



WELCOME



Welcome to *Transformed Under the Pepper Tree*. In this monthly magazine, you will read stories of how God is changing people's lives at PazNaz, transforming them into the image of Jesus Christ by the power of his Spirit!

Some information about specific events on campus is found within these pages, but each month *Transformed* is focused on relating stories about what PazNaz is really all about. Rather than programs or events, there are stories about changed lives, stories about people coming in contact with the Savior, and people exploring what it means to become a follower of him. It is exciting to hear what God is doing in the lives of people!

Years ago, Pastor Earl Lee and a group of staff members gathered around a pepper tree located on the northern-most point of what was to become the site for First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena. They dreamed and prayed that God would provide a place where more people could find power for living through Jesus. What began then has been going on for over thirty years as men and women, boys and girls have come into relationship with Christ in significant ways under the shade of that old pepper tree. The mission of the church hasn't changed. May it continue to flourish as people experience the transforming power of Christ.

Blessings,

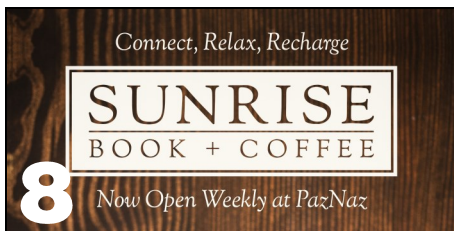
B. Scott Anderson
Executive Pastor

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Transformed is a magazine publication of First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena (PazNaz). It is designed to highlight the Church's stories of personal transformation. For a complete overview of PazNaz, their beliefs, and ministries, please visit the website www.paznaz.org.

TRANSFORMED
Issue #70—March 2017
The Magazine of PazNaz
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The year was 2010. The time was 5:00 pm on a Saturday evening in January. The place was the Parker Gymnasium at PazNaz. The event was Upward Wheels, a brand new ministry that sprung out of a desire to provide a place for the PazNaz Upward Director's son to experience basketball.

This was no ordinary basketball league. It had been adapted and geared for players who needed modified hoops, basketballs, and even a modified game. These players needed a buddy to push their wheelchairs around the court and assist them with making baskets, blocking their opponents, and having a sports experience like none other.

On this Saturday in 2010, as you entered the gym, you would have seen three boys and their buddies having a great time. On the bleachers sat three sets of parents watching in disbelief that their sons were playing basketball.

Fast forward seven years to 2017. The time is noon on a Saturday afternoon in January at the PazNaz gym. The event is PazNaz Wheels, which has transformed over the years from Upward Wheels into its own ministry outreach. As you enter the gym it is filled with excitement and enthusiasm for the thirteen players and their buddies who are wheeling around the court.

PazNaz Wheels has morphed from a small ministry tagged on at the end of the day to the center of the PazNaz Upwards basketball program. Throughout the past seven years, families have come seeking an opportunity for their children to play basketball, a sport that for many would have not been possible had it not been for PazNaz Wheels.

The joy and excitement on each player's face is contagious. The parents' joy and happiness is evident when they see their son or daughter making a basket with the aid of a buddy or even wheeling around and almost making the baskets independently.

Each year new players are invited by the many PazNaz Wheels families who have been blessed by this amazing opportunity and want to share it with their friends. Families have invited other families when their kids have been in swim lessons together or other therapies.

Last year a new family was invited to play by one of their son's classmates. Their son, Jonah, was hesitant at first and not too sure about what was happening. His parents were excited but, as with any new experience in a new environment, a little unsure. This year is a completely different story. Jonah's parents shared with me that Jonah gets very excited to come to Wheels. They know this because anytime they are going to the parking lot for one of his older brothers' sporting events, Jonah lets it be known that he is not happy to be there. That is not the case when they drive into the PazNaz parking lot. Jonah's face lights up and he can't wait to get into the gym. As his family was sharing this story with me, the realization came that Jonah knew this was for him. Everything else that happens is always about his older brothers, but for eight short weeks during January and February from noon to 1:00 pm, it's all about Jonah!

Other transformations I have personally seen are in my own son, Dade, his buddy Christopher, and Christopher's sister, Maddie.

Four years ago, Dade agreed to be the buddy for Christopher, who was a new Wheels player at the time. In the beginning, this was challenging for Dade, but he got in there and gave it his all. In those days, Dade was also playing Upward Basketball and then would be a buddy for Chris the same day.

