



Perspective

Vol. 17 — No. 5

February — 2008

Attorney Jim Priest to speak on “Mentoring is More than Myth”

by Shirley E.M. Mears

Our February 11th speaker is Jim Priest who is a husband, dad, attorney, and ordained minister in the Church of the Nazarene. Jim received his undergraduate degree from Houghton College in Upstate New York and his law degree from Syracuse University. He practices with the law firm Whitten, Nelson, McGuire, Terry & Roselius in the field of employment and civil rights matters and has consistently been named in the publication The Best Lawyers in America. Jim has handled thousands of civil lawsuits involving police misconduct, employment discrimination, sexual harassment and wrongful discharge. You can see more about Jim's law practice at www.employmentarmor.com.



Jim Priest

Jim's great passion is marriage and family. Jim appears frequently as a commentator on marriage and family issues for News 9 in Oklahoma City and for ten years wrote a weekly column for the Oklahoman entitled “Family Talk”. He stays busy working with the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative and as a cofounder of *Mar-*

riageNetwork.net, a web based organization working to strengthen marriages through the church. Jim also serves part time as Pastor of Marriage and Family Ministries at Oklahoma City First Church of the Nazarene.

Jim's life mission is to encourage men and women to be whole heartedly devoted to God, their marriage and their families.

Jim will be talking about “Mentoring is More than Myth”. He will be discussing the importance of having and being a mentor.

Jim is married to Diane, and has two adult children; daughter, Amanda and son, Spencer. All members and guests are urged to make their plans to hear Jim Priest on Monday, February 11th. 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 1:00 p.m.

**Important luncheon reservation information—
please go to page 4.**

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON SPONSOR

The Burbridge Foundation, Inc.
Our thanks to Bobbie Burbridge-Lane



THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

**Did You Make
A New Year's Resolution?**
by Brenda Styers

A survey conducted by AARP showed that 76% of the participants said they gave up making resolutions years ago, or had recently given up because the resolutions never seemed to work. Are you part of this one group, or are you with the other 24% who still challenge themselves each year with at least one goal to begin something new or at least improve something?

Some of the most popular resolutions are; eat better, exercise more, learn something new, help someone, and take a trip. If these are your resolutions—or just things you keep telling yourself you'd like to do — ASP can help you be successful. Our monthly meetings include a delicious, well-balanced meal (if you choose), interesting speakers, and how about those steps into the Webster Commons — that's exercise for sure!

Continued on page 6 — Styers



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

An imperfect but loving tribute in memory of the life of Pilgrim James Robert "Bob" Emmel

On December 29, 2007, I received a call, while I was vacationing in Florida, that James Robert "Bob" Emmel, my teacher, mentor, and friend for sixty years, had successfully completed his Pilgrim journey on the highway called Salvation here on earth, is now walking the streets of gold, and is singing with the heavenly host of angels, "Glory, and honor, and praise be unto Him that sitteth on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

In the two days that it took me to drive back from Florida to Oklahoma, I spent many hours alone in prayer and meditation. I was upset and sad, but I was able, with God's help, to watch what was going on in the recesses of my mind and the bowels of my emotions. It was like getting into a glass-bottomed boat, where I would venture out onto the Gulf of Mexico and watch all the deep-sea creatures lurking beneath the surface: resentment sharks, stingrays of greed, and scurrying schools of fear. I slowly gained a certain detachment from my mind and some release from my melancholy, and I began to observe what was going on, collect the facts of the case, and then accept reality. The seminal thought came to me as I was driving was that I would honor Pilgrim Bob Emmel appropriately by going forward with my life with positive, humane, sober, and spiritual actions.

After delivering the main address at the celebration of the life of Pilgrim James Robert "Bob" Emmel, on January 2, 2008, at the Bethany First Church of the Nazarene, I was asked by a close friend and confidant after the memorial service, "Jack, *how do you really feel* about the loss of your friend, Bob Emmel, who loved you so unconditionally for so many years?" The question surprised me, but it did cause me to examine my feelings and thoughts with rigorous honesty.

