



JUNE 10, 2016

PASSING OF DR. ARNOLD GORDON WETMORE



President Carla Sunberg, together with the NTS community, are deeply saddened by the news of the passing of Dr. Arnold Gordon Wetmore on the morning of June 9th, 2016. NTS would like to extend its deepest condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.

“Dr. Wetmore will be dearly missed. His influence reached far and wide in many capacities. As pastor during my teenage years he carved an indelible impression on me, presenting an outstanding model of pastoral care and the holy life. I am humbled to follow in his footsteps at NTS where daily his imprint is seen and felt on the institution. His legacy will live on through his family and those whom he helped to shape and form in the image of God.”

– Dr. Carla Sunberg, President

“The life and ministry of Dr. Gordon Wetmore was profoundly interwoven with the life of Nazarene Theological Seminary as a student, as Heinmiller Lecturer on the Devotional Life, as Pastor of Kansas City First Church when it met in the Seminary chapel, and as seventh President. Dr. Wetmore was the president who took the risk of offering me a position on the faculty of NTS. He was both pastoral in his care for everyone he met and visionary in preparing the seminary for the 21st century. He made me a better person and I will always be grateful to for the model of leadership I experienced from him.”

– Dr. Roger Hahn, Dean of Faculty

Dr. Wetmore was born on June 24, 1931 in New Brunswick, Canada. He received his undergraduate education at Eastern Nazarene College (ENC) in Massachusetts and

earned the B.D. from Nazarene Theological Seminary (NTS) in 1959. He also earned a doctor of ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary and completed further graduate study in a number of universities and divinity schools and received the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from ENC.

Dr. Wetmore served as pastor in the following churches: Church of the Nazarene, Monroe, WI; Wollaston Church of the Nazarene, Quincy, MA; First Church of the Nazarene, Columbus, OH and First Church of the Nazarene, Kansas City, MO. He also served as Dean of Students at his alma mater, ENC. In 1983, Dr. Wetmore was elected president of the Northwest Nazarene College (NNC) and served there until 1992, when he was elected as the seventh president of the Nazarene Theological Seminary (NTS). He served on the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene from 1970–1983 and was president of that board from 1979–1983. He also held many other board and council positions. Dr. Wetmore retired in 2000 and lived with his beloved wife, A.J., in Olathe, Kansas.

In the face of rising tuition costs, Dr. Wetmore saw a great need to assist students to be able to afford to begin or to continue attending NTS. One of the focuses of his NTS presidency was the establishment of several fully funded scholarship funds (“Scholarships of Distinction”). He encouraged many to begin scholarships, and in 1994, he began a scholarship fund in his and A.J.’s name. He faithfully gave as often and as long as he could, as he believed deeply in graduate theological education. Because of his foundational work in this area, today NTS offers over one hundred fully endowed scholarship funds to assist students with educational costs.

After retiring from NTS in 2000, Dr. Wetmore continued to serve NTS for several years as he mentored the then new NTS president, Dr. Ron Benefiel, and as he continued to raise funds for NTS.

In the last few years, Dr. Wetmore was very proud that one of his grandsons, A. Gordon Wetmore, III, planned to attend, and is now a current NTS student.

We would love to honor Dr. Wetmore’s legacy by adding to his scholarship so that more funds will be available to assist students with their tuition.

Donations may be made to Dr. Gordon and A.J. Wetmore’s scholarship by going online at nts.edu. Click on **Donate Now** to give with a credit or debit card. Checks may be made out to **Nazarene Theological Seminary** and sent to 1700 E. Meyer Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64131. Earmark the check “**Wetmore.**”



DOMESTIC REFUGEES NEED OUR ATTENTION

It's been five months since Canada committed to welcoming an additional 25,000 refugees into our communities.

Since then, more than 26,213 Syrian refugees have landed in Canada on 99 government-organized flights, settling across more than 265 communities from coast to coast.

Manitoba alone welcomed more than 1,621 refugees who settled in places like Altona, Dauphin, Steinbach, Winkler and Winnipeg.

Now, the long process of building a new life for themselves and their families is starting. While provided with immediate essential services and long-term settlement support, many of these families will soon be mostly on their own.

Some will settle successfully, learn the language, find jobs and integrate into the community. Others will undoubtedly have a harder time – especially those who have limited education or work experience, are older in age or have experienced crippling trauma.

Some may not settle successfully at all and end up on social assistance – a real outcome we need to be comfortable with.

That's because we need to recognize there is a difference between immigrants and refugees. Refugees are forced to flee; immigrants choose to settle in a new country.

One is a circumstance, the other a choice.

One group needs our help, maybe forever. The other group will eventually help us by growing our economy and creating new opportunities. That's why it's helpful to look at those experiencing homelessness in Canada as domestic refugees.

The parallels are clear.

Just like refugees, most people who end up on the street aren't there by choice. Many have experienced crippling trauma and are stuck because of it.

Our shelters, with their rows of bunks in one large room, are the equivalent of refugee camps – temporary fixes that have too often become permanent homes for people with no way forward.

And just as refugees will continue to flee war–torn countries until the violence stops and their families are safe, we will continue to have people fall into the cyclical trap of homelessness until we fix the root problems.

In Canada, we need to build permanent, affordable and safe housing that will allow people with addictions, disabilities and mental health challenges to rebuild their lives.

