hide.

Would they surrender their image or their popularity?

They would lay down their very lives—swap seats
with the man on death row—guilty as hell.
A throne for an electric chair.
With blood and sweat and many tears, with sleepless
nights and fruitless days,
they pray as if it all depends on God and live as if it
all depends on them.

Their DNA chooses JESUS.

(He breathes out, they breathe in.)

Their subconscious sings.

They had a blood transfusion with Jesus.

Their words make demons scream in shopping centers.


Don’t you hear them coming?

Herald the weirdos! Summon the losers and the freaks.
Here come the frightened and forgotten with fire in their
eyes. They walk tall and trees applaud, skyscrapers bow,
mountains are dwarfed by these children of another
dimension. Their prayers summon the hounds of heaven
and invoke the ancient dream of Eden.

And this vision will be. It will come to pass;
it will come easily; it will come soon.

How do I know? Because this is the longing of creation
itself, the groaning of the Spirit, the very dream of God.

My tomorrow is his today. My distant hope is his 3-D.
And my feeble, whispered, faithless prayer invokes a thun-
derous, resounding, bone-shaking great “Amen!” from
countless angels, from heroes of the faith, from Christ him-
self. And he is the original dreamer, the ultimate winner.

Guaranteed. 

(used by permission)



God n their bx

[God in Their Box]

by Peggy Poteet

Eight new freshmen sat in my living room looking forward to their first year in college. Their parents had moved them into the dorms, said their tearful farewells, and now these 18-year-olds were on their own. You could sense the mix of excitement and anxiety as they dealt with the unfamiliar and wondered what the future held for them.

We had asked them to bring a “Me Box” of a few things that meant a great deal to them, objects that defined who they were. The things they shared were predictable: a cross necklace from a special girl, car keys, a Bible, pictures of friends and family, souvenirs from travels, athletic gear. By far the most common treasures were I-pods, cell phones and remotes they used to play Halo or a Wii. I knew that if my college-aged son had been in the room that his box would have looked much the same. Technology was in their blood.

There is something wonderful about freshmen. Every year they are the same age, which deludes me into thinking I have stayed the same age too. But of course I haven't. It is easy to forget sometimes how different their

world is from the world of the students I taught two decades ago. According to a study by Professor Michael Wesch's anthropology class at Kansas State University, most college students today will read only eight books in a semester (which grieves the heart of any literature professor), but they will read 2,300 web pages, (more than 21 a day) and 1,281 Facebook profiles. They will write only 42 pages for class assignments but more than 500 pages of e-mail. And the number of text messages that will bounce from phone to phone in a four-month span is impossible to imagine.

It is easy to worry about the intellectual development of this seemingly post-literate generation. It is also easy to click our tongues at the casual style of these students as they flip-flop through life with music massaging their ears, thumbs working frantically as they seem to text their lives away.

It is infinitely more troubling to worry about their spiritual health with the availability of drugs, the suicide rates, the eating disorders, and the moral slide that can easily engulf them. And it is easy to fret when

the word “Nazarene” doesn’t seem to mean as much to them as it has traditionally meant to past generations. It makes one wonder what will become of the church of the future they will lead.

Paw [Parents are watching]

To be honest, we haven’t made growing up easy for them.

Many of these young people have been raised by helicopter-parents who have showered them with trophies and sheltered them from troublesome circumstances. These students have dutifully borne the weight of parents’ egos as they have been influenced to see the world from a paradigm of “it’s all about me.”

They have watched their parents fight their battles and sometimes defend them even when they have been wrong.

They have been tossed into a sea of relativism that has blurred the definitions of right and wrong.

They have struggled to survive life in fractured families.

They have been taught that money is the bottom line for choosing a college or deciding a major.

They have learned by example to be good consumers and “productive” inhabitants of the nearest mall.

They have been convinced that their needs are many.

It is easy to say “*woe*” with the prophets and lament the inevitable doom of this new generation. Considering the fact that the descriptions above fit many of the youth today, maybe we *should* worry.

But I don’t, and here’s why.

I see something in these young people that is exciting and full of promise. The trifles that are now in their “Me Boxes” can truly be transformed as they grow to become all that God has meant for them to be. They have resources never before realized and the hearts to use them to be Jesus to the world they live in.

