



## Renewing Lives, Transforming Lives

By Shirley Mears

Mardel Christian and Education Supply is regularly referred to as Mardels. It is correctly pronounced "Mardel." That being said, I would like to tell you more about the man at the helm of a business that has unusual operating principles.

Mart Green doesn't make decisions based on the bottom line. The business was started in the 1980's and there are over 19 stores in 6 states, so of course, the bottom line is a part of everyday activities. However, this is the kind of business that

makes you smile just by walking in and seeing all that is offered.

First, there is the aroma of great coffee, complimentary, naturally. Then, many folks realize that the employees are happy to serve. The stores are filled with books, Bibles, stationery, Christian and educational supplies as well as music and gift selections.

The mission statement is based on scripture. Ephesians 4:12: "For the equipping of the saints, for the

work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ, until we all attain the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God" (NAS). In business, the scripture is translated "to equip the whole person by being a resource center that provides for spiritual and intellectual needs."

Some people choose to go into business because they want to be their own boss. The president of Mardel believes quite differently. He sees his role as a minister. Green believes that a minister is a servant; someone who lives serving God and others. Mardel also supports ministries like Wycliffe Bible Translators and Bearing Fruit Communications.

Green grew up watching his parents serve others as they began their family business in their garage. Hobby Lobby began as an idea to do business a bit better. David Green, Mart's dad, had worked with TG&Y for many years and began seeing a vision for a retail concept of his own. Barbara Green, Mart's mother, worked along side of her husband, and Mart and the other children were trained in the servant side of retail at really young ages.

Join us on Monday, May 12, to hear Mart Green. You will be inspired.



## Poet's Corner

By Jack Pischel

### RAIN

Ah, 'tis raining, how I love its  
Pitter, patter, tit-tat-toe;  
Drops hand trembling on my window,  
then uniting, off they go,

Forming streams that laugh and chuckle  
As they wander midst the flowers;  
Then move out into the grasses  
Building bridges, lanes and bowers.

Still they move, as if some power  
Drew them ever toward that shore,  
Where the billows and the breakers  
Never cease to moan and roar.

And the rain-drops from my window  
Never more will playful be,  
For they've gathered all together  
And are marching toward the sea.

But for these I will not sorrow,  
Will not question, moan, or sigh.  
For I know that He who made them  
Still has millions in the sky.

And He'll send them to this earth-world  
When the time and tide is right;  
Then they'll play upon my windows  
And march off into the night.

— Jack Pischel



**Your president's point of view:**  
*by Jack David Arnold*

**"If I were God, and  
man made a mess of things"**  
by Jack David Arnold

In 1970 when students were protesting the Vietnam War at the University of Illinois where I was teaching, I often recited Carl Weist's poem to my students and fellow faculty members:

*If I were God  
and man made a  
mess of things: war, hatred,  
murder, lust, cobwebs of infamy  
entangling the heart and soul—  
I would sweep man  
to one side and start anew!  
(I think I would).  
If I would,  
would I be God?*

Three decades later, as I write this editorial on April 13, 2003, I once again see on my television screen that protestors and supporters of the Iraq war are carrying their signs in streets and public places around the world.

I am tempted to think that the world is going mad again, and chaos is the order of the day; however, in an effort to protect my sanity, I decided to write today about God's purpose and salvation.

**Nothing to be done**

To experience salvation—to experience the healing and wholeness which God offers—we need do nothing. Indeed, there is nothing we can do to save ourselves. It has all been done for us.

German-born philosopher Eckhart Tolle in his seminal book, *The Power of Now*, writes:

*People are waiting for an event in time to save them. Salvation is not here in place or time. It is here and now. True salvation is fulfillment, peace, life in all its fullness; it is a state of freedom from fear, from suffering, from a perceived state of lack and insufficiency, and therefore, from all wanting, needing, grasping, and clinging.*

Tolle's words run counter to almost everything we are taught in this secular, materialistic, narcissistic, technological age. We live in an era of instant, quick-fix solutions, and D.Y.I.—"do-it-yourselfism."

We are constantly bombarded with all kinds of do-it-yourself schemes of salvation generated by the cult of the self-made man. It is an illusion. There is no such thing as a "self-made man." We are all the products of the network of relationships we experience from the moment of birth as well as the complex interaction of genes, predispositions, culture, and environment.

