



# Perspective

Vol. 19 — No. 2

November — 2009

## *November Luncheon Speaker*

*Scott Coppenbarger*

*Monday, November 9, 2009*

*Heritage Room, Webster Commons*

Scott Coppenbarger has been the Director of Communications at The Children's Center in Bethany since 2007. Prior to his arrival at The Children's Center, he was a television anchorman and reporter for KWTN News Nine in Oklahoma City. He completed a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Mass Communication from Kansas State University in 1985. In the mid-eighties, Scott reported news in the Ardmore, Oklahoma bureau of KXII-TV. Since that time, his career has taken him across America where he anchored and reported news in Oberlin, Kansas, Wichita Falls, Texas/Lawton, Oklahoma, Huntington/Charleston, West Virginia, Omaha, Nebraska and Minneapolis, Minnesota, before returning to his broadcasting roots in Oklahoma.



Scott is an award-winning journalist and is the recipient of three distinguished Edward R. Murrow awards for Overall Excellence, Best Newscast and Documentary. Scott has covered two U.S. presidents and reported life from Offutt Air Force base in Nebraska when Presi-

dent Bush's plane, Air Force One, made an historic unscheduled landing on 9-11. Throughout his career, Scott has earned a reputation as a tough yet fair political and general assignments reporter. He has made strong community ties and participated in various non-profit organizations. Scott hosted a number of charity telethons, including Easter Seals, Children's Miracle Network and the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Scott is involved in the children's ministry of his church. He is married and en-

joys being near his wife's family, which has lived in Oklahoma City for nearly two decades.

All ASP members and guests are urged to make their reservations to hear Scott Coppenbarger on Monday, November 9.

The ASP buffet luncheon in the Heritage Room of the Webster Commons on the SNU campus begins promptly at 11:00 a.m. The luncheon program starts at 11:45 and ends at 1:00 p.m.

Relevant ASP luncheon reservation information:

Members: If you have not been contacted by one of our telephone callers by Thursday, November 5, then please call Mrs. Aleen Drumeller, ASP Telephone Committee Chairperson, at 265-0302

Guests: Please call the SNU Office of Alumni Relations at 491-6312 or email [ASP@snu.edu](mailto:ASP@snu.edu)

All: The cost of the luncheon is \$5.00. Kindly make your reservation(s) by Thursday, November 5.

## NOVEMBER LUNCHEON SPONSOR

*Legend at Council Road*

*Our Thanks to Connie Daniels*





**YOUR PRESIDENT'S  
POINT OF VIEW**

*by Jack David Arnold*

**Happiness is not best achieved  
by those who seek it directly;  
it is a side effect of wise and good actions**

Happiness, as an unmodified goal, will likely be self-defeating. People who seek to be loved, often do not find love. Happiness is usually an indirect side effect, outcome, or benefit of something else.

The more we are obsessed with smiley-face happiness, the less happy we become. In the October 5, 2009, issue of *Newsweek*, Julia Baird wrote an editorial entitled, "*Sometimes happiness isn't everything.*" According to *Psychology Today*, last year 4,000 books were published on happiness, up from 50 published books on this topic in 2000.

Baird wrote, "From Norman Vincent Peale in 1952 (*The Power of Positive Thinking*) to Rhonda Byrne in 2007 book (*The Secret*), and Oprah's America has panted, chanted, and visualized while trying to be really cheerful: 'I am beautiful, wealthy, and successful'." Pastor Joe Osteen urged the readers in the 7<sup>th</sup> step of his 2004 book, *Your Best Life Now: 7 Steps to Living Your Full Potential*, "Choose to be happy."

In her new book, *Bright-Sided: How Relentless Promotion of Positive Thinking Has Undermined America*, Barbara Ehrenreich calls positive thinking a "mass delusion." She argues that an unrelenting drive to train our brains to overlook problems and blame ourselves for failures has blinded us to inequality, incompetence, and stupidity.

The philosophy of positive thinking developed as a reaction to the negativity, nihilism, secularism, and materialism "in the wilderness of this world" and has over time been turned into a kind of blind optimism. At the heart of positive thinking is a belief that people can *will* anything they like into happening: recovering from cancer, winning a lottery, or becoming a

*Arnold page 6*



*"Sharing a  
Continuous  
Flight"*

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**Luncheon Sponsors for 2009-2010**

**October:** *Jack David Arnold, Ph. D.*  
**November:** *Legend at Council Road, Connie Daniels*  
**December:** *Southern Plaza, John Stoddart*  
**January:** *F. Trent Densmore, Attorney, (PC), Trent Densmore*

*To sponsor a luncheon contact  
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## ASP VOLUNTEERS

by Elbert Overholt



"I've always been involved in ministering to the people." Another view of an ASP volunteer, Dwight Neuenschwander. Dwight has ministered all the way from serving as missionary district superintendent in New Zealand to a custodial helper at Reach Our City.

