

THE IMPORTANCE OF TESTIMONY

One dictionary definition of a "testimony" is "a public declaration regarding a religious experience." Testimonies can be short – as was the case with the blind man Jesus healed "...one thing I know, once I was blind, now I can see!" (John 9:25). On the other hand, a testimony can be detailed and comprehensive, like Paul's testimony before Agrippa in Acts 26. But long or short, testimonies are important.

The 'Word of Testimony' has been a feature of Christian practice and ministry across the centuries and has featured in different settings – in books and magazines, in testimony and sharing meetings, in open-air services, and many gospel songs have testimony as their theme. And the Scriptures underline the importance of bearing witness to God's saving and sanctifying grace through the Word of Testimony in the following ways.

It is required of every Christian. The words of Peter are more than a suggestion, they are an imperative – a command! "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have." (1 Peter 3:15). We should know what we believe and be ready to share it.

It is at the heart of the Spirit-filled life. The Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost in order that the people of God would be witnesses. The words of Jesus are clear, "You shall receive power...to be my witnesses." (Acts 1:8). Discouraged and confused disciples who all forsook Jesus and fled when He was crucified, were transformed into bold witnesses. We read "...when they (the Sanhedrin) saw the boldness of Peter and John...they took note that they had been with Jesus." (Acts 4:13).

It is a weapon against Satan. We read in Revelation 12:11, "...they overcame him ((Satan) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony." The application is clear, the devil is silenced and defeated by the testimonies of God's people.

We must always 'speak the truth in love' (Ephesians 4:15), and with '...gentleness and respect.' (1 Peter 3:15). Yes, the Word of Testimony is important. Are you ready and willing to share yours?

INDUCTIONS

Rev Tracey Day was inducted to the Pen-y-cae church (near Wrexham, N. Wales), on 11th November. The service was conducted by Rev Carl McCann (District Superintendent). Tracey has served in ministry positions in Bolton, Thetford, Sheffield, and was, for nearly 10 years, a previous pastor of the Pen-y-cae church. Tracey also serves as assistant District Superintendent of the South District.

Pictured (l.to r) Rev Carl McCann, Rev Tracey Day and David Day.



Dr Ken Baker was inducted to the Walthamstow, London, church on 30th September and Rev Carl McCann (DS) conducted the service and preached. Ken has a PhD degree in New Testament from Nazarene Theological College/ University of Manchester, has held a number of ministry positions in the London area and also in Ireland, as well as having written a number of books.

Pictured Val and Dr Ken Baker.



Rev Gary Law was inducted to the Woodside, Watford, Community Church of the Nazarene on 7th October. Originally from N. Ireland, Gary is a graduate of Belfast Bible College and Nazarene Theological College and for the past 7 years has pastored the Desertmartin, County Londonderry, Church of the Nazarene. Rev Carl McCann (DS) preached and conducted the induction.

Pictured, Rev Gary Law (right) with Rev Carl McCann (DS).



CHURCH RENOVATION

It was in March 1909 that the Uddingston Mission united with George Sharpe's Parkhead Pentecostal Church. The work had been started by John D. Drysdale – a Blantyre barber, who went on to establish the Emmanuel Bible College in Birkenhead – and the Mission became part of the Pentecostal Church of Scotland. The denomination was to unite with the then Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene in 1915

Over the years the Uddingston church has made a significant contribution to the work of the Church of the Nazarene at home and abroad. It was in 1931 that Margaret K. Latta left Uddingston for Swaziland (now Eswatini) to establish schools and train teachers for which she was awarded the MBE. Miss Latta retired in 1954 and went to her eternal reward in 1962.

The church building, located in the shadow of Tunnock's factory (famous for its caramel wafers and teacakes), has had a number of improvements across the years, including an extension, but has been in need of refurbishment particularly in the back hall.

back hall. The three-month work includes, a new church boiler; a rebuilt & extended storage room, remedial roofing & guttering; remedial insulation & damp proofing to an external wall, and complete redecoration.

Local pastor, Rev Clive Tutty (pictured) says, "...the church is looking forward to seeing the finished work, and their prayer is for new ministries welcoming new people into a lovely building."