**A world of would-be saviors**

Much of "New Age" belief in self-salvation has its roots in the "God is dead" debates of the late 1960s. It found its inspiration in the teaching of the 19<sup>th</sup> century German philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche, who proclaimed the death of God. In place of God he postulated the idea of Superman—"the noble man"—who had

Continued next column—Arnold



**"Sharing  
a  
Continuous  
Flight"**

**The Academy Perspective**

**--Publication Board--**

Chair & Production Editor Don Beaver  
Copy Editor Anna Belle Laughbaum  
Managing Editor Elbert Overholt

**--Columnists--**

President's Column Jack David Arnold  
Obituaries Billie Harrison  
Feature Writer Vada Lee Barkley  
Book Reviews Wini Howard  
Library Resources Bea Flinger

**---Staff Reporters---**

Photography Edith Sonnevik Payne  
Programs Shirley Mears  
Research (Vacancy)

**---Communications Policy---**

We value messages from our readers.  
By mail: *The Academy Perspective (TAP)*, Southern Nazarene University, 6729 N.W. 39th Expressway, Bethany, OK 73008  
By fax: (405) 491-6381  
By computer: www.snu.edu /sr\_professionals

**---Newsletter Subscription Information---**

Annual subscription cost for *The Academy Perspective*:  
Non-members—\$10.00 per year  
Members—Included in membership

**---Contributions---**

To make contributions to the Academy of Senior Professionals:  
Mail to: Roy Dorris, Treasurer  
4607 N. College, Bethany, OK, 73008

**Continued from Column 1—Arnold**

it within himself to be a god.

During those "God is dead" debates, I found a striking piece of graffiti on a bathroom wall at my alma mater in Urbana, Illinois:

*'God is dead,'—Nietzsche  
'Nietzsche is dead,' God.*

The would-be saviors or messiahs in the world and places of worship cannot save us, but the heresy is very much alive and flourishes today.

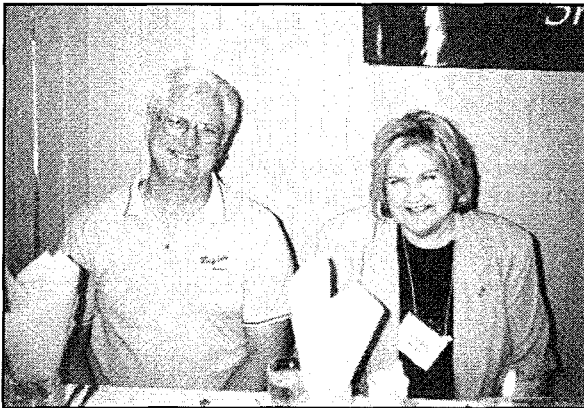
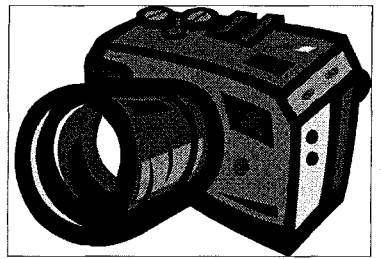
- No political philosophy can save us
- No economic system offers salvation
- No globalization can save us
- No pop-psychology can offer universal wholeness
- No "New Age" solutions can bring us lasting serenity
- No popular, quasi-Christian sect, based on "Health, Prosperity, and Deliverance" will last