AAYF [As always your friend]

They truly value their friends: a few years ago I entered the world of Facebook. I learned a lot about the interests of my students and realized that if I contacted them in that venue, they would listen. You can make friends quite easily on Facebook – just click on a name and ask. In this virtual reality, it is not that intimidating. But the networks of people that form by this means are mind-boggling. The connections reach around the world many times over. They use them to promote causes, share prayer requests and encourage each other. In a world of isolation and individualism, they are poised to change these seemingly shallow virtual relationships to

true Christian community. They have the power to bring the Kingdom of God to cyberspace.

wl wrk 4 God [Will work for God]

They are people of passion: all night Halo games; hours spent on the court or the playing field; shirts that announce their feelings about causes, bands, and candidates are a part of their lives. For many, this passion will be carried on to their life’s work, because work for so many of them will be a true calling, something they love. They will insist on it. Rejecting old pragmatic notions of success, they will be prone to follow their hearts – even when it might be seem unwise to an older generation protective of their future income.

Go N2ll d wrld [Go into all the world]

They can—and do—go almost anywhere on the planet. In the 1920s my grandparents followed a missionary call across the world to China. Such travel was risky and rare. It took weeks to arrive, and support and letters from home were long in coming. They labored hard under primitive surroundings, suffering hunger and danger, grieving for a stillborn baby, raising their young sons in the midst of want and deprivation. Dodging bullets from warlords and the insurgence of Communist troops, they were finally forced to leave a country they had grown to love with only the clothes on their backs.

My students also feel this passion to share Christ around the world, but now it is so much easier to do it. Many of them have already traveled the world through work and witness opportunities or programs like Youth In Mission. Just recently more than 40 from my church and college traveled to Swaziland to continue a long-term project of ministering to a whole country dying of AIDS. The exciting thing is that this generation has the resources and ability to actually go into all the world to preach the gospel. They have the technology they need to change the course of history, and they will do it.

Wen iCu iC Gsus [When I see you, I see Jesus]

They are people who care. It is not unlike them to set aside their comforts to show compassion. You can find them working in after-school programs, comforting the homeless, or packing boxes for Feed the Children. You can find them in the inner cities and in school classrooms loving kids for Jesus’ sake. You will find them doing things that really matter.

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NOTHING ELSE COMPARES

> *continued from page 13*

Our faith and hunger for God growing, Rick and I began attending Sunday and Wednesday evenings as well. Soon we were invited to camp meeting services at Indian Lake to hear people called Evangelists, who sang and preached day and night.

A few weeks after the camp meeting services ended, Chapman Memorial announced that they were going to have fall revival services. Once again, the power of God filled the sanctuary. Hands were raised, tears were shed and “Amen” could be heard throughout the room! Seekers would move out to fill the altar. Some would tarry at the altar weeping, while still others seemed to wrestle and agonize before finding relief and peace in the midst of their storm.

I wondered how I had lived so long without knowing God’s blessing upon these people called Nazarenes. The Church had become my deep-hearted treasure, as her doctrinal truths became a reality in my life. I wanted everyone to find the same joy and truth I had found in Christ. I wanted everyone to know these people called Nazarenes.

It has now been 27 years and—although she is still a great church, treasured in my heart—some things have changed. Many churches today have talented praise and worship leaders and teams, yet some of the same ones singing enthusiastically their choruses, often leave the service to continue in their sinful ways. Many have beautiful buildings with large congregations, yet few are the clear and fiery testimonies of those who’ve been recently saved and sanctified. A number of churches today feel no need for revival services. Yet as a Tenured Evangelist who has worked the altars for nearly two decades, I have seen the reality that there are serious sin issues in the church. Absent in many places are people willing to come to an altar, let alone to tarry there or agonize over their sinful ways. Rare are cottage prayer meetings, rarer still all-night prayer meetings. Professors and leaders are our camp meeting speakers, while the falling of God’s glory on old-time holiness Evangelists seems a distant memory.

Great value is placed on preachers’ educational status, while little is said about the need for God’s anointing power. Leonard Ravenhill, in his book “Why Revival Taries,” said that we have many organizers but few agonizers. After working closely with pastors week-in and week-out for many years, it appears that too little training

and attention is given in this area. Ravenhill said that “unction cannot be learned, only earned—by prayer.” Often when pastors and layman are challenged to stop their daily routine in order to pray an hour alone with the Lord, many respond that they are too busy to pray. It seems that many do not understand the connection between prayer and anointing and between prayer and conviction power. Because of this lack of understanding, the importance of private prayer is too often minimized. As a result, I fear that many have quit inquiring of the Lord on a daily basis. When this takes place, our only alternative is to lean unto our own understanding, which in the final analysis will prove disastrous. Jesus said that apart from Him, we can do nothing (John 15).

