

# **Eighth Annual Report**

## **President Harold B. Graves Jr.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

I recently heard of a political rally in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky. The politician gave a rousing speech that was enthusiastically supported by a group of people in the “amen corner” of the crowd. A reporter approached one in the “amen corner” following the rally and asked, “What did you think about the speech?” The man replied, “I didn’t come here to think, I came here to holler.”

I trust my eighth report as president of Nazarene Bible College will be thoughtful and celebrative. In other words, I hope we can think and holler.

Hear the Word of the Lord as recorded in Matthew 4:18-22 NIV: **<sup>18</sup>As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup>“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” <sup>20</sup>At once they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup>Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, <sup>22</sup>and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.**

Our chapel theme for this year is found in Matthew 4:19. I appreciate the leadership of our chaplain, Rev. Jonathan Nells, in selecting this passage. The calling of the first disciples embodies our mission to glorify Jesus Christ as Lord by preparing adults to *evangelize, disciple,* and *minister* to the world.

Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee; and as he walked he called Peter and Andrew, James and John. We notice that Jesus interrupted their work, their routine, their daily life, and called them. “They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.” (Matthew 4:18 NIV)

These men were not men of great scholarship, or influence, or wealth, or social background. They were not poor, they were simple working people with no great background, and certainly, anyone would have said, with no great future.<sup>1</sup>

They might not have been the people we would have chosen to change the world, but Jesus did. It was as if Jesus said, “Give me twelve ordinary men and with them, if they will give themselves to me, I will change the world.”<sup>2</sup>

The scripture says that when Jesus called, “At once they left their nets and followed him.” (Matthew 4:20 NIV) We should not think this is the first time they had heard or met Jesus. John’s Gospel suggests that “they had already talked with Jesus and had already listened to him,

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<sup>1</sup> William Barclay, *The Daily Study Bible Series: The Gospel of Matthew Vol. 1* (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1975), p. 78

<sup>2</sup> William Barclay, *The Daily Study Bible Series: The Gospel of Mark* (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1975), p. 28

but in this moment there came to them the challenge once and for all to throw their lot with him.”<sup>3</sup>

So often, this is the testimony of our students. Going about their daily lives, they hear the call, and face the challenge to throw their lot with him.

Student testimonies: Chance Peter, Shane Weaver, Denny and Wendy Cox.

These testimonies poignantly illustrate the mission of Nazarene Bible College to glorify Jesus Christ as Lord by preparing adults to evangelize, disciple, and minister to the world. This is the reason Nazarene Bible College came into existence and the inspiration for all that we do.

## REASONS TO CELEBRATE

John F. Kennedy once said: *“We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives.”*<sup>4</sup>

While there are many people worthy of recognition for significant contributions to Nazarene Bible College there are four we will celebrate in this report.

- We celebrate Dr. John Nells, Superintendent of the Southwest Native American District Church of the Nazarene. Dr. Nells has served as a member of the Nazarene Bible College Board of Trustees for twenty-five consecutive years. I want to thank you, Dr. Nells, for your faithful support of NBC, your fruitful ministry, and your friendship.
- We celebrate Dr. Ron Attig, Professor of Communications and Spiritual Formation, for forty years of faithful service as a faculty member at Nazarene Bible College. I know of no other person who has more knowledge of NBC, more passion for the mission of the college, or love for the students and alumni, than Ron Attig. Professor Attig, with grateful hearts we thank you for giving yourself to the mission of preparing students for ministry in the church of Jesus Christ.
- We celebrate Dr. Tom King, Director of the Bible and Theology Program, for completing The New Beacon Commentary on the Book of Leviticus. We are proud of the perceptive and engaging scholarship of Dr. King. Our students often refer to the passion Dr. King has for the Word of God and the manner in which the Old Testament comes to life when he teaches. Dr. King, thank you for your faithfulness to the Holy Scriptures, your commitment to our students, and your deep love for Jesus Christ.
- We celebrate Mrs. Shirley Cadle for completing a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in accounting from Indiana Wesleyan. We are blessed to have Shirley Cadle, CPA and now CPA/MBA giving leadership to the college as Vice President for Finance. Shirley, we are proud of you and thankful for your leadership.