Continued on page 6—Arnold

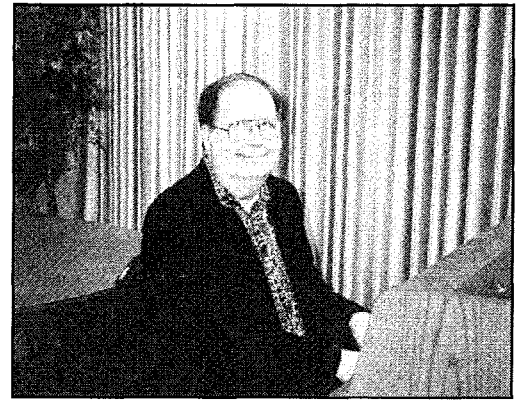


# ASP PICS

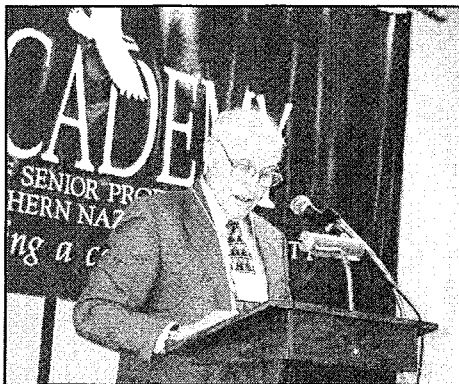
PICTURES BY EDITH SONNEVIK PAYNE



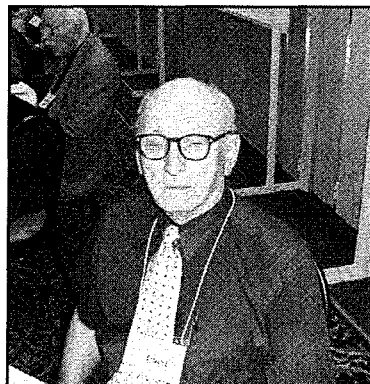
(left) Speaker for the April Luncheon, Shirley Mears, with her guest, Randy Ryel



(right) Pianist and ASP member, Wally Brown, provided dinner music for the April Luncheon.



(above) ASP Director, Elbert Overholt, presented the ballot for the election of ASP officers for 2003-04.



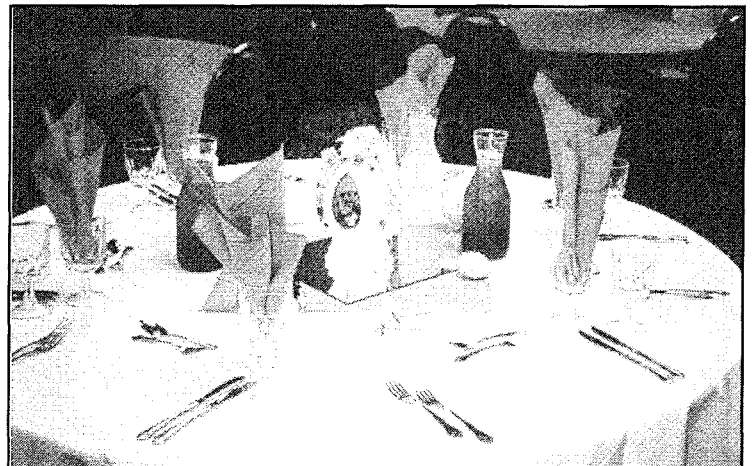
(above left) Rev. Lee Hillery attended the April Luncheon as the guest of Gene and Vivian Chambers.



(above right) Barbara Pirrong was the guest of Wally Brown.

(below) Enjoying the April Luncheon are Paul and Mary Ann Scheie, guests of Milton and Mabel Sonnevik

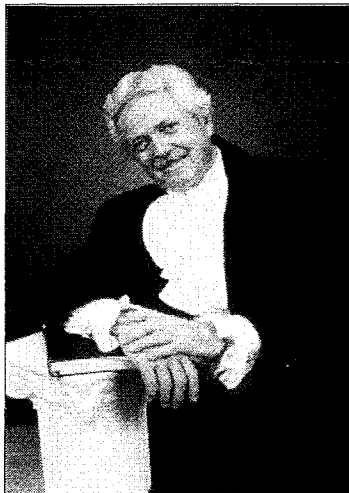
(below) One of the dining tables decorated especially for Easter.



**The Book Discussion Group (BDG)**  
**will feature Jack Arnold in a**  
**review of *The Pilgrim's Progress***  
 By Elbert Overholt, BDG Chairman

All ASP members and friends are welcome to attend and participate in the final Book Discussion Group meeting of the 2002-2003 academic year on **Monday, May 12, 9:00-11:00 a.m., in the President's Dining Room of the Webster Commons.**

Jack Arnold will continue his review of John Bunyan's classic, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, and compare it with Malcolm Muggeridge's *The Confessions of a Twentieth Century Pilgrim* and other literary and spiritual works.



