

Local church missions education material

By Greg and Amy Crofford

Advance through Storm:

Theological education and the Church of the Nazarene

Lesson Information

1. The “storm” of false teachings

Storms don't exist only in the physical realm; they are also a *spiritual* reality. The Church is like a ship. As we take on passengers who were adrift, lost and perishing in their sin, the enemy of our souls will do his best to stir up “storms,” anything to impede our progress and keep us from our primary mission. If possible, he'd love to sink the ship!

Indeed, the apostle Paul compared false teachings to dangerous high winds. In Ephesians 4:14, he warns against being “blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming” (NIV). But how can this be avoided? Verse 13 gives the answer. We must be both unified and mature, a result of the “knowledge of the Son of God.”

Sadly, knowledge of the basics of true Christian faith is often lacking, making the unsuspecting vulnerable to false teaching. When visiting recently with one of our Nazarene church leaders in an African country, I asked: “What is the greatest challenge our church faces in your country?” It only took a few seconds of reflection before he replied: “The prosperity message.” He was concerned that this false idea was destroying churches, disillusioning people by promising them great riches. When the promised return never comes, they tend not to blame the charlatan who pockets their money but the God who they think let them down. They become inoculated to the genuine Gospel, a version of the old proverb: “Once burned, twice shy.” The “high wind” of false teaching can carry away those who are not properly anchored in sound doctrine.

Church historian Kenneth Latourette entitled one volume of his series on the expansion of Christianity “Advance through Storm.” Every generation sees a new variety of false teaching, high winds seeking to run the “ship” (the Church) aground. And so with every generation, we must intentionally pass on the “knowledge of the Son of God,” the solid teaching that serves as theological ballast when the storm blows its strongest.

From its conception, the Church of the Nazarene has placed a strong emphasis upon education, particularly upon the theological education of its ministers. These are the women and men who stand at the “wheel” of the ship, who must guide the church through rough seas.

This lesson will focus on three educational institutions that are dedicated to anchoring the church through sound teaching. Because our ministers come from various

walks of life with differing educational levels prior to receiving a call to ministry, our strategy must also be multi-leveled. Let's look at the certificate/diploma level of education through the work of the Nazarene Bible College of East Africa in Nairobi, Kenya. The bachelor's level will be represented by the School of Theology and Philosophy at Mount Vernon Nazarene University (Mt. Vernon, Ohio). Finally, we'll consider the Master's level by visiting with Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary located in Manila, the capital of the Philippines.

2. Nazarene Bible College of East Africa (NBC-EA)– Nairobi, Kenya

Her smile is infectious and her spirit gentle. Miss Catherine Mukoko – known to most of her students and colleagues as “Kate” – is Principal of NBC-EA, the Nazarene school serving ministers in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. Kate freely credits the long string of missionary educators who came before her for showing her “the ropes” as she moved from assistant librarian to registrar and now head of the school.

But Kate is just one of a team serving the educational needs of Nazarenes across the Africa East Field. With 1,650 students enrolled in 131 centers, she coordinates over 70 teachers who equip lay and clergy for many assignments, including pastoring, youth pastoring, children's ministry and Sunday School. NBC-EA is having a great impact across the Field, solidly grounding leaders in sound doctrine.

No one would have ever pictured Richard Awanda as a pastor. He served as a janitor at the Central Church of the Nazarene, where classes were held. Often, when his work was done, he would take books down from the library shelves and begin to read, wanting to know more about the Bible. Kate encouraged him to enroll in the program, and Richard was a quick learner. When he had completed the Diploma in Theology, Richard still thirsted for more. He enrolled at Africa Nazarene University and earned the Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.). Currently, he is associate pastor at Central Church in Nairobi and is also working on a Master's degree in Religion through ANU. Kate reflects: “This is what NBC-EA is all about, helping the church identify and develop leaders.” She requests prayer for Rev. Awanda and his ministry.

Let's also remember to pray for Miss Kate Mukoko and NBC-EA. They face financial challenges since tuition is inadequate to cover expenses, though they do have some income through World Evangelism Fund and renting out the school's dormitories when not being used by Nazarenes for intensive courses. Pray that God will help NBC-EA leaders as they strategize to make programs sustainable over the long-term.

