

## Ron Mercer, Life Stages

by Shirley E.M. Mears

Who says retirement is the end of the journey? The Academy of Senior Professionals January 14<sup>th</sup> speaker, Ron Mercer, retired from Xerox where he served as the President of Xerox Canada, V.P. and General Manager of the Northeast Region in New York and many other positions. He was the District Manager for the Oklahoma District in the Mid 1960's.



Ron Mercer

In 1990 he and a partner, Gene Adams founded the Mercer-Adams Funeral Service and in just over 17 years it has become one of the premier family owned full service funeral providers in Oklahoma City serving nearly 400 families each year. In 2000 he and his wife Yvonne, with three other partners, formed an LLC and acquired Cedarburg Square, a home décor, gourmet food and gift shop in downtown Bethany.

He is currently the Vice-Chairman of the DHS Commission and serves on the board of First Fidelity Bank, The Children's Center, Oklahoma Independent College & Universities Foundation, Southern Nazarene University Foundation where he serves as President, and the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene, where he is the Vice Chair of the Finance Committee. He was named a commissioner of the Department of Human Services by Governor Frank Keating who had also appointed him to the Oklahoma Futures Board, which he chaired until his appointment to the department of Human Service Commission.

Mercer was born in Dewey County, OK and graduated from Taloga High School. He graduated

with a business degree from Southern Nazarene University which in 1998 awarded him the Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree. He attended the Graduate School of Business at Harvard University.

He and his wife, the former Yvonne Edwards, live in Woodlawn Park. They have been married 52 years, have four children and 11 grandchildren. He teaches a Sunday School class at Bethany First Nazarene Church called, "Get Real".

Mercer will be sharing the broader picture of the stages of life. Life expectancy in the early 1900's was just 45 years of age. However, with education and advanced medical technology the expectancy today has doubled to an average of 90 years of age.

All members and guests are urged to make their plans to hear Ron Mercer on Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. The buffet luncheon in the Heritage Room of the Webster Commons on the Southern Nazarene University campus begins promptly at 11:15 a.m. The luncheon program starts at noon and ends at 1 p.m.

### Important luncheon reservation information:

- Members: If you have not been contacted by one of our telephone callers by Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, please call Mrs. Shirley Pelley, ASP Telephone Committee Chairperson, at 405.354.3853.
- Guests: Please call the SNU Office of Alumni Relations at 491-6312 or email ASP@snu.edu
- All: The cost of the luncheon is \$5.00. Kindly make your reservation(s) by Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup>

### JANUARY LUNCHEON SPONSOR

*Spanish Cove Life-Care Retirement Community*  
*Our thanks to Mr. Sherman Huff*



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

**We will find what we look for  
in the New Year, 2008:  
good or evil, solutions or problems**

**Reality is often a matter of personal perception as much as objective fact.** The way that two people respond differently and uniquely to the same incident reveals this truth almost every time.

Imagine the following scene. Friends are having dinner at a restaurant. They overhear the couple at the next table talking excitedly. Neither speaks of it until later. Then one woman says, "Could you believe the nerve of that man, telling her what to eat? Why, he treated her like a child!"

"I think he was helping her with her order," her companion responds. "The menu was completely in French!" We have one event with two entirely different interpretations.

"Life is the movie we see through our own unique eyes," Denis Waitley wrote in his book *The Winner's Edge*. "It makes little difference what's happening out there. It is how we take it that counts."

***For myself, I am an optimist—  
it does not seem to be  
of much use to be anything else.***

--Winston Churchill

"Men are disturbed not by things that happen, but by their opinion of the things that happen," Epicurus, Greek Stoic philosopher, wrote over two thousand years ago. How many times have we over reacted to a problem because we misinterpreted what we thought was happening?

Faced with an unexpected financial liability recently that came about because I tried to help a friend in need by co-signing on a student loan in 2006, I told my confidant, "I know I'm not seeing things as they *are*; I'm seeing things as I *am*." After



***"Sharing a  
Continuous  
Flight"***

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some months of personal inventory, prayer, and meditation, I have come to the sober reality through a spiritual awakening that my interpretation of this financial problem told as much about *myself* as about *my friend in need*.

Ken Keyes wrote the following in his *Handbook to Higher Consciousness*, "A loving person lives in a loving world. A hostile person lives in a hostile world. Every person we meet is our mirror."

Each morning when we awaken from sleep, we begin anew to tell ourselves stories about the events of the day. "A noisy bird woke me up this

Continued on last page—Arnold



## NEWS TO USE

by Shirley Mears

### *Influencing Choices*

Building wealth seems easy for some people. It is a mystery for others; many times they are from the same family. If you know of someone who has become trapped by debt and needs relief, a solution may be as easy as new information.

Albert Einstein said something like, You can't solve today's problems with yesterday's thinking. You need new information.

Daniel Meek of Got-Guts.com is a man with vision. He has a passion to help those who are stuck in the pit of debt to become free to grow wealth. My office was at Daniel's building for several years.

Daniel's efforts are focused on building wealth instead of getting out of debt. It is a positive method of changing attitudes about money.

Daniel says: "If you truly want to change your finances, it's going to take Guts. If you can't accept living in debt, like most Americans, or even like your close friends and family members, you have to make a stand and be different. That takes Guts. You have to let go of your secret life of pretending everything is all right. You have to be honest with yourself and others in your life. That takes a lot of Guts, too. That's why the Got Guts Wealth Building System was created.

