

Perspective

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December 2011

Annual presidential address and Christmas Reception December 12, 2011

By
Jack David Arnold, Ph.D.

Since the beginning of the Academy of Senior Professionals (ASP) at Southern Nazarene University (SNU) in 1990, Dr. Loren Paul Gresham has informed and inspired ASP members and guests when he has presented his annual “State of the University” address.



Dr. Gresham graduated in 1962 with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Pasadena College (now Point Loma Nazarene University) with a major in history, married Linda Brown, received his Master of Arts degree at the University of Southern

California School of International Relations in 1969, and earned the Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1973. His doctoral dissertation topic was “Small National Foreign Policy: Linkages and the New Zealand Case”. Research for the dissertation was conducted with the support of a Fulbright grant during the 1970-71 academic year at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand.

In 1989, Dr. Gresham began his duties as the SNU President, served as a member of the Council of Education of the Church of the Nazarene, a member of the World Mission Department of the Church of the Nazarene, a member of the Board of Directors of the Council of Christian Colleges and University, the chair of the Council of Presidents of the National

Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, a member of the Oklahoma City YMCA Board of Directors, a member of the Rotary Club 29 of Oklahoma City, the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and the Board of Integris Baptist Medical Center.

Dr. and Mrs. Gresham are the parents of Lynette Suzanne. She is married to Dr. Brad Strawn, VP for Spiritual Development at SNU, and they are the parents of Evan and Keaton.

ASP luncheon reservations. -- The luncheon will begin at 11:00 a.m. on December 12 in the Heritage Room of the Webster Commons on the SNU campus. ASP luncheon reservations must be made by *Thursday, December 8*. All ASP members should be contacted for their reservations by telephone or e-mail; guests may make their reservations by contacting Linda Carley 728-0515.

Annual ASP Christmas reception.--All members and guests are cordially invited to this reception at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Gresham at 5000 NW 59th St, OKC. The SNU shuttle bus will leave the Webster Commons at 1:15 p.m. to take guests to the Gresham home. At 2:00 p.m., the shuttle bus will return all reception attendees to the north parking lot of the SNU Sawyer Center, 42nd and Donald, or other sites on the SNU campus.

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Your President's Point of View

by Emmalyn German

Great Truths through Great Trials

Great truths are more deeply realized through great trials. I'm sure that all of you have faced some great trials in your lives and have learned some great truths through them.

One of the first great trials I had to face was in boarding school in India as I was growing up. Nearly every night my head was filled with tears as I cried myself to sleep, missing my mom and dad. It was not only the tears, but also the lonely ache inside. There was one exceptionally lonely moment when I was about 13 years old that stands out in my memory because of the lesson I learned through it. I had been misunderstood, ridiculed, and left alone while all the others had gone out one evening. The loneliness for my family was intense, and I pulled the small afghan my mother had made and given to me around my shoulders to try and feel close to her. Then I pulled out my Bible and began reading randomly and discovered the verse in Isaiah 41:10. "Fear thou not for I am with thee, be not dismayed for I am thy God. I will strengthen you; yea I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness." That verse was just for me that day, and I claimed it for a life verse thereafter. I thought about the fact that God was with me. He could understand me even more than my mother or dad. He could see right into my heart and know my motives and intentions. And He could be with me anywhere, anytime.

In later years we faced other hardships and trials. After my husband, Dale, and I were married we waited a couple of years before trying to have a child, only to discover over several more years that we were most likely unable to have one. The thought of complete barrenness was so overwhelmingly devastating to me that I began to weep at the slightest reason. I couldn't sing the hymns in church without weeping. Every prayer request was the same. Our one and one was only two. Where was God now?

