

SPRING 2014

# THE EVANGELISTS' *Perspective*



**NORMAN &  
VICKIE MOORE**  
JUST A BUS KID  
FROM THE EAST SIDE

CHECK OUT NEW PRODUCTS FROM  
YOUR FAVORITE EVANGELIST

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Evangelists and song evangelists are some of the “folk heroes” in the history of the Church of the Nazarene. You give a new meaning to the term “road warrior.” The value of your service to God’s kingdom is something only heaven will reveal. Across the generations the format of revival has changed dramatically, but the timeless message of scriptural holiness is as relevant and needed today as at any time in our history. You are an important part of the church’s effort to speak a prophetic word into the post-Christian age in which we live. As you follow hard after God’s own heart, may He enable you to clearly proclaim the mystery that is “Christ in you the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27, NIV).

**Dr. David Graves**  
*General Superintendent  
Church of the Nazarene*



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## FROM THE EDITOR

This past winter proved to be a very memorable one. For several weeks in a row I spent hours every other day plowing snow from my driveway and helping neighbors with their snow removal efforts.

On Sunday December 28, I received a call informing me that my friend and fellow evangelist P.L. Liddell had gone to be with the Lord. My first thought was that I was so glad that our family of evangelists had honored P.L. with the lifetime achievement award a few months earlier at the annual evangelists’ camp meeting in August. I will never forget observing his surprise at the recognition and then the tears of appreciation as everyone in the congregation walked by to embrace him while standing in the old tabernacle at Indian Lake. And now he was in heaven having received the greatest award possible.

The memorial service was scheduled at the Church of the Nazarene in Argentine, MI on Tuesday, December 31. The weather was not making travel very easy but the church was filled when Beth and I arrived.

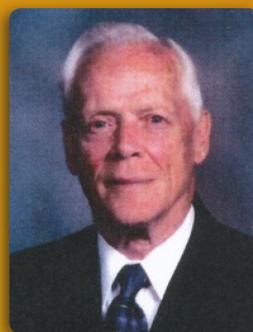
Pastors and spouses from all over the Eastern Michigan District filled the choir loft and celebrated with the congregation in singing hymns of praise. P.L. was truly a holiness preacher so the first hymn was "Holiness Unto the Lord." He was also a wonderful musician, singer, and song writer. His song entitled, "When I Said Yes to Jesus," basically chronicled his own spiritual journey and reflected over sixty consecutive years of ministry.

Prior to his home going, we learned that P.L. had been calling friends and family with an urgent message. He sensed the rapture was very near! He was prepared and anticipating that meeting with the Lord and wanted to make sure others were ready as well. The choir of ministers sang, "When We All Get to Heaven" accompanied by the congregation's shouts and resounding "amens."

Pastor Rick Jones from Missouri delivered a powerful holiness message. There was such a sweet spirit and genuine liberty and freedom that again the sermon was punctuated with the praises of the people. As Rev. Jones was making his closing remarks, the Holy Spirit led him to conclude the message with an old-fashioned altar call. As we stood to sing "I Surrender All", the invitation was given and there was a response at the altar. After praying with those at the altar and giving praise for victories won, the words of "Amazing Grace" filled the sanctuary. After the last verse and in camp meeting tradition the congregation added, "and

when the battle's over we shall wear a crown in the new Jerusalem." "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing." (2 Timothy 4:7-8) ★

*G. Bond*



**Rev. P. L. Liddell**

*June 6, 1925 – December 28, 2013*

The Longest Serving Nazarene Evangelist  
Commissioned Evangelist and Song Evangelist -  
Eastern Michigan District



Royal Albert Hall "Messiah"

**Seeing God move in another culture is a really amazing experience! That is exactly what we experienced in December 2012. We were privileged to come alongside our old friends, Christopher and Karen Lewis in Leeds, England. The trip initiated our 40th anniversary of marriage and ministry which we celebrated officially in August 2013.**

Christopher and Karen have served in Scotland, Mexico, and England North District Church of the Nazarene. Chris and I have worked together in Scotland, Mexico, Spain, Central California, and now Leeds, England! Chris has served as an evangelist from the Central California District, preached

all over the United States, Canada, South America, India, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Spain, and has made many trips to Tanzania and Kenya over the years. He has planted churches in Mexico, South America, India, East Africa, and Scotland. His lovely wife, Karen, a native of Scotland, has worked with him in Mexico and now at South Leeds Church of the Nazarene, England.

Elizabeth and I spent three weeks in England. The first two weeks I preached in Leeds, South Church of the Nazarene and also in Ilkeston, near



Chris and Karen Lewis

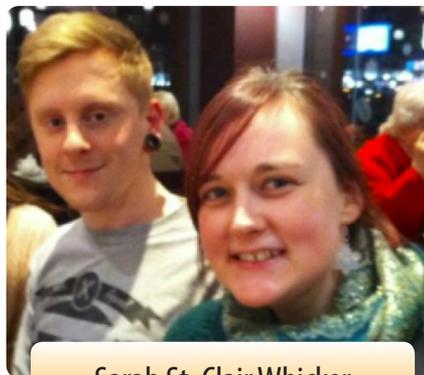


Mike and Elizabeth Adams

Nottingham at the Ilkeston Church of the Nazarene with George and Clare McMullen and their two sons. We had great services at both churches. We were hoping to be an encouragement to the local churches that are working in an extraordinarily secularist culture. George and Clare are off to a wonderful start in their ministry in Ilkeston and we had great fellowship with them. On our way back north to Leeds we had car trouble on the dual carriageway and spent several hours waiting for a tow. It was cold but we kept a stiff upper lip as it were! Our work at Leeds included preaching to the congregation, sharing in small group Bible studies, speaking to several teens in the "YOUTHWORX" ministry led ably by Sarah St. Clair Whicker, a very dynamic young woman with strong ministry gifts. She also serves as Associate Pastor to Christopher. The young people are from many different cultures and backgrounds. They were so much fun to hang out with. We also had a couple of strategy sessions for future YOUTHWORX ministries.

Another developing ministry of South Leeds is evangelism among the "Irish Travellers" Community. God has blessed with several conversions and baptisms. We were privileged to visit their Bible study and interact in the community. This past summer, one of the young men from the community traveled to Tanzania and Kenya with Chris and Karen and team members from Leeds South.

Along with these activities we were able to preach at NEW HOPE, an alcohol and drug rehab ministry led by Alistair Park. We'll never forget our singing, "Come Ye Vagabonds" with this large group on Sunday afternoon. Following the NEW HOPE service we enjoyed Christmas dinner with all the trimmings and an appearance of Santa "Alistair" Claus! In the midst of our work we took off a couple of days and attended Handel's "Messiah" presented at Royal Albert Hall in London! Over 5,000 people listened to Handel's masterpiece performed by a 500 voice choir and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. What an amazing night!



Sarah St. Clair Whicker

After two weeks of ministry and rich fellowship, we were mainly tourists the last week in London. There were visits to the London Eye, Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St Paul's Cathedral, Tower Bridge, many boroughs in London, and Wesley's chapel, home, and burial place. It was a fitting end to a fantastic trip to England. While visiting Wesley's chapel a sense of history and purpose came to us and encouraged us to continue to do the work of itinerant evangelism and revivalism wherever He may lead. ★

*Rev. Mike and Elizabeth Adams  
Tenured Evangelists  
Eastern Michigan District*

# NORMAN AND VICKIE MOORE



## JUST A BUS KID FROM THE EAST SIDE

Norman Moore was born in Denver, Colorado on April 5, 1948, but from age two through eighteen he lived in Pueblo (about 120 miles south of Denver).