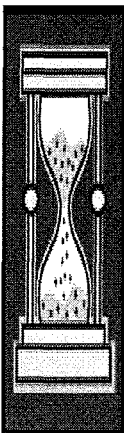
Dr. Jack Arnold as Bunyan

Arnold will follow the protagonist, Christian, from the Palace Beautiful to the Celestial City in this second session. In the first session he followed the man, Graceless, who was called Christian after his conversion, from the City of Destruction to the Palace Beautiful.

Wally Brown will provide background music on the keyboard as Jack "recites text" from *The Pilgrim's Progress*. You will miss a real treat if you don't take advantage of this opportunity. Twenty-five persons attended the first session of this review in March. It is hoped that they will attend again, and that new members and guests will attend this second session also.

Handouts with direct quotations from the works of Bunyan, Muggeridge, and other sources will be distributed to all attendees. Refreshments will be served before the review and during the intermission.

It is requested that all members indicate their interest in attending this BDG review to their ASP telephone callers when they make their May 12 luncheon reservations. This advance notice will help the BDG planners to prepare the correct number of handouts and to order sufficient refreshments.



***SANDS OF TIME***

*Glistening sands of time are cupped  
 Within the hourglass of life.  
 Each grain, a moment  
 Of future  
 Drops  
 Too quickly  
 Into the past, moment by  
 Silent moment, inexorably building  
 An accumulation of buried memories.*

— Shirley A. Woods



**Writer's Workshop Report**  
 By Vada Lee Barkley

The Writer's Workshop met April 14 in the Conference Room. Since Carol Spencer resigned, Vada Lee Barkley is chairman of this group.

Twelve people joined in a discussion of what they would like to write and what they would like to get from the Workshop.

Half of the group brought something they had written to read.

The meeting was described as "a great success," "informative," "enjoyable," "fantastic."

Everyone was asked to write something to bring to the Reader's Interest Group meeting next month. We will make copies for participants to take home to evaluate. This group is designed for inspiration, information, and motivation.

Our next meeting will be in October. We meet from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. before our ASP luncheon. Everyone interested in writing is invited.



**Library Resources**  
 By Bea Flinner

Martin, Kathryn. *Believe It or Not—Mama Likes the Nursing Home!* Kansas City, Missouri: Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 1996.

When aging parents are no longer able to take care of themselves, is a nursing home a workable, pertinent, viable option?

In this touching and at times humorous account, Kathryn Martin (better known as "Miz Maudie") takes us on a journey from her own initial feelings of guilt and helplessness to strength and hope over what has become for many a frequently misunderstood decision. In *Believe It or Not*, we see Kathryn's mother transformed from a frightened patient into a gardener, entertainer, can collector, business woman, and evangelist. We even see Kathryn's mother fall in love again.

Ms. Martin's mother said, "*I went to the nursing home to die, but instead I learned how to live.*"

This is a small, older, captivating book—and I just *had* to read all of it! Some of us may face this issue some day—either personally, or with a loved one. My oldest sister, (the mother of my recently deceased niece, was admitted to such a home in December, 2002, where she has made friends, "discovered" a piano (she had to leave hers), eats better, and has gained a little weight.

The book is in the R. T. Williams Resources Center. HQ 1064 .U5 M383 1996



**"If you ask me"**  
By Vada Lee Barkley



**A look at a book**  
By Wini Howard

The past year has been my most productive and most rewarding in many respects.

With plenty of material from my collection and Art's, I bought a computer and started writing. I have completed five books. Four are on the market. The fifth is in the works.

*Smile-God Loves You* is a demonstration of God's love throughout the ages.

*Inspirational Insights* is just what the name suggests.

*How to Keep from Dying in your Shell: If I Retire Shall I Live Again?* Contains suggestions for fulfilling God's plan for the aging. Based on experience—my own and that of some of you—it is especially designed for the Baby Boomer generation.

*The Pastor's Survival Kit* includes building blocks of sermon material, a chapter on false teachers—especially cults—, two chapters of mine on improving church relationships, and a crash course in communication.

At \$17.84+S&H, these books make excellent gifts.

My doctor says, "What are you going to do when you retire?" I wish I had told him I thought he might be able to use another office girl with computer skills. My brain doesn't work as fast as it used to, but, thank God, it's still working. In 1998 my doctors didn't think I'd live, and if I lived, they thought I'd be a vegetable. Naturally, they're thrilled about my books.

