



PazNaz
August 2014

WELCOME



Welcome to *Transformed Under the Pepper Tree*. In this monthly magazine, you will read stories of how God is changing people's lives at PazNaz, transforming them into the image of Jesus Christ by the power of his Spirit!

You might be asking, "Where can I find information about a specific PazNaz event?" Some information about specific events on campus is found within these pages, but each month *Transformed* is focused on relating stories about what PazNaz is really all about. Rather than programs or events, there are stories about changed lives, stories about people coming in contact with the Savior, and people exploring what it means to become a follower of him. It is exciting to hear what God is doing in the lives of people!

Years ago, Pastor Earl Lee and a group of staff members gathered around a pepper tree located on the northern-most point of what was to become the site for First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena and dreamed and prayed that God would provide a place where more people could find power for living through Jesus. What began then has been going on for over thirty years as men and women, boys and girls have come into relationship with Christ in significant ways under the shade of that old pepper tree. The mission of the church hasn't changed. May it continue to flourish as people experience the transforming power of Christ.

Blessings,

B. Scott Anderson
Executive Pastor

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Transformed is a magazine publication of First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena (PazNaz). It is designed to highlight the Church's stories of personal transformation. For a complete overview of PazNaz, their beliefs, and ministries, please visit the website www.paznaz.org.

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Hello from Nicaragua!

Work & Witness
Team 2014
by David Mimms



Well, actually... hello from the Houston Airport! I have a three and a half hour layover between flights and wanted to share about PazNaz's Work & Witness Trip to Nicaragua. Thirty-six of us spent ten days in Nicaragua working at two locations, Masaya and Nuevo Horizonte. This has been a wonderful trip where not only was a lot accomplished, but we also saw the dedication of three churches.

Five years ago a group of PazNazers made a five year commitment to Central America. During that time several hundred children went through the medical clinics, hundreds more participated in the VBS programs, and three churches and a parsonage were built. More than a dozen PazNazers participated in all five trips and many went on two or more. It is interesting to talk to someone who has never been before and see a combination of nervousness and excitement in their eyes. After a couple of days, you ask, "How are you doing?" and they answer, "I am ready to come back." At the end of the trip you hear a combination of, "I would like to stay a couple days longer," and, "I am kind of ready to go home," in their voice.

Steve Braun, a new member of the team this year, said he was amazed that the Nuevo Horizonte church lot (where we were conversing) was an empty field five years ago. Today they have a sanctuary, a very large playground including a small soccer field, as well as a vegetable garden with livestock. The church lot has become the community center for the village. This trip the team

put some final touches on the church building, including a tile floor and windows.

At the Masaya church the team built a twelve foot perimeter wall around the church lot to help eliminate the burglaries the church has seen throughout the past few years. In the next couple of weeks, some of the church members will put the final coat of plaster on the walls.

At both of the church sites, PazNaz VBS programs and medical clinics saw hundreds of kids pass through their doors. The medical clinic saw mostly upper respiratory infections, skin diseases, and parasites. The team handed out lots of medication as well as provided counseling on how to improve the quality of health for the families in the area. Nurse Cathy VanderLaan said, "We might not be able to take care of the entire world, but we can have a major impact on one village at a time."

I will never forget the conversation I overheard a few years ago between Dr. Richard Garcia and a young mother of a six-year-old boy. The mom thought that she was a bad mother and was doing something wrong because her son was not like the other kids. Dr. Garcia helped her to understand that her son's health was not her fault, she just simply had a child with Down syndrome. The emotions of everybody within earshot of the conversation were off the chart.

The VBS team for the last five years has had the opportunity to present programs to entire elementary schools and villages. Each VBS program was filled with activities for the kids including a Bible story, worship songs, games, crafts, and snacks. Watching the VBS team members love on all of the children was a truly rewarding experience. Katie Gilmore shared, "Sometimes it is overwhelming when you step off the bus and are greeted with so many kids wanting to tackle you and give you a hug."

