



Academy Luncheon to Feature Toastmasters International

By Shirley Mears/Jack Arnold

“The Benefits of Toastmasters” will be the title of the team presentation by Lynn and Anita Baker on January 12, 2004, at the ASP meeting in the Heritage Room of the Webster Commons of Southern Nazarene University.



Anita and Lynn Baker

The Bakers will share personal stories illustrating the benefits that they have received as a result of their affiliation with Toastmasters International. They will answer questions such as, What is Toastmasters? Whom does Toastmasters serve? What’s so great about being a Toastmaster? How can a person see Toastmasters in action? How can an interested individual join Toastmasters? A question-and-answer session

will follow the Bakers’ presentation.

Lynn Baker, Professor of Human Relations at the University of Oklahoma, teaches on U. S. military bases throughout the world. He has been an active Toastmaster for nine years and is presently serving as the Public Relations Officer for the state of Oklahoma.

Anita Baker, a Toastmaster since 1994, is the coordinator of the O-K Toastmasters Speaker’s Bureau and the editor of Oklahoma’s Toastmasters’ newsletter. She is a Certified Senior Advisor with Choice Financial Planning with a primary focus on long-term care.

The Bakers have been married for over forty years; they have four children and four grandchildren. They commented in a recent message, “We are living in the sunshine and sharing the trials and tribulations of fam-

ily relationships.”

A cordial invitation is extended to all members and guests to hear the Bakers. The cost of the luncheon is \$7.25. Reservations are requested by calling 405.789.2036 before Friday, January 9.



Poet’s Corner

By Jack Pischel

TWO THOUSAND FOUR

Two thousand four just barged right in—
No invitation needed.
And though the New Year’s fraught with fear,
The old year was depleted.

The old year had its ups and down
That brought both joy and sorrow.
And we’ll expect much of the same
Today—and, yes—tomorrow.

The sun will shine, and we’ll be glad
That we can get together
To laugh or cry, to share a meal,
Or play games—if you’d rather.

So, take the hand of one you love,
And lift your chin and eyes.
Treat every day like Christmas Day,
And look for your surprise.

For I can almost guarantee
Surprises will be found,
If you keep your eyes toward heaven
And your feet upon the ground.

So, keep your eyes wide open
As you travel down your road.
Watch out for your own miracle:
It is somewhere in your load.

Sing and smile and laugh and love,
Keep expectations high.
You’ll have more fun, escape some grief,
With eyes fixed on the sky.



Your president's point of view:
by Jack David Arnold

**“Think on Things Eternal” to Gain Wisdom
In a Violent World Where
“Of All Bad Men, Religious Men Are the Worst”**

On the morning of **November 22, 1963**, I picked up my office telephone at the Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago and called my brother, Charlie, Jr., at his poultry and egg business in downtown Dallas to wish him a happy birthday. That afternoon most Americans will never forget what happened in Dallas. President John F. Kennedy, Jr., was assassinated on Elm Street which was about a mile from Charlie Jr.'s office.

Few Americans will remember that **Clive Staples (Jack) Lewis** (a.k.a. **C. S. Lewis**), professor of English literature at Oxford and Cambridge, also died on November 22, 1963. In his ability to nurture believers, as well as to seduce agnostics, Lewis had no peer.

Lewis was an atheist for most of his adult life—an experience that may have helped immunize him from religious clichés. He intelligently saw Christianity as a necessary fact that could be seen clearly in science. He possessed the rare gift of being able to make spiritual truths readable. He was not a theologian, but he expressed even the most difficult religious concepts with utter clarity; he was not a preacher, yet his essays and novels pierce the heart with tenderness.

As I begin to contemplate the challenges and opportunities of the **New Year**, the lessons found in Lewis's writings continue to resonate in my mind. It is hard to imagine a time when the need for sane thinking about religion was more momentous than now.

When I recall an act of terror, from the sniper shootings in Washington to the bombings in Baghdad, I know that my faith is at hand. While the twin towers in New York City fell in front of millions of watchers, I wondered if our America, “the land of the free and the home of the brave,” would ever be the same?