His mom and dad never attended church, but when he was eleven he was invited by a caring layman, Lyle Leach, to ride the bus to Sunday School. Norman was attracted by the idea of playing first base, his favorite position, on the church softball team.

He still clearly recalls a hot Sunday night in 1959 when he, as an 11-year-old boy, after Pastor Harlan Heap's sermon, during the second verse of "Softly and Tenderly," when he stepped into the center aisle of the Westside Church of the Nazarene and knelt at the altar. Confessing and repenting of his sins and receiving Jesus Christ as his Savior, Norman stood to his feet with teary eyes and a toothy grin, knowing that he was saved!

Subsequently, in that same year, he was sanctified and surrendered to God's unmistakable call to preach. "So I set my face in the direction of becoming a preacher and I never looked back for a second!" Norman firmly recounts. He preached his first sermon at age thirteen.

He speaks with strong appreciation for those who had a spiritual influence in his young life: Pastors Harlan Heap, Tom Hermon, Albert Neuschwanger and Harold

Maish. Norman still remembers each Sunday School teacher: Bessie Gossett, Wanda Eastman, Kenneth Coffee, Wayne Naumann, Ray McKim, Theona Keller, and Maxine Dobbins. Added to these were the youth and music ministers: Lewis Thompson, Carlton Wood, and Paul Jackson. Each one made a contribution to Norman's growing spiritual life.

Although he never was an outstanding athlete, Norman enjoyed basketball, baseball and football. He was a member of the band in junior high and senior high school, focusing on brass instruments: coronet, sousaphone, baritone, and French horn. Norman also sang baritone in the high school choir. He claims he was just an average student from common roots.

His meaningful peer group was comprised of the teenagers at Pueblo First Church of the Nazarene. It was the center of his social life and discretionary time. He always sat on the front or second row in church and remembers attending revivals, hearing evangelists I. C. Mathis, Ivan Sisk, Bert Daniels, Nettie Miller, Bob Taylor, and Paul Martin!

In his high school years, he enjoyed serving as President of Nazarene Young People's Society and the local Youth Temperance Council. His political interests were growing, leading to his membership in Pueblo's Young Republicans.

Norman is a "car guy" and breaks into a really big smile when you get him to talk about his first car, at age sixteen: a "'57 Chevy Bel Air (4-door), with a 283 and 3 on-the-floor"!

He graduated from East High in May of 1966 and got a summer job at the local steel mill working on the railroad. Then, in early September he boarded a Greyhound bus and headed for California where he began his freshman year at Pasadena College.

During the summer between his freshman and sophomore years, Norman attended the Los Angeles District Camp Meeting held in the auditorium of Pasadena College. Dr. L. Guy Neese was the District Superintendent. The Evangelists were Ponder Gilliland and Dallas Bagget. The Song Evangelist was Jim Bohi. It was then it became unquestionably clear Norman's eventual focus in ministry would be as an itinerant evangelist.

During the fall semester Norman discussed this calling with the college chaplain, Dr. Reuben Welch, who affirmed this leading and also advised some years of pastoral experience to learn more about the local church.

In that same semester, September 1967, Norman met Vickie Elkins, during an Evangelistic Crusaders weekend ministry at the Nazarene church in Bloomington, California pastored by H. B. London. That weekend, college students held youth services led by Rick Savage.

Vickie was born in Huntington, West Virginia; she and her family moved to southern California when she was seven years old. Norman's first date with Vickie was to attend the Sunday night service at Pasadena First Church, where Dr. Earl Lee was pastor. Vickie had sensed God's call to full-time ministry when she was in college, even before she met Norman. They were later engaged to be married, knowing eventually Norman would be a full-time evangelist. Pastor Earl Lee conducted their wedding on June 7, 1969.

Vickie has been consistently supportive in their ministry. She volunteers as secretary and treasurer and manages accounting and finances and helping with the Annual Report for their Board of Directors. She gets Norman to and from the Orange County and Los Angeles airports. Vickie is always there to boost with prayer and an encouraging word. Occasionally, she travels with Norman to the revivals or camp meetings.

Other ministers followed, each with their particular impact on this young preacher: Shelburne Brown, Nicholas Hull, William McCumber, Marion McCandless, Blaine Strauser, Chuck Millhuff, and Charles Hastings Smith. Each provided a unique, edifying perspective for Norman's benefit. With the Lord's leading and these accumulative examples, a burning desire grew in

Norman's heart to have a significant spiritual influence in others' lives.

Norman served as a youth pastor for three and a half years and as a pastor for seven and a half years in southern California. He was ordained in 1973 and in 1979 he formed Norman Moore Ministries, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit evangelistic association.



His green light to proceed into itinerant evangelism is rooted in some profound devotional moments, reading Jeremiah 1:7-8: "But the Lord said to me, 'Do not say, I am only a child. You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you, declares the Lord'".

Since the beginning, Norman's objectives have been to win the lost to Jesus Christ, assist believers in sanctified discipleship, lead churches in genuine revival and encourage pastors and spouses in their ministries.

Norman has been privileged to preach in local church revivals, district camp meetings, area holiness crusades, universities, retreats, and missions. He has extended the reach of his ministry via Christian radio, television and his YouTube.com/PreacherNorman webpage. He has preached in 45 states and three foreign countries. His articles have been published in Holiness Today, The Preachers Magazine, Reflecting God, and The Evangelists' Perspective. He currently serves on the Committee on the Interests of the God- Called Evangelist.

Norman and Vickie live in Long Beach, California. They especially enjoy time with their daughter, Nickie, her husband, John, and their granddaughters, Tori and Kennedy, who live nearby.

Norman is a man of ethical, spiritual, and theological integrity. I have ministered with him on several occasions and always walk away from those events having been blessed and edified. I have no reservations in saying Norman Moore is a true role model for all ministers of the Gospel and especially for those of us called to full time itinerant evangelism and revivalism. He is a very humble servant of the Lord and very hesitant to talk about himself. I appreciate his willingness to share some of the details of his life that we might get to know him better. There is one area of his life *(continued on next page)*

he is not shy about. One day, in a steak house recently, he shared with me with tears in his voice and on his face, his love for Vickie and her sacrificial support of his call to evangelism. Thank God for this sanctified couple and may they have many more years of fruitful ministry in the days ahead. ★

G. Bond



The boy who grew up in Pueblo, Colorado has spent most of his life living in southern California. Actually that statement is not exactly correct. Norman Moore has spent most of his life on the road. For forty years, he has crisscrossed the globe preaching a message of grace and holiness, while his beloved wife, Vickie has given tremendous support and encouragement. The evidence that he continues to communicate with all ages is that colleges and universities continue to request his ministry. Only heaven will reveal the great eternal good that was accomplished through the power of the Holy Spirit using the surrendered life of Norman Moore.

Bob Broadbooks  
Regional Director—USA/Canada Region  
Church of the Nazarene



"For some strange reason, Colorado doesn't seem to produce many Holiness evangelists. One notable exception, however, is a man from a rather small city in southern Colorado and a rather small Nazarene church.....evangelist Norman Moore. His address for years now has been southern California but this Colorado-born-and-raised evangelist is being anointed by the Holy Spirit as he ministers in our largest churches, our strongest Universities, our finest camp meetings, and even in our smaller churches. Norman Moore is willing to go anywhere God leads him and the results are always positive. His wife, Vickie is either by his side in the revivals or his best prayer partner at home while Norman is on the road.

It's a rare combination that enables a man to be effective when preaching to several thousand or to a

congregation of fifty. And they all want him to return soon for another revival meeting! Congratulations to a veteran holiness preacher who has been evangelizing over 40 years and is still going strong. We all love you, Norman, and thank God for you!"

