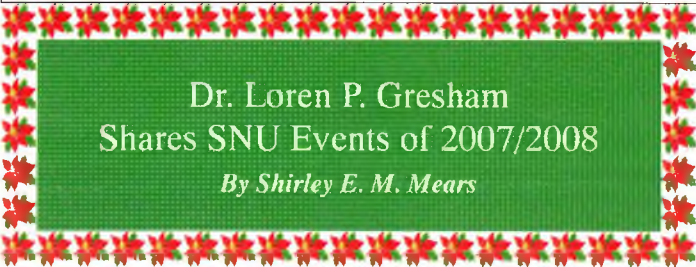




# Perspective

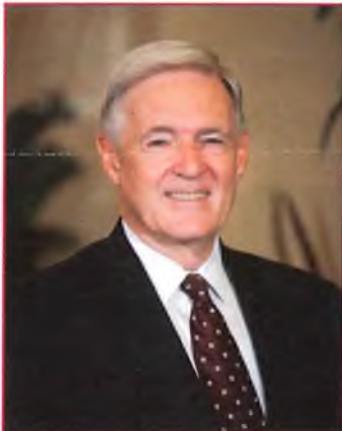
Vol. 18 — No. 3

December — 2008



There are many subjects to discuss when given interview opportunities with Dr. Loren P. Gresham. As president of Southern Nazarene University since 1989, the changes in economics both nationally and internationally could cause a rethinking of the fiscal goals of the university.

The realization of the largest transfer of wealth from one generation to the next in recorded history is another subject. Leaving a legacy by creating scholarships to shape the next generation with an education based on SNU's mission of Character, Culture and Christ, is vital in a world view environment that lacks



a consistent moral base for making life choices, and is a privilege whose time has come.

Another subject, I learned, that is close to Dr. Gresham's heart, is the desperate need of the African people whose land is ravaged by HIV/AIDs. The orphans created by the

ultimate result of this disease are left to roam the streets unprotected and uneducated; victimized. SNU is focused to create partnerships to give hope to a hopeless culture.

One of the exciting topics Dr. Gresham may be sharing is the opportunity the university had to host the homecoming of the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry reception. More

than 2600 Oklahomans were on campus to celebrate the service of our devoted military and their families.

The dedication of the Zig Ziglar Center in November and the delightful honor to host the OKC Thunders as they practiced in August and September may also be part of Dr. Gresham's visit with The Academy of Senior Professionals on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Dr Gresham's visits are one of the highlights of the year for the ASP members. He and his wife, Linda Lee Brown Gresham, graciously host a reception in their home each December after the luncheon. Dr. Gresham and Linda have one daughter, Suzanne Lynette Strawn, who with her husband, Dr. Brad Strawn, have two sons.

Important luncheon reservation information:

Members: If you have not been contacted by one of our telephone callers by Thursday, December 4, then please call Mrs. Aleen Drumeller, ASP Telephone Committee Chairperson, at 405.265-0302

Guests: Please call the SNU Office of Alumni Relations at 491-6312 or email [ASP@snu.edu](mailto:ASP@snu.edu)

All: The cost of the luncheon is \$5.00. Kindly make your reservation(s) by Thursday, December 4.

## DECEMBER LUNCHEON SPONSOR

*Southern Plaza*

*Our Thanks to John Stoddart*



Merry Christmas



**Your President's Point of View**  
*by Jack David Arnold*

*In every season, a thankful heart  
is the parent of all virtues.*

*In everything, give thanks...*  
--I Thessalonians 5:18

Every day there is a thank you to be said. Every day it behooves us to stare into our open and cupped hand and picture there something that we have been given for which we are grateful.

This is a daily prayer of the Lakota American Indian:

*Let us give thanks for this beautiful day.  
Let us give thanks for this life.  
Let us give thanks for the water without  
which life would not be possible.  
Let us give thanks for Grandmother Earth  
who protects and nourishes us.*

Every day that begins with a thank you creates an attitude of gratitude; it creates a day of hopeful receptivity. Given that we may indeed want to live our days in the spirit of hopeful receptivity, how may we choose to live with an attitude of gratitude? All of us are used to expressions of gratitude. Thank you for the Christmas gift. Thank you for your call. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. Thank you for all the hard work you did.

Most of us have family customs of saying Grace before a meal. I know a family in Illinois where each person may speak about one blessing they received that day, one blessing they gave. Saint Ambrose wrote, "No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks."

These are the words of a Mennonite blessing:

*Thank you for the wind and rain  
and sun and pleasant weather,  
Thank you for this our food  
and that we are together. Amen.*

There are times when we feel the great need to say thank you, and there is no one or nothing to say it to: *Arnold Continued on page 6*



*"Sharing a  
Continuous  
Flight"*

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**Academy Obituaries**  
By Lecil Brown



Lena Mae O'Bannon, 74, retired educator for the Putnam City schools, and long-time resident of the Bethany and Yukon area, died on Nov. 6, 2008. She is survived by her husband of 53 years, "Mel" O'Bannon, retired SNU baseball coach, two sons and two grandsons. Her funeral service was held in Bethany First Church of the Nazarene on November 11,





# From the November Scrapbook



We enjoyed listening to artist Burt Seabourn share his sketch books, history, and some tips on drawing in the Research Interest Group at 9:30. We were glad that he stayed for lunch too.