We had been childless for 15 years when we finally

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"Sharing a Continuous Flight"

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October 10 - Charles and Billie Harrison
December 14 - Legend at Council Road
December 12 - Southern Plaza
January 16 - Mercer Adams Marla Cole
February 13 - Dale and Emmalyn German
March 12 - Spanish Cove
April 12 - SNU
May 14 - Concordia LifeCare Community



**The Director's Corner
ASP and SNU**
by Eunice Trent, Director of ASP



The Academy of Senior Professionals has a great holiday tradition every December. We want to be sure our members know that following our ASP luncheon meeting on **Monday, December 12**, we will join our SNU President and Mrs. Gresham at their home. We appreciate Dr. and Mrs. Gresham for graciously opening their doors and welcoming the ASP members in their home for a beautiful time of fellowship and holiday treats.

Transportation to the Gresham's will be provided by SNU. We ask that the ASP members ride the SNU bus together as there is limited parking space at Dr. and Mrs. Gresham's home. The bus will leave from the circle drive outside the Commons directly following the ASP Luncheon and return you to your vehicles at the Sawyer Center when we leave the Gresham's home.

A very Merry Christmas to each and everyone! See you soon.

Christmas gift suggestions:

To your enemy, forgiveness.
To an opponent, tolerance.
To a friend, your heart.
To a customer, service.
To all, charity.
To every child, a good example.
To yourself, respect.

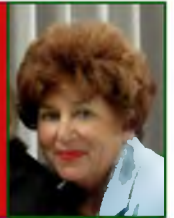
Oren Arnold

"Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide open heart that thinks of others first. The birth of the baby Jesus stands as the most significant event in all history, because it has meant the pouring into a sick world the healing medicine of love which has transformed all manner of hearts for almost two thousand years... Underneath all the bulging bundles is this beating Christmas heart."

-- **George Matthew Adams (The Christmas**



ASP "Trek" Time
By Pat Perry



Merry Christmas ASP Members

I'd like to take this time to wish all of you a wonderful Christmas season. It is time for all of us to be thankful for family and friends who come into our lives and to thank God for all the blessings he bestows upon us.

We are looking forward to our trip to the Myriad Gardens on Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2011. We will meet in the parking lot where the bus picks us up for our meetings at 12:00 pm. The cost will be \$5.00 for the SNU bus, and the admission to Myriad Gardens will be \$5.00 or \$6.00 depending on how many we have attending. It should be great fun, and Christmas cookies will be served on the bus.

I hope the New Year will bring health and happiness to all of you. I'll be working on some spring trips that we can enjoy as well as an autumn cruise to New England and Canada.

(Continued from page 2)

sought the help of a counselor. She said to me, "Can you trust God?" "No," I answered, I'm afraid that He will not give us a child and I just can't bear the thought. Then she asked me, "Can you trust God for today?" That was a different story. Yes, I could trust God for today. Then she said, "Don't look at the past. That is water under the bridge. We can't go back and change that. And don't look at the future which is full of things that may or may not happen. We only have today, this moment, to trust God. In the days to come when the stinging barbs of barrenness threatened me, I was able to fend them off with my new shield of trust.

Three months later we learned of a small preemie baby that was available for adoption, and we were chosen to receive the news. Our joy was complete. We savored every moment of our new parenthood, but we continued to carry the shield of trust. Life has no guarantees.

What did all this do to my belief in God? I do not believe God causes these evil things to happen to us. God is good. He is love. The good and loving God is there to help us when evil trials come. He can use these trials to teach us great truths.

I love this poem from *Streams in the Desert* by Mrs. Charles E. Cowman, a missionary to China and Japan who cared for her dying husband for six years.

Great truths are dearly bought, the common truths,
 Such as men give and take from day to day,
 Come in the common walk of easy life,
 Blown by the careless wind across our way.
 Great truths are greatly won, not found by chance,
 Nor wafted on the breath of summer dream;
 But grasped in the great struggle of the soul,
 Hard buffeting with adverse wind and stream.
 But in the day of conflict, fear and grief,
 When the strong hand of God, put forth in might,
 Plows up the subsoil of the stagnant heart,
 And brings the imprisoned truth seed to the light.
 Wrung from the troubled spirit, in hard hours
 Of weakness, solitude, perchance of pain,
 Truth springs like harvest from the well-plowed
 field,
 And the soul feels it has not wept in vain.



