

COMMUNICATOR

NAZARENE PUBLISHING HOUSE

Ordination

What does ordination mean? What does it mean to you? What does it mean to those of us whose ordination is now decades past?

Like many of you I'm part of a district board that interviews candidates for ordination. By the time we have this interview our board has met with the individual annually for several years. We've guided them in completing the Course of Study and fulfilling the requisite ministerial service. A local congregation certified that they do in fact have gifts and graces for ministry. The hard work is done, so this "final" interview is usually a pleasant one. The testing of theology and churchmanship is complete and now it's time to celebrate the grace of God's call and their obedient response.

We always ask them something like, "What does ordination mean to you?" They often struggle a while for words and then usually frame an answer that has to do with gratitude for the recognition of the church or excitement for the completion of a process. Once in a while a particularly smug candidate will say something like, "Well, I really don't need the church to ordain me because I'm going to follow God's call no matter what!" (Note to licensed ministers: Not the best approach).

So what does ordination mean? What does it mean to you? What does it mean to those of us whose ordination is now decades past? Thomas Oden lists five classical elements in the meaning of ordination:

1. It is a public testimony by which the call of the ordained is declared before God and in God's name.
2. Ministry is committed in the name of God and of the church to the one who has been called.
3. By solemn vow, the one called becomes obligated to the church to render faithfulness in the ministry.
4. The church is to recognize in ordination that the pastor has divine authority to teach.

5. The church commits to God the ministry of the one that is called, and prays that God might bless their ministry.*

These are serious and far-reaching statements. I am compelled regularly to remind licensed ministers that ordination is not a "right" one earns by the completion of a checklist of requirements. Ordination is by invitation of the church. It is the affirmation of God's call and the recognition that this person is gifted for vocational ministry. Ordination is not the ending of a process. It is really the beginning of a new journey. Just as we mark the completion of an academic program with commencement so ordination marks the commencement of a life that is now qualitatively different because of the ordination vows.

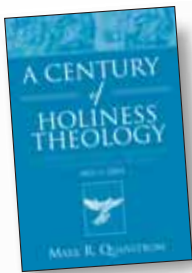
I suppose I'm thinking about this because in a few days I will mark the nineteenth year of my ordination. Today I pulled the framed ordination certificate off the wall of my study and read it again. It says that on that particular day I was "judged worthy and well qualified" for the work and was recommended to all as a "proper person to administer the sacraments and ordinances and to feed the flock of God so long as [my] spirit and practice are such as become the gospel of Christ." I am challenged afresh as I read those words. No matter how difficult the working out of my call may be at times, the fact remains that God called, the church affirmed and ordained, and I want to be faithful to the sacred trust placed in me.

So what does ordination mean to you? I hope I never lose sight of the profound privilege nor of the fearsome responsibility that came on me when Dr. Stowe said in a booming voice, "I ordain thee Elder in the Church of God."

—Jeren Rowell

(footnote): *Thomas C. Oden, *Classical Pastoral Care*, Vol. 1, "Becoming a Minister," p. 118.





A Century of Holiness Theology:

The Doctrine of Entire Sanctification in the Church of the Nazarene, 1905 to 2004 by Mark R. Quanstrom

FEATURED BOOK

One of the more popular workshops at this summer's PALCON events was "A Century of Changes in the Ways We Talk About Entire Sanctification" led by Dr. Ron Benefiel and other faculty members from NTS. The workshop content was based on this important book by

Dr. Quanstrom. The book charts the gradual but significant changes that have occurred across the history of our denomination in the ways we understand, discuss, and even experience entire sanctification. The tensions between an emphasis on "crisis" and an emphasis on "process" (and the attending implications of these emphases) have important historical as well as theological roots.

There is a fresh conversation emerging in the Church of the Nazarene around our doctrinal distinctive that is both needed and encouraging. Dr. Quanstrom's book

could be a significant part of helping us to put partisanship behind and have a level headed but passionate dialogue about our message. The book surveys both the Wesleyan and the American holiness movement foundations of how we now express ourselves on the biblical doctrine of holiness.

President Benefiel says, "I highly recommend this book and would put it on the 'must read' list for anyone who pastors or teaches in the Church of the Nazarene, as well as for those who have interest in a deeper understanding of the Church's doctrine of entire sanctification."

Mark R. Quanstrom is the pastor of First Church of the Nazarene in Belleville, Illinois. He received his Ph.D. from St. Louis University.

(Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 2003, 232pp., \$29.99, paper, COZZ083-412-1166)

BOOK BRIEFS

Recent publications you should know about

BIBLE STUDY

The Kingdom of God by Greg Jao. (InterVarsity, 2003, 77pp., \$7.00, paper, COZZ083-083-0995). *The Kingdom of God* is one of a series of booklets included in *LifeGuide Bible Studies* from InterVarsity Press. *LifeGuide* includes six major areas related to Christian living, each area having numerous study booklets. This particular one is located in the Topical Studies area and focuses on Jesus and the kingdom of God. Answers to questions such as, What is it? Where is it? And Why is it so important? are found in this printing. There are ten studies for individuals or groups and a special section with notes for group leaders. *The Kingdom of God* is an inductive Bible study designed to aid the student in discovering what the Scripture is saying about the particular topic. There are three types of questions used by the author. With the Kingdom referring to the fact of God's reign, rather than a place, Jao highlights two main themes throughout the Scripture—one, the ongoing reign of God and two, a future day when that reign will be evident among all peoples. His emphasis is that in Jesus are both of these themes focused. I recommend this small booklet for those looking for a specific and limited study. It is easy to read, well written and informative. (SR)



YOUTH MINISTRY

Max Q for Youth Leaders by Andy Stanley and Stuart Hall. (Howard, 2004, 270pp., \$17.99, cloth, COZZ158-229-3600). Andy Stanley and Stuart Hall team up together once again to write another excellent book that seeks to equip teenagers with the practical skills necessary to live out their Christian faith. This book focuses on a student's ability to be influential within one's culture rather than be influenced by it. Stanley and Hall realize that Christian students should strive for healthy friendships and believe that they are some of the most effective people to reach their peers for Christ.



The book is divided into two sections. The first spells out what influence is, how it is obtained, and the value of it within the context of evangelism. The second portion of the book describes various principles that Christian students should adhere to in order to live at the highest level of influence. The "Priorities Principle" is a tremendous chapter on the importance of caring for one's own spiritual health first. Too often, students may easily be swayed from being the influencer to becoming the "influenced" if they do not maintain their own spiritual growth and nurture.

This book is easy to read with lots of stories and examples. Both

authors do an excellent job of connecting the reader to the material. While this book deals with helping students become people of influence, it's written to the youth leader or mentor as a tool to train students. A companion book was written to serve as a resource for students themselves. (TM)

PASTORAL CARE

When Love Hurts: 10 Principles to Transform Difficult Relationships by Karla Downing. (Beacon Hill Press, 2004, 160pp., \$14.99, paper, COZZ083-412-1360). A dysfunctional relationship is any relationship in which you find yourself struggling to force change, give advice, control, or fix problems. The difficulty can be due to an addiction, mental illness, abuse, a trying personality, irresponsibility, or anything else that interferes with a healthy relationship. The relationship may be breaking or already broken under the strain of the problems. *When Love Hurts* provides practical and scriptural tools to help you transform your dysfunctional relationship. The 10 principles in this book will help you to experience freedom--to let go and love your loved one, and to experience peace, trust, and joy in the midst of the storm. It will even provide you with tools that increase the chance that your loved one will change—the very thing that you have been trying to make him or her do and have failed. One day at a time, you will begin to change and heal. (Publisher)



LEADERSHIP

The Pastor's Guide to Growing a Christlike Church by various authors. (Beacon Hill Press, 2004, 152pp., \$17.99, paper, COZZ083-412-1042). How can you change a stagnant, inward-focused church of pew-sitters into a growing, outreach-oriented fellowship of believers? In *The Pastor's Guide to Growing a Christlike Church*, you'll discover the keys to creating a vibrant, biblical, spiritually healthy church. William Willimon, H.B. London, George Hunter III, and other well-known church leaders teach you how to:

- Develop servant leaders among the laity
- Get laity involved in serving the community
- Nurture healthy spirituality in the church
- Develop authentic Christian community and fellowship
- Plan worship services that bind church members together
- Cast a vision for the future of the church
- And much more!

(Reviewers: Tim Milburn, Sherman Reed)



Some of the books featured in *Communicator* have not been reviewed for theological content and are not endorsed by Nazarene Publishing House or the Church of the Nazarene. They may have significant value, but readers should exercise theological discretion.