What started out as being a buddy because mom asked him to has turned into a friendship. Dade enjoys spending time with Christopher and will ask to hang out with him. Last year, Dade made the choice to stop playing basketball and just be Christopher's buddy. His care and compassion for Christopher has also inspired Chris' sister, Maddie, to also become a buddy.

This season of PazNaz Wheels, you will find Dade and Christopher running drills, making baskets, playing defense, and generally having a great time. You will find Maddie serving as a buddy as well. Maddie has seen the joy this experience has brought to her brother and she wants to be a part of bringing that same joy to someone else. She is a regular athlete and has not always been able to serve as a buddy because of her own soccer games. This year Maddie decided that she wanted to play Upward Basketball, too, so she now has her own games in the afternoon.

In the same way that Jonah knows that PazNaz Wheels is for him, the rest of the PazNaz Wheels players' families could share similar stories. Each one of them is thrilled to see their child play a sport many did not think would ever be possible. On game one of this season, Chris's mom told me that Chris could not wait for Wheels. He looks forward to each Saturday with anticipation and excitement. He is not alone!

As a pastor it gives me great

joy to see the impact that PazNaz Wheels has on all of the families who are involved. The majority of new players have come from a personal invitation from another family. Watching the kids and buddies grow over these past seven years has been transformational.

PazNaz Wheels has come a long way, from the three boys playing against each other, to two separate games going on at the same time. Each year we have added new players. Watching these players grow up and their buddies develop and mature truly has been a blessing. If you find yourself with a spare hour at noon on a Saturday, I invite you to come and experience PazNaz Wheels for yourself. I promise that you will be blessed, encouraged, and your life might even be transformed as you watch the body of Christ working and living out the mission of Jesus.

- Pastor Julie Keith

What started out as being a buddy because mom asked him to has turned into a friendship. Dade enjoys spending time with Christopher and will ask to hang out with him. Last year, Dade made the choice to stop playing basketball and just be Christopher's buddy. His care and compassion for Christopher has also inspired Chris's sister, Maddie, to also become a buddy.

ASH

WEDNESDAY

March 1 | 7:00 pm | PazNaz Sanctuary



Say Hello to Dan Doctorian



“Son, come and give your testimony.”

“Children, come and sing before I preach.”

These words are what I was accustomed to hearing as the son of Rev. Samuel Doctorian. My father was an evangelist who preached in 132 countries over his 62-year ministry. When we traveled with him, we knew to be ready to have him call us up to the pulpit – even when we were as young as 10 years old.

I grew up in Beirut, Lebanon, with three brothers and a sister. Together, we would often travel around the world with my parents to be part of my father’s evangelistic meetings. My mother was a wonderful support to him, as well as a godly mother and example to us. She would lead us in daily devotions, scripture memorization, and singing before we started each day. Her wish was for us to be a musical family, so she arranged for us to learn different musical instruments, to “make a joyful noise” to the Lord [Psalm 95:1, Psalm 98:4, and Psalm 100:1 (KJV)]. While I loved the guitar, and was very interested in learning to play the drums, my mom decided that I would learn the accordion! Yes, the accordion! When you’re 10 years old, it’s hard to go against the wishes of your parents, although I tried. It was at our first “performance” together as a family that my older brother, Paul (our leader/manager, who also plays the piano magnificently), prompted me to play the bass guitar (given that we already had a guest drummer from our youth group, and since, thankfully, we had no need for an accordion player). It was this prompting that gave me my first exposure to the bass, and I fell in love with the instrument. Later, I taught myself to play the drums; but I stuck with the bass as my main, preferred instrument.

I thank God for the rich Christian heritage he has given us of God’s faithfulness, mercy, love, and forgiveness which has been exemplified and passed down through the lives of my parents and grandparents. I’m not just talking about the heritage of being a PK (Preacher’s Kid), but also the godly example of my grandparents whose faith prevailed despite being orphaned during the Armenian Genocide when their own parents were killed for refusing to deny Christ. They all taught us to keep the faith and learn to forgive. Both sets of my grandparents were raised in orphanages (two in American Mennonite mission camps, and two in German camps) after losing their parents during the systematic massacre of Armenians by the Ottoman Turks, starting in 1915.