I plan to go on the web soon. I hope to use [www.inspirational.com](http://www.inspirational.com).

**THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE**

by Rick Warren

The subtitle of *THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE* is: "What On Earth Am I Here For?" The book has called "a groundbreaking manifesto on the meaning of life." This must be true. While reading the book, I am asking myself, "Why didn't I get to read it at least fifty years ago? (Of course, it was only written in this century.)"

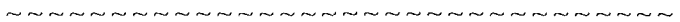
The author, Rick Warren, is the founding pastor of the Saddleback Church in California. This is both a very large and well-known church. His book, "The Purpose-Driven Church" is "one of the 100 Christian Books That Changed the 20th Century." (I am quoting from the book's cover.)

Now, Warren is writing a book for individual Christians. It is meant to be a 40-day journey. He requests that one read only a chapter a day. This is to give the reader time to meditation what is being discussed. (I have not had time to follow this suggestion.)

However, I am really excited about what he is presenting so clearly and forcefully. He is not telling people to look within to find meaning in life, as so many are suggesting these days. Instead, he stresses that God has an amazing plan for each life. Warren's use of scriptural quotes and references is amazing. They are woven into his text in a wonderful way. All of them are carefully documented.

Warren insists that God has a special plan for each person's life, and God's Word has answers to all of life's important questions. Two of his concepts have really challenged me. Servanthood is what the Bible is concerned with and not leadership. Another, our weaknesses are what God is concerned with and not leadership. Another, our weaknesses are what God uses to bless others, not our strengths. In other words, search and you shall find His answers. Warren is most convincing. This has to be a most unusual and challenging book for Christians to read.

This book is in the BFC library and is also available at Mardel.



Continued from column 1—The Cradle

aghast. The cradle of life becomes the cradle of death for each and every member of Adam's race. Each one falls to the soil and is consumed by it. The land is defiled by that which it was never to receive—the land receives the blood of Adam's race.

The land reels under this blood. The land reels under the misguided rule of the wayward race. It calls out to its Creator with groanings that cannot be uttered—and waits for the liberation and glorious freedom of the children of God as they are released once more from the soil forever.

[Reprinted by permission from *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith*, Volume. 52, Number. 3, September, 2000]



**Guest Editorial — Reflections on Easter**

**The Cradle**

By Dr. Elva B. Miller

God carefully, intentionally, lovingly prepares the soil. Scientists say the method is billions of years in process—energy is formed into electrons, protons, neutrons; these specks are formed into globs; these globs are pressured into elements; these elements bathed in water—and the soil is formed.

Then watch! God causes this soil to produce life. Plants and trees spring up, almost defying there cradle of life by raising their leaves high above the soil. Then come the crawling animals. They too are formed from the soil. They are free and yet not free from their cradle of life. They are free to roam above the soil, yet they are sustained by eating plants of the soil. Eventually, however, an unseen umbilical cord pulls them all back to the soil in death.

Then look carefully—a new creation! This one too is formed from soil, the cradle of life. In this creation, however, the umbilical cord is broken. Adam's race is to transcend its cradle of life. This race is to be free from the soil's hold. This race is free to choose, to rule, and to live forever. We stand in silence watching—Adam's race images the Creator!

But, alas! Adam chooses to defy the Creator. Our picture of God is marred; we can no longer see God clearly. We stand

Continued on column 2—The Cradle

Continued from page 2—Arnold

### God has done it all

In short, the truth is that there is nothing we can do for our salvation. The truth is that everything has been done for us. According to the apostle James, "*In fulfillment of His own purpose, [God] gave us birth by the word of truth*" (James 1:18).

It is very difficult in this Age of Information to believe today that God has done everything! God's healing and wholeness is a free gift! It is "the word of truth" by which we are saved.

### Faith, courage, and works

All that is needed, then, for our salvation, our healing and wholeness, is the act of faith; however, the act of faith is an act of courage. It is an act of great courage, in this time of "wars and rumors of wars," to believe, to have faith in God's purpose of His universe.