He has recently built a storage barn for his widowed neighbor. His neighbor's landlord paid for the materials and Dwight volunteered his labor and expertise. His carpenter and planning skills also show in the remodeling projects in the Neuenschwander home.



Dwight and Eula Mae have been married for six years. They both lost their spouses after they each served their respective churches for many years.

Eula Mae is a professional musician and served as organist and pianist in her church home. She has served the Academy on occasions with her beautiful luncheon music.

Dwight has served as speaker for the Senior Retreat at Golden Bell in Colorado. He has also served as ASP day trip chair.





### RIG WHAT'S NEW By Paul Scheie

#### Babel's Consequence?

How many autonomous, living languages are there in our world?

By the end of 2005 the Bible is reported to have been translated into 2043 languages. How many more must be translated to include everyone?

It turns out that just defining a language as being autonomous becomes a rather controversial, international matter. A major problem is the lack of agreement on the boundary between an autonomous language and various dialects of it. However, politics and ethnic identity also play an important role.

A reputed arbiter on languages is the *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*. This gazetteer recently tallied 6909 living languages, over 200 of these in Europe, and 134 in China. This publication depended largely on the criterion of mutual intelligibility to establish that one language is different from another, and linguists suggest that there remain hundreds of languages yet to be described, probably all located in isolated regions and with small populations in most.

The Chinese government once assumed that all persons of any ethnic group would speak a common language, and at one time dictated that there be only 55 languages in China. They have realized that this did not work. At the same time, in the region inhabited by Tibetans there have been some 20 different languages identified, yet speakers of every one of them reject the idea that they speak anything but Tibetan.

Will many languages be lost as computers, the internet and cell phones extend into more and more remote, isolated regions? And, will we mourn the accompanying decrease in diversity, or will we celebrate a more globally connected civilization?



### LIBRARY NEWS BY ARLITA HARRIS

#### Reading Room Dedication

On Homecoming Saturday, November 7, 2009 at 10 a.m., the C. Paul Gray Reading Room will be dedicated during the Grand Opening of the newly renovated Fred Floyd Archives on the campus of Southern Nazarene University. Guest speaker is Dr. Brad Moore, chair of the SNU Board of Trustees and President of Hallmark Hall of Fame Productions. His life was touched by both Dr. Paul Gray and Dr. Fred Floyd. The families and friends of Drs. Gray and Floyd, as well as supporters and friends of the Archives are invited to attend. A reception will be held following the dedication.

The Fred Floyd Archives contain artifacts and documents relating to Southern Nazarene University, the South Central Region of the Church of the Nazarene, and the community of Bethany. The archives has been relocated from the third floor of the R. T. Williams Learning Resource Center to a much larger space on the first floor of the SNU Library. Mr. Marion Snowbarger serves as the archivist; Corbin Taggart is his assistant.

Visit the archives website at [www.snu.edu/archives](http://www.snu.edu/archives) to read the history of the colleges that merged over the last 110 years to form SNU, the story of the 1951 Revival, and some of the key people in our legacy. Take some extra time to browse the SNU yearbooks from the 1920's. They are searchable by the person's name. As time permits, all of the SNU yearbooks will be scanned and searchable online.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 405-789-6400 x 6465 or 405-787-3444 or 405-226-9476 or e-mail [msnowbar@snu.edu](mailto:msnowbar@snu.edu)



## NEWS TO USE

by Shirley Mears

Using creative ways to tell a story can be challenging. Finding a way to tell that story using exciting media can be expensive.

Many years ago the church was the hub of most communities. Nowadays, the church may not even be considered a spoke of the wheel in communities. Chris Forbes, who had been with the research department of the Baptist General Convention, says that new church membership is on a sharp decline.

What is a way to attract the attention of today's generation that would cause them to be interested in being part of a local church body so that they can get to know the story of Christ?

Rich Christiano, Director of *The Secrets of Jonathon Sperry* movie, has put years of study into that very question. Many church parking lots are not full compared to the movie theater lots on Sunday mornings. For years Rich and his twin brother, Dave, have been producing films as a way to share the story of Christ. *The Secrets of Jonathon Sperry*, which opened in movie theaters across the country in October, does just that thing.