I would hear (from my grandparents, as well as from my

father during his sermons) the horrible and gripping stories of the persecution they endured. We were told the true stories of their lives, as well as the stories of real people in the Bible. The difference was that I **knew** the characters of my grandparents' stories, and they had a different effect on me. But my father would always preach how the love of God could overcome hatred and evil. I didn't want to love the Turks, and I most certainly didn't want to forgive them. How could I, after what they did? They surely hadn't admitted the fullness of their actions or asked for forgiveness. It wasn't until one of our trips to Jerusalem that I was convinced of the importance of forgiveness, as I stood in front Jesus' empty tomb, remembering that he had been tortured and crucified to forgive my sins before I had asked, as well.

"Grace be to you, and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ ... To the praise of the glory of his grace wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of his grace."

Ephesians 1:2-3, 6-7 (KJV)

When we moved to the United States in the 1970's, during the Lebanese civil war, we lived in San Luis Obispo. There, I attended Cal Poly and graduated with a Business Management degree. During that time, I played and recorded with numerous Christian bands, and eventually decided I would make music my career. I arranged to attend the Musician's Institute in Hollywood, and made my move to Los Angeles to continue my dream. It was during this time that the Lord showed me he had different plans for me. I got involved with the Christian ministry my father had founded, called *Bible Land Mission*, helping with the organizational and operations side of that ministry. Through the work for *Bible Land Mission*, I had an opportunity both to set up a publishing/printing

business to print their literature, and to organize their mission tours to Israel. These trips to Israel changed my life. Walking where Jesus had walked, and visiting the countless biblical sites or locations spoken of in scripture, opened my eyes to the Bible, allowing it to come alive for me in full color!

During this time, with my home base in Pasadena, my sister encouraged me to join her on Sunday at PazNaz. She also encouraged me to join the praise team - where I loved playing bass during the services.

Soon after I married Nora, the Lord led us to new pastures to serve and worship, and for the next 25 years we attended a small, yet growing, Nazarene church in Glendale to lead the music program, work with young couples, and teach Sunday school, among other work the Lord gave us. It wasn't a popular move to take down the choir benches and place the worship team in the middle of the platform right around a full drum set! But God directed this work, and the church was immensely blessed, along with forming of a praise team and introduce newer, more contemporary music to complement the traditional hymns that continued to be enjoyed. We were also able to record a CD with our favorite songs and choruses, including original songs, with the help of our very talented pastor. We praise the Lord that the Holy Spirit used that inspired and lively music ministry to grow and advance his Kingdom.

In 2014, God led us back to PazNaz, blessing us with Pastor Scott Daniels' teaching and messages. At that time, we had decided that we would just "sit back" during the first six months of our attendance. We would *not* get involved or take on any responsibilities. With both of us having been active in churches all our lives, this idea only lasted about two months! While talking to Pastor

Alan De Vries during the District Assembly, he encouraged me to join the praise team, and soon afterward, Nora got involved with Women's Ministries and Sunday school.

I appreciate Pastor Alan's ministry, friendship, leadership, and love for our church. I look forward to receiving his emails to find out which songs he has arranged, and plans to play and sing for our Sunday Worship.

I continue to manage and operate my business, Doctorian Productions - where I provide design, typesetting, printing, and advertising services. But my true passion is music! Nora and I enjoy our "date nights" together. We love being outdoors, traveling, and spending time with family and friends in meaningful conversations.

One of my favorite verses is, Micah 6:8, *"This is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."*

We see God's blessings in our lives every day, and we thank God for PazNaz and Pastor Tara Beth Leach. One of our highlights this year was participating in the leadership retreat weekend she led. We appreciate her enthusiasm and her thoughtful presentation of the weekly sermon series. Our prayer is that God will use PazNaz to reach the diverse local community, and grow the Church for his glory!

- Dan Doctorian

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SUNRISE

BOOK + COFFEE

Now Open Weekly at PazNaz

HOURS

Sundays
7:30 am to 2:00 pm

Tuesdays
8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Wednesdays
8:00 am to 2:00 pm

...with more times to come





CANDY DONATIONS!