ASP Calendar

Monday: December 12, 2011

10:00-11:00 a.m. Shuttle Service from the Sawyer Center lot
 (41st and Donald) to the Webster Commons

NO Morning Seminar

11:00-a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Luncheon Meeting in the Heritage
 Room

1:00—1:30 p.m. Shuttle Service to the Sawyer Center
 parking lot and to the Gresham Reception and return trip.

November Visitors and Musician



Tracy Cain



Donna and Larry Dipple



Jack Johnson



Donna Seible



Anna Takemire



Paul Dawson



Elizabeth Nichols



Colin Deibert

The Administrative Council invites all members of ASP to participate in making donations toward the Christmas gift in honor of the Greshams. Please make checks payable to SNU and mark them for ASP Gresham Scholarship Fund, and bring to the luncheon on Monday, December 14.





LIBRARY NEWS

DECEMBER 2011

By Arlita Harris

I seem to have more free time during the holiday season than during any other time of the year, so I find myself looking for Christmas-y things to attend. I've made a list that you might enjoy, too.



It's a great musical season at SNU, but there are also free and inexpensive events in other parts of our community.

Bethany-area events:

Thursday, December 1 – Sunday, December 4: Journey to Bethlehem, a first century outdoor, interactive family Christmas experience, Forest Hill Christian Church, 2121 N. MacArthur (free)

Thursday, December 1: 7:00 p.m. Bethany High School Winter Band Concert, HS Auditorium (free)

Friday, December 2: 7:30 p.m. Christmas opera - Amahl and the Night Visitors, Cantrell Music Hall (\$5)

Saturday, December 3: 11:00 a.m. Christmas opera – Amahl and the Night Visitors, Cantrell Music Hall (\$5)

Saturday, December 3: 6:00 p.m. Downtown Bethany tree lighting with music, decorated store windows, and holiday shopping (free)

Monday, December 5: 7:30 p.m. Sounds of Christmas – SNU combined ensembles, BFC Atrium (tickets on sale through SNU Music Department (405-789-6400 x6345)

Tuesday, December 6: 7:30 p.m. Sounds of Christmas – SNU combined ensembles, BFC Atrium (tickets on sale through SNU Music Department (405-789-6400 x6345)

Thursday, December 8: 6:30 p.m. Bethany High School Christmas Choir Concert, Bethany First Baptist Church (free)

Saturday, December 10: All day from 6:00 a.m. Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast, Bethany Elementary Café

Saturday and Sunday, December 10-11: 6:00 Christmas in the House, Bethany First Nazarene Church (free)

Wednesday, December 14: ASP Christmas visit to Myriad Botanical Gardens (see Pat Perry for details)

Thursday, December 15: 7:30 p.m. Sounds of the Season, Yukon Fine Arts Center, 850 Yukon Ave, 405-350-8937

Saturday, December 24: 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Carols and Candlelight Services of 30 minutes each, BFC Sanctuary (free)

Ongoing holiday events in OKC area:

Yukon's Christmas in the Park, 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., Freedom Trail and Chisholm Trail Parks, November 19 – December 31 (free)

Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory – free tour each Sunday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. (including Christmas and New Year's Days) Myriad Botanical Gardens, 301 W. Reno, OKC (405-297-3995)

Devon Ice Rink at Myriad Gardens, November 25-January 1

Wingo Holidays on the Canal (Bricktown Water Taxi), Thursdays through Sundays, Nov. 25-Dec. 25 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Board at Mickey Mantle Drive across from RedHawks Field (free)

Free Museum Sundays:

1:00 – 6:00 on scheduled days below:

December 4: American Banjo Museum, 9 E. Sheridan Avenue
Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum, 620 N. Harvey

