

Born to Restore!

The last 19 days of travel included lots of interaction with friends, family and co-workers. Several conversations centered on people or things in either a state of restoration or deterioration. My brother-in-law is down to the finishing touches on the frame-off restoration of the vintage Jeep and is anxious to get started on the 1952 pick-up truck. Restoration! The barn is in bad shape, but its usefulness doesn't merit paint and repair. Deterioration! My nearly 81-year-old dad presented me with a set of old carving chisels sporting his distinctive, hand-turned walnut handles with leather rings and brass ferrules. Restoration! Three times, I learned that friends are in some stage of dismantling their marital vows. Deterioration! An aunt and uncle, after a 40-year diversion, made their way back into a Christian church and are involved in leadership. Restoration! My sister has cancer. Deterioration!

Restoration is so much more pleasant than deterioration. Not everyone is as "born to restore" as the Lail family, but the gratification of a genuine rebuild seems universal. Perhaps it is a reflection of the image of God in us. The Bible indicates that God is both a restorer and a destroyer. While his wrath is real, harsh and certain, his plan for death-deservers is restoration to life – full, abundant and eternal. As soon as we brought death upon ourselves, the Lord graciously implemented a plan for restoration to life. He spent centuries patiently bringing the nation of Israel back into its glory. Jesus restored withered hands, reversed deafness, corrected eyesight without surgery and even straightened out the confusion of the mentally ill.

Stewardship means to take personal responsibility for the care of someone or something. Our heavenly father demonstrated his care for us by including us in his plan of restoration. As Christlike disciples, we have the privilege of engaging in the Lord's restoration project! A Sunday School class gathers at a hospital for pre-surgery prayer. Restoration! A child prays for salvation at Vacation Bible School. Restoration! A young couple intentionally commits to tithe their income. Restoration! The Church of the Nazarene restructures itself for organizational efficiency. Restoration! A local church insulates and shifts to low-consumption light bulbs. Restoration! A couple on the edge of marital disaster allows love to overcome hurts. Restoration!

"Restore us, O God;
make your face shine upon us,
that we may be saved."
(Psalm 80:3)

In this world of constant change, everything is either improving or wearing out. Yesterday it was our home's AC that displayed its state of deterioration. The prognosis is probably going to be the dreaded not-worth-fixing-may-as-well-just-replace-it. Thankfully, the Lord who restores, also never gives up!

--

Mark Lail (One of God's true fixer-uppers!)

Mandy and Ursula

Among the many international delegations and guests, was [a large group of Nazarenes](#) from Cape Town, South Africa. Mandy and her mother Ursula (on the right side of the group in the orange and red) sought us out specifically to request stewardship training materials. Not knowing how we could help them once General Assembly was over and they return to South Africa and we return to Kansas City, we chased them down the corridor.

Ursula turned out to be a first-generation Nazarene. Her late husband was invited to church by missionaries to Cape Town when he was in his early twenties. Now the entire family is active in the local Church of the Nazarene. Mandy is, therefore, a second-generation Nazarene in Cape Town and an NMI Council president. She was looking for souvenirs for each of her council members. We hooked them up with some Nazagreen bags and exchanged e-mail addresses.

Who knows how this might pan out in the future? That's the genius thing about General Assembly – meeting the faces and places that we hear about, pray for, and support financially through our gifts to designated offerings and the World Evangelism Fund. To give to the World Evangelism Fund today, you may utilize our [secure online giving system](#) powered by Convio.

--

Josh Jakobitz

Nazagreen's Grassroots Philosophy

Less is more. It's the motto of minimalist design (read the Wikipedia entry [here](#)) and it suits Nazagreen pretty well perfectly. The Nazagreen philosophy is all about practical sustainability.

You can follow Nazagreen tips and insights on Twitter at www.twitter.com/nazagreen. We post, update, and interact with other environmentalists daily. Submit your own green tips to Nazagreen by RT'ing one of our posts or using the hashtag #nazagreen when posting one. We can't pay you for your ideas, but we'll give credit where credit is due. TwitPics are encouraged!

--

Nazagreen Tweeters

Harry Truman's Will

Some people have estate plans that were originally drafted during the Truman administration. Regardless of when your estate plan was drafted, without regular review and updating it can become obsolete, causing confusion and needless expense for surviving family and friends.

Here are 14 reasons/events that could require a modification of your planning documents.

1. Your marriage, divorce or remarriage
2. Birth or death of a named beneficiary
3. A child becomes financially successful
4. Lifestyle concerns with your children
5. Death of a spouse
6. Increases or decreases in the value of your estate
7. Your children are not capable of wisely managing their inheritance
8. Marriage, divorce or remarriage of a named beneficiary
9. Changes in the needs of your beneficiaries
10. An executor or trustee dies, moves or becomes disabled
11. Moving to a different state
12. Purchase or sale of real estate
13. Deciding to make or change charitable gifts
14. Changing your mind

The Church of the Nazarene Foundation would be happy to assist you with charitable giving ideas and strategies. If you need to update your estate plan, you may find our Estate Planning Data Guide helpful. Contact us toll-free at 866-273-2549 to have a Guide sent to you, or download the Guide from our Web site: www.nazarenefoundation.org.

--

Church of the Nazarene Foundation

Thanks for reading!

Mark E. Lail, director

Tom Felder, resource manager

Josh Jakobitz, creative coordinator

Jamie Connally, office assistant