3. School of Theology and Philosophy, Mount Vernon Nazarene University (Mount Vernon, Ohio)

Note to lesson presenters: Mount Vernon is used as representative of the several schools that could have been profiled for this section. You may substitute here information about your own nearby Nazarene College or University. *See the resources section for the IBOE website page that lists all the Nazarene schools that are responsible to educate ministers worldwide.*

From Kenya in East Africa, we journey west across the Atlantic to the heart of the United States. Less than an hour's drive north of Columbus is the little town of Mount Vernon, Ohio. This is the home of Mount Vernon Nazarene University, which houses the School of Theology and Philosophy, headed by Dr. C. Jeanne Serrão, Dean of the school.

One of the many teachers in the Bachelor's degree program at the school is Dr. Matt Price. Regarding his own calling, he writes:

The trajectory of my life has always been toward education and cross-cultural ministry. Since I was a child, I've always wanted to be a teacher. As a teenager, God called me into ministry soon after I was converted. This sense of calling keeps me grounded in the ever-changing and very-often chaotic experience of ministry.

Dr. Price is Assistant Professor of Christian Education and also teaches missions courses. Following service in Benin, West Africa, he briefly served with the International Board of Education before relocating to Mt. Vernon and taking up his current teaching duties in 2009.

Dr. Price reported that there are 125 students who major in the various programs offered through the School of Theology and Philosophy. Because there are many Nazarene churches in outlying areas, there are ample ministerial internship opportunities for students who mostly are studying for youth ministry, pastoral ministry, or cross-cultural service (intercultural studies). For those in the last category, specializations include Spanish, business and communications, all of which include a required semester abroad.

Teaching the next generation is demanding but filled with rewards. Dr. Price shared this story:

A couple of years ago I was teaching a general education course in the Bible with 45 students. One of the students was a senior baseball player and an atheist. We developed an ongoing conversation after classes and by email. Early in the next semester, he sent an email explaining how teammates stayed up late talking about God and the Bible. They committed to starting a small group Bible study. By the end of the year, the young man came to a steady faith in Christ in spite of the difficulties he has encountered.

Like in all our Nazarene Universities, one thing that sets faculty apart from larger, secular schools of higher education is the concern taken in students' spiritual welfare. Dr. Price tells the story of "Sarah" (not her real name):

"Sarah" grew up in a home broken by divorce. Her parents stayed actively involved in her life, especially as she played sports. Soccer was her favorite activity. She played throughout middle school and high school. Coming to MVNU was simply based on an athletic scholarship. At the end of her freshman year, Sarah came into my office asking about the Youth Ministry major. She sensed a strong calling into ministry but had been resisting it. We talked and prayed. Classes have not been

easy for her since they demanded a level of reading and writing not always present in other academic disciplines. In her ministry classes, she met another youth ministry major named Nicholas (not his real name), and are now considering marriage. Next year, Sarah has been elected one of the team captains. She, like many of our students, know that God has called them, but are not sure of the details about how this calling will be fulfilled—through a local church assignment, in a parachurch organization like Athletes in Action, or from a lay ministry involvement such as a coaching position. I'm sure Sarah and her classmates would be encouraged by your prayer for their lives and future ministries.

Sarah will join many others equipped by the School of Theology and Philosophy to minister in rapidly changing times. Let's remember to lift them before the Lord as they follow the calling that God has placed upon their lives.

4. Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary – Manila, Philippines

Founded in 1983 under the direction of its first president, Dr. Donald Owens, Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary was the first Nazarene institution outside North America to offer a Master's level degree in theological studies. To date, it has graduated more than 400 students who are involved in ministry in twenty-five countries, including Australia, Cambodia, Nepal, Japan, South Korea, Micronesia, Taiwan, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines.

APNTS has had a series of equally distinguished presidents who followed Dr. Owens, including Dr. LeBron Fairbanks, Dr. John Nielson, Dr. Hitoshi (Paul) Fukue and (currently) Dr. Floyd Cunningham, a historian who has taught at APNTS and served in other capacities at the school and in the surrounding community since 1982. (See more details from both Dr. Cunningham's rich personal history and that of the school on the accompanying information sheet). Through the cumulative leadership of these five presidents, the school has flourished. Enrollment now stands at 175, which includes courses offered through extension centers. Fourteen countries are represented among the student body.

Dr. Cunningham is especially proud of the recent strides APNTS has made in equipping those ministering to children. He writes:

APNTS offers a unique program in holistic child development in cooperation with the Asia Graduate School of Theology. The Philippine government granted recognition to the PhD in HCD in 2012. Indeed the school emphasizes ministries to children – with special concern for children in crisis – and local compassionate ministries in the community.

