

## Good News

- From the Board of General Superintendents

"We bring you good news.

The Church is alive and well, all around the world. We continue to hear incredible stories of compassion missions, hospitality, generosity, salvation, and transformation from our local congregations everywhere. Thank you for your continued participation in God's mission in the world."



Board of General Superintendents – (standing l.to r) Dr Gustavo A. Crocker, Dr David A. Busic, Dr Carla D. Sunberg, Dr Filimão M. Chambo, (seated l.to r) Dr Eugénio R. Duarte, Dr David W. Graves

## The Church of the Nazarene

is a Protestant Christian church in the Wesleyan-Holiness tradition. Organised in 1908, the denomination is now home to about 2.5 million members worshipping in more than 30,000 congregations in 163 world areas.

## Advent Meditation - "The Coming One"

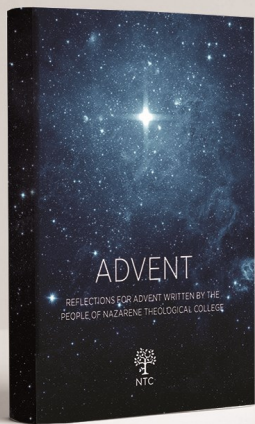
By Dr Svetlana Khobnya - Senior Lecturer in Biblical Studies, Nazarene Theological College, Manchester, taken from the recently published book, "Advent to Epiphany - reflections for the season written by the people of Nazarene Theological College." (Copies available from the College).

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. It is the good news of the arrival of God's kingdom in the world. But why is Jesus the beginning of the good news? How can we be sure of it and is this still good news for us today?

One simple answer is that this is part of our history: 'As it is written,' Mark says. There is no need to imagine or to deny it. We have a cloud of witnesses who alerted us to expect this. 'The LORD will give what is good' (Ps 85:12) and 'Prepare the

way of the LORD' for he comes with might (Isa 40:3,10). And now the time is fulfilled (Mark 1:15). John the Baptist, the messenger, appears from the wilderness to testify about this powerful Messiah, the Son of God, who is about to baptise his people with the Holy Spirit and to reveal God's sacrificial love for humanity. The rest of the New Testament helps us understand how Jesus' ministry is God's perfect and hopeful plan for humanity, how he transforms people, unites and gives them hope, how those people themselves become carriers of the good news of God's great plan for the world.

But knowing the testimonies of others is not enough. The good news can be ours when we are a part of it just as Mark, John the Baptist, Peter, Paul and others before us. The good news is meant to make us truly open-minded viewing our lives against the canvas of God's eternal plan for his creation. It remains relevant if we continue asking ourselves, 'What is our place as individuals and communities in God's big picture?'



# A COVID REFLECTION - Rev Carl McCann - *South District Superintendent*

Do you remember the good old days? ...back in 2019 when you could call in on a friend for a cup of tea! How life can change so quickly. All of us have experienced restrictions, some illness, others bereavement. People have endured both mourning and celebrating in restricted environments, without the benefit of the human touch. It's been a strange year, to say the least, and one that I think we all hope will not be repeated.

Whilst I don't believe 'God sent Covid', I do believe that God can work through every circumstance, including 2020. Therefore, what have we learnt over the past 12 months?

Have we learnt to appreciate much which previously we took for granted? Our garden, a public park, freedom, health, time with friends, the skill of teaching...?

Have we had a chance to reflect on our Christian life? - witness, ministry, worship, discipleship, fellowship...?

Have we discovered new things about ourselves? The vulnerability of our mental health? A streak of judgementalism towards those not abiding by lockdown to the same standard as ourselves? Or, in reverse, a streak of rebelliousness as we have found ourselves seeking out loopholes in the rules of lockdown? Have we grown in grace?

As life (hopefully) returns to normal, what new things have emerged as a result of 2020, that we need to maintain? What things have disappeared, and need to remain that way? Let us all, personally, as married couples, families, communities and churches, take time to intentionally invite the Holy Spirit to truly speak into our lives, to continually mould and shape us in the image of Christ.



## A COVID EXPERIENCE

- Rev Geoff Austin - *retired Nazarene minister*



I began to feel unwell on Sunday 13th September, the following Wednesday I had a COVID-19 test at Prestwick Airport and the next day I received the result - positive! I was immediately admitted to the ICU at Crosshouse Hospital, Kilmarnock - and I don't remember much after that for about four weeks.

My wife, Jane, received a phone call to say that I was going to be put on a ventilator. This caused the family to fear the worst, but they were trusting God whatever the outcome. Over the next few weeks literally thousands of people around the world were praying for me and the family, including the local RC priest who prayed for me in his services.

I was on the ventilator for 24 days. Apparently, I was quite delirious much of the time, but thankfully I don't remember. I also had a tracheoscopy to help with breathing.

