



NEW

HORIZONS

FALL
1999

Nazarene Elder Celebrates 106 Years:



Elizabeth Choate was born in February of 1893. She was raised the youngest of eight children in a little farming community of New Virginia, Iowa. Her father worked on the railroad and was very active in the local Methodist church. He was highly respected as a lay preacher and Sunday school class leader.

Elizabeth was only one year old when her father was killed during an electrical storm while working on the railroad tracks. While he did not live to make a direct contribution in the life of his baby daughter, the influence of his dedicated and Godly life, as shared later to Elizabeth by others, has been a motivating factor throughout her years. Her father bought a book entitled "Talks to Children About Jesus" for his children as he sought to direct their minds toward Christ and His Church. Little did he know the impact this seemingly small purchase was to have on Elizabeth's life.

A Beautiful Picture of Commitment

When Elizabeth was old enough to begin reading, her mother introduced her to the book, the contents of which were indelibly written in her mind. The last chapter was written to encourage children to invest their lives in the work of the Lord. "God began to deal with me at that time," she said. "I can't remember the time when I didn't want to work for the Lord. Nothing satisfied my heart and mind but Christian work."

Elizabeth's mother did not share her husband's or her daughter's interest in ministry and discouraged her from pursuing such a goal. However, despite her mother's resistance, Elizabeth entered the three-year program at Methodist Deaconess Training School in Des Moines, Iowa. On graduation, she served as a deaconess in the Methodist Church.

Following eighteen years of happy service in Methodism, Elizabeth gave up her work with the church over a

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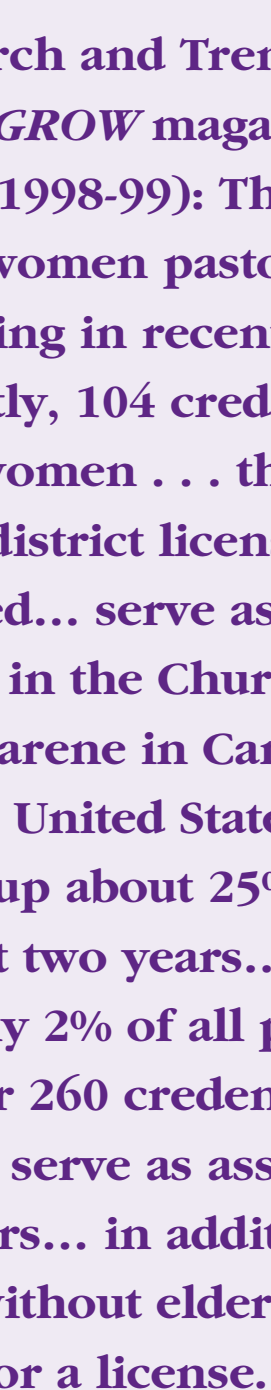
principle she could not compromise. She took a business course with a view of giving up her ministry. Her shorthand teacher encouraged her to consider work as a secretary at the Wesley Methodist Headquarters and Publishing House then located in Syracuse, New York. The manager of the publishing house and the pastor of the Wesleyan church recognized her God-given gifts for ministry and steered her into deaconess work in his church. In 1934, she was ordained a minister in the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

“I can’t remember the time when I didn’t want to work for the Lord. Nothing satisfied my heart and mind but Christian work.”

After serving ten years, Rev. Choate became involved with the Church of the Nazarene in Syracuse, where she joined in the early 1940s. Her elder’s orders were received shortly thereafter. She served Nazarene churches as an Assistant Pastor in Syracuse and in Pennsylvania. She assisted with our Mexican work in San Antonio and also pastored in Texas before retiring to Salem, Oregon, in 1958.

At one point, it appeared that her work for the church had reached its final chapter. Like Paul, Rev. Choate remembers: “I was perplexed, but not in despair . . . struck down, but not destroyed.” God was not nearly through with her. After two and a half years of battling cancer, the Lord brought her through and she was able to return to ministry. God has given her 46 years since her brush with death. On coming to Salem, Rev. Choate became a member of the Open Gate Church of the Nazarene in Keizer, where she continues to attend to this day. Her retirement years are busy. She has done pulpit supply, taught Sunday school, and served on the church board.