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<sup>3</sup> William Barclay, *The Daily Study Bible Series: The Gospel of Matthew Vol. 1* (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1975), p. 78

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag?utf8=%E2%9C%93&id=gratitude>

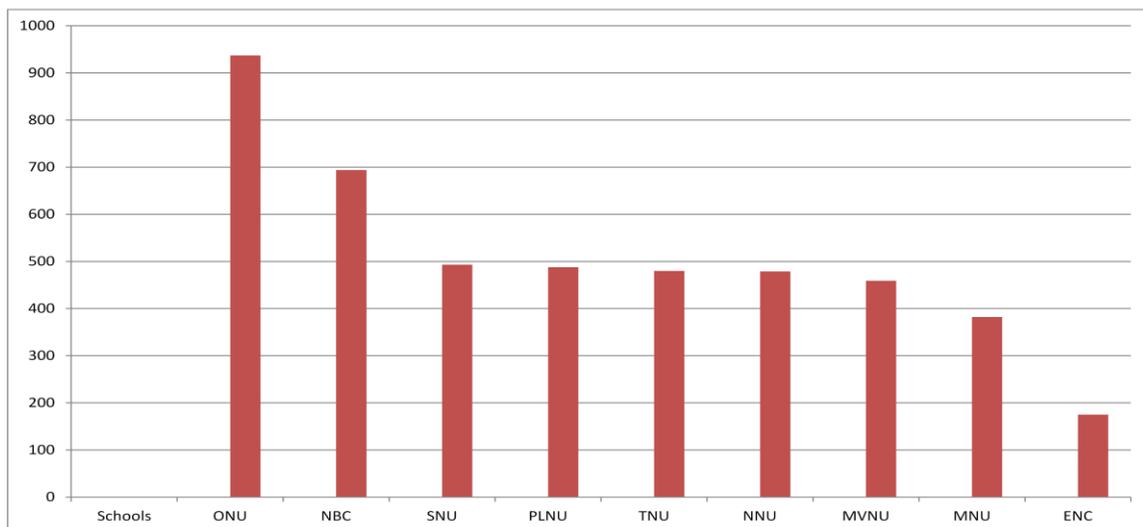
- We celebrate the ordination of Chaplain Jonathan Nells. Rev. Nells was ordained as an Elder in the Church of the Nazarene at the Southwest Native American District Assembly in June of this year. Chaplain Nells, Class of 2011, is the first alumnus of NBC to serve as college chaplain. Congratulations, Rev. Nells, we are proud of you.

Thornton Wilder wrote, “*We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures.*”<sup>5</sup>

We have cause to celebrate our effectiveness in fulfilling our mission to glorify Jesus Christ as Lord by preparing adults to evangelize, disciple, and minister to the world.

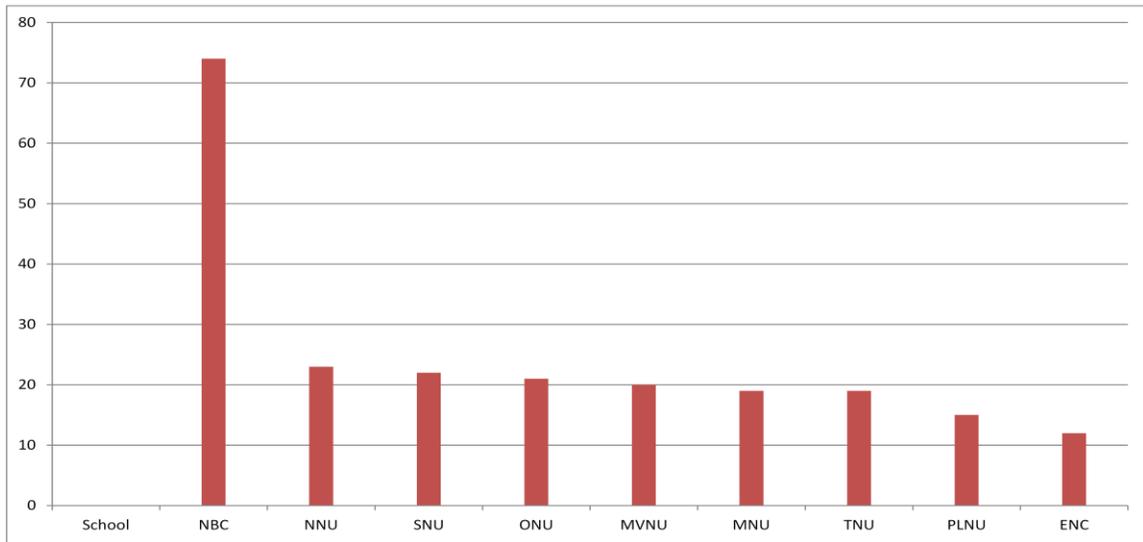
- We celebrate the 118 graduates in the class of 2013. This includes 88 who completed the Bachelor of Arts in Ministry, 10 who completed the Associate of Arts in Ministry, and 20 who completed a certificate program.
- We celebrate that among the Church of the Nazarene USA Colleges and Universities, NBC had the second most students indicating a Nazarene Preference in 2012:
  1. Olivet Nazarene University (937)
  2. Nazarene Bible College (694)
  3. Southern Nazarene University (493)
  4. Point Loma (488)
  5. Trevecca Nazarene University (480)
  6. Northwest Nazarene University (479)
  7. Mount Vernon Nazarene University (459)
  8. MidAmerica Nazarene University (382)
  9. Eastern Nazarene College (175)