I received wonderful care in ICU. Jane and the family were able to phone at any time for updates and were encouraged when the doctor called and said he was "cautiously optimistic" about my condition. The nursing staff took videos which they sent to the family at various stages of my recovery. I have seen the videos but I don't recognise myself with all the tubes I had - and no beard! Our daughters, Jaime and Jo-Anne, kept a diary/video blog of my journey which has filled me in with lots of details that I had been unaware of. The nursing staff kept on telling me that I was doing really well and after about four weeks I was moved from ICU to a regular ward.

There were times when I felt low, especially during sleepless nights, when I felt like the Psalmist that I was in the "lowest pit, in the darkest depths" (Ps 88:6) and didn't know where I was or what was happening. But my improvement continued and the staff were amazed at what I could do. The next stage was to get home. The hospital arranged a home care package and I was able to get home after seven weeks on Wednesday 28th October. An Intermediate Care Team (ICT) now look after me,

I am now getting involved in the "InS:PIRE" (Intensive Care Syndrome Promoting Independence and Return to Employment) programme in which those who have suffered from COVID-19 meet on line to exchange experiences and try to encourage and learn from one another.

The family has been very supportive. Jane has been giving me injections, organising my medication, and generally being a great support. Jo-Anne, because she lives close by, has been able to give Jane and me practical help by shopping and visiting.

I said, when I first got home, that when I consider how many people have died from COVID-19 I wonder why I should have survived. I don't really have an answer but I do thank God for the extra time that I now have with family and friends - each day is precious. Also, I don't want to underestimate the power of the prayers of God's people. To God be the glory!

## HYMN-PRAYER

Composed by retired Nazarene Minister,  
**Rev Colin Robertson** (Montrose, Scotland)  
used by permission.

(To be sung to the tune: Slane. "Be Thou My Vision")

Lord of Creation we lift up our praise  
Giver of life; who has numbered our days  
You purchased our salvation on Calvary's hill  
We pledge to love you and do all your will.

Lord, break this pandemic that holds us in fear  
Give thine assurance your presence is near  
Hear those who are afflicted as on thee they call  
Send forth your healing thou Master of All.

Lord heal our nation that is broken today  
Where hope is gone, lead your people to pray  
Anger and hatred bring turmoil and pain  
Come now Lord Jesus, bring your peace once again.

Lord God, of compassion give us hearts that will heed  
Cries from the homeless, and people in need  
You give us your abundance so Christians may share  
Love with the hurting, then they'll know that we care.

Lord of the harvest, the fields still await  
Send us revival before it's too late  
Your Spirit fall upon us and move us to go  
Sharing the gospel so the whole world may know.

## NEW BOOK

by **Dr Herbert McGonigle** -  
**"More Than Conquerors"**

(Moorleys, 2020: 212 pages)

**More Than  
Conquerors**

Herbert Boyd McGonigle  
MA, BD, DD, PHD.

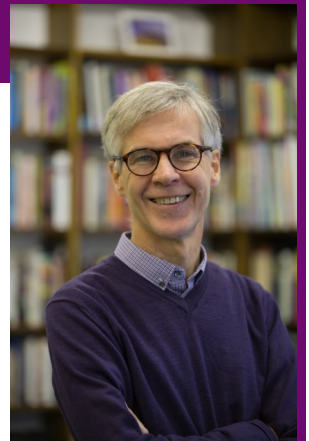
**Contains 76  
illustrations and  
historical anecdotes  
gleaned by Dr  
McGonigle over more  
than 50 years. Books  
by Dr McGonigle can  
be obtained from him  
c/o Nazarene  
Theological College.**



## COLLEGE NEWS - from Dr Peter Rae

**NTC GRADUATION 2020** saw a celebration located not in the usual imposing setting of the Whitworth Hall, but as an online celebration, with Graduands connecting in from across the world. Usually, up to 600 people gather to celebrate those who graduate - but this year, over 4000 people have watched the online celebrations. The 57 graduates joined the event from all around the world - from all over the UK, from Kenya, from Malaysia, from the US and Canada, from Germany, South Africa, Croatia, Pakistan, Jordan, South Korea. One PhD graduate in Hawaii got up at 3:00 am with his family to celebrate, and it was lovely to see students sending their pictures of celebration - from their kitchens and living rooms, from their back gardens - two were outside Buckingham Palace, wearing pink mortar boards!

Our nine PhD graduates included those from Kenya (Zimbabwe), Benin, Malaysia - to continue a remarkable investment by NTC in the global church. Revd Dr Klaus Arnold, newly-appointed Global Commissioner of Education in the Church of the Nazarene, and himself an NTC PhD graduate, brought the Graduation address. Indeed - if you haven't seen it, you can still catch it on the College's Facebook page, YouTube channel, or from the College's web page.