Now, 106 years old, she continues to love life and live expectantly. She resides with her adopted son, Ernie, who cares for her. In an age when it is difficult to get people out to church, Elizabeth suffers pain, sometimes excruciating, as she gets up and down so that she can come to celebrate and worship with her friends. With the great apostle, she can say, **“Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them that also love his appearing.”** (2Timothy 4:8) ♦



Research and Trends
(from *GROW* magazine, Winter 1998-99): The number of women pastors is increasing in recent years. Currently, 104 credentialed women . . . those with a district license or ordained... serve as senior pastors in the Church of the Nazarene in Canada and the United States. This is up about 25% in the past two years... but still only 2% of all pastors. Another 260 credentialed women serve as associate ministers... in addition to those without elder’s orders or a license.

FAMILY NEWS . . . to keep YOU in touch

Women Ministering in Our Colleges:

Dr. Jeanne Orjala Serrao was ordained an elder at the Anaheim District Assembly in May. Jeanne has been the Education Pastor at Rancho Cucamonga Highland Avenue Community Church of the Nazarene for the past several years.

She is moving from California to Ohio to become a professor in the Religion Department at Mount Vernon Nazarene College this fall.

Dr. Diane Cunningham Leclerc (former editor of the Nazarene Clergywomen's newsletter) is now a professor in the Religion Department at Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, Idaho.

Rev. Janine Tartaglia Metcalf, professor in the Religion department at Point Loma Nazarene University, is on leave to finish her doctoral program at Asbury Seminary. She is the Nazarene representative on the planning committee for the 2000 "Come To the Water" Conference in Jacksonville, Florida. Janine will also be doing some research and teaching at Nazarene Theological Seminary during her leave from the University.

Women Ministering in Our Churches:

Dr. Jerry Porter ordained **M. ReeAnn Hyde** at Pasadena First Church, Los Angeles District Assembly, June 4. She has been Associate Pastor at Bresee Avenue Church of the Nazarene, Pasadena, for the past two years — on staff with Senior Pastor Fred Forster. On July 1, Rev. Hyde will begin an administrative position with Christian Ministries Training Association in Arcadia.

Rev. Vicki Copp, who serves on the pastoral staff at Mission Valley Church of the Nazarene in San Diego, was featured in the June 1999 issue of Holiness Today.

Dr. Nina Gunter, Executive Officer of the Nazarene World Mission Society, will speak at the "Come to the Water" Fourth International Wesleyan/Holiness Women Clergy Conference. You can read more about her in the brochure for the conference, which you have received along with this newsletter.

Rev. Fae Hendrix, former missionary to Argentina, Chile, and Cuba, celebrated her 90th birthday in March. She is still active in the Rosemenad, California, English Church of the Nazarene, where she plays the piano and teaches Sunday School. Rev. Hendrix also preaches frequently in Spanish churches nearby.

Dr. Phyllis Perkins, recently retired from the Nazarene Bible College in Colorado Springs, Colorado, now makes her home in Casa Robles Missionary Retirement Center in Temple City, California. She is the Nazarene representative on the Wesleyan Holiness Women Clergy Visioning Committee.

If you have ideas or suggestions or dreams for women clergy working together and/or the women clergy conferences ("Come to the Water"), please feel free to write her at: phyperkins@aol.com.

Rev. Dierdre Brower, General NYI Secretary, was the featured speaker at the recent Papua New Guinea National Women's Conference sponsored by the Church of the Nazarene. Women from each of the 12 districts on the Pacific Melanesia Field attended the third quadrennial conference, held on the campus of the Nazarene Bible College in Mt. Hagen.

Approximately 2,000 women registered for the conference, with attendance at the evening services swelling to more than 3,000. Some participants walked mountain trails for two days in order to reach a road where they could travel to the college using public transportation. One group from the troubled island of Bougainville traveled for a week in a small boat in order to attend. (Source: Nazarene News) ♦

NOTE to our readers: Please write and share with us your family news. Where are you serving? Have you made a recent change? How has God used you lately in ministry? Do you have a special prayer request? As space allows, we will share your news in future issues of New Horizons.

Is this the first time you've read New Horizons? If this is your first issue and you would like to keep receiving this newsletter, please send \$10 to Pastoral Ministries, 6401 The Paseo Kansas City, MO 64131 for a one-year subscription. If you have already subscribed, you do not need to do so again at this time.

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