Besides the Ph.D., APNTS offers the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Religious Education, Master of Arts in Christian Communication, and the Master of Science in Theology, each of which normally take three years to complete.

When asked to share a few stories of students attending the school, Dr. Cunningham responded:

Anderson Godoy, a student from Columbia, South America, feels called to become a missionary in Asia – perhaps to Japan – one day. About ¼ of APNTS graduates become involved in cross-cultural ministries.

Jordan Escusa is the youth pastor of the Generation Congregation of Taytay First Church of the Nazarene. He grew up in California, but his parents sent him back to the Philippines when he was a teen, and there he found the Lord and was called to ministry. In addition to pastoring the youth congregation he has a radio program, “Perfect Rhythm,” broadcast throughout the Philippines.

APNTS is perfectly located to minister to many countries in the Pacific rim. It is a rich tapestry of many cultures, a true crossroads for the entire region. Let us join in prayer not only for Dr. Floyd Cunningham but for the faculty and students of APNTS. Through their ministry, they are having and will continue to have a tremendous impact for the Kingdom of God.

Conclusion: There are 53 educational institutions under the direction of the International Board of Education of the Church of the Nazarene, which include the three profiled in this lesson. In an age where there are often strong doctrinal winds that would blow the “ship” of the Church of the Nazarene off course, it is comforting to know that schools like NBC-EA, Mount Vernon Nazarene University and APNTS are anchoring leaders of all educational levels in sound doctrine, equipping them for dynamic ministry in spiritually stormy times.

Presentation options

Option 1: Steady on the Course – Make it so (4 people)

The IHS Tempest Tamer (IHS - In His Service) can either be a Star Trek-type spaceship OR a sailing ship. The captain explains that storms are dangerous (Section 1). S/he then asks three of the crew (If using Star Trek – no orange shirts!) to explain measures that are being taken on the various “decks” or levels. (Sections 2-4). The captain concludes with Section 5.

Option 2: The Weather Report (2-4 people)

The weather forecaster does the intro and then introduces the various “local” broadcasters. These remote weather reports would give the information about the preparation being taken at their location for a predicted storm. Note: These could be

done by one person who has various costumes. Between each “remote” the main forecaster does a recap or says encouraging words about the necessity of preparedness. (The station could be WYAH - Will your anchor hold?)

Promotional options

Option 1: A panicked voice over the communication system: “Captain, Captain, there’s a storm a comin’!” The leader says, “Not to worry. Come to the meeting on Sunday to learn about the precautions we’ve taken on the IHS Tempest Tamer.” **Bulletin board** – Background either star field or ocean & the lesson title and meeting info. If you can get a picture of the crew, do that!

Option 2: Two people watching television are startled by a thunderclap. They decide to watch the weather report to see what is happening. One looks at the congregation and says: “Yep, storms are coming. Come to hear about the preparations being taken around the world on Sunday.” **Bulletin board** – Pictures of storms, weather forecasters, and meeting info.

Motivation and prayer

It takes many years to build a strong church, but it can be quickly shipwrecked by the winds of false doctrine. This lesson will help you discover what three of our Nazarene institutions are doing to prepare able leaders to captain the “ship” through troubled waters.

Prayer: “Lord, as I prepare this lesson, help me to communicate the great importance of theological education to our church. Show us how we can be supportive of those who are sacrificing to equip the next generation of our Nazarene spiritual leaders. In Jesus’ name, AMEN.”

Fast Facts

In 2011, according to the IBOE website, at Nazarene institutions there were 49,547 students enrolled and 11,015 degrees granted worldwide.

“We are working with 53 undergraduate and graduate level Nazarene institutions with a presence through campuses and learning centers in 110 world areas on six continents – engaging nearly 50,000 students.” From Dan Copp’s report as the leader of the IBOE and Clergy development. <http://blogs.nazarene.org/iboe/>

“The essential responsibility, then of the colleges to the ideals of the church is to supply a fusion for Bible holiness with a standard academic program.” Bertha Munro (From *A Philosophy of Education*, 1948 – found on the second website listed below.)

Resources

International Board of Education (IBOE) website <http://blogs.nazarene.org/iboe/links/> on this page, all the schools are listed. The schools with websites have hyperlinks.