It's so nice to see Jack and Trudy Hamilton back from Colorado.

We welcomed several guests and one was Gary Lance.

We inducted new members including Irwin Harris seen here.



As Wes Lane shares with us "The Lure of Chrystal Darkness" his mother, Bobbie Burbidge Lane looks on. We will be looking for opportunities to help in this cause this coming January, and praying for it's great success in our great state of Oklahoma

Lecil Brown presented the latest edition of the history of The Academy of Senior Professionals. Thank you, Lecil for all your good work.







**THE NIGHT SKY**  
By Paul Scheie

One of the most beautiful and awesome exhibits of God's creation is the cloud-free night sky. Astronomers estimate that away from city lights about 5,000 stars are visible to the naked eye. The estimated number increases to a few hundred thousand if a small telescope is used. When our most powerful telescopes are used, estimates of the number of stars just in our own galaxy reach one billion. And when astronomers include the whole observable universe the number of galaxies is estimated to be over 100 billion.

Astronomers do more than count stars. They analyze the color of star light as well as star brightness, and this leads them to believe that stars are made of the same matter we find on earth; that all stars are moving away from us so the universe must be expanding; and that galaxies are not distributed uniformly in the universe but are imbedded in tendrils of what is called a "cosmic web". Within the last few decades, astronomers have found evidence that ordinary matter, amazingly, makes up only about 4% of the total matter in the universe. An unknown "dark matter" comprises 23%, while 73% is believed to consist of another unknown, now called "dark energy". This "dark energy" exerts a force opposing gravity and so seems to be speeding up the rate at which the universe is expanding.



**LIBRARY NEWS**  
By Arlita Harris

During this year that celebrates 100 years of Southern Nazarene University's (SNU) presence in Bethany, Oklahoma, book lovers will want to own an autographed copy of Loren P. and L. Paul Gresham's book, *From Many Came One in Jesus' Name: Southern Nazarene University Looks Back on a Century*. Both authors have signed the book and are making it available through SNU's R. T. Williams Learning Resource Center (LRC) for \$30.00.

One-hundred percent of the proceeds from the sale of the book will go toward the A.M. Hills Library Development Restricted Fund, which provides for the LRC's developmental needs as well as scholarships to SNU students, faculty, and alumni wanting to obtain a Master's Degree in Library/Information Science from an American Library Association-accredited institution. Copies may be purchased at the LRC circulation desk. When a request for the book is made by telephone or e-mail, I will deliver the book to the person making the request. This book makes a great Christmas gift for SNU alumni or students.



*From Many Came One in Jesus' Name: Southern Nazarene University Looks Back on a Century* begins with a pictorial history of Texas Holiness University, Central Nazarene University, Oklahoma Holiness College, Arkansas Holiness College, Pilot Point Bible Institute, Bresee College, and the other contributing institutions to SNU. The historical narrative continues through the Bracken, Ludwig, Finch, Cantrell, Nease, Knight, Gilliland, and Gresham years with many photos and stories. The book is very well-written and has a colorful jacket with a photo of the ivy ring graduation ceremony. It is 8 1/2" x 11" and 176 pages and is a really good buy for only \$30.00! As a limited edition, autographed copy, this book is a real collectible treasure.

**ASP**  
**Angels, Shepherds, Professionals**  
*A Christmas Poem*  
By C. Dale German

In anthems strong  
The angel's song  
Sang out the news  
To shepherd Jews.

Next came a star  
To kings afar  
And through sand drifts  
They came with gifts.

The King is born.  
The King of Kings.  
To all on earth His love He brings.  
We want the world His love to see  
Through all of us at ASP!





**NEWS TO USE**

by Shirley Mears

Friend to Corrie ten Boom,  
Pam Rosewell Moore

**Finding Your Way through Depression**

“I had to face it. This was depression,” writes Pam Rosewell Moore. “although I had always said it could not happen to a serious Christian, and I considered myself that, I was depressed. This conclusion brought a shaky relief, somehow. And at the same time it raised questions.”

I met Pam Rosewell Moore recently. She is English, married late in life, lives in Texas and her book, “Finding Your Way Through Depression” is the result of a her experience in learning about her new husband’s cancer diagnosis.

Mrs. Moore had already lived a life that witnessed very hard situations. She had chosen a life of what most people would describe as sacrificial. A life of sharing the Good News of Christ was her chosen path. She set aside her desires for marriage and children, among many other adventures, to join the work of Brother Andrew, God’s smuggler in the Netherlands. She learned of Corrie ten Boom, a Dutch Christian whose incarceration in a Nazi concentration camp during World War II is known to many through the book, *The Hiding Place* and the film of the same name. Corrie ten Boom and her family had also chosen a life of sacrifice. The Nazi soldiers were arresting and imprisoning people deemed to be substandard. The people of the Jewish nation were considered less than human and were being destroyed. The ten Boom family felt compassion and built a small hiding place in their home. They were able to save many people by helping them to escape.