Cristo Rei, a village that the team has have worked with in the past to build a church structure,

did not see any one of our three teams this year lift a hammer, tongue depressor, or puppet. However, what they did see were our hands lifted in worship and praise during their Sunday morning worship and church dedication service.

The PazNaz team finished all the heavy lifting during last year's trip and, during the last couple of months, the Cristo Rei congregation has put the last final touches on the Sanctuary. The images of a ten foot by ten foot cement slab with four poles and a rusty galvanized steel roof are still in my mind as I worshiped inside the gorgeous new sanctuary.

I have spent the last five years giving two weeks of my summer to our brothers and sisters in Central America, and I would not trade them for anything. The people in this part of the world are very poor, but are extremely happy. People of all ages have come on this trip. In fact, entire families have come to serve together. I have seen teams consisting of highly skilled doctors with more than a decade of education along with people who didn't know how to hold a hammer correctly. Through all of this, I have learned that despite age, skill, or talent, God has used and blessed the members of PazNaz's teams to do amazing things to further the Kingdom of Heaven in Central America.

The wonderful thing about Work & Witness trips is that there are multiple ways to be involved. For example, you can attend the trip, help send someone financially, or pledge to lift the team up in prayer. After seeing the spiritual impact of serving in Central America these past five years, I encourage you to pray about how you can be involved. Looking

forward, I can only image how great the next five years can be.

Since I have been at PazNaz teams have gone to all four corners of the earth and they all come home with lifelong memories and wonderful stories to tell. I am so grateful to be part of a church fellowship that is passionate about reaching its world for Christ.

I want to thank Torrey Halbert for helping me type this article, for anyone who knows me well knows that I cannot spell and my grammar is terrible.

Flight 1230 to Los Angeles is now boarding!

¡Dios les bendiga!

- David Mimms

I will never forget the conversation I overheard a few years ago between Dr. Richard Garcia and a young mother of a six-year-old boy. The mom thought that she was a bad mother and was doing something wrong because her son was not like the other kids. Dr. Garcia helped her to understand that her son's health was not her fault, she just simply had a child with Down syndrome .

Blessing of the Backpacks 2014

Sunday, August 17



On Sunday, August 17, there will be a special blessing in each service upon all children and educators from PazNaz getting ready to start their school year. Don't forget to have your kids bring their own personal backpacks for this special time of prayer.

PazNaz



So Many Important Things Happen in the Desert

from Pastor Jayme Lenker

We live in a time and place that does not always understand the importance of the desert. I mean, think about it. When was the last time you *chose* to enter a situation that you knew was going to be hard, overbearing, and where the outcome and time spent were unknown. I have come to know the phrase, “So many important things happen in the desert,” because I say it almost weekly as it comes from the curriculum called *Godly Play* that our Early Childhood and 1st & 2nd grade Sunday School classes are using.

Each time they enter a story, they are reminded that the desert is a dangerous place. There is no water and very little food. No one goes into the desert unless they have to. Usually, you are not prepared and you do not bring enough clothing, water, or food to survive very long before you need to rely on someone else. Jesus himself entered the Wilderness (desert) for 40 days and he entered it because the spirit led him (Matthew 4). But what amazing work took place after he came out of the desert! He began to preach; he called his disciples and began healing the sick.

I realize that you do not generally embark on a 40 day journey in the wilderness, but, at some point, you have been, are about to enter, or are in, “the desert.” As a mother of two young children and a pastor to families with children, I often encounter the desert. The question is really, “What is the desert teaching me?” For some it may be patience or becoming a better listener. For others it means dealing with loss (loss of a loved one, ability/talent, or what should/could have been). So much suffering can take place in the desert. But God’s Word promises that his grace is sufficient (2 Corinthians 12:9). In my experience, it is God’s grace shown in action that reminds me of that promise, whether it be a meal delivered by someone, a

card in the mail, or a smile or hug; something tangible. My challenge to you today: If you know someone wandering in the desert, don’t try to give them answers or reasons why they are there, but rather be present with them during this time, so God can use you to be his sufficient grace.