At that moment, I knew that I was physically tired and was experiencing a letdown from the occasion of the memorial service. I felt overwhelmed. I felt that my sense of loss and pervasive grief would consume me at that moment.

As I surveyed my life as a Pilgrim, I thought of the parallels with the life of Pilgrim Bob Emmel and mine. I knew that I had been tested, tried, and retested on what I had learned from the passing of fellow Pilgrims, who are now among that "great cloud of witnesses" that the Apostle Paul wrote about in Hebrews 12:1-3.

Pilgrim Bob refused to lead a life of sin in the City of Destruction, or to spend a wasted life in Vanity Fair, or to live a life of cynicism in Doubting Castle, choosing rather to talk about the "things of the Lord" in the Palace Beautiful with Prudence, Piety, and Charity, and to walk courageously in the Highway called Salvation until he reached the Celestial City.

Continued



"Sharing a
Continuous
Flight"

The Academy Perspective

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---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

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next column

Continued from previous column

Esteeming, or valuing, the true and beautiful and eternal things of life, the Pilgrim "habitually pursued excellence," which according to the philosopher Aristotle represents "the virtuous life." By **seeing** the invisible, he took "the road less traveled," which the poet Robert Frost wrote about, "and that made all the difference in the world." After all, that is what **faith** is all about, isn't it? **We are asked to see through eyes of faith what we do not see with our physical eyes.**

My beliefs and my faith have been tried in fire of the crucible. I have believed, then doubted, then worked at believing some more. I have had to have faith even when I could not see or imagine what I was being asked to believe. Others around me tried to convince me of what they hoped I could believe.

I have had opposition. I have not gotten to this place with total support and joy. I have had to work hard, in spite of what was happening around me. Sometimes, what motivated

ASP PICS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY EUNICE TRENT



↑ Andrea Mears/Shirley Mears



↑ Brenda Styers



↑ Gerald Knutson



↑ Dr. Andrea Mears, Speaker



↑ Margaret Dawson

Some Names and Faces from the January Academy of Senior Professionals Luncheon



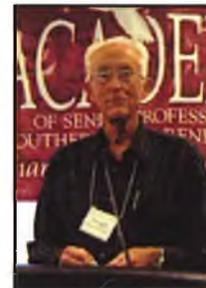
↑ Sherman Huff



↑ Joyce Ellis



↑ Thurman Coburn



↑ Dwight Neuenschwander



↑ Paul Gresham



↑ Forrest Ladd



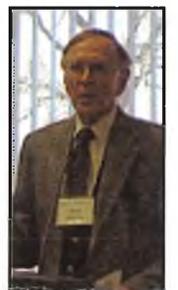
↑ B. K. Stearman



↑ Robert Orbach/Carol Bright



↑ Elmer & Lawana Shellenberger



↑ Don Beaver



↑ Gwynneth Ledbetter / Andrea Huff Billie Smith John Stoddart LaDonna Reynolds
These are some of the new members of the Academy of Senior Professionals



↑ ASP pin & certificate are presented to Billie Smith by Elbert Overholt (founder) & Park Burkhart (membership chairman)



The Search For A President

By Lecil Brown, ASP Historian

Nominees for president in our past were selected in party conventions usually held in July or August and the campaigns traditionally started on Labor Day. In the place of approximately 60 days to election in November, we now have to endure two or more years of speeches, interviews, TV and newspaper ads, and witness the absurd expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars.

