

Perspective

Vol. 34 No. 5



Speakers By Rosalynn Wade

This month we will hear from Dr. Keith Newman, who became the SNU president in 2017. Prior to that, he was the chancellor of Indiana Wesleyan University. He previously served as the Vice President for University Relations at Mount Vernon Nazarene University in Mount Vernon, Ohio, and for seventeen years in pastoral ministry in Arkansas, Texas, and California.



Before entering pastoral ministry Dr. Newnam served for nine years with the Houston Police Department. During his law enforcement career, he served in the Juvenile, Radio Patrol, and Homicide Divisions.

Newman graduated from Houston Christian University and holds a Master of Ministry degree from Southern Nazarene University. His Doctorate of Education is from Spalding University. His dissertation examined the leadership qualities and characteristics of Dr. J.B. Chapman, a Nazarene General Superintendent who also served as president of Arkansas Holiness College and of Peniel University, institutions that merged into what is now Southern Nazarene University.

Keith met his wife, Carolyn, at the Houston Police Department, where she also served in the Homicide Division. She typed a school paper for Keith when he got tied up on a case. His dinner invitation to repay her began their courtship. Their second date was to a

middle school youth group event, for which Keith volunteered as the youth pastor.

Married for 41 years, they have two children: Andy and Alana, and three granddaughters, Avery, Jo, and Baylin.

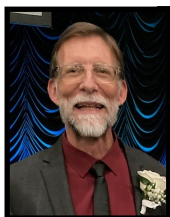
Keith loves to read, listen to, and tell stories. His first book, *Live Last*, is filled with stories. It is based on Mark 9:35 and calls readers to “put others first.” His second book, *Call Home*, is a devotional study of the Lord’s Prayer. *UpWords*, a devotional based on questions Jesus asked, is Keith’s latest book.

With all the opportunities and responsibilities of serving as a university president, spending time with students is at the top of his list of favorite moments each week.



The ASP luncheon on January 12 begins at 11 a.m. in the Webster Commons Heritage Room on the campus of Southern Nazarene University.

Members will receive a call to RSVP. If you have not been contacted by Wednesday, January 7, you can RSVP to 405-517-3364 or by emailing emmalyncg@hotmail.com. Cancellations may be made by phone or email.



President's Column by Dave Bucher

Our son's fourth-grade teacher shared that, while our son was behaving well, she was having significant issues with several other students in the class. We committed to pray for the situation. Part of our prayer was for our son to be part of the solution, never part of the problem.

That concept has stayed with me over the decades. As I reflect on this, I try to apply several techniques to be part of the solution rather than the problem.

Battle choice:

- Awareness of a problem does not necessitate responsibility to solve it.
- Know some hills are not worth dying on.
- Right, not might. Winning is not the objective.

De-escalate: Grace should precede diplomacy. Permission should precede pardon.

Listen: I have two ears and only one mouth. The two should always be open, and the one only occasionally.

Complexity: Refrain from over-simplification. For every complex problem, there is a simple answer – and it's usually wrong.

Humility: Arrogance and dogmatism have never been assets, and apologies cost me nothing.

James 1:5 says: *"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."*



Book Discussion by Barbara Culbertson

February will soon be here. Valentine's Day. Love. Kissy, kissy.

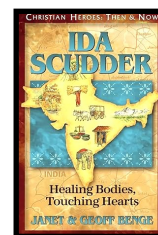
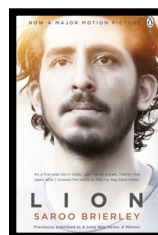
How do I love thee? Well, it depends on who "thee" is. Dr. Ida Scudder showed love the way James (in the Bible) describes it—by actions.

On February 2, we Tsundokuans have the opportunity to discuss a book about this missionary to India, who "was motivated to become a doctor after witnessing three women die in childbirth because they could not be treated by a male doctor."

Following what she believed was God's call to remedy this situation as much as possible, she founded a clinic that grew into a hospital. Read her story in the series "Christian Heroes--Then and Now." Janet and Geoff Benge recount her story in the volume *Ida Scudder*. The library has limited copies. If you cannot find a book, call Barbara Culbertson, 405-615-4347.

We will keep the country of India in our minds as in March we turn to the book *Lion* by Saroo Brierley, recommended by one of our regular Tsundoku readers. Metropolitan Library describes it as "the miraculous and triumphant story of Saroo Brierley, a young man who used Google Earth to rediscover his childhood life and home in an incredible journey from India to Australia and back again." Brierley tells his own story, beginning at age five when he got lost on a train in India.

Be prepared to cry, but read the tale to the end! The story has also been made into a motion picture. Happy reading!!





SNU School of Music

“Everything’s coming up music” at SNU! Or, is that roses? Never mind, there’s a lot of music as well, in Southern Nazarene University’s School of Music, chaired by Bryan Powell, PhD (his parents are both alumni as well!).

Want to know some of the diversity offered? Director Professor Jim Graves rehearses the Chorale at noon on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. That’s to get them ready for tours throughout our geographical zone (Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma) and even internationally! Wow!—that’s *international*, like other countries!