Rich brought on Gavin MacLeod, the actor who played, among many roles, the captain of *The Love Boat*, as the lead talent for the Secrets movie. He became a Christian after making many bad decisions that Hollywood encourages.

To learn more, hear their interviews at [www.thegospelstation.com](http://www.thegospelstation.com) and click on the Ministry Interviews page. Rich and Dave's webpage is [www.sperrymovie.com](http://www.sperrymovie.com).



## Memoirs Workshop writers and readers will "welcome the good old days" in a small group setting on November 9

Writing memoirs and reading family histories are not as difficult as one might think. Everyone has the ability to write or talk about this subject. Bea Flinner and Jack David Arnold will lead the Workshop on Monday, November 9, 9:30-10:30 a.m., in the Student Conference Room of the Webster Commons.



What are some reasons for writing memoirs and reminiscing with others about our family histories? Most people write and talk about family histories and memories as gifts for

future generations; however, they also will bring pleasure right now to those people who will participate in this Workshop. Sharing our memories reminds us who we are, where we came from, and where the future may lead us. Sharing memories will also give us a sense of place in our families, friendships, organizations, and communities.

Members and guests are requested to bring a dozen copies of what they write or read at the Workshop. Bea Flinner and Jack David Arnold will welcome your questions and feedback *now* at the following e-mail address or telephone numbers: ([LyleBeaFlinner@aol.com](mailto:LyleBeaFlinner@aol.com), 405.440.1121 or [JackArnold@aol.com](mailto:JackArnold@aol.com), 405.350.0405).



*Arnold continued*

millionaire.

Often the worse things are, the more vehemently people are encouraged “to be happy.” The more companies downsized and restructured in the 1980’s and 1990’s, the more unrealistic affirmations were heard and team-building consultants came on the scene; and all the while, as the country’s wealth shot up, the gap between the rich and poor ballooned.

Ehrenreich argued that positive thought has at times made us deaf to the pleas of those who warned us of potential dangers: the Iraqi resistance, hurricane Katrina, 9/11, and the Wall Street implosion. Urging positivity is not just beside the point when our circumstances are rotten, it is also *dangerously distracting*.

Surely there is a Middle Path or Golden Mean between clueless cheerleaders and grumpy prophets. Happiness is a way-station between too much and too little. We can be content with the status quo but still be angry about injustice and inequality enough to create solutions to problems. Our finest moments more often than not are occasions of profound unhappiness, of *divine discontent*.

Why is this so? It is because our desire for happiness propels us into situations of unhappiness to remedy the situation. Sometimes our attempts at remedies are stumbling, even fatal. Substance abuse and suicide are examples. Sometimes we need to *accept* the Stoic maxim: “*It is what it is.*”

At other times, our attempts at remedies are noble. The result may be some form of personal healing and *change*. It was *divine discontent* that caused Reformer Martin Luther to protest the abuses of the Roman Catholic papacy in the sixteenth century, and gave Rosa Parks the courage to refuse to move to the back of the bus in December 1955.

The most inspiring people are those least obsessed with their own happiness, especially those who stride confidently across the surface of Mother Earth seeking wisdom and goodness, helping others in worthy causes, and wrestling from life what they will. American humanitarian and writer Eleanor Roosevelt believed that “happiness is not a goal; it’s a byproduct.”

Author William Bennett compared happiness to a cat in the following analogy: “If you try to coax [the cat] or call it, it will avoid you. It will never come. But if you pay no attention to it and go about your business, you’ll find it rubbing against your legs and jumping into your lap.



### ASP Calendar

#### Monday: November 9, 2009

9:00—11:00 a.m. Shuttle Service from the Sawyer Center lot (41st and Donald) to the Webster Commons

9:30—10:30 a.m. Memoirs Workshop: Readings and Writings (Webster Commons 1st Floor)

11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Luncheon Meeting in the Heritage Room

1:00—1:30 p.m. Shuttle service to the Sawyer Center parking lot

1:15—2:00 p.m. Administrative Council meeting: Faculty Lounge

### Election Results



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*Arnold Continued*

As senior adults active in lifelong learning, we need to be wise before jumping on the bandwagon of positive psychology by asking the right questions and believing that we deserve realistic and good outcomes. We should pin our hopes and focus on worthy endeavors, such as, on cultural enrichment, on helping families and friends, on wellness, on nutrition, on longevity, and most importantly, on “the harvest of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, fidelity, gentleness, and self-control” (Galatians 5:22, *The New English Bible*) in all our actions. *People who forget about happiness, but who seek wisdom and goodness, discover that happiness finds them.*