Many are now tempted to equate *virtue*, righteous conduct, with *venality*, the use of a position of trust for dishonest gain. It is here that Lewis may have the most to teach us.

Lewis reached maturity in the 1930's, when the trends in psychology and theology were discrediting Christian doctrines. The root causes of international disorder were said to be runaway capitalism; however, Lewis knew the trouble lay deeper than that and used his literary imagination to explore it.

In a harrowing scene from his science fiction novel *Peregrina*, the protagonist, Professor Elwin Ransom, battles a mad scientist who is corrupted by his lust for power. Lewis writes, “What was before him appeared no longer a creature of corrupted will. It was corruption itself to which will was attached only as an instrument.”

The Christians, Lewis argued, were right: the mystery of evil is rooted in the tragedy of human nature. Pride functions as the source of the world's woes. Evil is always man's doing, yet

Continued next column



**“Sharing a
Continuous
Flight”**

The Academy Perspective

---Publication Board---

Chair & Production Editor	Don Beaver
Copy Editor	Anna Belle Laughbaum
Managing Editor	Elbert Overholt

---Columnists---

President's Column	Jack David Arnold
Obituaries	Billie Harrison
Feature Writer	Vada Lee Barkley
Book Reviews	Wini Howard
Library Resources	Bea Flinger

---Staff Reporters---

Photography	Edith Sonnevik Payne
Programs	Shirley Mears
Research	(Vacancy)

---Communications Policy---

We value messages from our readers.

By mail: **The Academy Perspective (TAP)**, Southern Nazarene University, 6729 N.W. 39th Expressway, Bethany, OK 73008

By fax: (405) 491-6381

By computer: www.snu.edu/sr_professionals

---Newsletter Subscription Information---

Annual subscription cost for **The Academy Perspective**:

Non-members—\$10.00 per year

Members—Included in membership

---Contributions---

To make contributions to the Academy of Senior Professionals:

