



*the* Forward In Faith  
*campaign*

**THE  
RICH HISTORY  
OF FAITH  
AT NORTHWEST  
COLLEGE**

# the Forward In Faith campaign

## The Rich History of Faith at Northwest College

The unique mandate of the Northwest College Constitution and By-laws is that we operate within the needs of the sponsoring church. The constitution and by-laws support the Northwest College mission of providing leadership and service as directed by the Holy Spirit.

The constitution further dictates that the the hands of the Districts. The college is an Districts and has no authority to operate exist to meet the need for vocational and professionally trained laymen who are called of God to serve the Body of Christ.

ownership is in institution of the independently. We church ministries the living sacrifice

If Northwest College must be driven by the Northwest College is, are not a public institution of higher membership through the

is to serve the fellowship properly, it membership within the church, for the Academy within the church. We institution. We are a private Christian education uniquely serving our Districts and the churches.

Students from other Christian communities will always be allowed to enjoy the education and spiritual environment within the constitutional mandate of the sponsoring church.

Today as in the past, the successful future of Northwest College depends largely upon the determination, tenacity and support of its church members and districts, shareholders of the college.

## The Foundation of NC's Rich, Faithful History

Coming in 1933 from Fargo, ND, to assume the pastorate of Seattle's Hollywood Temple - now Calvary Temple - the Reverend Henry Ness stood outside the new - to - him church building and had a visionary thought: "What a shame that this beautiful building, which has been wholly dedicated to the Lord, should stand empty all day long. Why should it not be utilized every day of the week and not only Sunday?" From that visionary moment, Ness took God's "hint" to establish a Bible school to train young men and women for the ministry.

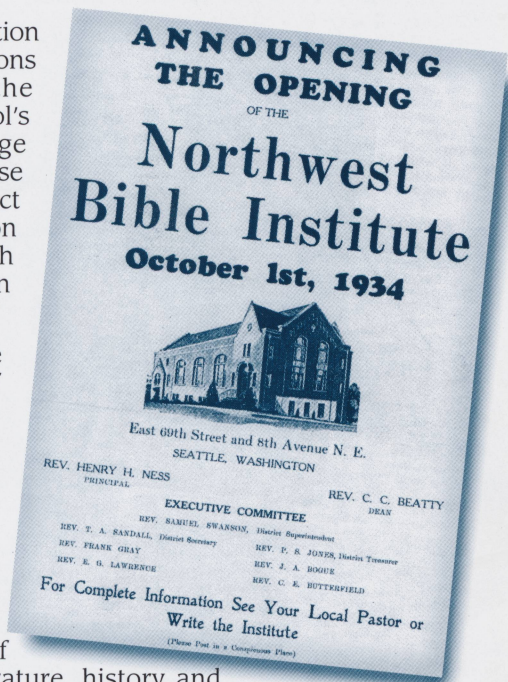
From this vision came the constitution for the Bible school, in which portions of the preamble provide the foundation for the original school's direction and for today's college mission: "The objective and purpose of the school is to maintain, conduct and operate a non-profit institution of learning at college level, with particular emphasis upon ministerial and mission training."

"Be it resolved that this college offer a thorough course of instruction in God's Word to all students, so that each one will have studied by the time of his graduation every book in the Bible."

"That it organize the curriculum of study in such a way that each student will have an introduction to the basic fields of learning such as language, literature, history and science, as well as courses of a specialized nature."

"That it provide for training pastors and evangelists in suitable courses of instruction, and in various opportunities for actual ministry. That it provide training in Christian Education for the students qualifying them to engage full time in Christian Education and youth work, or to return to their home churches and become active and effective lay workers."

"That it assist those who desire to prepare for the chaplaincy, teaching, nursing, education and other types of occupation and service as a recognized need develops."



## 1934

### School Opens

Northwest Bible College opened its doors in 1934 with 49 students enrolled in classes. Clearly, academic training was secondary to spiritual training, yet the two were closely integrated. For instance, often during those first years, as the Holy Spirit was manifested in chapel services, classes were canceled for days while the students prayed and worshiped in His presence.

In her history of the college from its beginning to 1966, Dr. Maxine Williams wrote, "There is nothing that the college and the constituency have guarded more zealously throughout the entire history of the college than the preservation of the spiritual life of the school."

## 1949

### Butterfield Presidency Begins

Reverend Ness resigned his position as President of Northwest Bible College, and C.E. Butterfield began his service as the school's second president. Those students attending Northwest during President Butterfield's administration remember him warmly.

## 1952

### First Accreditation

On October 16, 1952, Northwest Bible School was accredited by the American Association of Bible Colleges. It was also listed as a school of higher learning by the United States Department of Education.