As a parent, it is difficult to see long-term results when I parent with short-term results in mind; it can feel like the desert. It takes time and energy to endure the long road ahead. It takes more time to connect *before* correcting, to be kind and firm at the same time. I want to encourage you today if you are in the desert to take some time to see the important things that happen while you are there. Spend time listening and seeking what God has to say to you. The more I find myself in the desert, as a spouse, a mom, and a pastor, the more I can appreciate the way the Holy Spirit is at work in and through me. When the blessings come after time spent in the desert, I know that my



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT FAITH ROMASCO

I grew up in the church. I knew the Scripture and I knew the stories. I love God's people and I love the story of God's people. Out of every method of teaching I have utilized, *Godly Play* has most fully captivated my heart. It has unlocked a new depth of love for God's story, and I think it is doing the same for the children at PazNaz.

Godly Play continues to be an access point for hands-on exploration of Scripture and each child's part in the story of God (us included!). I am in awe of the places the Holy Spirit has lead us each time we've gathered for a *Godly Play* story. The stories of Scripture are teachers like no other as we wonder together about what God may want to say to each of us individually and to our group. After each story, we have a time of wondering together about our favorite parts, the important parts, what was for us, and what we wish was left out.

Your children (even as young as 18 months old) engage in critical thinking and self-reflection around Scripture. For example: the Story of the Good Shepherd and the Good Shepherd's Table. It is a story about a Shepherd who wants his sheep to eat good green grass and he leads them to this grass. The Shepherd sets a table before the sheep, and all the people of the world come to the table. After the story, when we get to the very last question, without prompting, a child always says, "We could leave out all of the bad guys. They can't come to the table." And again, without prompting, another child always protests by saying, "I think the Good

Shepherd would want the bad guys to be at the table. That way they could learn how to not be bad anymore." This is the very fruit of the Kingdom of God that has come and is coming from the mouths of children.

I am constantly challenged and transformed by God's clearly marked presence during the story and the gentle leading of the Spirit in the responses of the children. You become the best humans, created in the image of God, when you gather around the story of God's people and then choose to live into this grand love story. Your children are learning that they have a pivotal role in this story from the very beginning of their understanding of Scripture.

As a graduate of Northwest Nazarene University with a degree in Ministry and my current role as a Play Therapy Specialist, I am blessed to participate in an avenue of grace that combines my two worlds. I am blessed to facilitate these conversations with your children during Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Positive Parenting, MOPS, VBS, and now on Sunday mornings. I would love if you are curious about *Godly Play* to dig a bit deeper and join in a story.

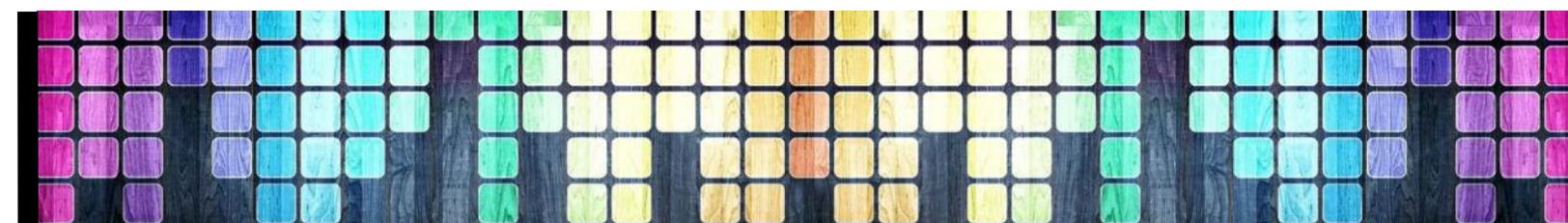
Thank you for sharing your children with the *Godly Play* team!

- Faith Romasco

Redeemer is with me.