Mail to: Roy Dorris, Treasurer

4607 N. College, Bethany, OK, 73008

~~~~~

it is never his destiny. The power of choice makes evil possible; it is also “the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having.”

While British agnostics howled, Lewis's talks on theology on British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) television were a national sensation. Even his beloved children's stories, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, ring with biblical insights of redemption.

Nevertheless, Lewis acknowledged that sometimes religion easily becomes a device to exploit others, as in the case of sexually abusive priests at the very steps of the altar. The pretense of piety, he said, has left a record of violence that should shame the honest believer. In *Reflections on the Psalms*, he wrote, “Of all bad men, religious bad men are the worst.”

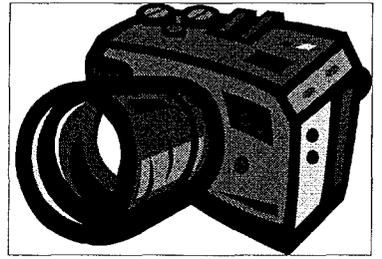
Unlike the cynic, Lewis refused to blame the Christian faith itself for the shortcomings of the church. Instead, his writings bring glimpses into the moral beauty of **Divine Goodness**, which he called “the weight of glory.”

Continued on page 6—Arnold



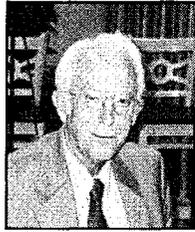
# ASP PICS

PICTURES BY EDITH SONNEVIK PAYNE



**L:** Brenda Styers and John Stoddart, employees of Southern Plaza.

**R:** Dwight Neuschwander, guest of Eula Mae Neuschwander



**L:** Richard Alderson, guest of President Gresham.

**R:** Barbara Pirrong, new ASP member!

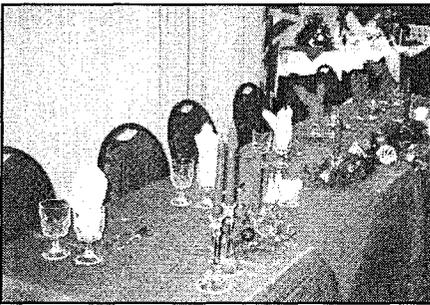


**L:** Tom and Adelyn Winders, brother-in-law and guest of Tom Barnard.

**R:** President Gresham, luncheon speaker for the January meeting.



**R:** Joyce Ellis, newly appointed greeter and hostess for the ASP luncheons.



**L:** Tables beautifully decorated for the December ASP luncheon.

**R:** Mary Pinzon, guest of Shirley Mears.



**R:** Trudy Cargill, decorations chairman and one of her "works of art"



**(Below)** The "Folkston Five", SNU students, perform for the January luncheon. (l-r) Ryan Scott, Johnathan Grant, and Drew Overholt (alias Cecil Faulkenberry, Garey Hatley, and Steven Stevenson)



## More Pictures: Gresham Open House

By Edith Payne



L: Pres. and Mrs. Gresham, hosts for the beautiful '03 ASP open house



R: Linda Gresham opens gift from the ASP



Trudy Cargill makes a presentation of the ASP gift to President and Mrs. Gresham. With them is Jacqui Sonnamaker, one of the President's Student Ambassadors.



L: "Brother Sam Stearman and Edith Payne



R: Gerri McClaffin (l) and Betty Pischel



L: Jack Arnold, ASP President



R: Mary Anna Scheie (l) and Rebecca Dorris



Left to Right: Anna Belle Laughbaum, Jo Ann Brannon, Mary Smith, Anne Storey, Don Beaver, Mabel and Milton Sonnevik



Lois Brown, mother of Mrs. Linda Gresham



Left to right: Miltonette Brasher, Darlene Overholt, Director Elbert Overholt and Roy Dorris



### "If you ask me"

By Vada Lee Barkley

My invitation to the recent Gospel Team and Mission Crusader Sing-a-long contained words "We've a Story to Tell to Alumni." It was to be sung to the tune of "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations." Though I agree with Dr. Lester Dunn that every song deserves its own tune, I was reminded of how those words apply to us. "We've a Story to Tell to our Loved Ones, That may turn their hearts to the right."

All of us have much to tell of God's blessings across the years. Our loved ones will be far more interested in reading about our experiences that we think. Our children and perhaps grandchildren know these stories. But what about the great-grandchildren and other family members? Shortly before Mother died at age 85, she prepared notes from her lifetime experiences with God. I wrote a booklet entitled *How God Helped a Widow*. Mother dedicated it to her great-grandchildren. Art printed it and I mailed it. I know of at least one on whom it made a great impression. What better way to get the message of truth to a generation that so desperately needs it?



### Library Corner

By Bea Flinger

The book selected this month for senior adults is *When Christians Retire: Finding New Purpose in Bonus Years*, by Dwight Hervey Small. Kansas City, Mo., Beacon Hill Press, 2000. Retirement may be a wonderful dream, but Small says, it could end up as disaster due to social and psychological needs.

Subjects the author deals with are *Adjusting to a New Role*, *Finding My New Identity*, *Overcoming Losses*, *Letting Go and Moving On*, *Discovering New People and New Roles*, *Feeling Unfinished and Unfulfilled*, and *Keeping Eternity's Values in View*.