December 11: Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum, 620 N. Harvey

Oklahoma City Museum of Art, 415 Couch Drive

December 18: Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum, 1400 Classen Drive (13th and Shartel)

Devon's Saturdays with Santa: Myriad Gardens from noon to 3:00 p.m. Dec. 3, 10, and 17 (free)

Automobile Alley Lights on Broadway: 4th to 10th on Broadway, OKC – Nov. 25 – Jan 1 all day (free)

(Visit OK Cityscape built with 2 million toy bricks at 1100 N. Broadway, noon to 8 p.m. M-Sat; noon to 6 p.m. Sundays to Dec. 31 - \$5 adults, \$3 children from 4-12 – proceeds to OKC Educare)

Perennial Holiday Favorites:

Christmas Carol, December 9-31 – Lyric at the Plaza, 1725 NW 16th, OKC 405-524-9312

The Nutcracker, December 9-11, 16-18 – Civic Center Music Hall, 201 N. Walker, OKC 405-843-9898

Opening Night, December 31 – Downtown Oklahoma City (Sheridan to Dean A. McGee, Walker to Broadway)

Have a blessed Holiday Season!

Arlita





PROGRESS WITH HUMAN STEM CELLS

By Paul Scheie

Human stem cells are thought to be programmable to make any of the 200 or so different cells in the human body. If they can be grown in the laboratory, some day they may be used to repair damaged tissue by being appropriately programmed before inserting them at the site of the damage.

Stem cells can be obtained in two ways. One way is to obtain cells from a developing embryo within the first few days of development, before they have been programmed for a specific use. These are referred to as “embryonic stem cells”. Such cells are the source of considerable controversy since harvesting them requires destroying the embryos. A second way is to reprogram cells taken from a replenishable source such as the skin or the blood of the person to be treated. Stem cells obtained in this manner first must be deprogrammed after which they are called “induced pluripotent stem cells”, or just iPS cells. Two recent reports have claimed to have had success with such procedures.



In one case, investigators reprogrammed cells taken from the skin of a person with a deadly liver disease caused by a faulty section in the person’s DNA.

After deprogramming the skin cells, the bad DNA section was replaced, and the cells were coaxed into forming liver cells. These cells then were injected into livers of mice that had the same bad DNA mutation. The implanted cells performed as normal liver cells for at least several months.

Unresolved safety issues have prevented the cells from being injected into a person, but the process seems to have been successfully demonstrated with mice, and, hopefully someday will be appropriate and safe for humans.

In another case, white blood cells were harvested from a healthy person, and treated so as to undo the programming they had undergone to make them

white blood cells. This was followed by reprogramming to make them into heart cells. When these cells then were placed in a growth medium on a gelatin-like surface the cells grew, divided, and began beating and growing closer to each other in clumps as if they were trying to form a heart. These investigators anticipated that any actual transplant of such cells in humans would require an additional number of years to work out successful procedures. However, even at this stage these newly programmed heart cells are being produced commercially to allow tests for detrimental effects of various drugs on these heart cells before the drugs are used on patients.

CHRISTMAS SONG

Jack C. Pischel

Christmas is a time for loving,
Christmas is a time for joy;
Christmas is a time for giving—
God gave us a little Boy.

And when He became a man,
He gave to us a wondrous plan—
To bring love and joy and giving
To our world.

Christmas is a time for family.
Christmas is a time for fun!
Christmas is a time for sharing—
God sent us His only Son.

Christmas is a time for presents.
We should give them lavishly!
Christmas is a time for singing,
As we gather 'round the tree.

For when God became a Man,
He gave to us a wondrous plan—
To bring love and joy and singing
To our world.

Christmas is a time for candles.
Christmas is a time for light!
Christmas is a time for Angels
Like the shepherds saw that night.

For when God became a Man,
He gave to us a wondrous plan—
To bring love and light and blessings
To our world.

To bring love and joy and giving
To our world.