For a history of Nazarene higher education through speeches and papers:

<http://blogs.nazarene.org/lebronfairbanks/projects/>

Didache: Faithful Teaching, is an interdisciplinary academic journal offered on-line that explores the intersections of Christian conviction, culture and education for the Church of the Nazarene and other international Wesleyan communities in higher education. The journal is sponsored by the International Board of Education (IBOE) of the Church of the Nazarene, in cooperation with Nazarene Theological Seminary.

<http://didache.nazarene.org/>

Recipes

Simple food ideas:



You could cut the long side of Fig Cookies which results in a cookie that looks like a book.

Fruit Salad – Make a fruit salad from bananas, kiwi and orange slices. *See picture (In fact, people could make their own tropical island from various fruits.)*

You could serve fish sticks and chips or another seafood of your choice.

Buttermilk Rusks

This recipe was shared by missionary Verna Stanton who says that sailors in South Africa would use these on voyages.

Measurements are given in metric and American.

1 Kg	Self raising flour*	8 cups
200 ml	Sugar	About 1 cup (can add 2 more cups- for a sweeter rusk)
10 ml	Baking powder	2 tsp
5 ml	Salt	1 tsp
250 g	Butter or margarine	2 sticks or ½ cup
500 ml	Buttermilk	2 cups + 2 tbsp
1	Egg	1
25 ml	Oil	2 scant tbsp.

1. Sift dry ingredients. 2. Mix butter into flour mix using fork, butter knives or food processor until crumbly. 3. Beat egg well, add oil. 4. Mix all together. 5. Make a whole in the mixture – pour in buttermilk and mix slowly, kneading together until firm. 6. Pat into greased loaf pans (maybe 4 loaf pans) 2/3 full. 7. Bake at 180°C (350°F) 45 minutes. Cool.

Cut in to 1” slices, then cut the slices into 4 sticks. Bake at low temp 66°C (150°F) 1-2 hours until very hard.

*To make self raising flour: to each cup of flour add ¼ tsp salt and 1 ½ tsp baking powder.

These can be dipped in coffee or tea (or punch for children). If you would like to flavor them you can add raisins or spices.

Music

Sing to the Lord

395 – “Love Lifted Me”

#595 – “We Have an Anchor”

689 – “How Firm a Foundation”

782 – “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

Think on these things

1. What are some of the current trends contributing to a spiritual “storm” where you live? How can we stay focused on positive ministry to those who need Christ without being drawn into a negative, reactionary mode?
2. Why is it important for the Church of the Nazarene to have strong educational institutions, especially for the equipping of ministers?
3. The lesson speaks of providing theological education at “multiple levels,” including certificate, diploma, bachelor’s, master’s and Ph.D. level. What is the rationale behind this strategy?
4. How has your congregation supported in practical ways the work of a Nazarene educational institution in the past year? What would God have you do to encourage faculty and students involved in theological education?

Call to Action

Learn – Deepen your own understanding of God through your local Sunday School, Bible Studies and small groups. Be prepared for when storms head your way.

Pray – Pray for the men and women charged with training pastors around the world.

Encourage – Write a card of encouragement to the religion department of your local Nazarene college or university. Assure them of your prayerful support for their important role in pastoral and (through core courses) lay development. You might also choose an international school or the IBOE and write a similar note.

Give – There are several opportunities to help students with scholarships. Contact the school of your choice for more details.

Devotional Thought: Acts 17:11 – Make us like the Bereans!

“And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul’s message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to check up on Paul and Silas, to see if they were really teaching the truth” (NLT).

It is not the holding of an academic degree, no matter how lofty, that makes for truth. As Wesleyans, we reserve a place for tradition, reason and experience as we weigh truth claims, but all must be subject to the final word of the Bible. The Bereans were grateful for Paul and Silas, who were gifted preachers and teachers, yet they knew that their authority was not their own but derived from the truth of what they said as laid forth in the holy writings (at the time, the Old Testament).

John Wesley, the spiritual “grandfather” of the Church of the Nazarene, insisted that his preachers be grounded in the Word of God. Likewise, they encouraged all members of Methodist societies to learn as much of Scripture as they could, making many sermons and other tracts available at low cost. How about you? Are you like the Bereans, confirming God’s truth as taught by others by digging into the Bible yourself? If

not, resolve today to make a new start and rediscover the treasures of the Old and New Testaments.