James H. Diehl  
General Superintendent Emeritus



The name of Rev. Norman Moore has become almost synonymous with evangelism in the Church of the Nazarene. A student of God's Word, a tireless preacher, and a joyful spirit are just some of the qualities that have made Norman an effective and fruitful evangelist. It was my privilege as a local pastor to have him serve my congregation with insight and grace. Norman is a devoted servant, a friend to pastors, and a mentor to other evangelists. I deeply appreciate his friendship and his many years of faithful ministry to Christ and the church.

David W. Graves  
General Superintendent  
Church of the Nazarene

## Still Thankful for my CALL

By Norman Moore

I can still remember as I sat and read God's Word His CALL to be an evangelist, clearer than I'd ever heard.

I walked through the doors God opened; didn't kick any doors down. I'd pack my suitcase, kiss Vickie goodbye, and preach from town-to-town.

I remember many airports and several highway miles. I recall many kind churches and pastors with friendly smiles.

There've been lonely economy hotels and "fast-food" along the way. But the price has been worth it all, when they come to the altar to pray.

I'd stand and open my Bible, and preach the best I could. And the Holy Spirit applied God's Word, just as He said He would.

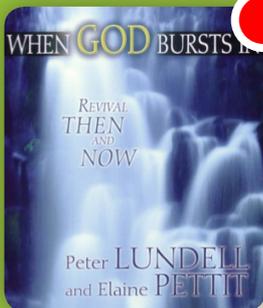
I've watched them stand up from the altar, committed to do their best, to love the Lord with all their heart and pursue true holiness.

Someday I'll empty my suitcase and carry it down the hall; reflecting on the revivals past, still thankful for my CALL.

And when I get to Heaven and search the crowd that's there I'll find folks from the revivals who came to the altar for prayer.

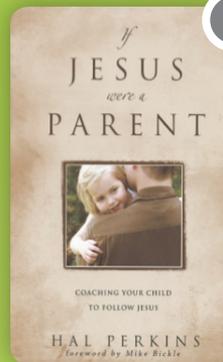
# Latest PRODUCTS

Get the latest releases from your evangelists today!



## When God Bursts In Book By Elaine Pettit

"When God Bursts In" looks at the history of revival and pinpoints ways of preparing God's people for a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Lundell and Pettit stress that prayer and sincere devotion to Christ's calling are the primary tools needed to spark revival in the church and throughout the kingdom of God. Published by Beacon Hill. Elaine Pettit is a tenured evangelist in the Church of the Nazarene. She and her husband live in Kalamazoo, Michigan.



## If Jesus Were a Parent Book By Hal Perkins

"Many talk about spiritual disciplines, but few practice them. Hal Perkins practices. Many preach about discipleship, but few practice it. Hal Perkins practices. Called to reproduce disciple-makers, Hal mentors emerging leaders as he moves them from principles to action. His message is validated by the lives of his children and will touch nations in the future."

Daniel D. Ketchum, PH.D

Hal Perkins is a commissioned Nazarene evangelist on the Northwest District. Rev. Hal Perkins, 2474 Norwich Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80920-5337  
(509)-305-2758 halperkins28@gmail.com  
Books & Materials available at Amazon.com

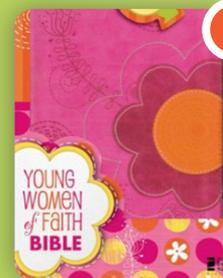
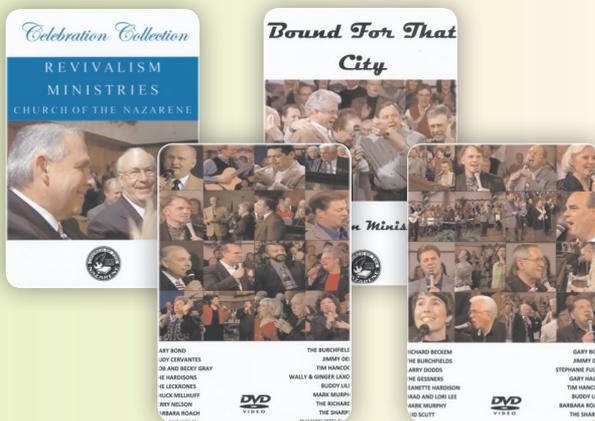


## Celebration Collection

DVD Series

### By Revivalism Ministries

Revivalism Ministries is in the process of re-mastering the original VHS tape series produced a few years ago. Eventually we will have the entire collection in the new DVD format. There are two projects that have been completed to date. "Celebration Collection" is a compilation of several artists from each of the VHS series tapes. "Bound for that City" is the DVD version of the VHS tape. They may be purchased from Gary Bond for \$15.00 each handling and shipping included. Mail your order to Gary Bond 70164 Carolyn Ave. Sturgis, Michigan 49091



## Young Women of Faith Bible Book By Susie Shellenburg

Susie Shellenberger travels as a fulltime speaker forty weeks or weekends every year. She has written fifty-two books, and lives in Bethany, Oklahoma with her two mini Schnauzers Obie and Amos. Susie is a former youth pastor, high school teacher, editor, and currently a tenured Nazarene evangelist. This is her most recent project due to be released in March 2014. This NIV Bible is designed to encourage girls to develop a habit of studying God's Word. It is filled with engaging features to help girls learn more about themselves and their relationship with God. This project as well as her other books can be purchased online through Zondervan.com or amazon.com.



# THE MISSING METAPHOR



BY E. ARTHUR SELF, PH.D.

How well I remember the children's Sunday school song... "I may never march in the infantry, ride in the cavalry, shoot the artillery; I may never fly o'er the enemy, but I'm in the Lord's Army." It ranked right up there with "Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah ... Praise Ye the Lord," "Climb, Climb up Sunshine Mountain," "Zacchaeus was a Wee Little Man," "Deep and Wide," and "Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children."

At the time I didn't realize how militaristic The Lords' Army chorus was, but it sure was fun to sing and spoke to some ethereal and distant theme that we were in a serious spiritual conflict with evil and had a duty to participate in the battle alongside other Christians. Now the conflict doesn't seem to be so ethereal and distant. At the time the military connection with what we sang wasn't much of a problem. That would change.

The militaristic metaphor does indeed spring from scripture as scripture itself tells us to be "good soldiers" (2 Timothy 2:3), that Christ is "captain of our salvation" (Hebrews 2:10), and we are to "put on the whole armor of God" (2 Corinthians 10: 3). So, I can see how a scriptural theme found its way into what we sang. There was a reason the General William Booth established the Salvation Army with marching and bands to communicate the metaphor.

More recently I began to understand the degree to which the metaphor was a prominent component of the church's view of itself, its hymnology, and lexicon. The metaphor fell into disapproval and was abandoned mostly as a result of the anti- Vietnam War protests in the late '60s and early '70s. Reaction to the war was the tipping point. The evangelical church along with the mainliners equally deserted the metaphor. Any relationship between the church and the military was discarded along with the underlying notion that we are called to engage in the conflict with spiritual evil. Moreover, the metaphor has now fallen out of our awareness and its imagery lost.

The marching, battle and victory songs such as: "We're Marching to Zion," "Holiness Unto the Lord," "I'll Be a Soldier for Jesus," "Onward Christian Soldiers," "Soldiers of Immanuel," "The Fight is On," and "Victory in Jesus," among others, remain largely a distant memory for those who knew the conflict to be real. The clear and present danger to our families, churches, country and world manifested by evil forces accelerates seemingly unabated. Out of our willingness to disconnect the church from anything military, I believe we have lost a valuable and energizing perspective.