*Men*  
**FORV**  
**In F**

### God's Provision

In the early years, the college originally promised the North would always be self-supporting, so did the costs. Throughout the often and in miraculous ways President Butterfield explained:

"We had a financial need of all praying and had not seemed was going through the mail to one side and I found a small note to me at the Northwest Bible College—pencil—I could hardly make out no return address on the envelope. When I first had no idea it was from some dear old lady since I had received many but like this package. So I nonchalantly and I almost fell off my seat the envelope was a handful of bills. It was just the amount of money needed."



*Men On The Move: Presidents C.E. Butterfield and another man.*



# iving ward aith

## of Needed Funds

sank deeply into debt. It had  
west District Presbytery that it  
ng. However, as standards rose  
his time of need, God provided  
for the college. As an example,  
d:

out \$1,000.00, and I had been  
to get an answer. One day, I  
at I had allowed to accumulate  
all, frayed envelope addressed  
College, written very faintly in  
ut the address—and there was  
velope. But it was a thick  
iced it on my desk, I supposed  
interested in sending out tracts,  
ndles of tracts that looked just  
lantly tore open this envelope,  
when I saw that in this frayed  
ls that amounted to \$1,000.00.  
ey that we needed to meet our



terfield, D.V. Hurst and Henry H. Ness

## 1955

### Liberal Arts Division Introduced

During the 1955-56 school year, Northwest added junior college studies to its curriculum, thus allowing non full-time ministry students the opportunity for Christian higher education. The junior college studies and accompanying liberal arts courses broadened the educational vision of the college but in no way diminished its ministerial vision.

## 1958

### Move to Kirkland

The college learned of plans for a new freeway in Seattle, one that would run through the property owned by the church and school. Sometime later, Northwest received official notification of the condemnation of its property. Certainly this situation caused a dilemma, for as then Business Manager Herbert Crowder later said, "The college didn't have two dimes to rub together to be called a building fund. There wasn't any money in the treasury; there was hardly enough to pay the bills, let alone to start a college campus or to buy the land."

President Butterfield learned of an available 35 acre plot in Kirkland, Washington. This plot, used for government housing during W.W. II, first attracted the college because of its existing land improvements. While visiting the property, President Butterfield knelt - at the site now occupied by the Butterfield Chapel - and asked God to give the land to the college.

## 1962

### School Changes Name

Originally known as Northwest Bible Institute, its institutional name was changed to Northwest Bible College in 1949, and to Northwest College of the Assemblies of God in 1962. Each change represented a stage in its curricular development.

## God's Provision for the Main Kirkland Campus Buildings

The Lord answered President Butterfield's prayer: the Kirkland plot would come to the school. In 1958, the government granted the deed to 23 acres of the property to the school. Later, the school purchased an additional 12 acres for \$30,000, the exact amount gained from the sale to the government of the original church/school's Seattle property. Clearly, God had provided the primary funds to purchase and begin the building of the Kirkland campus.



Then, while praying one day for funds, President Butterfield felt impressed to write and explain the school's needs to a woman named, Wanda Dickey. He received a curt and abrupt letter back, and President Butterfield felt he had been mistaken to write her. A

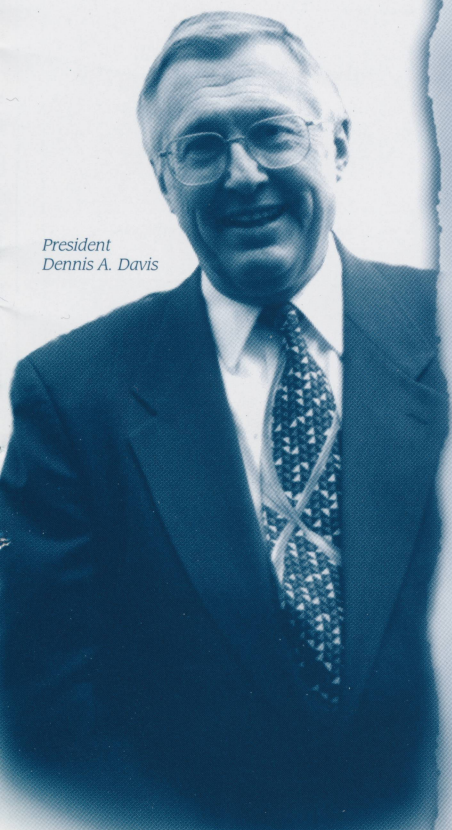
short time later, Mrs. Dickey sent another letter with a check for \$6,000.00, the exact amount needed to address a current school debt.