This year, in which we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Church of the Nazarene, I believe we stand at a crossroads. Although we are in some ways heading in the right direction, for example, with our Prayer and Holiness Summits, I also believe that we are in greater need of a genuine outpouring of the Holy Spirit in revival than we realize.

We first need a revival to take place in our personal prayer lives. We need to put into practice Matthew 6:6 on

“The man
who can get
believers to
praying
would,
under God,
usher in the
greatest
revival that
the world
has ever
known.”

a daily basis: “But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is unseen. Then your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you” (NIV). Unlike Martha, who in Luke 10:38-42 was too busy with her duties to stop and pray, we need rather to be like Mary, who was faithful to sit at Jesus’ feet and commune with Him. Jesus commended her by saying that she did the one thing that was needed. Andrew Murray in his book, “Waiting on God” said, “Many of us are too occupied with our work. As with Martha, the very service we want to render the Master separates us from Him.” According to former General Superintendent J. G. Morrison, “God’s answer to

every age of infidelity has been a revival! But everywhere that one has been found, there was found first a company of believing souls, over whose faith God was operating to bring to pass the thing for which they were believing!”


According to revival historian and author Dr. Robert Coleman, “When the Spirit of revival does not prevail, it is purely a human failure to exercise God-given privileges of grace.... We cannot excuse away our own responsibility for revival to come to our land.”

Leonard Ravenhill, in “Judgment,” writes, “The man who can get believers to praying would, under God, usher in the greatest revival that the world has ever known.”

If we want God to move in a powerfully miraculous way once again upon the Church of the Nazarene, we must prepare the way (Matt. 3:3, Isaiah 40:3). We must not only be willing to humble ourselves and admit our need for revival, but we need to begin to seek God more honestly, more earnestly, more desperately than ever before. We must pray until we agonize over the souls of men. In this, Jesus is our example: “During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission” (Hebrews 5:7).

As Leonard Ravenhill once asked, “Do you get so near to the heart of God that you share His grief over the world? Have we pain in our hearts for perishing men?” If we struggle with that, Romans 8:26-27 tells us: “the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.” Ravenhill also said, “In the matter of New Testament, Spirit-inspired, hell-shaking, world-breaking prayer, never has so much been left by so many to so few.”

Reflecting back, it is clear that it wasn’t any program that drew us to the Church of the Nazarene. It wasn’t a great building, since back then Chapman Memorial was the “little white church on the corner.” It wasn’t the music program or the choir, and praise and worship hadn’t yet been introduced. It wasn’t even a fine children’s program—Rick and I started the first class for 2-year-olds in the janitor’s closet. No, it wasn’t any of these things that convinced us to join with the Nazarenes. It was the reality of God’s presence upon the services.

Nearly 30 years have passed since that first Sunday service at Chapman Memorial Church. The Lord has been faithful to our family. Of the 10 of us today, (our three sons and their wives, our two daughters, my husband and I) five are Nazarene Evangelists, and three are Nazarene ministers. I will be forever indebted to the Church of the Nazarene and her people, yet my sincere hope and glorious vision for her is that as a people, she will become desperate for another great outpouring of the Holy Ghost in our day. J.G. Morrison, in “Achieving Faith,” challenges us to “venture to believe.... Let us put through a genuine faith to God and see what happens! His mighty cloud of resources is swelling...just over our heads! In it is the greatest revival that the earth has ever seen!” Dr. Peter Lundell in our book, “When God Bursts In: Revival Then and Now,” writes: “If any from the holiness revival were here today, they would plead with us to lay aside everything we have and all we are doing to pursue the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Nothing else compares.” 

(The photo collage on the right is of the Pettit family.)



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fall/winter 2008-

Revival Fires

unusual breakthroughs of the Holy Spirit in our churches!

“Our Church Has Been Renewed”

Dr. Millhuff,

Last night we concluded a tremendous revival with Dr. Gary Haines. Our church, Waldron Arkansas First Church of the Nazarene, committed to Saturday all night prayer sessions for eight weeks before the first Sunday of revival. Our Lord taught us that in order to produce good harvest, both good seed and good soil are necessary. We believed if we did our part, God would do His.