Now that the U.S. military is held in substantially higher regard, and the disdain for most things associated with Vietnam and militarism has lessened, I'm wondering if the military metaphor might regain some of its former thematic luster in response to the boldness and ubiquity of the forces of evil so clearly and continuously in evidence. If so, maybe the church can marshal more courage, as well?

Many of the songs that use the metaphor and were prominent in the hymnal from which they were learned, shed light on the nature of spiritual warfare. It seems to me that the forces of evil march in unison, while the Church of Jesus Christ battles only as individuals. Our missing identity as a spiritually armed force has emboldened the enemy.

However, there are those who argue that no song sung in church, and subsequently sung in the car or shower, should have any allusion or connection between the church, our forms of worship and anything military. They ignore scripture, the history of the church, and the nature of spiritual conflict.

The military metaphor encourages us to take the battle to the enemy. The metaphor encourages pressing the fight against evil, rather than responding defensively and timidly.

The mighty marching throng/army of the redeemed Church of Jesus Christ seems to have forgotten our role as warriors, and we have become only feeble opposition to the enemies of Christ and His church. Christ has become our pal and not our Commander and Chief. We only marginally account for the intent of the enemy. The divide and conquer tactics used

against us are working. Dropping the metaphor may have accelerated our impotency and decreased our willingness to do battle.

Some of our current music may strengthen the individual for the fight and build some of the body, but I don't think it can create the army.

Furthermore, not only is the syntax and language of the military metaphor missing these days, but also the rhythm. I've noticed most of the military metaphor songs have a distinct timing in which all who sing move together in the same time, and it builds the unity, energy and confidence and a role identity for the marching mighty throng capable of putting the enemy to flight. This was clearly the case several years ago when in a college chapel service the speaker quoted a military metaphor song that only a few senior faculty and staff could recall. As the few of us sang, students, although they didn't know the words, picked up the unison of the beat/rhythm and clapped along. The result was glorious unity with unmistakable boldness and power emerged, and, for a brief moment, we were the mighty marching throng of the powerful and triumphant Church of the living God. It was enormously refreshing.

Military history abounds with victories that were won because of the influence of a marching rhythm that became a source of power and resolve to the victors and a source of intimidation and fear to the enemy. The rhythm became a source to create and unify courage for those doing the marching and engaging the conflict.

I've noticed that most contemporary Christian music doesn't have the unifying rhythm to coalesce energy and provide the spiritual lift the army needs. Contemporary Christian music is, by-in-large, beneficial to the individual, but it doesn't have the tempo to create the tramp, tramp, tramp needed by an army of spiritual warriors.

It would be wise to reconsider the military metaphor to enliven our spirits and to thwart the efforts of Satan as he continually brings the conflict to us. Through Christ we are certainly not defenseless, but being part of an army and not fighting alone bolsters courage and heightens one's

*(continued on next page)*

willingness to defend those fighting alongside.

If another form of congregational singing would produce the vibrancy and power to worship as a triumphal church unified in purpose, direction and rhythm, I'd be open to it... as would most congregants regardless of age or preference for traditional or contemporary worship styles.

As the nation has a resurgence of support for those who have served and are serving in the armed forces, citizens seem to be much more alert to the strategies of enemies and attuned to military related matters. So too should renewed attention be given to those aspects of our mutual worship in song that enliven us to spiritual action engendered through the military metaphor.

I challenge those who have responsibility for leading worship in song, or have influence with those that do, to find a dusty old hymnal, choose a gospel song

with a military metaphor and a unifying rhythm, then ask all worshipers to participate in singing and clapping, and see if a renewed perspective on unity of purpose and our responsibility to take the fight to our spiritual enemy does not follow.

Perhaps we followers have become too sensitive and sophisticated to again connect our faith to the military metaphor. I hope this is not the case because I don't think Christ will reward us for our sensitivity and sophistication, but reward us according to our obedience as loyal soldiers. ★

*E. Arthur Self served as president of Malone University and Seattle Pacific University. Dr. Self's academic preparation was in higher education administration, organizational communication and speech (Ph.D., M.A. Michigan State University, B.A., Olivet Nazarene University). Dr. Self grew up in a Nazarene parsonage and loves evangelists and the message of heart holiness.*

## I'll Be a Soldier for Jesus

*Isaac Watts*

1

Am I a soldier of the Cross a follower of the Lamb,  
And shall I fear to own His cause, or blush to speak His name?  
Must I be carried to the skies on flowery beds of ease  
while others fought to win the prize and sailed thro' bloody seas?

2

The fight is on; the call to arms is sounding far and near;  
And to the battle's front away we hasten with a cheer.  
For God and holiness we fight, nor lay our armor down  
Till faith has been exchanged for sight and we've obtained the crown.

3

Sure I must fight if I would reign: increase my courage, Lord.  
I'll bear the toil, endure the pain, supported by Thy Word  
When that illustrious day shall rise, and all His armies shine  
In robes of vict'ry thro' the skies, the glory shall be Thine.

Chorus

I'll be a soldier for Jesus, No matter what others may do.  
I've in His army enlisted, And Sworn Him allegiance true  
Here by His grace let me battle  
Until the vict'ry I see  
I'll be a soldier for Jesus.  
He can depend upon me

# NEWS



Originally from Michigan, Thea graduated with a B.S. in Corporate Communications from Olivet Nazarene University in 2006.

Thea held several roles through Nazarene Global Mission intermittently from 2005-2013. Additionally, she served as a Mission Corps missionary in Poland from 2008-2009, and helped launch the first Nazarene Sweet Surrender coffee shop church in Gdańsk. After returning stateside, she served as Manager of Nazarene Theological Seminary's coffee shop/student center, The Commons. It was here she met and fell in love with her husband, Ryan. Ryan, an Eastern Nazarene College and Roberts Wesleyan University graduate, holds a bachelor's and master's degree in social work, served as a social worker in the Boston area for three years, and is now studying for his M.Div. at Nazarene Theological Seminary in preparation for pastoral ministry.

From 2011-2013, Thea served as a Specialized Assignment Missionary for the South America Region (in Pilar, Argentina and Kansas City, MO) as an Assistant to the Regional Director, Regional Personnel Coordinator (one year), and Regional Secretary (two years). She is currently serving as Evangelism Coordinator for the USA/Canada Region and, as part of that role, Revivalism Facilitator.

Thea and Ryan, who currently reside in Kansas City, Missouri, got married on June 30, 2012. They are soaking up every opportunity God is providing them to share the love of Christ with others and look forward to seeing how He continues to lead.

# DATES

**AUGUST 29 – SEPTEMBER 1, 2014** Fourth Annual Evangelists' Camp Meeting at Indian Lake Nazarene Camp Grounds in Vicksburg, Michigan, Labor Day Week End.

**FEBRUARY 9 -11, 2015** M15 The theme for the USA/Canada Region's mid-quadrennial conference is "Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future." The conference will be held in Kansas City, Missouri. We hope to see you there.

# GRACIOUS UNCERTAINTY

## THE LIFE OF AN EVANGELIST

by Bill Ulmet

I didn't know what to call it then. I was driving home from Monroeville, IN after a wonderful season in revival. It was April 29, Sunday. I was as down as I could get. Four hundred miles is a long way to question God. I was facing the first Mother's Day in 36 years that I would not be preaching. God had always provided; nineteen years in full time evangelism and 18 years as pastor, but now nothing between April 30th - October 3rd, over five months!

Most of us don't ask for meetings. We try to show availability and hope people keep us in mind. I asked the Lord, "Have I written enough e-mails? Have I preached the Word? Why, Lord, have you treated me this way? Don't you care? What are you doing...? Where are the emails and calls from the pastors and churches to plan for revival?"