Handouts

Richer History of APNTS and Dr. Floyd Cunningham

Picture pages for NBC-EA, MVNU and APNTS

Dr. Cunningham's full responses to the first two questions on the questionnaire:

1. Tell me about the history of APNTS.

In 1977 the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene approved a plan to establish a graduate Seminary to serve the Asia and Pacific region of the church. The particular needs of the church in this part of the world demanded this. Dr. Donald Owens, Professor of Missions at Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City and formerly a missionary to Korea, was elected to head the new seminary, which would become the first master's-level theological institution of the Church of the Nazarene located outside the United States.

In 1979, the church purchased a site in Taytay, Rizal, Philippines. Formerly an orphanage, the location consisted of ten acres with 22 wooden frame buildings. The proximity of the location to Manila was a deciding factor, as leaders hoped that the cosmopolitan setting would provide models for evangelism for the other cities of Asia and the Pacific. The Church of the Nazarene had directed its attentions to Metro Manila only a few years earlier.

Beginning in 1980, extension seminars were held involving several NTS professors as well as Rev. Angelito Agbuya, pastor of the Angeles City, Philippines, Church of the Nazarene. Students represented various countries in the region. Meanwhile, Dr. Owens became Director of the Asia Region and moved to Manila. As extension classes were held over the next few years, general church leaders concluded that the new Seminary should become autonomous from NTS. In preparation for the opening of a residence program, Dr. Owens searched for faculty members and oversaw the construction of an administration and classroom building, the ground breaking ceremony for which was held in January 1983. Other buildings on the campus were renovated for student and faculty living. The Commission on Immigration and Deportation, Department of Justice, Republic of the Philippines, gave its approval for APNTS to begin as an educational institution for non-immigrant students.

Dr. Owens devised the logo of the school, which has continued throughout its history. It represents the Word, the Spirit and the Cross, set within the Asia-Pacific context. Dr. Owens also established the motto of the school, "bridging cultures for Christ," and the school's guiding scriptural text, "For there is one God, one Mediator between God and Man, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5). He chose the school's official hymn, "In Christ There is No East or West."

Regular classes began on November 14, 1983. The faculty included Dr. Owens, Dr. Agbuya, Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Beech, long-time missionaries in the Philippines, and Dr. Floyd Cunningham. Dr. Agbuya taught preaching, Christian education and pastoral ministry courses, and directed field education. Dr. Beech served as Academic Dean and Registrar and taught Bible and missions courses. Neva Beech taught music and English. Floyd Cunningham taught church history and, in the early years, theology, and served as

Dean of Students and Chaplain. The Seminary was formally dedicated and the faculty installed on January 15, 1984.

In April 1984, Dr. E. LeBron Fairbanks, formerly Academic Dean of European Nazarene Bible College and at the time teaching at Southern Nazarene University, was elected President of the Seminary. He began serving in the office in July 1984, and he and his family moved to Manila later that year. During Dr. Fairbanks's time, the school developed both a mission statement and institutional objectives that served the school for twenty years. His message through his years at APNTS centered on both servant leadership and excellence in ministry.

Dr. Fairbanks pursued recognition with the Philippine government, and accreditation. To that point no autonomous theological school in the country had sought or achieved government recognition. In 1987, the seminary received its permit to operate from the Philippine government's Department of Education, Culture and Sports (now the Commission on Higher Education), and won full recognition from the same Department on June 13, 1988. Accreditation for degree programs was also granted by the Asia Theological Association (ATA) in 1988, and by the Association for Theological Education in South East Asia (ATESEA) in 1991.

Meanwhile, the library was strengthened with the addition of several important collections centering on Wesleyan and holiness studies, and came to number over 40,000 volumes by 2012.

At the same time, extensive renovation and building programs on campus continued under the guidance of Rev. Gordon Gibson, who served as Campus Development Coordinator from 1984 until 1992, and later Coordinators: Mr. Terry Sanders, Mr. Greg Taylor, Mr. David Hendrix, Architect Eric Sanchez. The Korean Church of the Nazarene has contributed generously to APNTS for the completion of several building projects on campus as well as student scholarships.

The faculty was strengthened in succeeding years. Dr. Fairbanks himself taught in the area of church and ministry, including pastoral and Christian education subjects. Dr. James Edlin taught Old Testament and served as Academic Dean. Dr. Wilfredo Manaois taught Christian Education from 1986 until his retirement at age 70 in 1999. Other professors included Dr. Donald LeRoy Stults, Missions, Dr. Dean Flemming, New Testament, Dr. Lourdes Manaois, Christian Education, Dr. M. Robert Fraser, theology and church history. Floyd Cunningham became Academic Dean in 1989. The Beeches remained at APNTS until their retirement in 1992.