### Nazarene Students



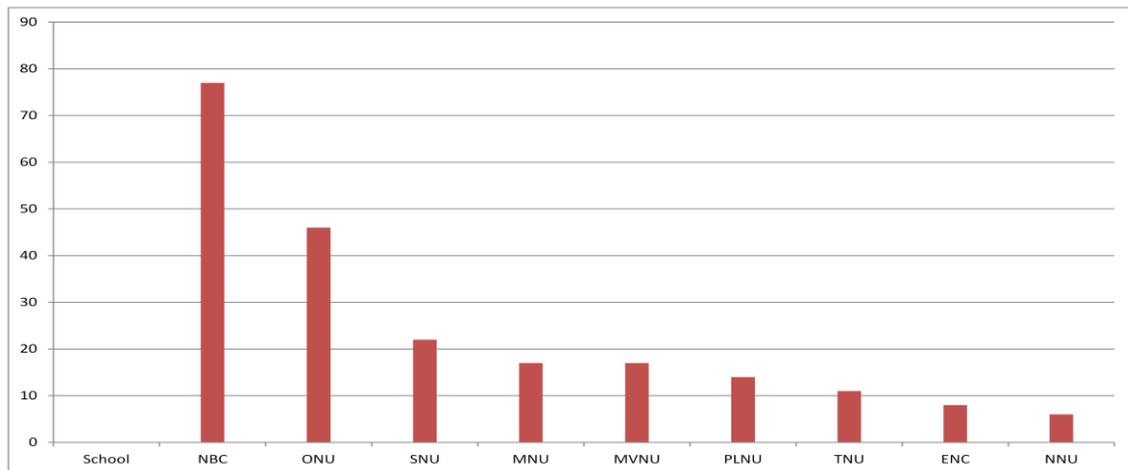
<sup>5</sup> <http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&q=thornton+wilder&commit=Search>

### Percentage of Nazarene Students



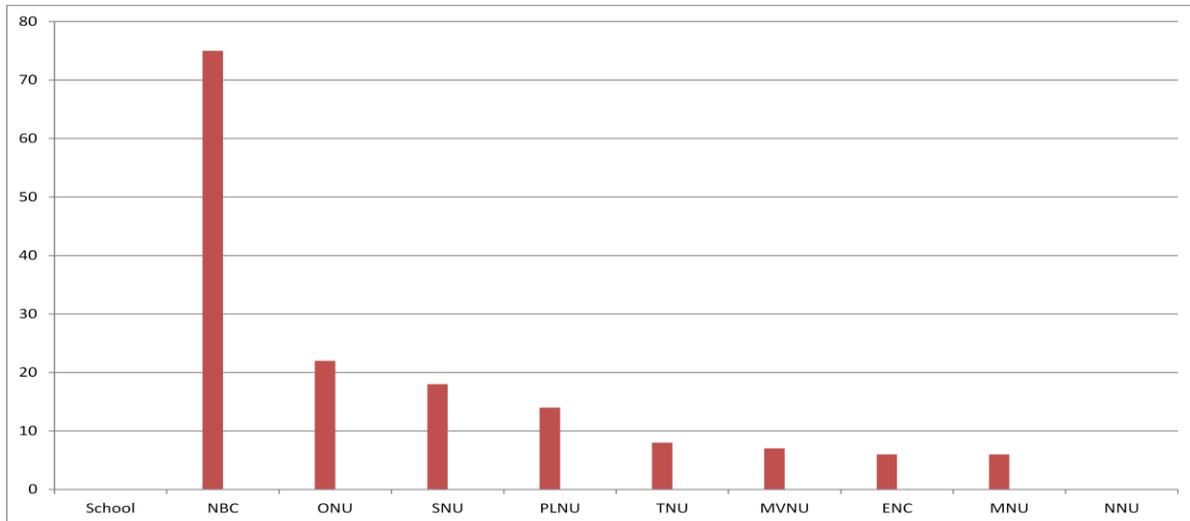
- We celebrate that among the Church of the Nazarene USA Colleges and Universities, NBC had the most students completing a program in religious studies in 2012:
  1. Nazarene Bible College (77)
  2. Olivet Nazarene University (46)
  3. Southern Nazarene University (22)
  4. MidAmerica Nazarene University (17)
  5. Mount Vernon Nazarene University (17)
  6. Point Loma Nazarene University (14)
  7. Trevecca Nazarene University (11)
  8. Eastern Nazarene College (8)
  9. Northwest Nazarene University (6)