It seemed like His answer was a question. "Will you trust me or do you want to handle my (your) slate?" Was I going to fire God and try it myself? It sounds foolish now, but I guess I considered it (in my mind). Well, He got through. Sometimes those long drives are useful. My answer before the joyous time of arriving home was, "Yes, Lord, I trust you and please forgive my lack of trust. Thank you for what you are going to do. Amen!"

Can I tell you the rest of the story? God had told me through Jeremiah 45:5, "I will give your life to you as a prize in all places wherever you go." Oswald Chambers in *My Utmost for His Highest* had asked me that Saturday before if I was prepared to let God take me into total oneness with Him, paying no more attention to what I call the great things of life, to surrender totally and let go, to refuse the luxury of asking any questions. If you totally abandon yourself to God, He immediately says, "I will give your life to you as a prize."

I was all in by the time I got home. Tuesday, I began to journal the devotions and discovered the

concept of "Gracious Uncertainty." First John 3:2 reads; "It has yet been revealed what we shall be." Oswald Chambers says, "Certainty is the mark of the commonsense life, gracious uncertainty is the mark of the spiritual life. We are uncertain of the next step, but we are certain of God. As soon as we abandon ourselves to God and do the task He has placed closest to us, He begins to fill our lives with surprises."

God knows what we need. He sees around the corners and through the tunnels. He knows when we need time off and time in and time out. In His timing, the Lord provided 48 preaching services in nine different churches and six revivals. I even turned one meeting down because of a schedule conflict.

I am writing this about one year and eight months after that long trip home. I have not preached a revival for about two months. The time with the Lord and His Word has been so rich and intimate. The time with family has perhaps been the best ever. God has led me to hear some awesome truth preached from His Word. He has reaffirmed His call to "preach the Word" again to me. I am not certain of the slate for 2014, but I am certain about Who handles it and trust Him to lay it on the hearts of pastors and churches to pray for renewal and to call evangelists and to join this Holiness Revival movement.

I am also writing this to thank all those pastors and churches that listened to His voice and called this evangelist for revival. May your tribe increase in 2014. There are still a great number of us out here living by faith tempered with "Gracious Uncertainty." ★



*Bill Ulmet  
Tenured Evangelist  
Monroe Tennessee*

# P

## Perdue's Pen

# "Pressing On"

John 8:31-32



Nelson Perdue

In the first eleven verses of this chapter we read the account of the woman caught in the act of adultery. The Pharisees brought her to Jesus to see what His response would be to one guilty of such an act. They had Him "either way He went," either for showing lack of mercy or for disregarding the law. Jesus was merciful and rather than condemn her He set her free. The Pharisees, because of their blind unbelief, once again questioned the validity of Jesus being the Son of God. Jesus reminded them that "he that sent me is with me." However, His response to the Pharisees was so convincing that when He finished, it is stated that many of the Jews believed on Him, and it was to this group He gives this admonition.

Often times we do a grave injustice to the truth by lifting portions of scripture out of their context. For example, we often hear quoted "all things work together for the good," when in fact it is God working in all things in response to our love and faithfulness that brings about the good. In this passage it is often quoted, "ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." This is an accurate quotation but it was lifted totally out of its context and it constitutes a half-truth. Half-truths are more dangerous than whole untruths. The context must include the previous verse which says, "If you continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." This conveys to us that

*(continued on next page)*

there is a condition that we must meet to experience this freedom.

The natural (unsaved) man suffers from more than a lack or a loss; there is within him a perversion. It is a Satanic governing principle called the carnal mind. The carnal mind is unchangeable in its nature, hostile to God, and insubordinate to His law (Romans 8:7). Those who are governed by this principle are slaves to sin and by nature children of wrath (Ephesians 2:3). God, who is rich in mercy, longs to manifest His saving grace and set us free from the carnal mind so that we no longer are slaves to sin, but servants of righteousness.

It was by the grace of God that these Jews believed on Him and now have embarked upon a spiritual pilgrimage and had begun to live in a vital relationship with Christ. Through regeneration, they experienced the forgiveness of their sins and were delivered from the penalty of sin. They had just commenced on their journey. However, having been forgiven of their transgressions, the former governing principle (carnal mind) had been dethroned, but it had not yet been destroyed. Though they had been delivered from the penalty of sin, there was yet remaining the pollution and perversion of sin. Thus Jesus says, "If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." He knew they needed to be freed from the carnal mind and was admonishing them to continue in His word.

Divine sovereignty must never be divorced from human responsibility. The promises of God are conditional and our free agency is never altered. It is true that we are kept only by Divine power, but it is also true that Divine power operates only when the human

conditions are maintained. John Wesley said: "To retain the grace of God is more than to gain the grace of God." The abundance of grace does not limit or discard our responsibility.

"If you continue in my word...ye shall know the truth." Faithfulness in our human responsibility to God's word is the gateway to the knowledge of truth and when we know the truth it becomes the pathway to freedom, "the truth shall make you free."

1. We are only free to the degree that we know the truth and our lives are regulated by the law of truth. Some say, "I'm doing the best I know" but so are the heathens that sacrifice their babies to the crocodiles to appease their gods. It is not enough to do the best we know; we must know what is best then do it. Jesus said, "If you know these things, happy are you if you do them." (John 13: 17)

2. We are only free to the degree that we want to do what we know we ought to do. No one is free who wants to do what he ought not do. That is the highest form of slavery. We are truly free when our desires correspond with what we know God wants from us. Spiritual freedom is when His duty becomes our delight, and our desires harmonize with our obligations. Our attitude toward His will for our lives cannot be merely a resigned helplessness to a right course of action. But as the Psalmist writes, "I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart." (Psalms 40:8)

3. We are only free to the degree that we are delivered from the inward barrier that obstructs and abhors the will and law of God. That barrier is the carnal mind known by other terms such as the flesh, innate sin, and the old man. It is an alien element within the

natural man that came about through the fall in the Garden.

As the believer begins his spiritual journey and continues in His word, there will be an intense desire to please the one to whom he owes his forgiveness. As he continues in his newfound faith, there will soon come an awareness of something that is displeasing to God, namely the remains of carnality. The disposition of the flesh lusts against the Spirit because they are contrary the one to the other. He will sense the Spirit calling for him to make a total abandonment of his life to God in order to be set free from the carnal mind. "Present your body a living sacrifice holy, acceptable to God..." (Romans 8: 12) The Methodist expositor, Joseph H. Smith quaintly stated, "when you were born again the old man got a bump on the head now quickly have him crucified before he awakens and causes you problems." While the old man was dethroned through the work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration he now seeks its destruction in entire sanctification.

Jesus prayed in John 17: 17 "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth....for their sakes I sanctify myself." Jesus offers Himself in total sacrifice on the cross and becomes not only our source but the means of our spiritual freedom from sin. He wants to purify our affections, illuminate our understanding, and fill us with His Spirit so that He can reign within our heart without a rival. If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed."

"If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." This is the call of God for His children to press on in order to find freedom from the pollution and perversion of sin in this life and

the presence of sin in the life to come. "... you were the servants of sin, but you have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, you become servants unto righteousness."

