



A HOLY DISPENSATION

by Stephen Lee

There are many things that I am proud of in my Korean heritage, but Korea itself has not had an easy history. The educator, philosopher, and civil rights advocate Ham Suk-hun discovered this when he began to search through the pages of history books for impressive facts about Korea, hoping to make his high school students proud of Korean history. He approached this process with a little bit of arrogance and pride because Koreans have always boasted of the longevity of their history, noting that it goes as far back as five millenniums.

But after painstakingly digging for information for his class, Ham Suk-hun realized that the major reoccurring theme throughout Korean history was “suffering.” Korean history, as he observed, was made up of a series of gloomy incidents. The country was invaded and trampled on by the superior powers who surrounded it over and over again. After making this disturbing discovery, he was embarrassed, bewildered, and so sad that he wept all night long.

After accepting this disappointing truth, Ham Suk-hun decided to search for a deeper, larger meaning behind Korea’s sad history. Soon, he was able to see that there was a holy dispensation of God behind Korean history. God, he believed, had been with Korea even in its suffering and ultimately these bitter and difficult experiences had cultivated a desperate need and hunger for the gospel. With this in mind, it’s no wonder Korea has experienced a record-breaking growth in the Christian population since first hearing the gospel!

During the past century, Korea has undergone a staggering growth in its churches. One example is the Yoido Full Gospel Church, which, since its beginning in 1958, has grown to become the largest Christian congregation in the world with almost 830,000 members.

Korea has also sent 14,905 missionaries to 168 countries—an incredible increase from just 93 missionaries in 1979. Korean church leaders have made a resolution to send 1 million tent-making missionaries by 2020 and 100,000 missionaries by 2030. Yes, the Korean church has aggressively engaged itself in world mission.

According to Ham Suk-hun, suffering in Korea emerges as a connection to God’s divine arrangement, using the pain of

[continued inside]

inside

Wayne and Virginia
Bauer, Jacksonville, FL

PRESENCE

Favorite Sermon—
New Beginnings

Books on Understanding
Christian Faith

A HOLY DISPENSATION [continued]

Korea's past to produce much fruit for His Kingdom in the present and future.

As we find in the Bible and in history, God intentionally uses marginal people to challenge and change the world. For example, God raised and used a marginal group through Dr. Phineas F. Bresee to challenge and change the world with the Holiness Movement.

I wonder how God will challenge and change the world through the Nazarenes in the twenty-first century. I pray that God will bless us and direct us to become more sensitive to His calling to make Christ-like disciples in the nations.



— Stephen Lee, Senior Pastor
Beautiful Korean Church of the Nazarene
Anaheim, California

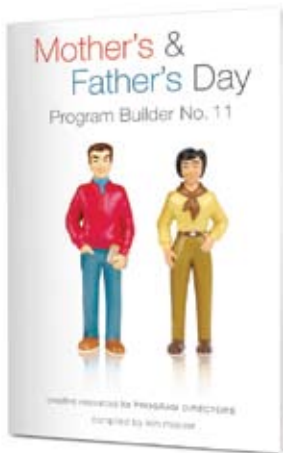
For more on the history of Christianity in Asia . . .

The Asian Jesus

COZZ978-1-5707-5661-0 \$22.00



Planning made easy for Mother's and Father's Day!



Create fun programs to celebrate moms and dads with recitations for kids, short scenes, plays and program ideas. Use for worship services, an evening performance, or a special banquet. Explore the possibilities with this easy-to-use book.

COZZ978-0-8341-7606-5 \$5.99

Visit Lillenas.com
for orders and more information.
lillenasdrama.com



WAYNE AND VIRGINIA BAUER
SENIOR CO-PASTORS
FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

St. Simons Island, Georgia, has become a favorite day trip of ours. We love to imagine the days when John Wesley walked among the huge trees dripping with Spanish moss, preaching to the Indians and the settlers in the early days of America. During our last visit we found ourselves discussing what has lately become one of our frequent conversation topics—perseverance. What if John Wesley had given up? The placards sprinkled around the island and his journal entries from those days convince us that his ministry in America would've been discouraging enough to make most preachers give up. Wesley himself even summarized his time here as an utter failure. He wrote that his purpose in America was to convert the Indians, but it was no easy goal. And yet, instead of allowing the disillusionment and frustration to push him to abandon his faith and ministry, he persevered.

As co-pastors and church planters, we have certainly found ourselves up-close-and-personal with disillusionment and frustration. To be honest, in the early days of church planting we quit on a regular basis. Fortunately though, neither of us would accept the other's resignation! Wayne will never forget the day he sat on the beach contemplating our inadequacies in light of the challenges ahead. As the waves washed onshore, his thoughts began to drift away from us and toward God—and praises began to flow. Once again, worship of the living God changed his perspective. His change in perspective encouraged both of us to persevere as we watched God work through us, in spite of our inadequacies.

