

The More Things Change . . .

BY JESSE C. MIDDENDORF

CHANGE—it just seems so incessantly present! And yet it's in the very experience of change that we often see God move into our real time-and-space-bound lives. The God of the Old Testament is the God who reminded Israel, "I am about to do a new thing" (Isaiah 43:19, NRSV). The Israelites welcomed the realization that the God who himself never changes, who is both the first and the last (44:6), can bring newness and restoration to a fallen and disobedient people. He who made a way for them through the sea was capable of making a new way for them in the wilderness.

And God is still making things new. New creatures in Christ are being brought into the Kingdom as the church, in her zeal and passion for lost and broken people, announces His forgiveness and pardon in urban centers and isolated villages around the world. Whether by the graphic depictions of the *JESUS* film, the simple unfolding of an Evangecube, the heartfelt preaching of a local pastor, or the stammering witness of a godly layperson, grace works, God moves, and new life in Christ is created.

The exciting prospect of unimaginable newness grips our hearts when we read the words from the throne in the New Jerusalem: "See, I am making all things new" (Revelation 21:5, NRSV).

But for something to become new, it must necessarily change. And that process is often unsettling. A healthy church embraces change while knowing how to retain the substance of the gospel. That does not occur without persistent prayer, careful conversation, delicate negotiation, and patience.

We are about to see something new in *Holiness Today*. After a century of publication as a print piece, as the staple offering of the Church of the Nazarene to her English-speaking constituency, *Holiness Today* is tak-

ing on a new face. Now an electronic format available on the Internet will be the staple, along with a bimonthly printed format that will be mailed to homes as is currently the case.

Holiness Today and its predecessor, the *Herald of Holiness*, have served the Church of the Nazarene as the voice of the church. The editors have been our friends and family and have endeared themselves to our people in every generation. Editors B. F. Haynes, J. B. Chapman, H. Orton Wiley, D. Shelby Corlett, S. S. White, W. T. Purkiser, John A. Knight, William McCumber, Wesley Tracy, and Franklin Cook have helped to shape our understanding of the church, her doctrines, her people, and her mission.

The new format will find a new editor, David Felter. Having served already as the general editor of the Church of the Nazarene, he will add to his duties this new responsibility, well prepared to pick up the mantle of those who have served with such distinction before him.

But though the editor changes and the format changes, the mission does not change. We are still the voice of Church of the Nazarene, which is bound together in message and in mission, and we will continue to seek the best ways to express that message among ourselves and to a wondering world. By means of this new format, *Holiness Today* can now be delivered to the millions.

Welcome, David Felter. May the message take on new momentum in this new format under your careful and thoughtful stewardship.

And thank you, Franklin Cook, for your imagination and creativity. You have made our message alive with possibilities with your fertile mind and passionate spirituality. We will always be grateful. ♦



Jesse C. Middendorf

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