Christians are fortunate, Small says, in having a personal relationship with God who can and will guide in important decisions of life. The author knows whereof he speaks, and is qualified through his experiences to give excellent guidelines to retirees to be a blessing, and to have the assurance that God has a plan for every one of His children in retirement years.

In conclusion, the author gives the following quotation for Agnes Maude Royden: "Hold loosely all that is not eternal."

If you do *not* receive a call for your luncheon reservation, please contact Dr. Jeff Maddox (405.359.9344). Your reservation is important and essential to a smooth operation between our caterer and the ASP.



Academy Obituary  
By Billie Harrison

Vernon Dawson

Vernon was born in Ford county, Kansas, July 22, 1915, to Cliff and Nondus Dawson. He died on November 18, 2003, at Hydro, Oklahoma.

He married Maybell Stone in 1940 and they had three daughters, Vernona Dawson, Janice Dawson and Kerry Funk (deceased).

Margaret McReynolds Dawson, his wife for 28 years, survives him as do three step-children, nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren..

Memorials may be made to the music ministry at Bethany First Church of the Nazarene where Vernon was a member.

Vernon was an active member of the Academy of Senior Professionals and, along with Margaret, served on the membership committee for many years.

He will be missed by many.



A look at a book  
By Wini Howard

A CHARGE TO KEEP:  
MY JOURNEY TO THE WHITE HOUSE

By George W. Bush with Karen Hughes

A Charge to Keep: My Journey to the White House is not meant to be an autobiography Of George W. Bush. Bush is writing about some of the main events that shaped his life before he became president. Much has been written about him, and he decided it was time at least to tell some of his own story. Although there is quite a bit of biographical material in the book, he does not deal with his life chronologically. He is telling about defining moments and situations.

Of course, members of his family—parents, siblings, wife and daughters—are written about. In fact, his parents are talked about quite a often. Bush' love and appreciation for his father are very evident. He says that his dad gives advice only when he's asked for it. However, this is not true of his mother. She gives it even when it isn't asked for. In reading this book, one becomes aware that his mother, Barbara, is a lovable, but also a feisty, lady. He has nothing but admiration for both of them.

George W. certainly must be a loving husband and father. The attitudes he manifests toward his family are very inspiring, as well as challenging.

Several chapters of the book are devoted to Bush' campaign for governor of Texas, as well as his experiences with the Texas legislature and other government officials. It seems as though he used great wisdom as he dealt with opposition to policies he was sure were right for the citizens of Texas. The one outstanding program--insistence that graduating high school students should have learned to read well in the third and fourth grades--was/is almost awesome.

Surely, this book is well worth reading for a better understanding of President Bush (unless you are a "Bush-hater").

This book is available at the Borders book store.

"Sacred Reflections"  
A new CD by Evelyn Keeton  
Hymns include:  
"Abide with Me", "The Love of God", "Amazing Grace",  
"It is Well With My Soul", "In the Garden", and "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"  
To Order: Contact Evelyn Keeton, 4600 N. College, Bethany, OK, 73008 or telephone 405.7898.4114.  
Cost is \$12.00.



Information You Can Use  
By Shirley Mears

Stroke Prevention and Awareness

What Is Stroke?

- A stroke occurs when blood flow to the brain is interrupted by a blocked or burst blood vessel

Brain Attack!!!

- Stroke is a "Brain Attack"
- Stroke happens in the brain rather than the heart
- Stroke is a medical emergency
- Get assistance immediately  
— "Clot buster" or thrombolytic treatment is available
- Call 911 or your local emergency number

Effects of Left-Sided Stroke

- Left side of brain affected
- Right side of body affected
- Difficulty speaking
- Problems remembering

Effects of Right-Sided Stroke

- Right side of brain is affected
- Left side of body affected
- Poor judgment
- Impulsive behavior
- Visual neglect



Mary Pinzon