The writer of Hebrews recounts story after story of perseverance in chapter 11 before he calls us to do the same. "Therefore...let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus . . . (Hebrews 12: 1-2)." As pastors, we are all called to participate in something bigger than ourselves. We are called to participate in the kingdom of God. With such a challenging responsibility, we will inevitably face the temptation to quit. But instead, may we join John Wesley and other heroes of faith and persevere—keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, "the author and perfecter of our faith."

For more on perseverance . . .

When Goliath Doesn't Fall

COZZ978-0-8341-2357-1 \$14.99



Preach , Pastor!



NORMAN MOORE, EVANGELIST
NORMAN MOORE MINISTRIES
MURRIETA, CALIFORNIA

SERMON TITLE: *Opportunity for a New Beginning*

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: John 5:1-16

TOPIC: Overcoming long-term struggles

PURPOSE: To help us understand that we don't have to be "stuck" where we are—we can move to something better.

OPENING ILLUSTRATION: For more than three years, my wife owned and drove a used car with a broken cruise control. When I had the time to get it fixed, I didn't have the money; but when I finally had the money to get it fixed, I didn't have the time. It had been broken so long that we just got used to it. It became normal to be abnormal.

SUMMARY: When Jesus and His disciples pass by the pool, Jesus stops, looks in the man's direction, and then steps toward him. I'm convinced that Jesus looked at this man with love, compassion, empathy, and concern. "Do you want to get well?" Jesus asks him.

Jesus listens to the man's excuses, then replies, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk" (v. 8). This man has a choice: stay the way he is or take this opportunity for a new beginning. So, he gets up, picks up his mat, and walks!

A little later, Jesus meets him at the Temple with an enthusiastic, affirming greeting: "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you (v. 14)." The man leaves the Temple and testifies to his critics that it was Jesus who had made him well.

FAVORITE POINT: We don't have to stay where we are. We too have a choice: we can continue to live with brokenness or bad habits or pain and make the abnormal normal; or we can accept Christ's offer for a new beginning.

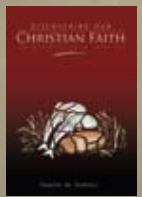
RESPONSE: This sermon frequently reminds me to keep growing and not settle for the old, normal way of life.

(For more information on this sermon, contact Norman Moore at preachernorman@aol.com or call 951-461-4448.)

Improving Your



Understanding Ch



Discovering Our Christian Faith
An Introduction to Theology
Samuel M. Powell
COZZ978-0-8341-2354-0
\$39.99, Beacon Hill Press
This engaging and comprehensive introduction to Christian theology will help you think and enhance your knowledge of God. It's a collection of discussions and sermon notes.



A Way with Words. . .

"My business is not to remake myself, but to make the absolute best of what God made."
—Robert Browning

Corny Pastor Joke

THOUGHTS ON LOVE & MARRIAGE

How can a stranger tell if a couple is married?

"You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids."
—Derrick, age 8

What do most people do on a date?

"Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say, if you listen long enough."
—Lynnette, age 8

How would you make a marriage work?

"Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a truck."
—Ricky, age 10

Copyright Thom Tapp. Used by permission.



Christian Faith

New Beacon Bible Commentary

NBBC, Romans Special (2 Volumes)

William M. Greathouse with George Lyons

COZZU-520

\$39.99, Beacon Hill Press, 2008



Christian Faith

gy

2008

prehensive introduction
stimulate your
ur understanding of the
great resource for topical
material.

Discovering Missions

Charles R. Gailey and Howard Culbertson

COZZ978-0-8341-2257-4

\$34.99, Beacon Hill Press, 2007

This thorough text examines the importance of missionary work overseas and within one's community. It's a great resource for understanding important terms and practices related to mission work and for identifying a variety of outreach opportunities around the world.

Written from the Wesleyan theological perspective, the New BEACON BIBLE COMMENTARY features completely new scholarship, convenient introductory material, clear verse-by-verse explanations, comprehensive annotations, helpful sidebars, and an expanded bibliography for further study. Engaging, relevant, and academically thorough, it provides a new standard for understanding and interpreting the Bible in the 21st century.

**Everything Must Change**

Jesus, Global Crises, and a Revolution of Hope

Brian McLaren

COZZ978-0-8499-0183-6

\$21.99, Thomas Nelson, 2007

This book identifies the earth's deepest dysfunctions: crises in prosperity, equity, security, and spirituality; and asks the question, "What could change if we applied the message of Jesus to the world's greatest problems?" McLaren's conclusions are perceptive and thought-provoking and provide great discussion material for studies on our culture and faith.

