

A CORDIAL INVITATION

By Linda and Loren Gresham

Dear Perspective Reader:

Linda and I would like to invite you to drop in to our home at 5000 N. W. 59th Street for a reception from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. the afternoon of November 9, 1998.

We know of your monthly meeting on that date and hope all present will continue the fellowship for awhile longer. A map will be provided for you at the November 9 meeting

We look forward to having you in our home.

TWENTIETH-CENTURY PATRIARCH, DR. MENDELL TAYLOR, WILL SPEAK OCTOBER 12

By James R. (Bob) Emmel

When a definitive history of the Church of the Nazarene is written for the twentieth century, one significant index to that historic milieu will be that of Christian higher education. In writing such an historical essay, there will be those notable teachers of influence and character-molders of thousands of students who have gone on to make a real contribution to our world in practically every field of human endeavor. Among this stalwart host of mentors, the name of Dr. Mendell Taylor will stand very high on the roster.



Dr. Mendell Taylor

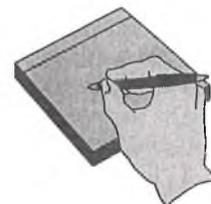
Taylor, a notable teacher, preacher, writer and world traveler, will be the speaker for the October 12, 1998, meeting. Our speaker was born, reared, and educated in Oklahoma, earned the A.B. degree at Bethany-Peniel College (BPC), and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at Oklahoma University. His life has been devoted to more than a half-century of teaching at BPC and Nazarene Theological Seminary (NTS); he is the only living full-time NTS professor and dean.

After retiring from NTS in Kansas City, Missouri, Taylor returned to his home state to teach part-time at Southern Nazarene University. Since his retirement, Taylor has been in great demand as a speaker, consultant, counselor, and friend to a host of people and organizations. He now serves as chaplain at the Forest Glade Retirement Center and the YMCA in Bethany, Oklahoma.

Taylor will speak on a topic of his own choosing.

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THESE ACADEMY OF SENIOR PROFESSIONALS (ASP) CALENDAR DATES

Oct. 12	Research Interest Group	9:45-11:00 a.m.	Royce Brown Building
	ASP Luncheon Meeting*	11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Commons Heritage Room
Nov. 9	Research Interest Group	9:30-10:45 a.m.	Royce Brown Building
	ASP Luncheon Meeting*	11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Commons Heritage
	The Gresham's Open House	1:30-3:00 p.m.	5000 N. W. 59 th Street



*For reservations, please call 405/789-2036 or 405/942/5305

Editorial

The Benefits of Academy Membership

By Jack David Arnold

"Some time since to tell you a dream that I had" about a dialogue between Plato, the founder of the first Academy, with his student, Aristotle, on the blissful, eternal Elysian fields. In this, my first dream, Plato explained to his student that an academy is "a place to learn, a community of scholars, a collection of thinkers and persons of good will, and a forum for the sharing of ideas, beliefs, and hopes."

"Now it happened through the multiplicity of business," like John Bunyan in *The Pilgrim's Progress*, I had a second dream and "obtained an opportunity to make a further inquiry that I might give you an account of this pleasurable and profitable dream."

"Having taken up my lodging, as I slept, I dreamed again," and saw that Aristotle asked his beloved teacher:

ARISTOTLE: Why should mature persons join an academy?

PLATO: Because they will benefit from the intellectual stimulation that comes from interacting with other senior professionals; this interaction fosters wonder, awe, and curiosity. Study, research, and discussion pull back the curtains of darkness, look through the veils of ignorance, and lift up the metaphors which hide some beautiful, some dreadful, hidden meanings.

ARISTOTLE: But, do academy members enjoy any social benefits?

PLATO: Oh yes, my student, the social fellowship in an academy is heavenly. Its members share their experience, strength, and hope with others in their "continuous flight" toward truth, beauty, and eternity.

ARISTOTLE: Other than intellectual stimulation and social fellowship, is there any other benefit which academy members enjoy?

PLATO: Perhaps the greatest benefit of all is the opportunity for service. Guided by the spirit of service, the eyes of members are opened to see those in the community who need helping hands. If I were allowed to leave these Elysian fields today and happily find myself as a member of the Academy of Senior Professionals at Southern Nazarene University, I would endeavor to find new friends and true wisdom that would help me find **God's best path for me to follow while I walked ever so briefly upon the surface of planet Earth.**

Then, the ancient teacher and student went their way.

