

DENNIS A. DAVIS
PO Box 100
Orange, CA 92856-6100

Marjorie: I will make a brief attempt to answer your questions in your research on the 30 plus years of history of Northwest College covering the Hurst/Davis years. I will follow the questions in the order you presented them to me. I would strongly suggest, if you possibly have time, to go the vault and read the president's reports, especially as it relates to my regime, which would include the eight years (sixteen reports). So much of my philosophy for education, dreams for NC, and accomplishments are in those reports. One, though not the final report, contained a list of the things that had been accomplished. That may be contained in a report from Dan Schimelpfenig to the President in preparation for a meeting of the Board of Directors. Now for my response to your questions, with my suggestion in mind:

1. What were your goals when you accepted the position?

My immediate goal was to learn all I could about the college and its operation. I had served for eight years on the board, a member of the Finance Committee for those eight years, and a member of the Executive Committee the final three years. I was naïve enough to believe that I had some working knowledge of the operation of the college. How wrong I was. My first year was an intense year, putting in 12-15 hour days, six days a week. I thought it would be presumptuous, after a strong 25-year leadership of President Hurst preceding me, to come in with grandiose plans. It did not take me long to realize there were areas to which I wanted to bring positive change. Without reiterating on those changes I will move on.

2. In what measure and how do you feel you accomplished these?

Never did all my goals and dreams come true. Will they ever? I was happy most of all for the development of academic programs, i.e., Secondary Education; Business Management; Adult Degree Completion; and the Applied Science program. I loved the students and wanted to enhance the educational environment. This was accomplished through the remodeling/refurbishing of all the residence halls, direct dial telephones in every room; computer/internet access; the student center/book store mail service remodel. The library made advances in moving all of the library card file system into computers and gaining access to the great libraries of the world, through the Internet. This was accomplished by getting fiber optic throughout the entire campus and up to the married student housing units.

These accomplishments came through the people who surrounded my life and administration. I have always practiced securing the best people I can and releasing them to do their job. I was pleased with the people that God sent us, both in the faculty and administrative areas. With these people we were able to accomplish some of our goals with great financial savings and maintaining a fiscal responsibility and soundness.

We made tremendous strides in the area of human resources and student financial aid.

3. What is the greatest satisfaction you carried away with you when you left?

Several things come to mind. (1) That the college was in a very strong financial condition and the reserves were intact; (2) That we had successfully completed our 10-year review by the regional accrediting agency; (3) The advancement of programs, which identify with my philosophy, which I will speak to later; (4) The appearance of the physical campus and the purchase of the new administration building; (5) The great students with whom I was privileged to associate and to see those who graduated being involved in their field of calling and preparation.

4. What do you see as the strengths of your administration?

Building relationships with our constituency, strengthening and developing the academic programs, creating a team of capable administrative leaders.

5. What changes did you bring to the college that has affected its future?

The development of academic programs to meet the needs of the students from the sponsoring church. Building strong relationships with the sponsoring church. Enlarging the Board of Directors to include minorities, and the selection of women on the board. Bringing the college into membership in the Council of Christian Colleges & Universities, and becoming an active participant in the National Association of Independent Colleges & Universities.

6. Who were some of the people who helped you achieve your vision of the school and how did they help?

The entire administrative team and a very strong, supportive and cooperative board of directors, and finding qualified faculty personnel who strengthened new and existing programs.

7. What in your past experience prepared for you for the leadership you gave NC?

Interestingly, God put me in positions through my entire life where I was called upon to exercise leadership. By serving for 20 years in one pulpit and city, I had the opportunity to lead a church in tremendous growth, visibility and reputation. That experience gave me a platform to interact with a lot of different publics. Then serving as a District Superintendent gave me a certain degree of credibility within the sponsoring church as a person of leadership and also one with a great love and support for the church.

My "succinct statement of your philosophy of higher education." How important is it for our future and why and why not?"

Higher Christian Education is an absolute imperative if we are to provide a total education which will combine faith and learning with living. Education built on the eternal principles of the Bible will lift the level of a nation, a church, a family and the individual. Any education that lacks this dimension is, in my thinking, not a total education. This type of education must be academically sound, hence the necessity of the accreditation. It must also be led in the classroom by qualified faculty who have a strong

academic background and a personal faith and commitment to Christ and the church. This quality of education is of great necessity to the sponsoring church if they are to assure quality leadership for the future. Realizing that young people today will receive a college/university education, it is imperative that areas of study be provided to meet the academic and professional needs of these students.

Marjorie, I am aware that it is impossible to write history without mentioning the contribution of significant people, such as Herb Crowder, Owen Hodges Randy Barton, and others from the past. In writing of the Davis era it cannot go without mentioning the contribution of Randy Barton in my early days, and Dan Schimelpfenig. Dan, as you know, came to NC from an international business, engineering, secular background with a deep commitment to Christ and the Church. He came at a time when his expertise was needed. Under his leadership the remodeling of the residence halls, the Ness Building and the Davis Administrative Building were accomplished. He also brought to NC, the late Lyle Olson, who was a gift from God in the development and maintenance of the buildings and grounds, along with the purchasing of much government surplus equipment at a time of expansion and growth.