The New Atheists

Book releases such as *God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything* by Christopher Hitchens and *God Delusion* by Richard Dawkins are making the *New York Times* bestseller lists. There has also been an increase of new atheistic dialog on university campuses across the country. So how should Christians respond to the New Atheism discussion? Writer/speaker Alister McGrath of Oxford offers this: "We can reach out to New Atheists in love and break their stereotypes about Christians. It's our responsibility to show the grace of Christ's presence to atheists. It shouldn't be a vicious back-and-forth exchange, because we must hold ourselves to a higher standard—God's standard."

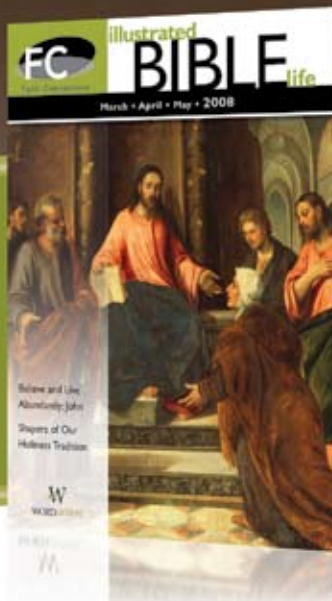
—Phil White, "The Christian Response to New Atheism", *Relevant Magazine*, Jan/Feb 2008, Issue 31, pp. 84-87.

Asian American Growth

The Asian-American label covers more than 34 ethnicities, each with its own heritage and language. This ethnic group is expected to increase from the current population of 15 million Americans to 33 million by the year 2050. Churches wanting to understand the complexities of Asian-American ministry should focus on: knowledge of the realities of their Asian-American communities; an awareness of shared cultural values such as elder respect and generational struggles; and openness to the reality of individual exceptions to general cultural norms.

—DJ Chuang, "The Next Generation of Asian Americans Reaches Out", *REV!*, Jan/Feb 2008, pp. 77-78.

GO DEEPER WITH THIS COMPLETE COMMENTARY
AND EXPOSITION OF THE BIBLE PASSAGES STUDIED
IN ADULT FAITH CONNECTIONS CURRICULUM.



\$8.99 COZZIBL-MAM 08

www.wordaction.com

STATISTICS, SOUNDBITES, and Suggestions

STATISTICS

— **25%** of Americans today have never known a world without the internet.

— By **2009**, 1 out of every 6 Americans will be of Hispanic decent.

— Excerpted from *The Foster Letter-Religious Market Update*, (12/25/2007).

For more, visit www.garydfoster.com

“More and more Christian leaders are beginning to realize that for the millions of young adults who have recently dropped out of church, Christianity is a failed religion. Why? Because it has specialized in dealing with ‘spiritual needs’ to the exclusion of physical and social needs. It has focused on ‘me’ and ‘my eternal destiny,’ but it has failed to address the dominant societal and global realities of their lifetime: systemic injustice, poverty, and dysfunction.”

— Brian McLaren, excerpted from *Everything Must Change: Jesus, Global Crises, and a Revolution of Hope* (Thomas Nelson, 2007)

COMING FALL 2008...

Do the Ears Have Walls?

20-Somethings Discuss Faith, Culture, and the Church

This book shares the responses of over 400 college students who came together at the Nazarene M7 conference (spring 2007) to share their insights, feelings, and frustrations on faith, today’s culture, and the church. Their comments are disconcerting, uncomfortable, inspiring, and honest—and something every Nazarene pastor should hear.

100th Anniversary Celebration

How is your church going to celebrate this historical event? You can find resources to help you prepare for the Church of Nazarene Centennial Celebration Sunday (October 5, 2008) at www.nph.com/go/cr.