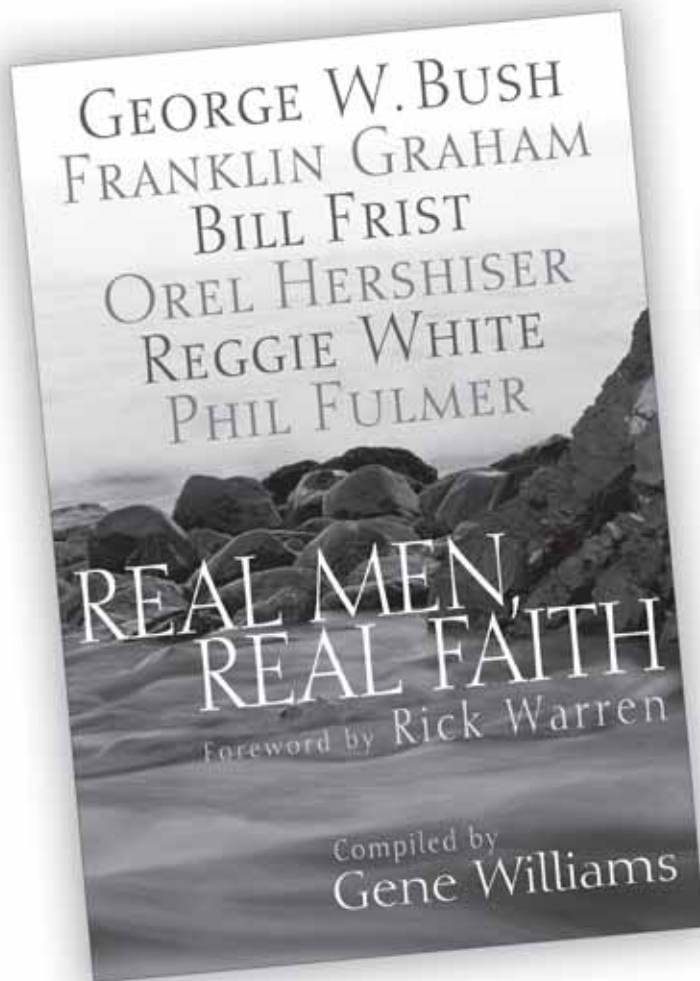
FEATURING

President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush

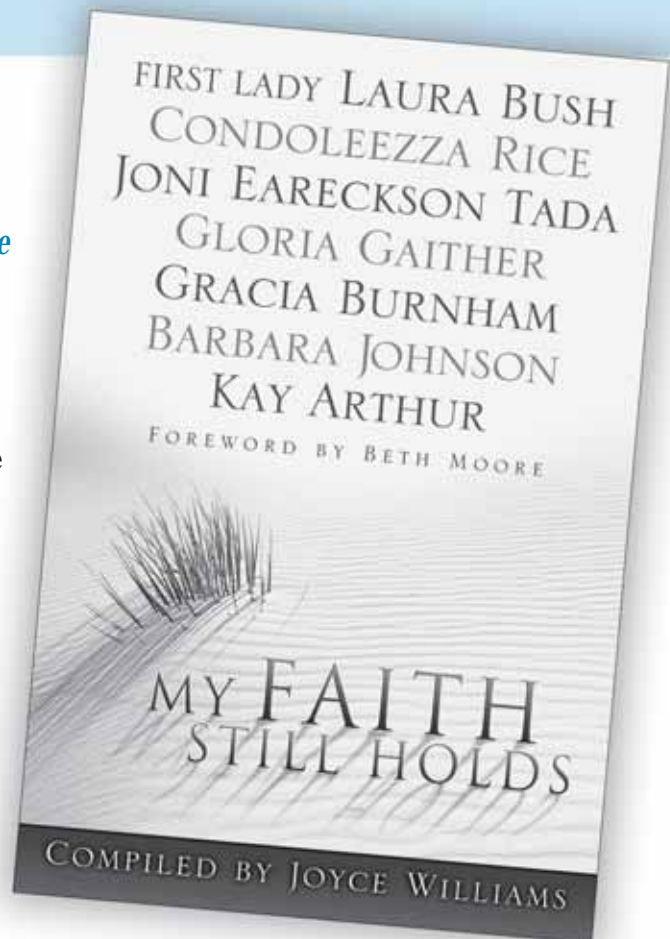
“Prayer deepens faith, reminding us of great truths: Evil and suffering are only for a time; hope endures. Even in the world’s most bitter conflicts, prayer reminds us of God’s love, mercy, and faithfulness, the hope He provides and the peace He promises.”

—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

Discover the common thread of faith in our Father that sustains, regardless of the devastations of life, through the inspirational stories in *Real Men, Real Faith*.



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COZZ083-412-078X \$14.99

“In hours like this, we learn that our faith is an active faith—that we are called to serve and to care for one another—and to bring hope and comfort where there is despair and sorrow.”

--LAURA BUSH

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—CONDOLEEZZA RICE

Celebrate God’s faithfulness to His people and read the inspiring journeys of women of faith in *My Faith Still Holds*.

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www.nolimitsdiscipleship.com

Join the Revolution

A year ago, in coordination with Focus on the Family's *Breakaway Magazine*, Nazarene Youth International, and Lillenas Publishing, Barefoot Ministries launched a new resource series: **No Limits Discipleship**. We partnered with these organizations with one goal in mind: to call a generation to a life of true discipleship. Everything in the **No Limits Discipleship Series** is centered around concepts of Covenant, Community, Contemplation, Compassion, and Communication. The challenge for youth and youth workers is for each to not only take on the call to be a disciple, but to take up the great commission by forming discipleship groups that would include those who have not been exposed to such a deep and meaningful faith journey.

Because of that challenge, **No Limits Discipleship** groups have been popping up everywhere over the last year. In response to this growing movement, Barefoot Ministries has re-launched www.nolimitsdiscipleship.com.

[Nolimitsdiscipleship.com](http://www.nolimitsdiscipleship.com) is an online community where disciples everywhere can gather, post messages, chat, grow spiritually, find resources, etc. We've also chosen two discipleship groups that we will track over the next year. These two groups have agreed to log their experiences, their triumphs, their failures, their struggles, and victories, online for the world to see. In essence, it's an online reality series featuring the lives of students who have heard the call to be a disciple. All unscripted. All real-life.



No Limits Discipleship

Visit www.nolimitsdiscipleship.com today. But don't stop there. Join the **No Limits Discipleship News Flash** e-mail list. Tell everyone you know about it!



We welcome your partnership with us in this great endeavor!
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CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



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"...and jumping up and down when you preach doesn't count as aerobic exercise!"

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