Bags and bags of candy are needed to fill the 15,000 Eggs-travaganza Easter Eggs! Please donate individually wrapped candy or non-edible treats, such as stickers and small toys. Baskets for donations are located around the PazNaz and Valley Center campuses.



Finding Family

**Rachel
Rodeheaver**

&

**Hailey
Wiest**

Hi! My name is Rachel Rodeheaver and I attend the Valley Center campus of PazNaz. I currently work in Sports Medicine at Azusa Pacific University (APU) as an athletic trainer with the football and track teams while I study to earn my Master's Degree in Leadership.

The people of Valley Center have been a tremendous blessing in my life. When I moved to Azusa after graduating from Olivet Nazarene University in the summer of 2015, I didn't know anyone. I church hopped throughout the fall of my first football season working at APU, never quite finding a place that felt like home and very much lacking community. I am a Nazarene pastor's kid and had really hoped to attend a church within the denomination. When I returned from Christmas break to begin the spring semester, I found Valley Center online and decided

that I would give it a try. After just my first Sunday there, I knew I had found my church home. I was welcomed by numerous people, I heard the Gospel preached, and I could visibly see the ways in which the people of this church love one another, love the Lord, and love "the least of these."

As I continued to attend Valley Center, Pastor Joe Halbert and his wonderful wife, Cindy, invited me and the other young adults in the congregation to come to their house on Monday nights for a home cooked meal and fellowship (and to do my laundry). Monday nights at the Halberts' became something I looked forward to every week! Not only did these nights give me the chance to get to know and love my pastor's family, I also gained some solid Christian friends my own age and that has been a huge blessing for me.

One of the things that I love about Valley Center is the compassionate heart of its people. Just as I was welcomed in and loved upon, the people of Valley Center hope to share the love of Jesus with those who need it most. One of the ways that this will happen in the future is through the Young Adult Ministries helping out with the Nazarene efforts on skid row. I very much look forward to becoming a part of this ministry opportunity and sharing the love of Jesus the way it has been faithfully shared with me. God is working at Valley Center and I am excited for what he has in store!

- Rachel Rodeheaver

While it looks like a small church from the outside, Valley Center is full of warm, welcoming hearts and an environment that feels like family.

Hi, my name is Hailey Wiest! I am currently a graduate student at Azusa Pacific University studying leadership development. I am also a graduate intern athletic trainer at APU and work with the women's volleyball and softball teams. I am from Washington state and have lived there my whole life until moving to California in July 2016. I graduated from Washington State University (WSU) in May 2016 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Athletic Training. While in my program, my favorite rotations were working at Lewis-Clark State College (LCSC) in Lewiston, Idaho with their baseball team, and working football at WSU for my senior year. One of my favorite experiences through my undergraduate career was being able to help work the NAIA Baseball World Series in 2015 and 2016, as well as seeing

LCSC win the title both years! I love hiking, being outdoors, and going on adventures. I also love watching baseball and football, especially at the collegiate level.

Moving to California and attending/working at APU has helped me build wonderful relationships and allowed me to grow closer to God each and every day. From the moment I moved down here I was welcomed with open arms and I knew this was where I was supposed to be. I was introduced to Valley Center through Rachel Rodeheaver, Torrey Halbert, and the Halbert family. Finding a church to call home was especially important to me and after attending Valley Center for the first few Sundays I was in California helped me realize I found exactly that. While it looks like a small church from the outside, Valley Center is full of

warm, welcoming hearts and an environment that feels like family. One of my favorite parts about Valley Center is having the opportunity to meet with other young adults and go on different adventures. My favorite so far has been the weekly dinners at the Halberts' home. It feels like I'm at home when I spend time with them: eating dinner, laughing, watching a movie or show, and just hanging out. Even when I miss home, I know that I will always have family here with my great roommates and an amazing church family.

- Hailey Wiest



Living THE Mission

Sunday, March 12

Banquet & PazNaz Movie Premiere

Join the rest of your PazNaz family for this incredible evening of worship and celebration at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary! The night will feature the premiere of the new PazNaz documentary, an updated look at the life and history of PazNaz. Following the movie, everyone is invited to Gilmore Hall for a free banquet where Pastor Tara Beth Leach will present how PazNaz will begin *Living the Mission* into the future.

Get Your Ticket on Sundays at the Welcome Center