Nazarene Job Board

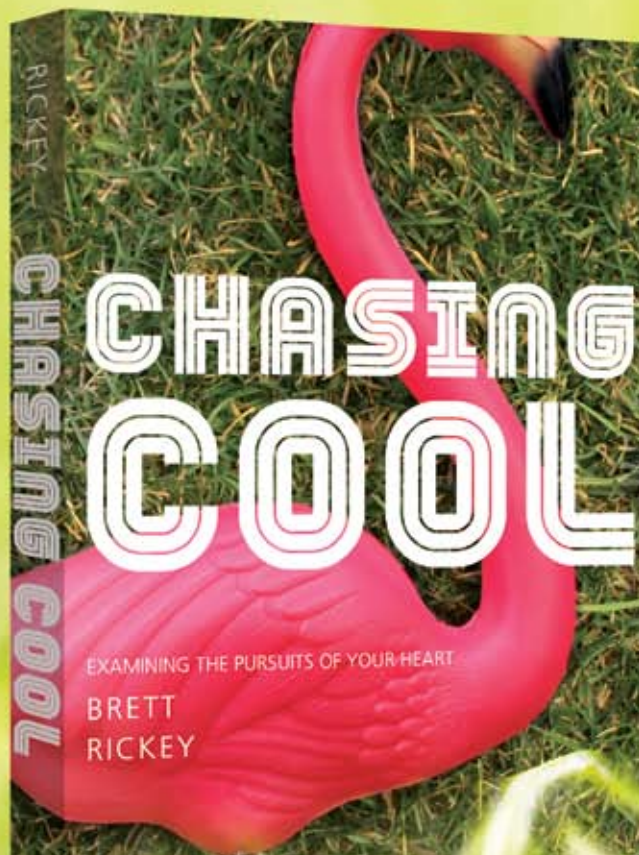
The Nazarene Job Board is a resource for pastors posting local church ministry positions and for persons seeking ministry placement.

You can easily access this user-friendly site at <http://jobs.nazarene.org>. For questions, contact the administrator at jobs@nazarene.org or call Clergy Development at (800) 306-7651.

What is your “IT” factor?

Chasing Cool is a thoughtful, funny, and challenging exploration into the damaging web of self-centeredness and image control. Brett Rickey exposes the attitudes and misconceptions that often cause good people to get caught up in “cool”. He’ll help you identify the pursuits of your heart so you can start chasing what really matters.

COZZ978-0-8341-2324-3.....\$14.99





www.youthinmission.org – Nazarene Youth In Mission

This is a great web resource for pastors to pass on to college students who are contemplating mission work or summer service opportunities.

www.tornaz.com – Torrance Community Church of the Nazarene, Torrance, CA

This site has a unique blog-style look and feel. The colors are warm and the site is simple to navigate.

www.ignitenaz.org – Nazarene Children's Pastor Association

This site hosts information and discussion forums for children's pastors. It provides a variety of insights and ideas to help you effectively minister to the children of your church and community.

O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You hem me in-behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.

[Psalm 139:1-2, 5]

communicator@nph.com

A Word from *Matt*



"Presence." Just five months ago, we celebrated the miracle of Christ's birth as the ultimate sign of God's presence among us. Just a few weeks ago, we celebrated the incredible presence of God with us through the miracle of the empty tomb. This month we celebrate Pentecost and the presence of God by His Holy Spirit.

In Psalm 139, we are reminded that God knows exactly where we are and what we are up to—because He is present with us. Lately, verse 5 "you have laid your hand upon me" has reminded me that He is present. He knows what I'm doing; what I'm working on; what I'm struggling with. He knows because He's right here with me.

Though we may have preached this idea on several occasions, sometimes it's good to be reminded: If you're starting a brand new church—He is present. If you feel as though you have the toughest youth group in the history of your church—He is present. If your church is facing huge financial hurdles right now—He is present. If your marriage is struggling and no one knows how much you hurt—He is present. If your children are struggling with faith or searching for the wrong things, I assure you—He is present. No matter where you are or where you are going; no matter what you face today or what is waiting for you tomorrow—God is present. He is with us.

So, as we reflect on the wonder and goodness of Pentecost, let's rejoice and celebrate *Immanuel* all over again.

— **Matthew S. Zimmer, Church Resources Manager**
Nazarene Publishing House

NAZARENE PUBLISHING HOUSE
BOX 419527, KANSAS CITY, MO 64141-6527

Communicator features. . .

STOCK NUMBER	ITEM	RETAIL PRICE	PASTOR'S DISCOUNT PRICE
COZZ978-1-5707-5661-0	The Asian Jesus*	\$22.00	\$17.60
COZZ978-0-8341-2324-3	Chasing Cool*	\$14.99	\$11.99
COZZ978-0-8341-2257-4	Discovering Missions*	\$34.99	\$27.99
COZZ978-0-8341-2354-0	Discovering Our Christian Faith*	\$39.99	\$31.99
COZZ978-0-8499-0183-6	Everything Must Change*	\$21.99	\$17.59
COZZIBL-MAM 08	Illustrated Bible Life	\$8.99	N/A
COZZ978-0-8341-7606-5	Mother's & Father's Day Program Builder No. 11	\$5.99	\$4.79
COZZU-520	NBBC, Romans Special	\$39.99	N/A
COZZ978-0-8341-2357-1	When Goliath Doesn't Fall*	\$14.99	\$11.99



1.800.877.0700



www.nph.com



orders@nph.com



1.800.849.9827

* Quantity discounts available

Actual postage is charged when product is shipped. Prices subject to change without notice.