"And so, I awoke, and behold, it was a dream."



The Academy Perspective

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[Correction: In the September issue the degree for Beatrice E. Flinner, an issue contributor, was listed as M.S.Sc.; the correct abbreviation is M.L.Sc.]

FOUR STEPS TO SUCCESS

*Plan purposefully, prepare prayerfully,
proceed positively, and pursue persistently.*

PAVING STONE HONORS THE ASP IN THE NEW CENTENNIAL PLAZA



SNU Alumni: Marilyn Bergman

On May 5, 1998 the ASP Administrative Council authorized the purchase of a Centennial Plaza paving stone with the following wording: "Southern Nazarene University Academy of Senior Professionals--Founded 1990."

The first phase of the Centennial Plaza is almost complete. Last month, crews were busy arranging the rocks to make the three fountains, working on sprinkler systems, laying sod, and completing the brick sidewalks. It is beginning to look like the drawing--a tribute to the heritage of SNU.YES--you can still purchase an engraved brick by contacting the SNU Alumni Office.

This project will go on for one hundred years with opportunities for students, alumni, and friends to become a permanent part of the campus in the Centennial Plaza

STRONG PEOPLE WHO DARE MUCH AND FEAR NOTHING

By James A. (Bob) Emmel

A host of men sat behind tables in the portico of the temple. For men of their profession it was an excellent place to be, for the city was a crossroads of international business and most of the people who came from far places visited the temple.

The men at the tables had before them neat stacks of coins and script. They were hard, oily, worldly-wise men who made their profits by cheating travelers who needed to exchange the money of one country for that of another.

One day there appeared in the portico a young countryman whose dialect and clothing identified him as a Nazarene. In one hand he carried a heavy whip of braided rawhide.

Eyes blazing with righteous wrath, He seized the nearest table and overturned it so that the neatly stacked coins cascaded to the flagstones and tinkled down the stone steps. He did not stop until every table in the portico was overturned.

Then, as the anguished money changers dropped to their hands and knees to retrieve their scattered wealth, the heavy whip fell on their backs until they scrambled to their feet and fled.

Their sin was not merely the cheating of travelers. They had profaned the temple. "This is the house of

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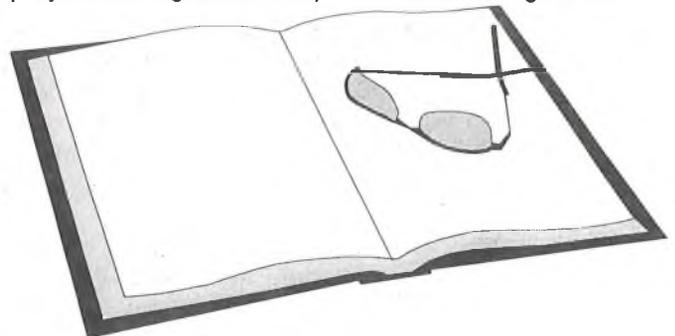
BOOK REVIEW

By Wini Howard

Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire, written by Rev. Jim Cymbala with Dean Merrill, tells the story of the growth and development of Cymbala's church, the well-known Brooklyn Tabernacle.

In 1972 when his father-in-law convinced him that it was God's will for him to begin his ministry in Brooklyn with 15 or 20 people, Cymbala was quite reluctant. He really did not feel capable for the task. But he began. Now 25 years later there is a church of 6,000 people.

The question is, "How did it come about?" In summary, it seems to me that he is saying, "Prayer." There are no other schemes or gimmicks that he talks about using. A note from Cymbala's book sums up his philosophy: "The honest truth is that I have seen God do more in people's lives during ten minutes of real prayer than in ten of my sermons." Tuesday night prayer meeting is at the top of his list of things to do!