What qualifications or character traits do we look for when selecting a person to fill the toughest job on earth? Dr. Lawrence Lindsey, author, economist and advisor to Presidents Reagan and Bush suggested three traits in an article in the *Wall Street Journal* on January 2, 2008. "First, has the candidate faced a crisis or overcome a major setback in his or her life?" Dr. Lindsey suggests that if the candidate has faced such a crisis over which he or she had little control, yet persevered, the new president is far more likely to succeed. "Second, has the candidate had a variety of life experiences? The presidency is a job for a generalist." He adds, "you never know what direction a crisis will come from," and third, "can the candidate tell the difference between a foreign enemy and a political opponent?"

When we meet in February, *Super Tuesday* (Feb. 5) will be behind us. Will either political party have a candidate with the above, and perhaps other qualifications, or will they have picked one who has "electability?"



Academy Obituaries

James Robert (Bob) Emmel

James Robert (Bob) Emmel, Ph.D., was born March 22, 1922 in Johnstown, PA and died in Yukon, OK December 27, 2007.

Dr. Emmel is survived by his wife, Naomi; one son, Peter and his wife Debbie, two grandchildren, one sister, three brothers and a host of friends.

In 1952 Bob was a Shakespearean scholar at Oxford University and earned the Ph.D. degree in 1959 from Penn State University. He taught at the university level at Bethany Peniel College (SNU), Pasadena College (PLU) and California Polytechnic State University, retiring in 1988.

Dr. Emmel was recognized, especially by his students, as a skilled and caring professor in the area of teaching, publishing, and mentoring.

Bob was active in various phases of the work of the Academy of Senior Professionals and will be missed by all who knew him.

Important Luncheon Reservation Information:

- **Members:** If you have not been contacted by one of our telephone callers by Thursday, February 8th, then 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, February 8th

Vada Lee Barkley — Our First Academy President

Vada Lee (Beard) Barkley was born in Union, Arkansas, September 28, 1919. She died January 16, 2008 at the age of 88. After graduating from Salem (Arkansas) High School, she enrolled at Bethany-Peniel College now (Southern Nazarene University). She was a graduate of Southern Nazarene University and the University of Oklahoma. Her teaching career includes: Carnegie, Alden, Southern Nazarene University, Mustang, Hobart and Redlands Community College.

While teaching at Southern Nazarene University, she met and married Arthur E. Barkley June 2, 1950. They worked together as an evangelistic team. During this time Vada Lee served her church and community in many ways.

In recent years she played the piano and conducted services at Forest Glade Retirement Center on Sunday afternoons. After her retirement from Redlands Community College as Communicative Arts Division chairman, Vada Lee wrote various poems, songs, articles and books for publication. Among her many writings was *Survive and Thrive After Fifty-Five*, a how-to book for seniors that brought her recognition in *Who's Who Among American Women* and *Contemporary Authors*.

Vada Lee played an important part in the first organization of the Academy of Senior Professionals at Southern Nazarene University in 1990. She became its first president and served until illness forced her to resign in 1998. As health permitted, she continued to write for *The Academy Perspective* and chair the Academy Memoirs Writers group.

In 1996, Vada Lee received the honor she cherished most: The Distinguished Alumni Award from Southern Nazarene University for superior service to the local church, district and University.

Vada was preceded in death by her husband, Arthur Barkley. She is survived by her foster son, Rev. Joshua Guevara and his wife Karen, NY: several grandchildren and great-grandchildren: nephews Sam and Roy Cochran; and a host of friends. You may honor Vada Lee by contributing to the Arthur E. and Vada Lee Barkley Religion Scholarship Endowment or the Academy of Senior Professionals Scholarship



NEWS TO USE

by Shirley Mears

Dr. Andrea Mears subs for Ron Mercer at January luncheon

We so appreciate Andrea Mears, Au.D, CCC-A, for making her schedule available for The Academy in such a short notice to come and share her work with Hearts For Hearing at our January 14th meeting.

We learned about Hearts for Hearing mission, their team, and their services for children and adults.