### Students Completing a Program in Religion



- We celebrate that among the Church of the Nazarene USA Colleges and Universities, NBC had 48% of the students completing a program track in pastoral ministries in 2012.

### Pastoral Ministry Track



We have much to celebrate and to be thankful for at Nazarene Bible College. G.K. Chesterton reminds us: *“When it comes to life the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude.”*<sup>6</sup> We should never take for granted the purpose of Nazarene Bible College, the people who work so diligently to fulfill that purpose, and the students who hear the call to “Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men.

### TRANSITIONS AND CHALLENGES

Kelly A. Morgan wrote: *“Changes are inevitable and not always controllable. What can be controlled is how you manage, react to and work through the change process.”*<sup>7</sup>

Three years ago Dr. Gary Streit accepted our invitation to serve as Vice President for Academic Affairs. He gave experienced and exceptional leadership to our accreditation review with the Higher Learning Commission, to the reorganization of the academic enterprise of the college, to the revision of our strategic plan, and the mentoring of our next academic dean. The impact of Dr. Streit’s leadership can be seen in the reaffirmation of our accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission for ten years, the efficiency of our academic structure, the simplicity of our strategic plan, and the appointment of Dr. Alan Lyke as our Vice President for Academic Affairs.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag?id=gratitude&page=3&utf8=%E2%9C%93>

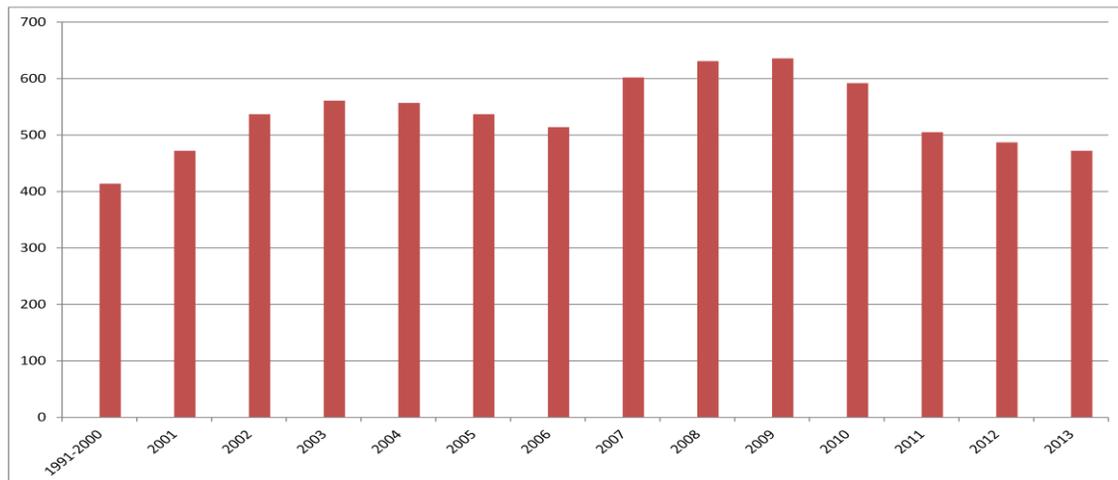
<sup>7</sup> <http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/challenges?page=1>

The transition from Dr. Streit to Dr. Lyke has been seamless and effective. Dr. Lyke has served in a variety of positions at NBC during his 18 years of service to the college. He has served as a faculty member, Chaplain, Director of the Pastoral Ministries Programs, the Dr. Eugene and Faye Stowe Professor of Pastoral Care, and the Dean of Online Education.