Dr. Fairbanks resigned to accept a call to the presidency of Mount Vernon Nazarene College (now University). The Trustees chose Dr. John Nielson, Vice-President of Eastern Nazarene College, and formerly a missionary to Denmark, as President of APNTS. He and his wife Janice Nielson settled in Manila in February 1990. Dr. Nielson stressed the importance of worship, and oversaw the renovation of the chapel. Dr. Nielson's theme throughout his years at APNTS was building a "Christ-culture" transcending national and ethnic cultures. They served until 2001.

During Dr. Nielson's years, the first students arrived from Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Bangladesh, South Africa, and Myanmar. The accounting, registrar's office, and library were computerized. Mrs. Nielson began "Kids' Klubs" for children on Saturday morning. The school began national culture days and chapel presentations. Small "covenant" groups began on campus. Dr. Nielson worked with the region to establish the Fairbanks Media Center, which was dedicated in January 1994. The *Mediator*, the official journal of the school, began publication in 1996. Also in 1996, the school began a MA program in Christian Communication. This degree program was recognized by the Philippine government in 1997. Dr. Nielson oversaw scholarship partnerships with sister denominations, especially the Wesleyan Church and the Free Methodist Church. He also began a national scholarship plan for Nazarenes in the region. Overall, more than \$200,000 was raised for scholarships and endowments.

Dr. Nielson taught preaching, character formation and worship courses, and frequently led chapel services. Janice Nielson taught Christian Education. Professors included Dr. Abraham Athialy, pastoral ministry, Dr. Roderick Leupp, theology, Dr. David Kelly, biblical studies, 1993 to 1994, Dr. Dwight Swanson, Old Testament, Dr. David Ackerman, biblical studies, Dr. Joven Laroya, Christian education, Dr. Stanley Clark, a Wesleyan Church missionary, Christian education, Dr. Stephen Bennett, Old Testament, and Dr. Christi-an Bennett, church history and missions. Prof. Beverly Gruver taught English and second language acquisition courses from 1997 to 2010, and served as Dean of Students from 2003 to 2010. Dr. Robert Donahue has taught missions courses since 1999 and directs the Owens School of World Mission.

The Nielsons resigned in 2001 to accept ministry assignments in the United States and Europe. In the Nielsons' honor, in April 2003, by vote of the Board of Trustees, the Seminary dedicated a major building on campus in their honor, the Nielson Center for Education and Evangelism.

In January 2003, the Board of Trustees chose Dr. Hitoshi (Paul) Fukue, who had been serving on the faculty since 2001, as President. Before coming to APNTS in 2001, Dr. Fukue had served for many years as a pastor in Japan, and had served as President of Japan Christian Junior College. He was inaugurated as President in April 2003. Mrs. Mitsuko Fukue taught interpersonal and cross-cultural communication.

Dr. Fukue oversaw the development of the Master of Science in Theology program. The school also underwent a series of planning and mission review processes. As a result a five-year plan and strategic objectives resulted. In chapel messages, Dr. Fukue helped the community to develop a theology of suffering. Dr. Fukue himself taught theology, ethics, sociology of religion and preaching. Dr. Fukue resigned from the presidency in 2007 to accept a pastorate in Japan.

Professors during these years included Dr. Gilbert Montecastro, an APNTS graduate, biblical studies, Prof. Rovina Hatcher, Christian education and pastoral ministry, and Dr. Oh Won Keun, Old Testament. Dr. Kwon Dong Hwan, an APNTS graduate, has taught Christian communication from 2004 to the present, and directs the Fairbanks International School of Communication. Dr. Oh Won Keun taught Old

Testament from 2004 to 2007. Dr. Lee San Young joined the faculty to teach counseling, Asian religion and spiritual formation courses in 2007.

Floyd T. Cunningham, as Academic Dean, served as Officer-in-Charge during the sixteen months between the presidencies of Dr. Nielson and Dr. Fukue, and again following the resignation of Dr. Fukue. He became Interim President in September 2007, and was elected President by the Board of Trustees in 2008.