Dr. Andrea Mears holds a Doctor of Audiology degree from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Dr. Mears began working with the INTEGRIS Health Cochlear Implant team as an intern in January of 2005 and joined the team as an employee upon her graduation in May of 2005. Currently as a member of the HEARTS for HEARING team, Dr. Mears specializes in pediatric and adult diagnostic audiologic services, pediatric and adult am-

plication, and adult cochlear implants. Dr. Mears has an interest in community awareness of hearing loss and assistance, and she has been conducting the hearing screenings for the Oklahoma County Head Start program for the 2007-2008 school year. She has recently been involved in a research project with the Widex Pediatric Hearing Assistance Program.

To learn more contact Dr. Mears, Audiologist at andrea.mears@heartsforhearing.org, or call her at 405-548-4300. The website is www.heartsforhearing.org



RIG, WHAT'S NEW?

by Paul Scheie

{RIG = Research Interest Group}

Have you had problems with your *fascia* lately? If so, have you been to your *Rolfer* for help?

Fascia is an organ of our body, the soft part of the body's connective tissue system. It has been reported to be generally ignored by the medical profession. *Fascia* has a continuous, web-like structure containing living cells, and it wraps itself around bones, muscles and other organs to help hold them in place and maybe much more. A *Rolfer* is a person trained to perform deep tissue manipulation, aimed at *fascia*. *Olfers* often are characterized as being "alternative therapists".

Now, the terms *fascia* and *Rolfer* are associated with one bit of bad news and two bits of good news. The bad news is that *fascia* becomes another organ that we have to worry about giving us problems. Go to next column — Sheie



Library Resources

by Bea Flinger

**Less Than Two Dollars A Day...
A Christian View of World Poverty and the
Free Market — by Kent A. Van Til**

I do not feel comfortable nor qualified to write about this book. However, it deals with a very serious subject, and needs to be widely read, so I am giving some information from the book jacket, as well as a commentary by David R. Befus.

"Christian tradition demands basic sustenance for all as a human right. Yet the contemporary capitalist economy makes no such demands, and the free market is not designed to provide basic human sustenance. As Western Christians, how ought we to solve this conundrum? Kent Van Til maintains that the gulf between the two calls for an alternative system of distribution."

"In this constructively critical work Van Til takes a hard look at the realities of life in a free-market system, including illuminating examples from his own experience in Latin America. He considers how the contemporary capitalist economy guides the distribution of goods around the world, and he examines the inadequacies of this system. Drawing heavily on the ideas of political theorist Michael Walzer and nineteenth-century theologian-statesman Abraham Kuyper, Van Til proposes an alternative system of distributing justice, equalizing the claims to both burdens *and* benefits."

—IN THE SNU LIBRARY—

Continued from first column — Sheie

The first bit of good news is that a number of currently difficult to cure maladies may be associated with anomalies in the *fascia*. Some suggest more knowledge of the properties of *fascia* may lead to improved treatments for problems such as fibromyalgia, lower back pain, heel pain, general stiffness, carpal tunnel syndrome, frozen shoulder, Dupuytren disease, tension headaches and tennis or golfer's elbow.

The second piece of the good news is that *fascia* can include muscle cells and nerve cells, and that the role of a *fascia* cell can change with changes in the local environment of the cell. Just a few months ago there was a symposium at Harvard University that brought together cell biologists, biophysicists, medical personnel and alternative therapists to share their research results and insights into properties and problems presented by the *fascia*. It drew 500 participants. A second symposium is being organized for next year in Amsterdam, and it is expected to be twice as large.

Stay tuned.

me was anger, sometimes fear. **Continued on page 6 — Arnold**
Continued from page 2 — Arnold

Things went wrong. More problems occurred to me than I had anticipated. There were obstacles, frustrations, annoyances, and losses en route. Many of these negative things in my life came as a surprise; they went counter to what I had hoped for and desired.