The reorganization of the academic structure integrated the online and campus delivery systems into one academic organization. Dr. Lyke’s knowledge and experience with the two delivery systems makes him uniquely qualified for the position he now holds. I am pleased with the leadership he is giving. The academic enterprise of the college is in experienced and capable hands.

A pressing concern and a priority of the strategic planning committee is the enrollment of the college. The decline in degree-seeking student enrollment is reflected in both the campus and online delivery systems.

### Enrollment Trends



During the first decade of the bachelor’s program, 1991 – 2000, the average enrollment was 414. In 2009-2010 we had 636 degree students and 12,545 billable hours, the largest enrollment since 1978 and the largest since offering a bachelor’s degree. Last year we had 487 degree students and 8,872 billable hours, which was the smallest enrollment since 2001. This year we have 438 students in traditional degree programs, 21 in the Hispanic Pastoral Ministry degree program, and 13 in the new Associated of Arts in General Studies program, for a total of 472 in degree programs. We also have 411 students in the certificate program for ordination in the Church of the Nazarene.

In December the cabinet met with John Dysart, President of The Dysart Group (Enrollment Management and Higher Education Services). Mr. Dysart is a national expert in enrollment management having consulted more than 150 colleges and universities in more than 35 states. After meeting with Mr. Dysart, we agreed to engage the Dysart Group for 18 months.

Mr. Dysart’s first assessment of our enrollment process reminded me of a favorite film of mine, “Field of Dreams.” You remember the story of Ray Kinsella who hears a voice saying, “If you build it he will come,” while walking through his cornfield in Iowa. He does build it, and they did come.

Perhaps that has been our philosophy at Nazarene Bible College, build it and they will come. We took care of the people who found us. It was a passive approach to recruitment and enrollment management. The limited pool of people seeking an undergraduate degree in ministry and the growing number of options available requires a more active and available enrollment process.

Mr. Dysart has led the college through a reorganization of our enrollment management team. We are implementing a more assertive, personalized, and coordinated enrollment process.

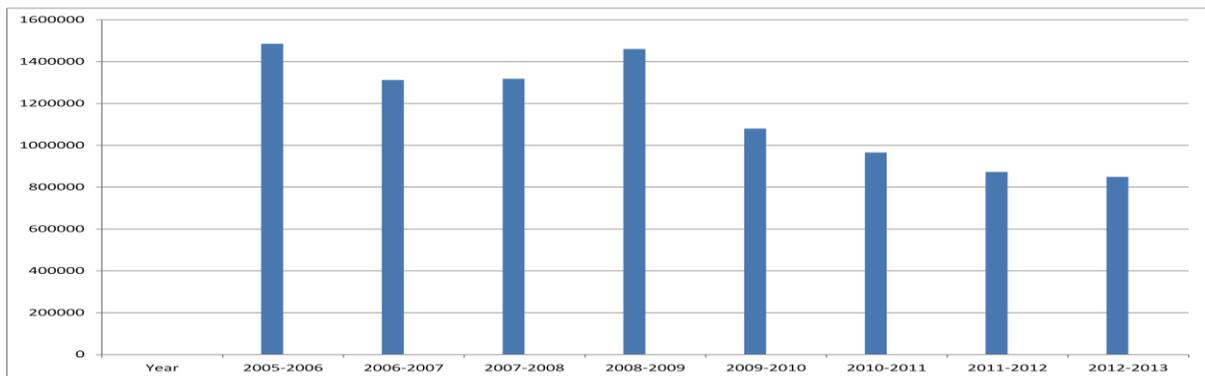
I have been pleased to see the synergy created interdepartmentally as we have implemented the plans and procedures introduced by Mr. Dysart. The Business, Financial Aid, Registrar, and Enrollment Management Teams have worked together with positive results. I commend Dr. Laurel Matson, Vice President for Enrollment Management, for his leadership in implementing the new structure.

Enrollment in the degree programs remains a significant challenge for us. We are aggressively addressing this challenge and working diligently to improve student recruitment, enrollment, and retention.