It was six years ago (2017) that the church renovated its sanctuary, which included redesigning the platform area, insulation, rewiring & redecoration. Now they have made a much greater investment to do the same in the



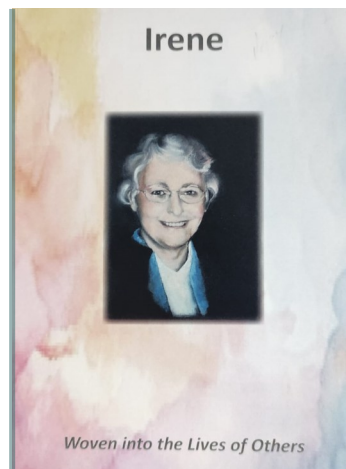
CHRISTMAS AT PERTH

Approximately 400 were present at the Perth Trinity Church of the Nazarene on Sunday evening, 17th December, when former Boyzone star, Shane Lynch, turned on the Christmas Lights and gave his testimony. The local Perth & Kinross paper, The Courier, carried the headline, "Ex-Boyzone star says 'Jesus Changed my life' on visit to Perth church" and included the picture of local pastor, Dr Ian Wills (pictured right), shaking hands with the Irish singer. Shane spoke about his Boyzone career and how he found Christ as his Saviour. He said, "I became a Christian 20 years ago and Jesus has changed my life around."

Photographs credit: Stuart Cowper



NEW BOOK



Over 130 attended a 'Thanksgiving Service' held Saturday, 14th October in the Belfast 1st Church for the life and ministry of Rev Irene Wallace, who passed away 6th May 2020 age 68. Many had been unable to attend the services for Irene, which were held in 2020, due to Covid-19 restrictions. Arranged by Paul Wallace and the family, those taking part included, Rev Lorraine Bell, Rev John Paton, Isabel Hamill, Cathy Tarrant – and Helen Williamson read a tribute from Joyce Bartle (New Zealand - who had served with her younger sister, Irene, as Nazarene missionary nurses in Papua New Guinea).

An offering for the work of the Nazarene Hospital in PNG was received and donations from the book "Irene – Woven into the Lives of Others" (authored by Paul Wallace) will go to the work of the hospital. To date, over £6,400 has been raised. Paul Wallace says, "...gifting the money to the Kudjip hospital in Papua New Guinea will help to improve the lives of others through the excellent work being done there, whilst also honouring Irene's spirit and character. Investing in others was always close to her heart."



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GRADUATION



Graduation was held Saturday, 24th October at The Whitworth Hall, University of Manchester. The programme listed 7 PhDs, 24 MAs, 8 Post Graduate Diplomas, 17 BAs, and 10 Diplomas/Certificates. The Graduation Speaker was Dr Andrew Ollerton – theologian and author, who works with the Bible Society, UK, and who has developed 'The Bible Course'.



COLLEGE CALENDAR

8th-10th January: Leadership Strategy Away days

9th January: Theological Foundations for the love of learning classes start - Manchester, Huddersfield and London - for more information contact mbs@nazarene.ac.uk

16th January -8th February: Principal in the States (New Jersey, Idaho, California, Tennessee)

19th February: Manchester Bible School 5 weeks of learning start - No essays, but only amazing gatherings to think and learn - online or in person, there's something for everyone. For more information contact mbs@nazarene.ac.uk

12th March: The Drysdale Lecture from 7.30-9.00pm including Q & A, with Pete Ward from Durham University, on bluegrass and religion! You can just show up! There will be music :-) and refreshments. <https://www.bluegrassandreligion.co.uk/>

25th-27th April: Wesleyan-Holiness Network - UK Gathering - London, for more information contact pa@nazarene.ac.uk

18th June: MWRC annual lecture for more information contact mwrc@nazarene.ac.uk

24th June: The Sydney Martin Lecture from 7.30-9.00pm including Q & A, with Heather Walton from the University of Glasgow

25th-27th June: Minister's Summer School - open to all Ministers for continuing education, friendship building, a bit of space to breathe and amazing food.

14th-17th of October: The Didsbury Lectures with Professor John Behr.

26th October: NTC Graduation and celebration of our 80th Anniversary! with Rev Jim Ritchie 11.00am at The Whitworth Hall, University of Manchester.

NEW BOOK



(General Superintendent) and Dr Kent Brower of NTC.

"Sanctifying Theology" has been in the process of preparation over the past 4 years and the presentation was a complete surprise to Dr Noble. Present for the occasion were Tom's wife, Elaine, and daughter Elspeth.

Dr Noble (pictured) is a graduate of Glasgow and Edinburgh Universities, is Professor of Theology at Nazarene Theological Seminary (Kansas City) and Senior Research Fellow in Theology at Nazarene Theological College, Manchester.

