2016-17 Caravan Theme:
CELEBRATE *(70th Anniversary—1946-2016)*

Key Memory Verse:
Proverbs 22:6 (NIrV) Train a child in the way he should go. When he is old, he will not turn away from it.

Focus:
CELEBRATE Our Heritage . . . CELEBRATE Our Children . . . CELEBRATE Our Future

The fall of 2016 is a time to ***CELEBRATE*** as Caravan turns 70 years old. During this special anniversary year we ***CELEBRATE Our Heritage . . . CELEBRATE Our Children . . .*** **and** ***CELEBRATE Our Future.*** During the past 70 years Caravan has been responsible for teaching thousands of boys and girls to be more like Jesus by encouraging their growth in the four specific areas mentioned in Luke 2:52: **mental** (wisdom), **physical** (stature), **spiritual** (favor with God), and **social** (favor with men).

CELEBRATE Our Heritage:
(The 1940's) Interest in Nazarene children's club programs was growing in the 1930's and 1940's, but a problem occurred as the number of club programs increased. The local churches and districts were handicapped by the lack of a unified program and inadequate materials. The 1940 General Assembly called for a "Commission on Boys' and Girls' Work" to find a solution . . . The decision was made for the Church of the Nazarene to develop its own children's club program. A committee was appointed to prepare the manuscripts for the Nazarene Caravan program. The newly–created club program was presented to and approved by the Board of General Superintendents. By taking this step, the church was following the scripture from Proverbs 22:6 (NIrV) – Train a child in the way he should go. When he is old, he will not turn away from it.

The first Caravan book, Trailmarker for boys ages 12 and up, was released in 1946. Then came, Pathmarker for girls ages 12 and up, Signals for boys ages 9 to 11, and Signs for girls ages 9 to 11. In the fall of 1946, Millington Church of the Nazarene in Michigan became the first official Nazarene Caravan club program in the United States. As the new club program grew, it became necessary to appoint a national Caravan director. Rev. Milton Bunker accepted this important assignment.

CELEBRATE Our Children:
During this 70th year of celebration we remember and honor the thousands and thousands of boys and girls that have gone through the Caravan program since 1946. At a district Caravan Round-up in October 1949, Carol Wordsworth of Youngstown, Ohio, became the first person to receive Caravan's highest award. Since that time thousands of boys and girls have accomplished that same honor. We also celebrate every child that is a part of the Caravan program today.

CELEBRATE Our Future:
As Caravan reaches a new generation of boys and girls it continues to help them learn how to live with God by their side. No greater lesson is taught through Caravan than learning from and embracing the examples the Bible faithfully gives to young Christians. Those words from Proverbs continue to hold true: Proverbs 22:6 (NIrV) – Train a child in the way he should go. When he is old, he will not turn away from it. May God continue to bless Caravan and the boys and girls who participate in this life changing program.