To continue in the word is the same as walking in the light and keeping His commandments. May we never divorce Divine sovereignty from human responsibility. Let us be faithful to continue in His word in order to be His disciples indeed. It has been said that the grace of commencement can only become the grace of conclusion by the grace of continuance. ★

*Dr. Nelson Perdue*  
*Tenured Nazarene Evangelist*  
*Urbana, Ohio*

**"Make me a captive, Lord, and  
then I shall be free;  
Force me to render up my  
sword, and I shall conq'ror be.**

**I sink in life alarms, when by  
myself I stand,  
Imprison me within Thine arms,  
and strong shall be my hand."**

**"My will is not my own, Till Thou  
hast made it Thine;  
If I would reach the monarch's  
throne, it must it's crown resign;**

**It only stands unbent, amid the  
clashing strife,  
When on Thy bosom it was  
leant, and found in Thee its life."**

Hymn: "Make Me Captive, Lord"  
Lyrics George Matheson (1842-1906)  
Music George Job Elvey (1816-1893)



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<a href="http://nazarene.ch/upwardcall">Leidy, Arnold</a>	<a href="http://nazarene.ch/upwardcall">nazarene.ch/upwardcall</a>		

**ADAMS, MICHAEL (T)**

- Mar 2-5 Kingsport, TN (Southview Community)
- Mar 9-12 Warner Robins, GA (First)
- Mar 16-19 Newell, WV (First)
- Mar 23-26 Selma, IN (Harris Chapel)
- Mar 30-Apr 2 Anderson, IN (Central Wesleyan)

**BENSON, MICHAEL**

- Mar 5-9 Joliet, IL (Zone Revival)
- Mar 22 Seymour, IN (District Men's Retreat)

**BOND, GARY (T)**

- Mar 9-12 Meade, KS (First)
- Mar 16 Sturgis, MI
- Mar 23-26 Tidewater, VA (Central)
- Mar 30 Sturgis, MI
- Apr 6-9 Sistersville, WV
- Apr 13-16 Ravenswood, WV
- Apr 20 Sturgis, MI
- Apr 27-30 Cincinnati, OH (Carthage)
- May 4-18 Sturgis, MI
- May 25-28 Lizemores WV (First)
- Jun 1-4 Eaton Rapids, MI (First)
- Jun 7-15 Douglas, GA (Gaskin Springs Camp)
- Jun 17-22 Circleville, OH (Mount of Praise Camp)
- Jun 23-29 Wadsworth, OH (Sharon Holiness Camp)

**BURKHALTER, PAT (T)**

- Mar 5-9 Henderson, TX
- Mar 16-23 Gladewater, TX
- Mar 26-30 Sherwood, AR (First)
- Apr 4-6 Newcastle, OK (Life Springs)
- Apr 11-13 White Springs, FL (Suwannee Holiness Camp)
- Apr 16-20 Fargo, OK
- Apr 30-May 4 Indianapolis, IN (Cornerstone)
- May 7-11 South Lebanon, OH (Crossroads)

**CAROLE, SUSAN**

- Mar 5-7 Mount Vernon, OH (Hicks Holiness Series)
- Mar 22-29 Saginaw, MI (Reserved Dates)
- Apr 9-11 Mount Vernon, OH (John A Knight Bible & Theology Conference)

**DONNERBERG, JOHN**

- Feb 28-Mar 2 Garden City, KS (Zone Holiness Crusade)

**FERGUSON, SCOTT**

- Mar 2-5 Havana, IL
- Mar 9-12 Carmi, IL
- Mar 16-19 Homer City, PA
- Mar 23-26 Clymer, PA (Kenwood)
- Mar 30-Apr 2 Monaca, PA (New Beginnings)

- Apr 6-9 Oak Hill, WV (Gospel Tabernacle)
- Apr 13-17 Logan, WV
- Apr 20-23 Powhatan Point, OH
- Apr 27-30 Wrightsville, GA (Johnson County Crusade)

**FLINT, ROBERT**

- Mar 2-30 Shelby, OH
- Apr 6-27 Shelby, OH
- Apr 28-May 1 Marysville, OH (Reserved Dates)
- May 4-7 Spencerville, OH
- May 11-25 Shelby, OH

**GALLIMORE, DAVID (T)**

- Mar 2-5 Bridgeton, NJ
- Mar 8-12 Charleston, WV (Calvary)
- Mar 16-19 Jesup, GA (Bethlehem Wesleyan Church)
- Mar 22-26 Fremont, NE
- Mar 30-Apr 2 Paden City, WV
- Apr 6-9 Kirtland, OH (New Promise)
- Apr 13-16 Burlington, NC (Shamrock Evangelical Methodist)
- Apr 27-30 Gallipolis, OH (Church of Christ in Christian Union)
- May 4-7 Elkins, WV
- May 11-14 Burlington, IA (First)
- May 18-21 Point Pleasant, WV
- Jun 5-7 Fort Spring, WV (Tent Revival)
- Jun 11-15 Marion, IN (District Family Camp)
- Jun 18-22 Mooresville, NC (Camp Wesley)
- Jun 28-July 1 Beaver Dams, NY (Chambers Wesleyan Camp)

**GESSNER, DON & SHIRL**

- Mar 1-31 Newark, OH (Discipleship Emphasis)
- Apr 1-30 Newark, OH (Discipleship Emphasis)
- May 1-31 Newark, OH (Discipleship Emphasis)
- Jun 1-30 Newark, OH (Discipleship Emphasis)

**GREENWAY, KENNETH NEAL (T)**

- Mar 2-5 Kings Mountain, NC
- Mar 9-16 Houston, MS (Pearson Chapel)
- Mar 23-26 Gloster, MS
- Mar 30-Apr 3 Archdale, NC (Wesleyan)
- Apr 6-9 Hillsborough, NC (Wesleyan)
- Apr 13-16 High Point, NC (West Fairfield Baptist)
- Apr 20-24 Bridgewater, VA (Spring Creek)
- Apr 27-30 Greensboro, NC (Emmanuel Wesleyan)
- May 4-8 Spartanburg, SC (First Wesleyan)
- May 12-17 Hortense, GA (Wesleyan)
- May 18-21 Eagle Springs, NC (Rock Hill Evangelical Friends)
- May 25-28 Thomasville, NC (Potter's Clay Baptist)

**LECKRONE, LARRY (T)**

- Mar 8-12 Elkhart, KS
- Mar 22-26 Macon, MO



- Apr 12-16 Allen Park, MI
- Apr 26-30 Paoli, IN (Wesleyan)
- May 7-11 Fairmont, WV (First)
- Jun 12-22 Repton, AL (Beulah Holiness Camp)

### LIVERSAGE, JERRY JAY

- Mar 6 Garden Grove, CA (Friends Church)
- Mar 9 Westminster, CA (Apartments Outreach)
- Mar 13 Garden Grove, CA ( Friends Church)
- Mar 20 Garden Grove, CA (Friends Church)
- Mar 27 Costa Mesa, CA (Responding Recovery Television)
- Apr 3 Garden Grove, CA (Friends Church)
- Apr 10 Garden Grove, CA (Friends Church)
- Apr 13 Westminster, CA (Apartments Outreach)
- Apr 17 Garden Grove, CA (Friends Church)
- Apr 18 Anaheim, CA (Landmark Community Center Outreach)
- Apr 24 Costa Mesa, CA (Responding Recovery Television)
- May 1 Garden Grove, CA (Friends Church)
- May 8 Garden Grove, CA (Friends Church)
- May 11 Westminster, CA (Apartments Outreach)
- May 15 Garden Grove, CA (Friends Church)
- May 22 Garden Grove, CA (Friends Church)
- May 29 Costa Mesa, CA (Responding Recovery Television)
- Jun 5 Garden Grove, CA (Friends Church)
- Jun 6 Anaheim, CA (Evergreen Royale Motel Outreach)
- Jun 8 Westminster, CA (Apartments Outreach)
- Jun 12 Garden Grove, CA (Friends Church)
- Jun 19 Garden Grove, CA (Friends Church)
- Jun 26 Costa Mesa, CA (Responding Recovery Television)