The first meeting was held on Sunday morning. God’s presence filled the sanctuary. Dr. Haines both sang and preached with a great anointing, and the hearts of our people were warmed and drawn by the Holy Spirit. At the conclusion of the service, Dr. Haines gave the invitation, and at that moment there was a great movement of the Spirit. In one continuous movement, most everyone moved forward to pray. It was a tremendous day as we were refreshed and renewed by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

That evening the Lord treated us with His presence through Gary’s musical gifts in a concert of praise for the morning victories. Dr. Millhuff, it saddens me to hear that some churches are foregoing the scheduling of revival meetings. Our church has been renewed, and I cannot help but believe that other churches desire the same. So to help those who may desire revival but cannot afford an evangelist, please find enclosed the love offering that was received for the “Revival Fund” of the Church of the Nazarene. It is the prayer of the people at Waldron First that God will use and multiply this seed and produce the harvest of revival within another fellow congregation.

Our people need revival. Our colleges need revival. Our universities need revival. Our denomination needs revival. May our prayer be this: God send revival. Thank you for all your efforts in the area of evangelism, and may God richly bless you in your endeavors.

Enjoying God’s Grace,

Marvin Frederick, Pastor
First Church of the Nazarene,
Waldron, Arkansas



Has God been working in an unusual way in your church or camp meeting? We encourage you to submit written accounts.

God is painting on a large canvas. Fixing attention on one small part of the painting causes a loss of perspective. The magnificence of the painting is lost. It seems a large number of Christians today have become so preoccupied with negative aspects of end times that they have lost a biblical perspective on Christian Hope. It is almost as if anti-Christ has been given greater “billing” than Christ. Evil is real. Satan will make his last desperate stand. Terrors will come upon the wicked. Unprecedented, horrifying cataclysmic upheavals will occur on earth near the end of history. God’s final day of judgment will come. But these events need to be kept in context. They are not the last chapter. Beyond Satan’s last gasping breath and hell’s last hurrah, the kingdom of God will come in consummate fullness.

In this present world of sin and suffering, it is overwhelmingly clear that God’s kingdom has not yet fully come. But with the death and resurrection of Jesus, that kingdom has decidedly, powerfully and gloriously begun. This truth is vividly expressed in Colossians 2:15 where the Apostle Paul writes that having disarmed the powers and authorities, Jesus made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the Cross.


When Jesus, at the hour of his second coming, brings the complete kingdom of

God, the vision in Revelation 21 will come to pass. The heavenly city will come down to earth. The prayer of Jesus will be answered: God’s kingdom will come and His will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven. The triumphant exclamation in Revelation 11:15 will be realized: the kingdom of the world will become the kingdom of our God and of His Christ. And He shall reign forever and ever.

In Romans 8 some of the most dramatic language is given to describe the new creation God will bring. Here Paul describes all creation as eagerly expecting and groaning, not only for God’s people to come into new creation, but for creation itself to be set free from corruption and decay and be brought into God’s new creation. This new creation will not be the utopian dream to which fallen humanity often clings. It will not come through human progress. It will only come fully at the reappearing of Jesus the Messiah and King of Kings.

God is now redeeming His people, but ultimately all creation will be redeemed. A new creation will arrive with unspeakable beauty. As at the first creation’s dawn, the morning stars will again surely sing together. This present world will not become Satan’s spoils of war. God will transform it. This universal redemption of all creation will not negate or minimize individual salvation. But universal new creation is not universalism. God’s love allows the finally impenitent the freedom to choose being outside the redeemed community and away from the presence of Jesus forever.

A new world is on the way. It will be far more resplendent than even a thousand years of peace and perfection. It will be the end of evil and the death of death. It will be a world drenched with the glory and love of God. Our blessed loved ones who have crossed the river of death will come home with us, bodily, radiantly alive forever. No shadows will gather. No night will come. No tears will fall. No hearts will be broken with grief. Our ageless bodies will never be withered or infirmed. Our eyes will never grow dim. All violence, war, hate and all traces of sin will be excluded and abolished. Pain will be eternally unknown. Memories of the grave will be no more. All sorrow will be banished from that bright world. We will not be sitting on a cloud, playing a harp. How boring that would be. But I would like to think we will be given wonderful new assignments and granted rapturous explorations of unimaginably beautiful celestial realms.