Jesus has called you to be his disciple and with that comes the great risk of entering times of absolute despair and hopelessness. The Good News is that, because you entered the desert, much joy will come after you leave. Why? Because our hope is in Jesus Christ, you know he is there with you and is your Comforter. I pray that the God who led his only Son into the desert to be tempted, will reveal himself in a new way each time you enter the desert knowing that he has gone before you and will never leave you nor forsake you (Deuteronomy 31:8).

- Pastor Jayme Lenker



WELCOME BACK!

FROM WORSHIP & CELEBRATION ARTS

Celebration Choir

Wednesday, August 20

Hors d'Oeuvres: 5:30 pm

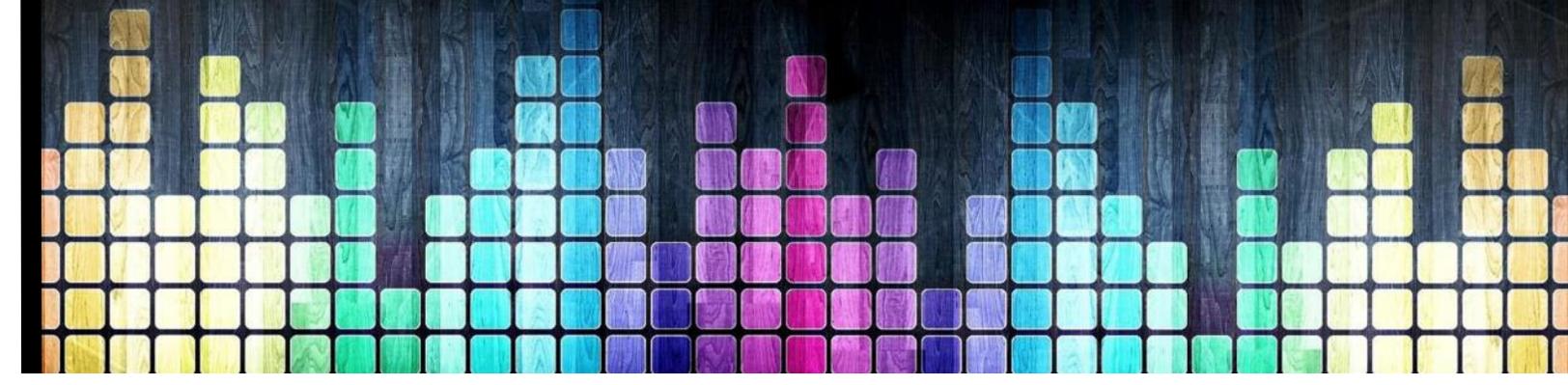
Rehearsal: 6:45 - 8:30 pm

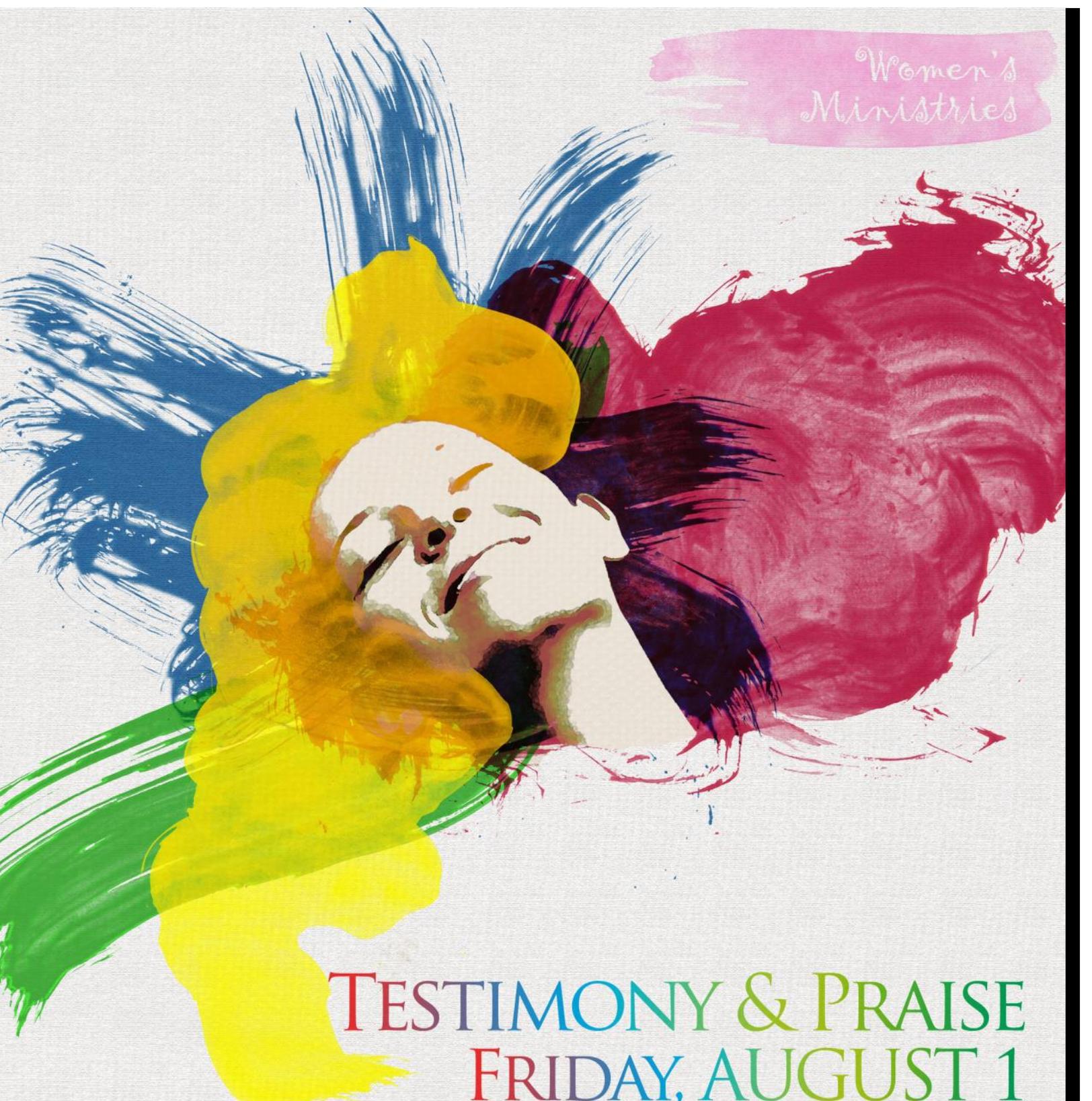
Sunrise Orchestra

Thursday, August 21

Dessert Party & Rehearsal:

7:30 - 9:00 pm





Women's
Ministries

TESTIMONY & PRAISE FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

7:00 - 9:00 PM | LEE CHAPEL

COME HEAR TESTIMONIES FROM PAZNAZ LADIES AND SHARE IN A TIME OF WORSHIP.
FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP IN ROOM 246, REED HALL FOLLOWING THE SERVICE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT BRITTANY ADAMS AT ADAMS.BRITTS@GMAIL.COM.
FREE CHILDREN'S WORSHIP SPACE WITH RSVP TO JAYME LENKER AT 626.351.2469.

What Should We Glean from Phineas F. Bresee?

by **T. SCOTT DANIELS**

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*Tradition is the living faith of the dead; traditionalism is the dead faith of the living.
Tradition lives in conversation with the past, while remembering where we are.
- Jaroslav Pelikan*

When the belongings of C.S. Lewis went up for auction, both Wheaton and Westmont colleges purchased wardrobes from the estate. From that time forward, there has been a good-natured debate between the two schools as to which one owns the particular wardrobe that inspired Lewis' vision of a passage to Narnia.

It is my current privilege as pastor of the First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena to preach each Sunday from the pulpit that originally belonged to Phineas F. Bresee. There is some good-natured debate as to whether or not it was the only pulpit that belonged to

Bresee or even how special this particular pulpit was to him, but in our minds, the faithful in Pasadena are the true guardians of the pulpit Bresee.