Pam Rosewell Moore became Miss ten Boom’s caregiver for the last seven years of her life. She became Miss ten Boom’s voice after a succession of strokes left her speechless the last five years of her life.

She has written several books and is available to speak at conferences. She and her husband Carey Moore live and write together in Waxahachie, Texas, just south of Dallas.

To learn more visit the [www.pamrosewellmoore.com](http://www.pamrosewellmoore.com) and [www.moorelifelesson.net](http://www.moorelifelesson.net) websites.



**SNU Coming Events**

by Brenda Styers, ASP Director

Merry Christmas! I hope you are looking forward to a wonderful holiday season. Family traditions, visits with special friends and fond memories of Christmases gone by add so much to this special time of the year. Some of my favorite memories include my mom’s sugar cookies and images of the grandchildren standing on chairs or sitting on the counter helping decorate – and recognizing the cookie decorated by the youngest. It was the cookie covered in a heap of every decoration on the counter! There’s also the memory of reading the Christmas story before opening gifts, and again, watching as the grandchildren grew up – each reading part of the story as they learned to read.

Traditions are important, and ASP has a great holiday tradition that we want to share with all of our members. Following our meeting on December 8, we will join SNU President and Mrs. Gresham at their home for the dessert portion of our meal. They have graciously opened their doors for many years and welcomed the ASP members for a lovely time of fellowship and holiday treats.



Transportation to the Gresham’s will be provided by SNU. Please note, the Gresham’s have asked that ASP members ride the SNU bus. There is limited parking space at their home, and much of the road is gravel, which can be difficult to maneuver. The bus will leave from the circle drive outside the Commons and return you to your vehicles at the Sawyer Center.

I hope to see you on December 8. In the meantime, as you hear Christmas music, pull out your decorations or even catch the sounds of the B. C. Clark jingle as you watch TV, take time to celebrate your traditions of this blessed holiday season.

**Luncheon Sponsors for 2008-2009**

- October:** Autumn Life Center, Kathy Holman
- November:** Mercer/Adams Funeral Home, Ron and Yvonne Mercer
- December:** Southern Plaza, John Stoddard



*Arnold continued*

A lovely sunset, caught by a glance to the west, at the clearing after a storm; so touched by beauty, one experiences a sense of gratitude. A time of stepping back to realize how grateful we may be for a particular person or persons in our lives. A particular profound moment in which we may feel the surge of gratitude for being alive—right here, right now.

These are the words of Saint Augustine:

*People go abroad to wonder  
at the height of mountains,  
at the huge waves of the sea,  
at the courses of the rivers,  
at the vast compass of the ocean,  
at the circular motion of the stars,  
and they pass by themselves without wondering.*

*Now let us acknowledge the wonder of our physical Incarnation—that we are here, in these particular bodies, at this particular time, in these particular circumstances. May we never take for granted the gift of individuality.*

Gratitude arises in us when we become aware of these things: **Beauty, Love, and Mystery**. *Beauty* is that in life which is natural and is the work of our hands and minds, found in the arts, humanities, traditions, religions, sciences, and innovations. *Love* is experienced through authentic acts of kindness, compassion, concern, and respect. *Mystery* is the hovering and encompassing of the unknown.

What we know today is more than we knew yesterday and less than we will know tomorrow. Time is Nature's way of keeping everything from happening all at once, so there can only be patience, curiosity, trust, seeking, and discovering.

**Paying attention is the key to experiencing Beauty, Love, and Mystery. Paying attention is, therefore, the key to gratefulness.** To cultivate gratitude, we need to develop a new habit of attention. Through self-reflection, we can come to see everything we have, and are, as gifts. And through prayer and meditation, we begin to train our attention to notice what we have not noticed before.

A benediction written in 1512 by Fra Giovanni:

*There is nothing I can give you  
which you do not have;  
but there is much, very much, that  
while I cannot give it, you can take.*



## ASP Calendar

### Monday: December 8, 2008

- 10:00 a.m. Shuttle Service begins at Sawyer Center
- 11:15-1:00 Luncheon begins: Heritage Room—Commons
- 1:15 p.m. Shuttle Service to the Loren Gresham home
- 2:00-4:00 Christmas reception for members and guests  
at the Loren Gresham home
- 4:00 p.m. Shuttle service returns members and guests  
to the Sawyer Center

### Special Thanks

*to La Donna Reynolds and Gene & Treva Hill for volunteering to meet speakers and sponsors. They will connect with the speakers/sponsors to make sure they find a place to park and will drive them to the entrance of the Webster Commons building.*

*Arnold continued*

*No heaven can come to us unless our hearts  
find rest in today. Take heaven!  
No peace lies in the future which is not hidden  
in this present instant. Take peace!*

*The gloom of the world is but a shadow.  
Behind it, yet within reach, is joy.  
There is a radiance and glory in the darkness,  
could we but see, and to see, we have only to look.  
I beseech you to look.*

**I wish for you, my fellow Pilgrim, a grateful heart and many chosen occasions for praise and blessing in this time of giving and receiving, so that this Christmas season will live in you all the days of your life.**