### LOMAN, LANE

- Mar 2 San Antonio, TX (First)
- Mar 9-12 Florian, LA (Cenchrea)
- Mar 16-19 California, KY (Carthage)
- Mar 23-26 Columbus, IN (The Rock Free Methodist)
- Mar 30-Apr 2 Reidsville, NC (Salem United Methodist)
- Apr 6-9 Mt Airy, NC (Wesleyan)
- Apr 13-16 Sarcoxie, MO (New Beginnings)
- Apr 27-30 Martins Ferry, OH (Promised Land Ministry Center)
- May 4-7 Attica, IN (Free Methodist)
- May 11-14 Man, WV
- May 16-18 Greensburg, IN (Wesleyan Retreat)
- May 21-25 Alexander, AR (Collegeville)
- Jun 8-13 Pollock, LA (Gulf Coast FM Camp)
- Jun 15-18 High Point, NC (Charity Baptist)
- Jun 19-22 Stoneville, NC (Joyce Chapel Presbyterian)

### MANLEY, STEPHEN

- Mar 12-16 Waterford, MI (Williams Lake)
- Mar 30-Apr 2 Xenia, OH
- May 13-16 Dellroy, OH

- May 18-21 Binghamton, NY (Southern Tier Holiness Association)
- Jun 9-15 Lebanon, TN (Cross Style Training Camp)
- Jun 17-22 Louisville, OH (District Camp)
- Jun 23-26 Jefferson, OH
- Jun 30-July 6 Flat Rock, NC (Hendersonville Camp)

### MCDUFF, RONALD

- Mar 2-5 Cheraw, CO (Baptist Chapel)

### MILLS, HENRY

- Mar 2-5 Kissimmee, FL (First)
- Mar 9-12 Brandon, FL (First)
- Mar 16 New Port Richey, FL (Living Faith)
- Mar 23-26 Longwood, FL (Parkside Fellowship)
- Apr 6-9 Pittsburg, TX
- Apr 11-13 White Springs, FL (Suwannee Holiness Camp)

### MITCHELL, ROYCE

- Mar 6 Tempe, AZ (Grace Community)
- Mar 6 Prescott Valley, AZ (Junction Christian Church)
- Mar 7 Mesa, AZ (Towerpoint RV Resort)
- Mar 9 Sun City, AZ (American Lutheran)
- Mar 14 Mesa, AZ (Red Mountain Christian Center)
- Mar 15 Yuma, AZ (Gila Mountain RV Park)
- Mar 16 Yuma, AZ (Country Roads Community)
- Mar 16 Yuma, AZ (First Christian)
- Mar 21 Sun City, AZ
- Mar 22 Surprise, AZ (Palm Vista Baptist)
- Mar 23 Casa Grande, AZ (New Beginnings)
- Mar 23 Apache Junction, AZ (Community Christian)
- Mar 28 Longview, TX (Missionary Baptist)
- Mar 29 Houston, TX (First)
- Mar 29 Tomball, TX (First Baptist)
- Mar 30 Huffman, TX (First Baptist)
- Mar 30 Coldspring, TX (Baptist)
- Apr 12 Silverton, OR (First Baptist)
- Apr 13 Beaverton, OR
- Apr 13 Albany, OR (First Assembly of God)
- Apr 13 Fallon, NV (Oasis Community)
- Apr 27 Vacaville, CA (Trinity Baptist)
- Apr 27 Chico, CA (Butte Baptist)
- May 1-3 Visalia, CA (Convention Center)
- May 4 Reno, NV (Baptist)
- May 16 Spring Creek, NV (Baptist)
- May 17 Paul, ID (First Baptist)
- May 18 Boise, ID (New Hope)
- May 18 Caldwell, ID (Deer Flat)
- May 31 Laurel, MT (The Rock)
- Jun 1 Manhattan, MT (Bethel Christian Reformed)
- Jun 6 Lynden, WA (Faith Community)
- Jun 7 Langley, BC (Christian Life Assembly)

### **PERDUE, NELSON (T)**

- Mar 2-5 Urbana, OH (Church of Christ in Christian Union)
- Mar 9-12 Portage, IN (Grace)
- Mar 16-19 Andover, OH (Cherry Valley)
- Mar 23-26 Bowling Green, KY (First)
- Mar 30 Hamilton, OH (Tri-County)
- Apr 2-6 Churubusco, IN
- Apr 13-16 Charleston, WV (Valley Grove)
- Apr 20-23 Raymond, OH (Church of Christ in Christian Union)
- Apr 27-30 Tiffin, OH
- May 1-4 New Boston, OH (First)
- May 7-11 Fairmont, WV (First)
- May 18-21 Mayfield, KY

### **PERKINS, HAL**

- Mar 7-9 Shipshewana, IN (Marriage Retreat)
- Mar 16-19 Auburn, IN (Discipling Conference)
- Mar 30-Apr 2 Pittsfield, IL (Discipling Conference)
- Apr 6-9 Casey, IL (Discipling Conference)
- Apr 13-16 Salem, IL (Discipling Conference)
- Apr 26 Riverton, WY (Parenting Conference)
- Apr 27 Riverton, WY (Discipling Conference)
- May 3 Emmett, ID (Parenting Conference)
- May 4-7 Emmett, ID (Discipling Conference)
- May 11-14 Grand Coulee, WA (Discipling Conference)
- May 18-21 Prosser, WA (Discipling Conference)
- May 25-28 Troy, ID (Discipling Conference)
- Jun 22-25 Sutter Creek, CA (Discipling Conference)

### **RAEBURN, STEPHEN & JANET**

- Apr 13-13 Washington, MI (Orchard Ridge)
- May 27-Jun 1 Cimarron, KS
- Jun 9-13 Tullahoma, TN
- Jun 17-22 Sherman, TX
- Jun 23-27 Scottsville, TX (District Children's Camp)

### **SHAVER, CHIC (T)**

- Mar 15-19 New Lexington, OH (Grace Community)
- Mar 22-26 Monticello, IL
- Mar 29-Apr 2 Fairfield, IL (Fountain of Life)
- Apr 5-9 Murphysboro, IL

### **SHELLENBERGER, SUSIE (T)**

- Feb 28-Mar 1 Yukon, OK
- Mar 7-9 Milford, DE
- Mar 27-28 Bedford, IN (Ladies Conference)
- Apr 4-5 Portland, OR (Women's Conference)
- Apr 6 Portland, OR (Faith Promise)
- Apr 11-13 Kingfisher, OK
- Apr 25-27 Lebanon, MO
- May 4-7 Salisbury, MD (Cross Pointe)

- May 9-11 Independence, KS
- May 16-18 Midlothian, VA (Women's Conference)
- May 27-Jun 1 Bethany, OK (Family Camp)
- Jun 13 Circleville, OH (CCCU Women's Event)
- Jun 20-22 Duncanville, TX (Trinity)
- Jun 23-29 Batesburg, SC (District Family Camp)
- Jun 30 Saint Louis, MO (District Family Camp)

### **TRAN, DAVID & MARILYN**

- Mar 21-23 Karval, CO

### **ULMET, BILL (T)**

- Feb 27-Mar 2 Camden, SC (First)
- Mar 6-9 Sweetwater, TN (Beulah Chapel)
- Mar 30-Apr 2 Kansas City, KS (Victory Hills)
- Apr 6-9 Doyle, TN
- Apr 10-13 Independence, KY (Florence Community)
- Apr 15-19 Ashland, KY
- Apr 15-20 Bamberg, SC
- Apr 23-27 New Martinsville, WV (Crossroads Community)