We need to reform a health system that often leaves people struggling with extreme mental health issues to languish on the streets.

We need to stop ignoring the climbing number of children in care whose opportunities will be few when they grow up – and we need to improve the quality of care they are getting while separated from their parents.

Finally, we need to support our foster youth when they become adults to prevent another generation from graduating directly to the streets. The best way to end homelessness is to prevent people from ending up on the street in the first place.

The homelessness crisis is our own internal war.

And once we fix the root causes people will no longer need to flee. We will no longer have to build temporary shelters and soup kitchens.

And we will be even better prepared to take in thousands of refugees from around the world seeking shelter.

Floyd Perras
Executive Director, Siloam Mission

CAMBODIA DISTRICT RECEIVES AUDIO BIBLES

During this year’s Cambodia District Assembly, each church received 2–3 Papyrus Audio Bibles. The solar–powered audio players are an important tool for evangelism and discipleship in the southeast Asian country where nearly one in four people age 15 and older cannot read and write.

The Cambodia District received its first audio Bibles in 2013 thanks to donors and organizations like [JESUS Film Harvest Partners](#) and [Kids Reaching Kids](#). The devices were loaded with one of three different local languages and deployed to new believers who could not read. From personal Bible studies to Sunday school classes to a group of farmers taking their lunch break under a tree, the audio Bibles have been used to open up

many conversations about Jesus, and as a result, people have come to faith in Jesus Christ.

At the end of 2015, a grant from Kids Reaching Kids allowed for the purchase of 80 new audio Bibles and another 73 units arrived in January. Along with the devices, leaders at District Assembly received training in how to effectively use and care for the unit.

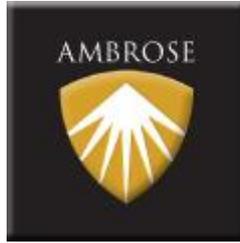
Of the 40 Nazarene churches in Cambodia, approximately 85 percent are in rural areas and are composed of people who cannot read or write. Although it is difficult to obtain accurate statistics regarding the number of people who have become followers of Jesus through this ongoing initiative, Nazarene leaders have heard many stories of the positive impact the audio Bibles are having on the Cambodian people:

- One pastor gave the Papyrus to a young woman in a dysfunctional marriage. The young woman became a believer, and she reports that her husband no longer beats her because of the Word of God he is listening to.
- In another situation, a missionary has been sharing the Papyrus with her friend, who recently said she, too, believes in Jesus.
- Another Papyrus was given to a person attending a Christmas celebration. The pastor felt compelled by the Spirit to give the Papyrus to a woman who was not yet a believer and could not read. She took the Papyrus home, listened to the word, accepted the Lord, and has begun a small group in her home.

When the Cambodia District Advisory Board was asked if the churches could use more of these units, they responded, ***“How many can we get? If you can send us 40 more, we will say ‘Praise the Lord!’ If you can send us 400 more, we say ‘Praise the Lord!’ We will use however many units you can send us to spread God’s word!”***

– [Church of the Nazarene Asia-Pacific Region](#)

The above article appears courtesy of NCN News. For more global Nazarene news, please visit www.ncnnews.com.



A DEEP LOVE FOR THE CANADIAN CHURCH

“I care deeply about arming and equipping pastors and leaders to lead out of a strong empirical understanding of what is happening in Canada . . . And to have some best practices that can connect with different congregations. I have a deep-seated passion to provide good information . . . theologically I have a responsibility to be a steward of that information. I see that as part of returning the gift. The information needs to move beyond the ivory tower.”

– Dr. Joel Thiessen

Read the complete interview in [Faith Today](#).

Joel is Associate Professor of Sociology at Ambrose University and the Principle Investigator at Ambrose’s Flourishing Congregations Institute.

Engage

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BOOK RELEASE BY DR. CLAIR MACMILLAN

“As the nineteenth century was drawing to a close, several significant social shifts were occurring concurrently in Canada. One of the most significant changes that affected the entire country, was the opening of the Western territories to settlement, and the subsequent development of the provinces Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan. At the same time the expansion of the railway system enabled people to move to previously unheard-of locations with an ease that was inconceivable a generation earlier. Thousands of families were drawn from various places in Canada, each seeking a future in the new land. The story I tell is the account of one such family. All of the characters are real people, who by one means or another found their way into a new community and life. The events are all real, but they are not singular. The kinds of things which happen

in this story happened again and again, to various people, in various places, at various times. Henry and Velma's story is the story of countless from countless rural places in Canada, who, for a variety of reasons moved to one city or another looking for an opportunity to build a life. In the process, and in the alienation caused by their dislocation, they came in contact with other people of like mind, who shared a common need: to be loved and accepted as they found their way in the complex society of the twentieth century city."

Lost and Found is available for purchase from the National Office for \$13.00 (includes shipping charges). Additionally, Lost and Found can be purchased by following these links:

**http://www.amazon.com/LOST-FOUND-Kenneth-Clair-MacMillan/dp/1460251245/ref=sr_1_12?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1430496368&sr=1-12&keywords=lost+and+found+macmillan

**<http://www.friesenpress.com/bookstore/title/119734000015731953/Kenneth-Clair-MacMillan-LOST-and-FOUND>

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and see your information appear in the next edition of
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