*Top: President Butterfield speaking at the Northwest College ground-breaking ceremony. Bottom: Clearing the way for a brighter future.*

When President Butterfield called to thank Mrs. Dickey, she cordially invited him to visit her in her southern California home. He went. During their visit, Mrs. Dickey questioned him about the school, its government, its board members, its mission, its attitude toward missionary work, and much more. While President Butterfield answered her questions and discussed detail with her, he did not expect further funds from her. In fact, she had signed the note with her \$6,000 check: "scraping the barrel."

Imagine President Butterfield's surprise later when Mrs. Dickey's lawyer called him, informed him of her death, and asked him to conduct her funeral services! Her lawyer added, "I think you might be interested in knowing that Mrs. Dickey has made Northwest College the residual heir in her estate." Her lawyer estimated that the college might see \$450,000 from Mrs. Dickey's estate. However, in the long run, the college saw over \$600,000.00 from that one estate. Mrs. Dickey obviously believed in Northwest College.



President  
Dennis A. Davis

**1966**

## Hurst Presidency Begins

After a long, full term, President Butterfield retired, and Dr. D.V. Hurst served as the new president. President Hurst continued with visionary goals toward campus land acquisition and improvement. During his administration, the campus grew significantly in size, increasing its original area. Also during his term, the college built several new dormitories, married student housing and a three-story library housing over 38,000 books in reference, theology, literature and science.

**1973**

## Academic Accreditation

Northwest Bible College received regional accreditation from the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges.

**1990**

## Davis Presidency Begins

When President Hurst retired, Dennis A. Davis began his term as president. President Davis, Northwest's first alumnus president, has continued the visionary growth, the eternal Christian mission, and the personal belief in the college that his predecessors once began. In the Davis administration, NC joined the Coalition of Christian Colleges and Universities; established several new academic majors, including Business Administration, Secondary Education, Eco-intensive Biology, and LEAP, the adult degree completion program; and computerized the library and campus. Physically enhancing the campus, Davis's leadership enabled the remodeling and expanding of the Pecota Student Center, the acquisition of the current Administrative Facilities, and the remodeling of the Ness Academic Center, including the Rice Academic Center.



**Dr. Don Argue, Northwest College President Elect, currently serves as President of the National Association of Evangelicals. Elected by unanimous vote on December 13, 1994, he took office on April 1, 1995.**

**From 1979 to 1995, Dr. Argue served as President of North Central Bible College. Under his leadership, North Central's enrollment grew from 401 to over 1,500 (1,182 on-campus students and over 400 non-traditional students) resulting in the college receiving the Christianity Today Decade of Growth Award.**

**Prior to his presidency at North Central, Dr. Argue served as Dean of Students and Campus Pastor at Evangel College in Springfield, Missouri.**

**A graduate of Central Bible College, Argue earned a master's degree at Santa Clara University, California, and a doctorate at the University of the Pacific, California.**

---

For additional information on The Forward In Faith Campaign please contact Dick Rose at Northwest College, Office of Advancement at PO Box 579, Kirkland, WA 98033, by email at [dick.rose@ncag.edu](mailto:dick.rose@ncag.edu) or call (425)889-5205.

*On The Cover: Reverend Henry Ness and the original site of Northwest College, Hollywood Temple, Seattle, WA.*

## the Forward In Faith campaign

In Northwest College's history, it is easy for us to see God's blessing through the lives and actions of those who have worked to fulfill the college's mission. Indeed, God has sent faithful students, teachers, administrators and staff to Northwest College.

Today, however, we have reached a significant point in the growth of the college, one requiring us to join in further efforts to improve and expand its capacity for ministry and for Christian higher education.

This message reaches you particularly because you recognize Northwest College as "the academy within the church." The Assemblies of God Church legally owns the college, and the church's members are its legal shareholders. Therefore, Northwest College asks you, as owners and shareholders, to commit financially to benefit the school's Forward in Faith campaign. NC asks you for a "yes" response, a "yes" to a commitment of giving \$50 each month for four years.

Following is a list of required "yes" responses, calculated from the number of churches and adherents reported in each church district:

- Alaska District requires 240 **Yes** responses to reach a \$576,000 goal. This amount represents 8% of the financial goal.
- South Idaho District requires 210 **Yes** responses to reach a \$504,000 goal. This amount represents 7% of the financial goal.
- Oregon District requires 810 **Yes** responses to reach a \$1,944,000 goal. This amount represents 27% of the financial goal.
- Wyoming District requires 210 **Yes** responses to reach a \$504,000 goal. This amount represents 7% of the financial goal.
- Montana District requires 300 **Yes** responses to reach a \$720,000 goal. This amount represents 10% of the financial goal.
- Northwest District requires 1,230 **Yes** responses to reach a \$2,952,000 goal. This amount represents 41% of the financial goal.

Will you make this significant commitment so that Northwest College may continue to provide a vitally needed Christian higher education for our children?