Theologian Paul Tillich wrote:

*The element of uncertainty in faith cannot be removed, it must be accepted, and the element of faith which accepts this is courage. Where there is daring and courage there is the possibility of failure. And in every act of faith this possibility is present. The risk must be taken.*

The wonderful film *Chariots of Fire* tells the story of the rivalry between the great Scottish sprinter, Eric Liddell, who became a missionary in China, and Howard Abraham, the American runner. Abraham was driven by a fear of losing, but something else drove Liddell. He withdrew from the Olympian 100 yard dash when the finals fell on Sunday.

Asked why he ran, Liddell replied: "*God has made me for a purpose. For China. He has also made me fast. When I run I feel His pleasure.*" For him, everything, even running, was for God's pleasure.

St. Augustine probably overstated the case when he said, "*Love God and do as you please,*" unless he meant: "*If you truly love God, then what pleases you will be for God's pleasure.*"

In this view, everything in life, everything we do, becomes a response to God's purpose and His eternal plan. Courage, faith, and works come together. How then do we display our faith and courage?

Living in the Now and accessing God's power and presence through prayer, meditation, worship, gratitude, and service, will bring sanity, serenity, and spirituality to all spiritual pilgrims in "the wilderness of this world."

One of my great heroes is Gerard Manley Hopkins, the English Jesuit poet. He wrote:

*It is not only prayer that gives God glory but our works. Smiting on an anvil, sawing a beam, whitewashing a wall, driving horses, sweeping, scouring, everything gives God some glory if being in His grace, you do it as your duty. To lift up the hands in prayer gives God glory, but a man with a dungfork in his hand, a woman with a sloppail, give Him glory too. He is so great that all things give Him glory if you mean they should. So, then, brethren, live. It is not only prayer that gives God glory but our works.*

Faith, courage, and works cannot be extricated or separated. They are inextricably intertwined and belong together. We are called to express our salvation by faith and courage in action!

**May God bless our faith, courage, and works today as we respond to His divine purpose in the universe.**



## ASP Calendar

### Monday: May 12

9:00-11:00 am Book Discussion Gp—Presidents Dining Rm

*Jack Arnold: The Pilgrim's Progress—Wally Brown: keyboard*

*Resource persons: Anna Belle Laughbaum, James Robert Emmel*

10:30-11:00 am Shuttle: West BFC Parking Lot to Commons

11:15am-1:00 pm Luncheon meeting—Heritage Room

*Speaker: Mart Green*

1:00-1:30 pm Shuttle: Commons to West BFC Parking Lot

1:15-2:00 pm Administrative Council—Faculty Lounge



## News Briefs

- **Have You Paid Your 2003 Membership Dues?**

If you have not paid your 2003 membership dues, please make it a priority to pay them by the May 12 meeting and obtain your ASP ID card. You may also send your check to Margaret Dawson, 4801 N. Redmond, Bethany, OK 73008. Please do this by June 1, 2003!

- **New Chairpersons Appointed for 2003-2004:**

President Jack Arnold made the following Chairperson appointments for the next academic year:

Billie Harrison, Membership Committee

Elbert Overholt, Strategic Planning Committee

- **ASP Officers Elected for the 2003-2004 Year:**

Director Elbert Overholt congratulates the following and thanks all who participated in the ballot process:

President: Jack Arnold; VP: Tom Barnard

Secretary: Darlene Overholt; Treasurer: Roy Dorris

Members-At-Large: Joyce Ellis & George Miller

- **"Golden Opportunities" to Serve:**

As of April 15, 2003, four chairperson positions are still open for the next academic year:

Book Discussion Group

Decorations Committee

Program Committee

Research Interest Group

Any member, who is interested in volunteering for one of these "golden opportunities" to serve, please contact President Jack Arnold (972.406.8627 or P.O. Box 814612, Dallas, TX 75234 or jackarmold@aol.com).

- **New ID's:**

Many of you received your new ID at our March Meeting. If you didn't get your ID you will need to take your receipt for current dues to Ron Wilson's office on the lower floor of The Commons Building to obtain your new ID.

- **Membership Directory Changes:**

Members may pick up the recent changes to the ASP Membership Directory: 2002-2003 at the May meeting. If you have changed address, phone number, or e-mail address please report new information to Don Beaver via "Information Update" form. The 2003-2004 Directory will be available in the fall.