In God’s new creation, Christ the lamb will be the light. The universe will be suffused with the radiance from the face of Christ. But this will not be a pantheistic World. God’s creation will not be God. And we will not become Gods. Oprah is wrong. Only God will be God. And there will be no pagan worship of nature. Christ alone will be the focus. He alone will be worshiped. The unchallenged dominion of God will arrive. God’s sanctified people will live in a sanctified world and heaven and earth will be one. 



OPRAH IS WRONG

by G. Stuart McWhirter

**A new world
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continues to grow, there is a greater demand for Hispanic Evangelists to proclaim the Gospel.


With the growth of the Hispanic population, problems and issues are on the rise, too. There are 283,000 Hispanics in federal and state prisons and local jails. About 161,505 Hispanics were diagnosed with AIDS from 2003 to 2006. Suicide ranks as the 11th leading cause of death for individuals of Hispanic origin of all races and ages, and the third cause of death for those between 15 and 24 years old. And the problems continue to grow.

The question is being asked, “What do we do?” For some the answer is better government programs and better involvement. I believe with all my heart the answer is Jesus Christ. As Christian Nazarenes, we hold in our hands a life and death message that needs to be delivered to hurting Hispanics. Jesus is the Hope for our generation.

Throughout the years, I have read and heard that we are in great need of Hispanic pastors and new Hispanic churches, and I agree 100 percent; but I’ve never read or heard anything about the need for Hispanic Nazarene Evangelists in the United States and Canada. We need more Hispanic Nazarenes who will respond to the call of God—Evangelists who will proclaim the Gospel, preach scriptural holiness, be an instrument of revival, who will help and encourage pastors and churches, who will help and be part of new church starts—not as a competitor with the Pastor but as a partner in ministry—and who will help churches and pastors with training in personal Evangelism and in effective follow-up ministry to conserve the fruit of Evangelism.

About 400 Hispanic churches are in the United States and Canada. In 2007, 203 revivals were reported. This means that 52 percent of churches reported a revival and 86 Evangelists were used. As growth goes, 3,662 Hispanic Nazarenes were won, but the loss was 1,930. You do the math.

God is asking, “Whom shall I send, and will go for US?” (Isaiah 6:8 NKJV) Are you willing to say to the Lord, “Here am I! Send me!” Maybe you have the call to be an Evangelist but have fear or a certain doubt about your call. Or you have the call and wonder about finances. Then allow me to remind you what Paul wrote to Timothy: “Do the work of Evangelist” (2 Timothy 4:5 NKJV). “Do not neglect the gift that is in you” (1 Timothy 4:14 NKJV). We must never minimize our Evangelistic gift. God’s gifts, like the talent, must never be left unused. “Stir up the gift of God which is in you” (2 Timothy 1:6 NKJV). An Evangelistic gift is to be used, not neglected.

Jesus said, “Therefore pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest” (Luke 10:2b NKJV). Will you join me in prayer to reach Hispanics in our nation? The day is today; the time is now. Answer the CALL. 

GOD N THEIR BX


> *continued from page 17*

This past summer some of our Nazarene students participated in an “AIDS Summit on the Hill” in Washington, D.C., joining with students from all over the United States as they learned about global poverty and injustice and ways to become advocates for those who can’t speak for themselves. Christian young people were the ones to start this movement and promote strategic action for change in campuses across the United States.

Each winter between Christmas and New Years, more than 150 young people from my college zone, many of them high school and college students, use their vacation time to travel to Mexico to partner with Nazarene churches there. They build, paint, hold Bible Schools and support their fellow Nazarenes. They return different people.

The success of Youth in Mission and the long list of post-college young people serving short-term assignments around the world show that my students—our students—are not daunted by overwhelming social problems in their world, for their fresh eyes often see these problems as doable challenges instead.

When they see an AIDS patient, they see the face of Jesus; illegal aliens become a mission field at their own front door. Drug problems open venues to be our Lord’s hands and feet, and a homosexual is first and foremost someone Jesus died for.

In my living room that day I didn’t see a generation of protected, self-gratifying, techno-kids. Instead I knew that God in his way and in his time, with their permission, would fill their boxes and their lives with Himself. I knew this because I had seen it happen again and again, year after year. I knew that if I loved them and prayed for them, if I mentored them and encouraged them, they would partner with God to do things beyond my imagination. I knew that as long as my church gave them the opportunity to be the Christians God had called them to be, that they would continue to be ours as well as God’s. I knew that with the power of the Holy Spirit, nothing would hold them back. 