Then there’s University Singers, an ensemble of 12-14 singers specializing in contemporary tunes (KUCO reminds us that “all” music was “once new”). However, note that you have to audition for this group (shucks—do you remember the song about “Uncle Jesse” wanting to sing in the church choir but he never made the audition cut (until he got to Heaven)?).

Ricky Spears directs the 55-member Symphonic Band (also auditioned) which performs throughout the school year, again even overseas! Their repertoire consists of a wide spectrum of secular and sacred literature encompassing marches and orchestral transcriptions—some even original pieces! There’s also a percussion ensemble, open again by audition. What a plethora of music enjoyment!



ASP Sponsors 2025-2026

January 12, 2026	Bethany Law Center Attn: Rick & Susan Martin
And	First Bethany Bank & Trust Attn: Priscilla Cude
February 9, 2026	Mercer-Adams Funeral Services Attn: Marla Mercer Cole
March 9, 2026	Concordia Life Care Community Attn: Julie Davis
April 13, 2026	Spanish Cove Retirement Village Attn: Jill Huff



REMINDER

ASP LUNCHEON PARKING

The designated parking lot has changed. It is just west of Bethany First Nazarene Church at the corner of NW 41st and Mueller. The SNU bus will meet you there and return you following the ASP luncheon..



**Academy Re-Views
by
Hal Swinhart**



Dr. Reuben Bellows



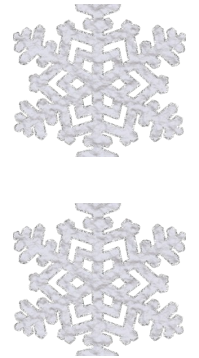
**Mica Davidson
SNU Student**



**Nola Swinhart,
Carolyn Jagers,
Chris Dewey**



Deone Roberts



Johnny & Debbie Stephens



**Kittie Burleson
Claree Cox**



Volunteerism by LaNell Stahl

The holiday season has come and gone. Now, we face the new year with renewed joy and a spirit of giving back to our community through our service to Southern Nazarene University. The new semester brings many activities, from alumni gatherings in Phoenix and Nashville to the Storm the Road bus trip across the country. We volunteers will be gathering materials for these events, as well as for other events as needed.

What inspires you to volunteer? Is it that special thing among the plethora of activities that somehow inspires you to reach out to others? Is it the gathering of friends who meet in the storage room of Bresee Hall to organize, sort, or dispose of useless boxes? Is it the fun of anticipating the delight of getting a gift bag, or is it the inventorying of supplies in anticipation of future needs? Or, perhaps the most attractive pull, to fellowship with friends and new acquaintances?

Nothing says “togetherness” as much as having your fingers stuck together because you put too much glue on the paper, or needing help to reach high or low underneath a table.

Regardless of what inspires you, each time you show up to volunteer, you are helping yourself, as well as SNU. When you have the opportunity to volunteer, I would encourage you to take it. It’s well worth the time, effort, and fun. If you need help with the background check application, contact LaNell Stahl at 928-853-4908.



SNU Sawyer Center

The Sawyer Center seats 3,735 and is home to SNU basketball and volleyball. It also hosts Southern Nazarene University graduation ceremonies, local high school sporting events and state tournaments, and the National Basketball Association (NBA).

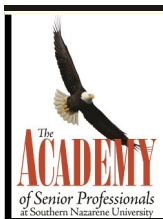
Several professional basketball teams have practiced in the Sawyer Center, including the Oklahoma City Thunder, the Los Angeles Lakers, and the Detroit Pistons. When the New Orleans Hornets (now Pelicans) were displaced after Hurricane Katrina, the Sawyer Center became their temporary home from 2005 to 2007. More teams have indicated their plan to use the facility in the future.

The Sawyer Center hosts the annual Home School (basketball) Tournament and is used as a practice gym for incoming teams during the Big Twelve Basketball Tournament. In addition to offering conference rooms to local businesses for staff meetings, the Oklahoma State High School Tournament utilizes the facilities, as well as summer academic and sports camp programs. Select Physical Therapy is housed on the third floor.

But the building doesn’t limit its usefulness to sports-related activities! In the fall of 2008, the Sawyer Center hosted welcome home ceremonies for 2,600 troops of the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT). What an exciting time of service members reuniting with family and friends they had not seen in a year!

<https://www.snuathletics.com/calendar>





***“Sharing a
Continuous
Flight”***

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Website Information

ASP Information

<https://www.snu.edu/asp>

Being revised



ASP Calendar

Monday January 12, 2026

10:00—11:00 Shuttle Service from the BFC parking lot (41st and Mueller) to the Webster Commons.

10:15 Southern Plaza Shuttle

11:00—1:00 Luncheon Meeting in the Heritage Room of Webster Commons

1:00—1:30 Shuttle Service to the parking lots and Southern Plaza

1:15—2:15 Administrative Council Meeting

The Academy Perspective

- - -Publication Board- - -

Production Editor	Joan Dozier
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	LaNell Stahl

- - -Columnists- - -

President's Column	Dave Bucher
Book Discussions	Barbara Culbertson
Speakers	Rosalynn Wade
Obituaries	Emmalyn German
Photography	Hal Swinhart
Volunteerism	LaNell Stahl

- - -Communications Policy- - -

We value correspondence from our readers.

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 6729 NW 39th Expressway
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Annual subscription — ***The Academy Perspective***:

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