In spite of the hard times, doubts, opposition, obstacles, frustrations, annoyances, and losses, my Pilgrim journey has been a good one. Part of me, the deepest part of me that knows *truth*--even when I was in the Slough of Despond in the 1970s--I knew that there was a divine plan or purpose for my life, and that God had not forgotten me.

So much has happened, and each incident--the most painful, the most troubling, the most hurtful, the most surprising--has a connection. I am beginning to see and sense this truth.

I never dreamed that things would happen as they did. Now I am learning the secret--they were meant to happen this way, and this way is good, better than what I expected. I am learning to face life on life's terms rather than on what I desire and/or expect. My expectations often have led me to deep despair and disappointment.

Now things are coming into place. Now I am almost at this end of this phase, this difficult portion of my Pilgrim Journey. The lesson is almost complete--the lesson I fought, resisted, and insisted that I could not learn. I have almost mastered it.

I have been changed from the inside out. I have been moved to a different level, a higher level, and a better level. I have found much of heaven right here on the surface of Mother Earth, and I have been rocketed into a fourth dimension of existence of which I had not even dreamed.

Like Pilgrim Bob Emmel, I have been walking forward and upward in the highway called Salvation while being beset by what John Bunyan described in his classic allegory, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, as "dangers in darkness, devils, hell and sin, while I this vale was in." It has not been easy, but at moments of heightened spiritual awakenings, I have felt that the final victory will be mine.

I have learned to steady my shoulders, to breathe deeply, to move forward and upward in confidence and peace. I think the time has come to relish and enjoy all which I have fought for. My struggles have not been in vain. For every struggle on this Pilgrim journey, there is a climax, a resolution. Peace, joy, and reward are mine now to enjoy right here on earth!

There will be more defining crises, complex problems, hard times, and personal losses that will confront me as I progress on the Pilgrim Journey, but now I know how to overcome them. I have learned the secret of what is at the end of the Pilgrim Journey by "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" and from the examples of the faithful, heavenly Pilgrims, such as Pilgrim Bob Emmel.

God, help me to accept where I am and to continue pushing forward and upward knowing that the day of mastery and reward will come. Help me to accept the reality that despite my best efforts to live in peaceful serenity, there are troubles, difficulties, and losses ahead in my Pilgrim Journey. Help me to stop creating chaos and confusion, and help me to meet the challenges in the faith that will move me forward and upward until I, too, reach the Celestial City where I will fellowship with Pilgrim Bob Em-



ASP Calendar

Monday: February 11, 2008

- 10:15 a.m. Shuttle: Sawyer to Webster Commons **begins**
- 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**



SNU Events Highlights

February 14-16

Spring Operetta--"The Gondoliers" by Gilbert and Sullivan. \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior adults; \$7 with ASP Membership ID. Herrick Auditorium, 7:30 pm; To purchase tickets, call 405.491.6345

March 6

SNU Symphonic Band. Free admission; Herrick Auditorium, 7:30 pm

—SPECIAL NOTICE —

The February **Gresham Valentine Reception** has been replaced by a December, 2008, Christmas celebration.

Continued from page 1 — Styers

As for helping someone, ASP has several places you can get involved. There are regular committees and special committees. Plus, the last membership survey provided many great ideas that are just waiting for someone to start. And if you are looking for a trip, ASP is offering two great trips within the state (see more information in this column).

Maybe you didn't "officially" make a resolution this year, or maybe you are working hard to achieve all the goals you set. Either way, I invite you to make active participation in ASP a part of your 2008. You will have a great time--and possibly achieve some of your other goals at the same time. For more information about how to get involved, call me at 405.491.6312.

ASP Trips:

- **May** --to the Oklahoma Aquarium in Jenks (near Tulsa). We will possibly travel down old Route 66 and have a meal at an interesting restaurant. (Coordinators--Don & Linda Carley)
- **October** --a tour of the Oklahoma State Capitol and a nice meal. (Coordinators--Wally & Waulea Renegar)
- **Watch for forthcoming information about these trips.**