Dr Peter Rae - Vice-Principal & Academic Dean

**2020 DIDSBURY LECTURES:** Professor John Swinton, Chair in Divinity and Religious Studies at the University of Aberdeen, brought this year's Didsbury Lectures, with the title 'Empire of Illusion: What do we Do about the Problem of Evil.' The lectures were delivered by ZOOM, which enabled engagement from around the world - and the lectures engendered a lively debate and discussion. Next year's lectures will be brought by Professor John M G Barclay (Lightfoot Professor of Divinity, Durham University).



Professor John Swinton - Didsbury Lecturer



Dr Klaus Arnold - Graduation Speaker

**NEW STUDENTS:** The College has welcomed over fifty new students this year - a real cause for celebration, given the restrictions on recruitment from some traditional sources through the pandemic period. Although all classes are being delivered by videoconference, there are new students in residence (in social-distancing households), and, where allowed, meeting in face-to-face settings to nurture community. One of the advantages of being online has been that people of every age and background have been able to take classes at College whatever their location.

## GRADUATE TESTIMONIALS

### Gift Mtukwa

#### Degree of Doctor of Philosophy:

I have loved my experience at NTC. The NTC community has taught me to be a scholar and a churchman. At NTC, devotion and learning truly go together. I am forever grateful to Drs Sarah Whittle and Kent Brower, my supervisors. In addition, I would like to thank Drs Swanson, Khobnya, Rae, Noble, Hammond, and Wi for teaching me how to be a scholar. I am also thankful to staff members whom I met during my stay at the college. I highly recommend NTC as a place to grow and be stretched



### Kirsty Burke

#### Degree of Master of Arts in Theology:

I feel like I've grown up at NTC! I started my BA at 22 & I'm now graduating with my MA at 30. Thank you to all the staff & faculty for their support & wisdom. To my husband, family & friends, thank you for your love & support.



### Hannah Clarkson

#### Degree of Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Theology:

It is the best place full of the best people and I miss it immensely. Huge thanks to Mick and Debbie for everything they do.





# IN MEMORIAM - Remembering those who have served

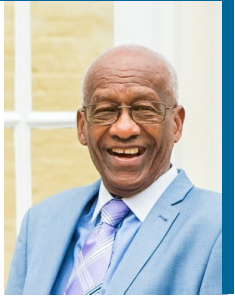


**REV HUGH HANNA GORMAN** passed away in Calgary, Canada, 18th May 2020, age 88. An Ulsterman, born in Belfast, Hugh spent the first part of his life, "lost, wandering from Belfast bars to service in the British Army across the world" but God changed his life in the Donegal Road, Belfast, Church of the Nazarene. He enrolled as a student at Hurler Nazarene College, Scotland, where he met fellow student, South African born, Joan Ackerman, who became his wife and partner in ministry. The wedding was held in 1959 in the Belfast First Church with Rev William Kelly officiating. Joan passed away 21st July 2015, age 87.

Over some 40 years Hugh served as a pastor, evangelist and holiness preacher with assignments in, Glasgow (Scotstoun), Troon, Belfast (Ballymacarrett), in Canada (Calgary & Regina), Dublin, and in Canada (Melfort & Red Deer).

Hugh Gorman will be remembered for his love for people, his sense of humour, his faithfulness to the church, and his "fierce love for Jesus Christ". Hugh is survived by his two sons, Wesley and Timothy and their families.

**REV ATTILL CHRISTOPHER ARNOLD** passed away 18th July 2020, age 89. Originally from the West Indies (Trinidad & Tobago). Attil served for the ministry at the Caribbean Pilgrim College, Barbados (now Caribbean Wesleyan College), graduating in 1958 as valedictorian of his class. That same year he and Esme, who was from Trinidad, were married.



For nearly 10 years the Arnolds ministered in the Wesleyan Holiness Church in various churches in Trinidad & Tobago and Barbados, before coming to the UK in 1962. For 8 years Attil served in an itinerant ministry in England in a number of denominations, including the Church of the Nazarene. In 1980 he began a ministry in the Walthamstow Church of the Nazarene which spanned 20 years. And during retirement the Arnolds continued to support and share in the ministry of the Walthamstow church. Esme passed away 16th September 2011, age 75.

The Arnolds had three children, Richard (who sadly died 6th April 2007 from Leukaemia a few weeks short of his 47th Birthday), Ruth and Rosemary, 8 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Attil Arnold was a gentle and gracious man who was faithful in his service to the church and who demonstrated in his life the fruits of the Spirit.