Those who joined the faculty during these years include current professors Dr. Mitch Modine, Old Testament, Dr. Darin Land, a Free Methodist scholar, New Testament, Professor Larnie Sam Tabuena, philosophy of religion, Dr. John Bondy, Christian education, Mrs. Linda Bondy English, and Dr. Dick Eugenio, theology. Dr. Nativity Petallar teaches Christian education and directs the program in holistic child development. Lee San Young became Academic Dean in 2009.

APNTS offers a unique program in holistic child development in cooperation with the Asia Graduate School of Theology. The Philippine government granted recognition to the PhD in HCD in 2012. Indeed the school emphasizes ministries to children – with special concern for children in crisis – and local compassionate ministries in the community. In recent years, APNTS has offered a graduate extension program in Papua New Guinea that graduated 12 in 2011. It also has offered extension courses in Myanmar and Fiji. In recent years, students have come from Ethiopia, Kenya, Columbia, Peru, Russia and Mongolia. Bresee Institute East opened offices on campus in 2012. Other partnerships include ones with Barangay Dolores (where the school is located), Compassion International, Food for the Hungry (Korea), Korea Nazarene University, Microsoft Word, Overseas Council International, the Philippine Department of Education, and the Visayan Forum.

The 400 graduates of APNTS have gone on to pastoral, teaching, missionary, administrative and many other forms of ministry in various countries, including: Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, China, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea, Micronesia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, Ukraine, and the United States. About one-fifth of APNTS graduates are involved in cross-cultural ministries.

2. Now, let the reader know something about yourself. What is your background? How long have you been at the job? What led you into the ministry of theological education and what keeps you engaged in such a ministry?

Floyd Cunningham serves as President of Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary (APNTS) in the Philippines.

Cunningham grew up in the Gaithersburg, Maryland, Church of the Nazarene. He was saved at Northeast Campmeeting at the age of 10, and prayed for sanctification there five years later. Shortly after this, he felt called to ministry and went to Eastern Nazarene College to prepare. At ENC he studied both religion and history and received the A.B. degree from (ENC) in 1976. He went directly to Nazarene Theological Seminary

in Kansas City and received the Master of Divinity degree there in 1979. From there, he went straight to Johns Hopkins University. At Johns Hopkins he studied under the late Nazarene historian Timothy L. Smith. He received the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in history from JHU in 1981 and 1984.

Just as he was finishing his Ph.D., in 1982 Dr. Donald Owens called him about the possibility of his teaching in the Philippines. The school needed persons with earned doctoral degrees. He agreed and in November 1983, soon after defending his dissertation, Cunningham set out for the Philippines on a four-year specialized assignment. After two years there, he felt God calling him to devote himself to missions. He has made service at APNTS his life's work, teaching the history of Christianity and other subjects.

During his first term, he served as Dean of Students and Chaplain, and planted a church in Teresa, Rizal, a rural community. He was ordained on the Washington [Mid-Atlantic] District in 1988. Overall, he pastored six years in the Philippines while teaching. He became Academic Dean in 1989 and served in that capacity for 20 years. Cunningham served as Asia-Pacific Regional Education Coordinator from 2002 to 2008. On November 20, 2008, he was installed as the fifth president of APNTS.

Cunningham is the general editor and co-author of *Our Watchword and Song: The Centennial History of the Church of the Nazarene*, published by Nazarene Publishing House in 2009. He also wrote *Holiness Abroad: Nazarene Missions in Asia*, which won the Smith-Wynkoop Award from the Wesleyan Theological Society in 2004, and the two church history modules for the Nazarene Course of Study entitled *Examining Our Christian Heritage*. ENC selected him an alumnus of the year in 2011.

Nazarene Bible College of East Africa

NBC-EA



Ms. Catherine Mukoko
NBCEA Director

The typical student in NBCEA is a pastor, an associate pastor, a youth leader, a Sunday school teacher, a member of the Church Board or a new convert of the Church of the Nazarene respectively. They vary in age, the youngest being 18 years and the oldest even 70 years. Both sexes are represented well.

1650 students

74 teachers

131 Teaching Centres

Actively serving Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. Recently, Rwanda and Burundi were added to the Africa East Field, so

NBC-EA will similarly expand its reach.

Programs on offer are: Diploma in Theology and Certificate in Theology.





Mount Vernon Nazarene University

Life Changing

Mount Vernon, Ohio, USA



Dr. Matt Price (above)

2012 School of Theology
and Philosophy graduates
with some of their
professors (right)





*Bridging
Cultures for
Christ*



Dr. Floyd Cunningham with Frank Thanga, who is now pastoring in Myanmar.