Dr Thomas A. Noble was honoured at Nazarene Theological College, Manchester, on 31st October when he was presented with a book of essays in recognition of the contribution he has made over the years to Wesleyan Theology through his teaching, writing and research. "Sanctifying Theology" (Edited by Jacob Lett & Jonathan M. Platter. Pickwick Publications, Oregon; 253 pages) is a collection of 15 essays from Wesleyan Scholars, and the sub-title is 'A Festschrift in Honour of Thomas Noble'. (Festschrift – a commemorative document). Those taking part in the presentation included Dr Carla Sunberg

SANCTIFYING THEOLOGY

At the Intersections of

Wesleyan Theology,

Dogmatics,

and Practice

A Festschrift in Honour of Thomas A. Noble

edited by
JACOB LETT
JONATHAN M. PLATTER



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

"...it's the time of year when we make a special request for the 'Principal's Project'. This year we've chosen to focus, not on things (though thank you for the roof!), or structures (though thank you again for the walkway!) but on people. Each year we distribute bursaries: they take a range of forms, but mostly are attached to scholars from the Global South, Emerging black theologians, Asylum seekers, Recovering and rehabilitating people who don't come with networks and resources, and then there's the much called upon Student Hardship fund. It's fair to say that the cost-of-living crisis has seen our students - called to train, engage and connect, work, and serve - really struggling financially - it catches my heart. So, this year, donations to the Principal's Project will be directed towards student bursaries and will enable us to offer bursaries in a targeted way, transforming student lives for the long term, and touching the world forever."

Dr Deirdre Brower Latz

CHURCH NEWS

LURGAN

Sunday, 1st October, was Harvest in the Lurgan, N. Ireland Church of the Nazarene. It was also when a Local Minister's License was presented to Jude Evans. The Church Board had voted to grant the license to Jude, who is the son of the Lurgan pastor, Rev Philip Evans. Jude has been engaged in ministry alongside his father, and has also been active in



giving pulpit supply to the Belfast, Shankill Road Nazarene Church.

Jude gave testimony to a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ as his Saviour, Healer and Friend.

Pictured are the members of the Evans family, (l.to.r) Sharon Evans, Silas, Jude, and Rev Philip Evans.

DROMORE



While the biggest Black Saturday Parade was being held in Dromore on 26th August, the Dromore Church of the Nazarene was open to serve and befriend the community and those visiting for the parade. Free coffee, tea, refreshments and toilet facilities were available. Esther Christie of the Dromore church says, "...we had hundreds of people through the gates/doors where they were able to see God's goodness as their needs were catered for...it was a witness to them of Jesus love...and it gave church members and volunteers a great opportunity of outreach, enabling us to reach those from all over Northern Ireland." Rev Noel Somerville is the pastor of the Dromore church.



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DISTRICT ASSEMBLIES

We are looking forward to having Dr Carla D. Sunberg – General Superintendent – (pictured) with us for our District Assemblies. Born in Germany of Nazarene missionary parents, Dr Sunberg and her husband, Rev Chuck Sunberg, have served as Nazarene missionaries in Russia for 13 years as well as sharing as pastors and District Superintendents in the USA.



Dr Sunberg holds a number of degrees including a PhD in Historical Theology from Nazarene Theological College/University of Manchester. Prior to being elected a General Superintendent in 2017, Dr Sunberg served, for 3 years as President of Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City.

District Assembly dates and venues for 2024 are:

South District - 8th-9th March, St John's Church, Dukinfield.

North District - 9th-11th March, Perth Trinity Church of the Nazarene.

MEDIA SUMMIT

...a report by Richard Wood (North District Secretary).

Representatives from both North and South districts had the opportunity last year to attend 'The Church Sound & Media Summit'. This annual event, held 6th-7th October in Nottingham, brings together church leaders, sound engineers, media teams, and technology enthusiasts. It aims to provide insight into the latest advancements in sound and media technology for worship services, as well as providing ideas to improve the things we do on a week-by-week basis.

This year's summit, partly sponsored by Panasonic, featured Sam Lynam (from our Leeds Morley church and a representative of Panasonic), who demonstrated some of the impressive technology his company supports. Attendees greatly appreciated the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with other sound and media experts.

The Church Sound & Media Summit proved to be a very valuable experience, inspiring us to further consider how the technology we use can contribute to support more impactful worship experiences. Tickets for the 2024 conference are already available. (Pictured (l.to r) Sam Lyman (Morley), and from Glasgow East Nazarene, Richard Wood, Chris Stirling, James Bahra).



CHURCH HOLIDAYS

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Breakthru

HOLIDAYS

30th July to 3rd August 2024
at Cliff College, Derbyshire

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