Charles Udall wrote: *“In life, you will always be faced with a series of God-ordained opportunities brilliantly disguised as problems and challenge.”*<sup>8</sup>

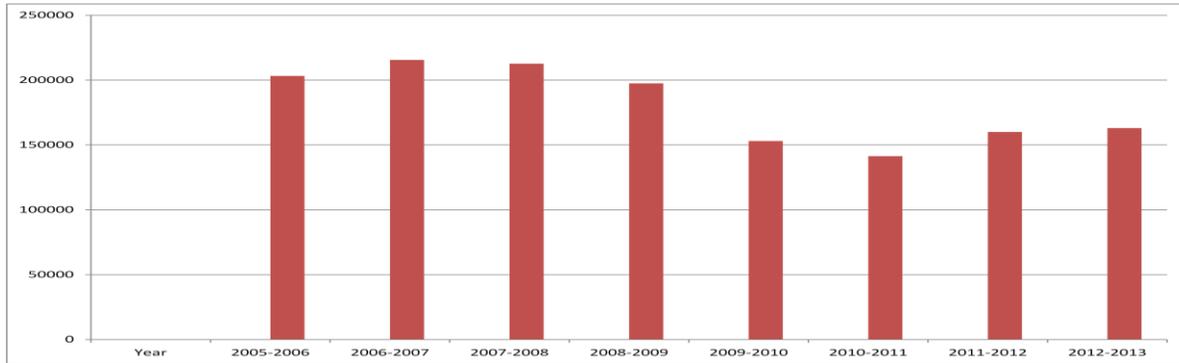
Perhaps the most challenging concern we have worked to overcome has been the reduction in support from the Church of the Nazarene. Shirley Cadle, Vice President for Finance, reports: *“Overall funding from the General Church World Evangelism Fund has decreased 43% from 2005-2006 to 2012-2013. This is a decrease of over \$600,000 during that time. We understand the reasoning behind this and appreciate both the \$850,000 contribution from our Church last year and the anticipated \$30,000 increase in denominational support for the current year. However, our current method of locating and retaining students is not keeping up with this decrease in revenue.”*

**Education Funding from Global Ministry Center**



<sup>8</sup> <http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/challenges?page=3>

## Annual Offering



In the past, the denomination discouraged an office of advancement and development at NBC. The rationale was related to the support received from the denomination as a World Evangelism school. The denomination has relaxed the position on development and advancement in the last few years. In truth, it takes time to develop a donor base significant enough to offset the decrease in support from the denomination. Please know that we are grateful for the support we receive from the Church of the Nazarene, but this is a critical issue for the college.

I recently read about a young sailor at sea who was ordered to climb a mast to adjust a sail during a violent storm. He got halfway up, looked down, got dizzy and sick. An old sailor on deck shouted up to him “Look up, son, look up.” The young sailor looked up, regained his composure, and completed his mission.<sup>9</sup>

As we face the challenges before us, it is of utmost importance that we keep looking up, that we keep our eyes focused on the mission, and that we do not lose heart.

## PERSONAL

As I begin my eighth year as President of NBC and my twentieth year as a member of the NBC Board of Trustees, I am reminded of the words of Ellen J. Barrier, “*I believe challenges are God’s way of strengthening us mentally and spiritually, and yes, physically. After having won each challenge that confronted us, we are wiser and stronger.*”<sup>10</sup>

I have sought to be faithful and diligent in fulfilling my responsibilities as President of Nazarene Bible College. It is my desire to lead with a positive, wise, and joyful attitude. I consistently remind people that Nazarene Bible College was ordained by God and we are stewards of God’s college.

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<sup>9</sup> [http://thinkexist.com/quotation/the\\_young\\_sailor\\_at\\_sea\\_was\\_ordered\\_to\\_climb\\_a/298060.html](http://thinkexist.com/quotation/the_young_sailor_at_sea_was_ordered_to_climb_a/298060.html)

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/list/21899691-ellen-barrier?page=2>

This year I have traveled 41,364 miles to date representing the college at 14 district assemblies, the general assembly, and various other meetings. It is always encouraging to meet our alumni and students as I travel across the country. Their heartfelt affection for the college helps me to get on another plane and wait in another airport. In February, I was elected to the Association for Biblical Higher Education Board of Directors.

I am grateful for the students, administrators, faculty, and staff that make this college so special. I am thankful for a loving wife who gives me encouragement and support. I am grateful for the Board of Trustees and the reassurance you give to me and this college.

In closing I am reminded of the words of Thomas Merton: *“To be grateful is to recognize the Love of God in everything He has given us – and He has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of His love, every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense graces from Him. Gratitude therefore takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder and to praise of the goodness of God. For the grateful person knows that God is good, not by hearsay but by experience. And that is what makes all the difference.”*<sup>11</sup>

Respectfully Submitted,



Harold B. Graves Jr.

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<sup>11</sup> <http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag?utf8=%E2%9C%93&id=gratitude>