The Got Guts Wealth Building System starts with a personalized step-by-step debt elimination and wealth building plan. Combine this rock solid plan with an exclusive wealth mentoring program and total mental empowerment and you'll have what it takes to achieve financial freedom. You can learn more at [www.Got-Guts.com](http://www.Got-Guts.com)."



## **Academy Obituary**

**Fred Morgan, Jr.**, of Bethany, OK and long-standing member of the Academy of Senior Professionals, passed away November 27, 2007.

Fred was born in 1940 and grew up in Dayton, OH but made his home in Oklahoma in 1984. He was active in home building and marketing. He will be remembered most for his Christ-centered life, his witness and his teaching.

He is survived by his wife, Beverly, daughter, Lori Smith and husband, Jim.



## Library Resources

by Bea Flinger

### ***I LOVE GOD'S SENSE OF HUMOR: I JUST WISH HE'D LET ME IN ON THE JOKE***

by Stan Toler

There are numerous ways in which God could look down on us as human beings, and have a strange thought cross His mind that makes Him wonder whether or not a mistake was made in creating these 'creatures' who live on the earth. But—the author has a tremendous sense of humor that gives him the ability to understand the ways in which God works in our lives.

Fortunately, He sees us in our deformities, our failures, our weaknesses—and the lack of faith in our Creator, Who has the divine ability to say to Himself—"Yes, I did the right thing by creating that man—or that woman! Is He disappointed in what He did? No! Stan Toler uses many scripture references in mysterious ways to bring us through the difficult, and seemingly impossible trials and problems in our lives. This is a *must book* to be read, in which one will learn about our *Wonderful God Who can*—and will bring us through the overwhelming problems that we must face!

—IN THE SNU LIBRARY—



## RIG, WHAT'S NEW?

by Paul Scheie

{RIG = Research Interest Group}

So, what is new? The answer, of course, is mind boggling.

Well, then, what is just one example of something new that you would like to know more about? Or, what might be new that you really should learn about.

On the other hand, what do you already know that might be new to the rest of us? Consider topics that might come from your past professional life, from working on a hobby, or even from probing the depths of WEB sites.

My understanding is that the RIG is designed to involve you with some of these questions, both as an audience participant and as a potential presenter. I solicit your feedback!

Your next opportunity to participate will come at 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 14 when Elbert Overholt will enlighten us on some aspects of the currently hot topic of polls on presidential candidates. See you there?

Continued from page 2 — Arnold

morning!” the pessimist might complain upon waking. The optimist might respond differently, “The most wonderful singing bird was in the window this morning!” Same event, but a different story. And ultimately, a different perspective.

*Let other pens dwell on guilt and misery.*

--Jane Austen

“Thoughts are like boomerangs. They come back to us.” Author Eileen Caddy wrote in her seminal book *The Dawn of Change*. If we believe in an unfolding good, then we will find truth and beauty.

What seems to be a great loss or tragedy often turns out to be a blessing. I know, through my own experience, that God never closes one door without opening another. Optimism is making the most of all that comes and the least of all that goes.

“Dark clouds are just clouds passing over,” wrote Duke Ellington, the American jazz composer and pianist. We can search for the silver linings in the dark clouds when they hover over us in the New Year, 2008, to a way of thinking that involves faith, growth, and optimism.

*If I didn't have spiritual faith,*

*I would be a pessimist.*

*But I'm an optimist.*

*I've read the last page in the Bible.*

*It's all going to turn out all right.*

--Billy Graham

### —MORE NEWS BRIEFS—

- **ASP PICS** is missing from this issue of a smaller *Perspective* since the December ASP luncheon meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. We plan to continue **ASP PICS** in the February issue with the photography of Eunice Trent from SNU.
- **ASP I.D. cards available:** Student Development Office, 1st floor, Webster Commons.

### ACADEMY LISTS MEETING DATES:

October 8	January 14	April 17 (PLN) no ASP
November 12	February 11	luncheon on campus
December 10	March 10	May 12



## ASP Calendar

### Monday: January 14

- 9:00 a.m. Shuttle: Sawyer to Webster Commons **begins**
- 9:30 a.m. Research Interest Group(RIG) - Student Life Conf. Rm.
- 10:30 a.m. Shuttle: Sawyer to Webster Commons **continues**
- 11:15 a.m. Luncheon begins: Heritage Room—Commons
- 1:00 p.m. Luncheon meeting ends
- 1:15 p.m. Ad. Council: Faculty Lounge—Webster Commons
- 2:00 p.m. Administrative Council ends
- 1:30 p.m. Shuttle: Webster Commons to Sawyer parking **ends**



## REMINDERS/NEWS BRIEFS

- **Open House** at the Greshams has been rescheduled with the February Academy meetings. Watch for further information.
- Changes/Openings in **Perspective** personnel:
  - Photography** - Edith Somnevik Payne retiring
  - Obituaries** - Billie Harrison retiring
  - Book Reviews** - Position open
 If you are interested in being involved in any of these please contact Don Beaver or Jack Arnold. Thanks!
- **Certificates and pins for new members:** To be given at the January luncheon meeting.

### ASP Parking Map