### **WHITWORTH, MARCUS**

- Mar 16-19 Leesburg, FL
- Mar 23-26 Fremont, NE
- Mar 28-29 Omaha, NE (District Men's Retreat)
- Mar 30-Apr 2 Omaha, NE
- May 4-7 Montrose, IA
- May 18-21 Ozark, MO (First)
- Jun 1-6 Louisville, TN (District Camp)
- Jun 15-22 Saint Marys, OH (District Camp)

### **WILKERSON, DR. BOB & JENNIFER**

- Mar 2-5 Mattoon, IL (Real Life Community)
- Mar 9-12 Carlinville, IL (First)
- Mar 14-16 Carmi, IL (Concord United Methodist)
- Mar 16 Mt Vernon, IN (At the Cross Mission)
- Mar 23-26 Altus, OK
- Mar 30-Apr 2 Hiwasse, AR
- Apr 6 Venice, FL (Harvest Chapel)
- Apr 9-13 Greenacres, FL (EBC Ministries)
- Apr 20-23 Lehigh Acres, FL
- Apr 27-30 Miami, FL (Redland)
- May 18-18 Georgetown, IL (Olivet)
- May 25 Nashville, TN (Grace)
- May 27-Jun 1 Dickson, TN (District Family Camp)
- Jun 8-13 University Park, IA (Iowa Holiness Association Camp)
- Jun 22 Springfield, IL (Trinity)
- Jun 23-27 Belleville, IL (Emmanuel)

# AM I PREPPED FOR PREACHING?



by JEFF SPARKS, D. MIN.

Experience can be a harsh teacher. I doubt anyone who has ever felt the responsibility and burden of preaching has been exempted from learning. As a pastor, experience taught me the needs of my people could change from week to week; and having preached as an evangelist, I also learned this was more evident as I went from church to church. My personal readiness to preach became even more important. The following is not intended to be a “be all, end all” list. It came out of the “seminary of life” and some of those harsh lessons of experience.

1. Am I spiritually prepared to preach?—I cannot give what I do not first possess; hearers can better connect to my message because of the spiritual overflow and blessings that come out of my own heart.
2. Am I physically prepared to preach?—The Holy Spirit can do everything needed to help me, but my tired mind, body, and spirit set a very low standard and do a disservice to God, the people and to my calling.
3. Am I prepared to preach?—Have I studied, read the Word, thought, and more importantly, prayed about what may need to be preached.
4. To whom am I preaching (“Knowing the audience”)?—I must realize one size does not fit all in preaching and though truth is universal, people can certainly be different in their perceptions.
5. What is the setting of ministry?—I must realize “Galilee” may never be “Jerusalem”; I need to be aware of where I am and the people to whom I have the opportunity to minister; I am here today and that, more than likely, is not the same dynamic or demographic as last week was or next week will be.
6. What is the perception of preaching? In my view, Ephesians four presents a very good template for the task of the preacher as to “what” we preach and “how” we preach it.
7. What is the Holy Spirit saying to me about this service and these people?—I must listen, really listen to the Holy Spirit and trust His leadership to diagnose needs and to connect with the innermost heart and mind of the hearer.
8. Am I discerning what the Holy Spirit is showing to me?—I believe the Spirit will tell me whatever I may need to know about my role in this service; there is too much at stake for me to not “get it.”
9. Is my sermon simple and understandable?—I pray I will allow the Lord to help me articulate His word and truth so that people will not wonder what I said when the sermon is mercifully over.
10. Am I affirming faith, bringing hope, and causing the hearers to be closer to Christ Jesus?—I must also articulate the positive message of the Gospel, and there must be hope for the hopeless one. The love of God is palpable for all who may be hearing this message.
11. Can God use me or must He work in spite of me?—If I am truly a holiness preacher, then my own self-centeredness and self-absorption must have been crucified and cleansed by the Holy Ghost and fire. My “read” of the service is of no consequence and is not important; the Spirit is all and knows all.
12. Am I allowing the Holy Spirit to do with me and this service as He chooses? I must be aware the Lord wants to do something in this service;

He has a plan; He wants to come and to meet needs and to bless the people. Though the Lord graciously uses me as His messenger, He ultimately does not need me, but I do need Him. Though I am God's servant, still I must stay out of the Lord's way so His plan may be accomplished.

13. Am I being faithful to God, the Word and the people?—I see a great similarity between the practice of ministry and the practice of medicine; I want my physician to really treat whatever medical problem I may be experiencing; I do not want my doctor to scold me, but to help me even if that means pain and discomfort to me; likewise, I must be faithful to do "what" the Spirit may want and "how" He may want it done.
14. Are people hearing the truth and what they may need to be hearing?—I must be totally amenable to the Lord and not listen for the seductive and sweet call of peoples' praise. I do not want to antagonize people, but I would much rather offend people than to offend

Christ Jesus with a watered down version of the Gospel.

15. Do I love these people as I preach to them, and do I show them compassion?—I must realize there is a great difference between spiritual surgery and spiritual butchery; after I preach, are the people closer to Christ and do they feel my compassion and care?
16. Am I being accurate?—I must be certain of my facts in the scripture, context, illustrations, and what I say; sloppiness distracts, confuses, and reduces my credibility.

Lord, please make this so in me. ★

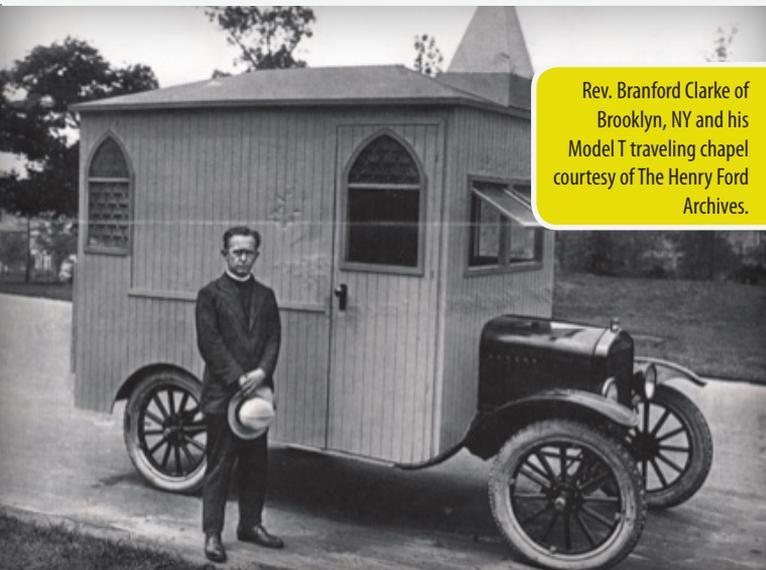
*Dr. Jeff Sparks, the son of Evangelist Sam Sparks, is a retired Nazarene pastor and is currently an Affiliate Professor at Ohio Christian University.*

*Loser, D. (2003). Confessing Jesus Christ: Preaching in a Postmodern World. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.*

*Miller, C. (2006). Preaching: the Art of Narrative Exposition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.*

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Dr. Graves mentioned that Nazarene Evangelists are "road warriors." Send us some pictures of your "ride" to Gary Bond 70164 Carolyn Ave. Sturgis, MI 49091 or e-mail a high resolution 300 dpi jpeg picture to, nazbond@aol.com.



Rev. Branford Clarke of Brooklyn, NY and his Model T traveling chapel courtesy of The Henry Ford Archives.



November 1983 Beth, Joy, Julie, Gary Bond and their 1957 GM 4104 converted coach.

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