ALASKA CRUISE EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

By Milton Sonnevik

Summer is always a great time to travel. Mabel and I have for many years dreamed about taking an inland cruise to Alaska, so we decided this spring to take a cruise on *M/S Ryndam* of the Holland American Line. The cruise ship was fantastic, and the service could not have been better. Following a week of visiting family and friends in Seattle, Washington, we found our way up to Vancouver, Canada, and boarded the cruise ship there. Before we even left port we had the lifeboat drill with all passengers having to wear their life vests. That was quite a sight, but with the scenes from the movie, *Titanic*, fresh on our minds, the entire drill was meaningful.

M/S Ryndam stopped at Ketchikan, Juneau, Sitka, Valdez, and Seward. At each port we had the opportunity of sightseeing. I especially found Juneau, the capital of Alaska, very interesting. The Mount Robert Tramway to the top of the mountain provided a fantastic view of the city as well as the Gastineau Channel.

We also visited the Mendenhall Glacier, a moving river of ice with rugged crevasses and a distinctive blue color, which appears deceptively close because of its color. The vast majority of the glaciers in Alaska, we learned, are melting rapidly due to global warming.

Valdez was also very interesting since the entire original village was wiped out with the large earthquake followed by tsunami, or tidal wave. On Good Friday, March 27, 1964, a large earthquake hit Alaska; at least sixty-six people lost their lives. The little city of Valdez had to be completely rebuilt close by on more solid land. We saw a video presentation in Valdez about the earthquake.

We docked in Seward and took the bus from Seward to Anchorage. That was about a three-hour bus ride with magnificent scenery. From Anchorage we flew back to Seattle, and then, home. The entire trip was everything we expected it to be and even more, but home is always "Home Sweet Home."

A FASCINATING VISIT TO BANGKOK REVEALS STRIKING CONTRASTS IN THAILANDBy Pat and R.T. Bolerjack
(Part one of two parts)

The Marriott Hotel had been opened for only a week when we arrived in Bangkok in September, 1997. We were among the first guests to check in, and we got the royal treatment from the staff. We were wired to enjoy this luxurious hotel!

Bangkok was much more massive than we had realized. On the one hand, we saw gleaming skyscrapers, modern shopping centers, and high-rise apartments and condominiums everywhere. On the other hand, right below our hotel windows, we saw rows

of open-air, lean-to shacks with plastic tarp roofs for homes and businesses. The contrast between the wealthy and very poor was noticeable all over the city.

Buddhist shrines were everywhere--four-thousand alone in Bangkok. The Jade (emerald) Buddha is the most revered image in Thailand. Almost equally as revered is the gold, reclining Buddha shrine. This Buddha, covered with gold leaf, is housed in the oldest and largest shrine; its feet are inlaid with mother-of-pearl.

Everywhere we went we were reminded of religion, but we seldom saw any Christian symbols. "Spirit houses," or boxes, in front of many houses and businesses, are thought to provide housing for spirits, thus keeping them out of homes and businesses.

In one shrine, we saw a mother and her teen-aged daughter, kneeling before a Buddha, seeking help from the spirits. The mother held a small box with numbers written on pieces of paper. After placing sticks of burning incense in a container of sand, she shook the box until a piece of paper fell on the floor. When she called out the numbers, the daughter wrote them down. Through this ingenious method, the spirits allegedly helped the woman obtain the numbers that she hoped would win the Thai lottery!

A full-day's trip outside Bangkok included the following fascinating itinerary: a stop where coconuts are processed into candy; a snake show where young fellows attempt to charm cobras; an elephant show with performers in national Thai dress; an alligator wrestling with a boy sticking his head inside the alligator's mouth; and a cultural show with various colorful Thai costumes and music. An interesting day!

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prayer," cried the young man, "and ye have made it a den of thieves."

Why did tough and merciless money-changers, having the advantage of numbers, leave their wealth and run away? They fled because "conscience doth make cowards of us all." They fled in fear of the heavy whip and the strong arm that wielded it and the blazing eyes of the young man who towered above them. The weak, the timid, and the soft compromisers with evil cannot save the world.

God, give us strong people who dare to call evil by its right name and will scourge it from the temple, and who will defend the eternal truths advanced in the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount.

If civilization is to survive the onslaught of the gross evils of our day, strong people from the clergy and laity in the Christian church, who will follow the example of our Master, are needed in the twilight of the twentieth century, and the dawning of the twenty-first.