Dr. Peggy Poteet
Bethany, OK
Chair, Department of English,
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GOD'S VISION

by *Stephen Manley*

The day of Pentecost was a turning point in the Kingdom of God. Things would never be the same again. The outside God had now come inside the life of man. Three to five thousand men had come to Jerusalem from every part of the world and were astonished with what God was doing in and through the believers. They believed God was doing a new thing. They were open and seeking. Seeing the fullness of the Holy Spirit in the disciples, they ask, "Whatever could this mean?" (Acts 2:12)

Moved by the Holy Spirit, Peter stood to give explanation. He selected a text from the prophet Joel and then began his sermon: "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know" (Acts 2:22). Peter was telling this great crowd what they already knew and understood. "Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you." They embraced Jesus as a man and ate His free food as from the hand of a man. They did not believe He was an angel or ghost. They crucified Him, understanding He was a man.

Peter explained the most important factor about His manhood! He is "a Man attested by God." The Greek word translated "attested" is the heart of the matter. The root word means "to show, to display." It also has a prefix which means "from." In the context of our verse, there is coming from God a revelation or a VISION which is being made known to us. This Greek word is only used four times in the New Testament. In writing to the people of Corinth Paul uses it to mean "shown, displayed in terms of appointed or caused to be," (1 Corinthians 4:9). In another epistle, he uses this word to mean "displayed or shown with the undercurrent of prov-

ing and authenticating," (2 Thessalonians 2:4). This same Greek word is used in the courtroom scene. The Jews from Jerusalem accuse Paul before Festus while he sits on the judgment seat (Acts 25:7). However, they could not "prove" any of their accusations.

In our passage (Acts 2:22), God displays, shows, points out, commends, authenticates and validates one single thing. God has one focus or VISION. It is Jesus! He does not attempt to point out His power; He did that in creation. His primary attempt is not to prove His love; He did that in giving us life. His VISION is Jesus. God's entire focus is on Jesus. He gives all of His energy and effort in Jesus. God's one dream and passion is Jesus. Everything God wants for us is found in Jesus. Jesus is God's VISION!

If God's VISION is Jesus, then what should be our vision? If God is entirely focused on Jesus, then what should be our focus? If God's passion is Jesus, then what should be our passion?

While we cannot impose our time limitations on God, it is impressive to view the progression of the Old Testament. It begins with the account of man's fall into sin. God rushes to the scene to begin the restoration work. His promise of redemption is focused in the first Messianic Promise (Gen 3:15). He promised the Seed of the woman would bruise the head of the serpent. This coming Seed would be the single answer to bringing man back to intimacy with God. All that had gone wrong within man would be corrected by this Seed. It was Jesus! The entire Old Testament is about the unfolding plan to produce the platform for the appearance of this Seed. The history of Abraham is all about this coming Seed. The reason for Moses and the Law is this one single focus. Every sacrificial lamb offered pointed to the Lamb of God who was to come. The entire temple revolved around this coming of God's VISION.

In the New Testament, John the Baptist boldly declared His arrival. He cried, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matthew 3:2) He literally stated that the King had arrived. God's VISION was now present. There was nothing left to prepare. This is the completion of God's dream. God moved in a direction and the arrival is Jesus. Jesus is God's VISION!

Everything God wants for you and me is found in Jesus! There is nothing outside of Him. The phrase "in Christ" is used at least 200 times in the New Testament. It is used eight times in Galatians, 34 times in Ephesians, and 18 times in Colossians. Paul shouts, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3). Indeed, God has blessed us. This blessing is Christ. God has spoken into being (blessed)

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Stephen Manley
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Evangelist,
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GOD'S VISION *by Stephen Manley*

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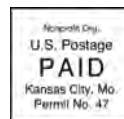
every good thing. It is all in Jesus. No wonder, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). Paul echoed this truth when he said, "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him," (Colossians 2:9, 10).

If we are to have a vision, should it not be God's VISION? We must not focus on anything else. Jesus is our message, our source, and our being. He does not give us life, nor aid our life; He is our life! This is an hour to be captivated by Him. Is He not our distinctive? Every worship service, every Sunday school class must be about Him. Our people must leave our services saturated in Jesus. Each problem must be confronted with Jesus as the answer. The moment we substitute something for Him, however good it might be, we have strayed from God's VISION. Let us be captured anew with the VISION of God. 

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