## CHURCH NEWS



**EURASIA REGION:** The Board of General Superintendents and the General Board has elected Rev Jim Ritchie to the position of Eurasia Regional Director. Jim commenced this new assignment 19th October 2020. Originally ordained in the Church of Scotland in 1998, Jim's credentials were accepted by the Church of the Nazarene in 2013 and Jim has served as pastor of the Perth Trinity Church of the Nazarene for the past 8 years and as North District Superintendent for the past 4 years. Jim holds two degrees (BD, MTh) from the University of Edinburgh and has considerable experience in pastoral, youth, evangelism and music ministries. Jim says, "Maggie and I are very honoured and excited to be given this call to serve Jesus and His Church across the nations of Eurasia. We have an amazing God. We have a wonderful gospel. We have a powerful incredible Saviour. And we've been given God's Spirit to fulfil the great commission, to make Christ-like disciples in the nations."



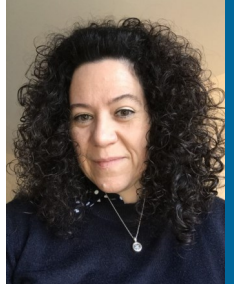
**LISBURN:** Pastor's Anniversary. Rev Albert Griffith and his wife Rhoda celebrated 30 years in the pastorate of the Lisburn church on Thursday 25th June 2020. They served in Motherwell from 1982-1986 and Carlisle from 1986-1990. Albert has announced to the Lisburn fellowship that he will be retiring as from 28th February 2021.



**PERTH:** Dr Ian G. Wills has accepted the call to be senior pastor of the Perth Trinity Church of the Nazarene. The Wills family - Ian, Carolyn, Lucy & Sarah - will move to Perth mid-December and commence ministry immediately. Brought up in the Parkhead Sharpe Memorial Church, Glasgow, Ian has served as YP President (7 years), Associate Pastor (12 years) and as Lead Pastor (11 years). He holds two degrees (BD, MTh) from the University of Glasgow and has a Doctor of Ministry degree from Asbury Theological Seminary, (USA). The Wills last Sunday at Parkhead was 29th November, and part of the 'farewell' was a 'This is Your Life' programme which can be viewed on the 'Parkhead Nazarene' Facebook and YouTube page.

Ministry Team members, Rev Shelley Kenny and Pastor John Craig, will continue to give leadership to 'Parkhead Nazarene' and 'The New Charter' pending clarification and confirmation of pastoral arrangements by the Church Board and Church Membership.

**NORTH DISTRICT:** Following discussions with the North District Advisory Board, Dr David W. Graves (General Superintendent) has appointed Rev Claire L. Fender to the position of interim District Superintendent, with effect from 1st November, to serve until the next District Assembly when elections for the position of District Superintendent will be held. Originally from Caerphilly, S. Wales, Claire attended the Cardiff Church of the Nazarene and is a graduate of our College (BA Honours). She has been involved in ministry in Paisley, Carlisle, Irvine, Troon and Perth serving, for the past nearly 4 years, in Perth as Associate pastor and as Assistant to the District Superintendent. Claire says, "...it is an honour to be appointed...and humbling to serve our district in this capacity for such a time as this."



**PAISLEY:** Rev Tommy Goodwin, MBE reports of 'New Beginnings' at St Matthew's Paisley. In November 2015 a five year 'team ministry' initiative was launched with the vision of "Bringing Nouveau Life to Paisley". Under the voluntary bi-vocational leadership of Rev Goodwin, members of the ministry team worked together collaboratively and collegially for the common good of the people of Paisley.



Tommy reports, "Looking back over the past five years there is a very real sense that this venture has brought not only new life and blessing to the local church, but has also given encouragement and leadership development opportunities to those pastors who became involved as part of the ministry team. This has included, Rev Zoe Donnelly, Rev Nathan Payne, Pastors Bob & Bev Fitzjohn, Pastor Jaci Tarrant, Pastor Jordan Neil, Pastor Benjamin Goodwin, as well as the current team - Rev Ann Goodwin, Pastor Andrew Purdy and Pastor Ryan Smith. Aiden Branch and Jamie Goodwin have also been involved supporting worship and community development."

On Sunday, 1st November, the 5-year plan was completed and Rev Tommy Goodwin concluded his role as Team Leader/Coordinator. Following Church Board discussions and a congregational vote on 8th November, Pastor Ryan Smith was unanimously elected as Pastor. Originally from Paisley, Ryan has served in the Erskine Church as well as in St Matthew's, and has just graduated with the BD degree from the Scottish Baptist College. He is married to Sarah.

Ryan has invited existing team members, Rev Ann Goodwin and Pastor Andrew Purdy (pictured), to continue as team members and Ryan says, "...we step into this new season as a church community brought together by the Holy Spirit. Our vision for Paisley and St Matthew's is to see people coming to experience and know God's love for them... and for all God's disciples to find their place in His Kingdom plans..."

Rev Tommy Goodwin continues his work as a Chaplain with the Royal Navy having been assigned, on 13th October 2020, to work with the Royal Marines of 43CDO Protection Group, where he will serve until 4th May 2021. Tommy continues to support St Matthew's as a member of the congregational community.