Call Mary Pinzon, RN at the Stroke Center of Oklahoma at 644-6347 for a free group presentation about preventing and recognizing the warning signs of stroke. It could save your life—or the life of someone you love.

Continued from page 2—Arnold

Lewis noted that Divine Goodness has produced many of the masterpieces of art and music. This same vision motivates the faithful to risk everything to relieve the world's suffering: caring for victims of terror, defending the rights of children, guiding the oppressed to freedom, and breaching war zones to feed the poor and care for the sick.

"If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did the most for the *present world* were just those who thought most about the *other world*," he wrote in *Mere Christianity*, a classic work that I treasure and love to reread. "It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the *other world* that they have become so ineffective in *this one*." In a time when God himself seems to be on trial, Lewis's message is a relevant one for today's half-hearted pilgrim as well as the devoted doubter.

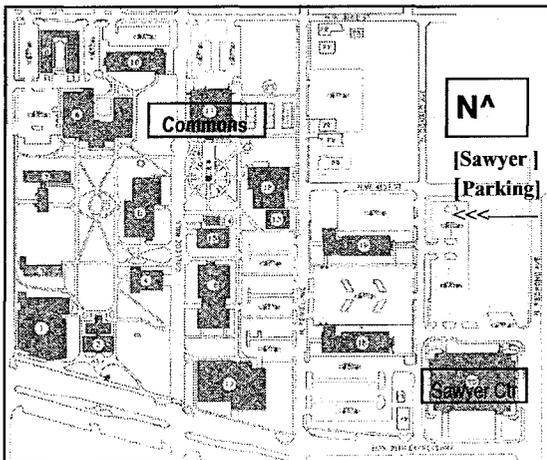
In the fourth century B.C., the Greek philosopher, Aristotle, wrote that citizens had to be at a certain age before they could begin the process of reflection on the world that leads to *wisdom*. He thought it was around 50 years of age because the life span of a man in ancient Athens was only 60 years of age. At that age, he wrote that citizens should retire from running everything and begin to "think on things eternal." The culmination of that process of putting the bigger picture together is when they would become wise and pass on that *wisdom* to the younger generation. Perhaps, this is just what C. S. Lewis had in mind.

The inference that I draw from the phrase "think on things eternal" is as follows: when I improve my conscious contact with God through prayer and meditation, I discover the Divine *wisdom* which helps me practice spiritual principles in the wilderness of this world where "of all bad men, religious men are the worst."

"The *wisdom* from above," James wrote in the *Holy Bible*, "is, in the first place, pure; and then, peace-loving, considerate, and open to reasoning; it is straightforward and sincere, rich in mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere" (3:17, NIV).

*O, God, our Help in ages past,  
Our Hope for years to come,  
Our Shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal Home.*

--"O God, Our Help in Ages Past," 1719



## ASP Calendar

### Monday: January 12

- 9:30-11:00 Combined Writers Workshop/Computer User Group—  
Royce Brown Room 116
- 9:00-11:00 Shuttle: Sawyer Parking Lot to Commons (Map below)
- 11:15-1:00 Luncheon meeting—Heritage Room—Commons
- 1:00-1:30 Shuttle: Commons to Sawyer Parking Lot
- 1:15-2:00 Administrative Council - Faculty Lounge



## News Briefs

- **Dozier Announces Combined January Meetings:**  
The ASP Writer's Workshop and the Computer User's Group will have a joint meeting at 9:30 on January 12, 2004 in Room 116 of the Royce Brown Building. This will be a time to ask questions relating to the use of Word for personal computers. Join us for an informative session.
- **About ASP Benefits:**  
—Have you used your ASP ID to obtain discounts at the SNU bookstore? Many of the items are discounted for ASP members!  
  
—Additional benefits are listed on the handout that will be available at the luncheon.
- **Need an ID?:**  
If you haven't received your ID, check with Ron Wilson's secretary on the lower floor of the Commons.
- **New Membership Directory ready for distribution:**  
If you have not obtained your copy of the new 2003-2004 Academy of Senior Professionals Membership Directory they will be available at the next luncheon meeting. Please keep us informed of changes that occur in your directory information by contacting Don Beaver (405.491.6646 or [dbeaver@snu.edu](mailto:dbeaver@snu.edu).)
- **Membership Dues (2004) Payable at January Meeting:**  
The annual dues of \$15 per person are due and may be paid at the luncheon meeting on January 12, 2004. Thank you for your support of the Academy of Senior Professionals.
- **ASP Parking Changes In Effect:**  
ASP members and guests may now use SNU's Sawyer parking lot as our ASP designated parking area. SNU President Loren Gresham has generously volunteered the use of SNU's Security Services to help with the ASP Shuttle Service. A map showing the close proximity of the Sawyer parking lot to the Webster Commons is shown left.