It is not surprising that after a century of development, extension into vast global contexts, and rapidly changing social, economic, and political landscapes, the Church of the Nazarene would be wrestling with questions of identity. Struggling to continually redefine, recontextualize, and renarrate the core values and convictions of faith is a vital part of being a living tradition. One of the key ways that traditions thrive in the future is

by reaching back and retelling the stories and celebrating the people who set the trajectory for the movement.

A living tradition, as church historian Jaroslav Pelikan so beautifully states above, cannot simply return to its past; it has to embody it anew. It is impossible to think about recapturing the spirit of the Church of the Nazarene without examining the founding influence of Bresee. Any rearticulation of the legacy of the denomination has to take seriously his life, his passion, and his deepest convictions.

But without a thoughtful record of his life and ministry—like battles over wardrobes and

One of the key ways that traditions thrive in the future is by reaching back and retelling the stories and celebrating the people that set the trajectory for the movement.

pulpits—the church can often co-opt an influential leader’s memory for their own purposes. In these days of frequently contested identity in the church, one might wonder, who are the true “children of Bresee” today?

There are many things that I hope a new generation of church leaders will glean from Bresee’s life, but let me name just three.

First, it is my hope that in every generation the heirs of the Church of the Nazarene will be shaped by Bresee’s passion for the poor. Every Nazarene should know that the denomination’s name came not just from the connection to Jesus of Nazareth, but from the understanding that the word “Nazarene” had derogatory overtones (as demonstrated by Nathaniel in John 1:46: “Can anything good come from Nazareth?”). Bresee’s church would be centered on Jesus the Nazarene but would also be oriented toward those marginalized persons from whom nothing good was expected to come.

In a day not unlike the day Bresee faced over a century ago, when people are still abandoning the poor in urban centers globally, the church should be reminded of statements like this from Bresee: “We can get along without rich people, but not

without preaching the gospel to the poor.”

Many of the faithful in the evangelical tradition since the time of Bresee have been deeply shaped by eschatologies that lack hope. In other words, the generation that currently leads the church was largely shaped by theological systems whose future expectations were that God’s plan is to redeem a few out of the world before its eventual destruction. It should not surprise us that people shaped with those kinds of expectations often embody a gospel that isolates the church from the world and, like the prophet in the fourth chapter of Jonah, sits outside the city waiting for the world’s great cities and cultures to be destroyed, while God is busy at work redeeming the lost of Nineveh.

Bresee led Nazarenes into the darkest corners where sin abounded, because he was convinced of the transforming power of God’s grace and Spirit to bring light into darkness, to bring holiness where there was sin, and to bring life out of death.

Finally, I am also hopeful that those who wrestle with making today’s church a living reflection of Bresee’s character will discover his commitment to unity on essentials while negotiating and leading an incredibly diverse group of people. It is important to

remember that the Church of the Nazarene was formed more by the merging of people with similar passions and values than it was the leaving of disgruntled people from other traditions and denominations. Bresee was so devoted to the vision of holiness that many other nonessentials clearly became secondary.

In a time of rapid cultural and global change, the questions of orthodoxy constantly rise to the surface. Technology and social media have done a lot of good things, but in the church they can often be instruments of division rather than unity. Leaders with Bresee’s wisdom and conviction are desperately needed today to hold a group far more diverse than Bresee ever encountered united together around the essentials of the call to be holy as God is holy.

Bresee was far from perfect and like all great people he was profoundly shaped by his particular moment in time. But God also used him to begin a movement that has gone far beyond what Bresee likely could have imagined. I hope that those of us called to lead the church today are connected with his heart so that the best days of Bresee’s original vision are still out ahead of the Church of the Nazarene.

- Pastor Scott Daniels

PASTOR'S SUMMER SERIES

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

AUGUST 13, 20, & 27 ✦ 6:30 PM IN LEE CHAPEL

