

ALUMNI VIP NEWSLETTER

ALUMNI VIP NEWSLETTER VOLUME 2, ISSUE 10

DECEMBER 19, 2012

Dear VIP:

Growing up in Massachusetts in the 1940's and 50's, Robert Raymond Hazard loved participating in sports (Little League Baseball, football, track...) and simply being outdoors (swimming, fishing, running in the woods...). At home, his family life was similarly active. He, his parents, one sister, two brothers (twins), a grandmother, and seven aunts & uncles all lived in the fifteen-room, four-story house that his father owned. At age nine, he joined the workforce by becoming a paperboy—a job he was to hold throughout his school years.



In spite of, or perhaps because of, all of the other activities he enjoyed doing, one place that young Bob did not enjoy being was in the classroom. "I disliked school, period," he now recalls. As his 8th grade year came to a close, he faced a decision. He could enroll in the local trade school, taking mostly vocational classes to finish his high school years; or he could enroll in the local high school, to complete a mostly academic course load. Choosing what he considered the lesser of two evils, he began 9th grade at Worcester Boy's Trade, majoring in Cabinet Making.

It was during his years at Worcester, at age 16, that Bob attended a youth evangelistic meeting in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Listening to a preacher by the name of Tel McNutt, he heard and responded to the clarion call of the gospel message, and accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior.

While in 12th grade, Bob was faced with another decision. At that time, being in the top 10 percent of one's graduating class made one eligible to go to college without taking the College Board entrance exams. Bob was in that top 10 percent. At that same time, the idea of a career spent in a cabinet shop began to seem unappealing. He saw a potential for long, repetitious hours, without much variety or challenge. He now recognizes that these things were God's leading in his life. The next fall, he was a freshman at Fitchburg State Teacher's College.

Although initially concerned that he lacked the necessary academic preparation, he proved himself a capable student, finishing a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Arts Education four years later.

Bob's first official teaching position commenced even before his graduation. Just after he completed his student teaching requirement, a teacher at his training school suffered a heart attack. The school promptly offered Bob a contract to take over the teacher's classes until the end of the school year. Thrust suddenly into teaching during the day, he finished his remaining college classes at night.

Within a short period after graduation came these three events: a regular teaching position at Athol, Massachusetts; marriage at age 23 to Johanne, his wife of almost 50 years; and, most unexpectedly, the arrival of a draft notice. On active duty for two years, he spent one year stationed in South Korea.

Upon returning home, he accepted a teaching position in Utica, New York. While there, his conversations with two troubled students ultimately led to the boys receiving the Lord as their Savior. In response, school officials prohibited Bob from any further witnessing to students, a condition which did not sit well with him.

With Johanne's unconditional support, Bob began looking into teaching at a Christian school. Feeling that he should have formal Bible training to do so, he began researching Bible colleges to attend. A former pastor of his, noting that he already had an undergraduate degree, suggested that he should consider going to seminary instead.

Central Baptist Theological Seminary, then located in north Minneapolis, became his school of choice, so the Hazards packed up and moved to the Midwest. With classes in the mornings, and working a second-shift job to support



his now-growing family, Bob’s years at Central were very busy. It helped that his G.I. Bill benefits paid for his seminary expenses. When his studies at Central had concluded, he had earned two degrees: a Master of Religious Education, and a Master of Divinity.

Equipped with these additional credentials, Bob didn’t have to look very far to find the position he desired. Central was associated with a young yet rapidly growing Christian school, which was looking to establish an industrial arts program. That school’s name? Fourth Baptist Christian School.

Over the course of his thirty-nine year tenure at FBCS, from 1971 to 2010, students by the hundreds became lifelong beneficiaries of his knowledge, his fine example of Christian character, and his clearly evident concern for their individual well-being.

Since their retirements (Johanne was a registered nurse), the Hazards are kept busy with numerous hobbies, and they especially enjoy being able to spend time with their six children (five boys & one girl) and their thirteen grandchildren. Silver Bay, Minnesota, north of Duluth on Lake Superior’s picturesque north shore, is now home.

With their golden anniversary just months away, Bob says of Johanne, “I would not trade her for anyone else in the world. Only God can put two people together and He put us together for His glory, one man and one woman for life here on earth to accomplish His will through us.” He adds, “We are blessed, and happy in the Lord.”

Dear Alumni and Friends of FBCS,

Allow me to invite you to next month’s annual Alumni Weekend. For those of you who were able to attend the 2012 Alumni Weekend events, you already know how enjoyable they were. For the upcoming 2013 Alumni Weekend, the format will be very similar.

On Friday, January 18th will be this season’s Homecoming basketball games, beginning in mid-afternoon (watch the FBCS website for a full schedule and more details). During the evening games, there will be fun contests and giveaways for the alumni present.

Then on Saturday, January 19th will be FBCS’s 2nd Annual Alumni & Friends Brunch. The doors at the school’s main entrance will open at 9 am, with a 10 am start time for this big event. Tickets are available now: please see the attached ticket order form.

In addition to a delicious catered brunch, there will be musical entertainment from both alumni and current students. Alan Hodak, the FBCS Administrator, will provide an informative overview of current happenings at the school in a brief “State of the School Address.” And our special guest and keynote speaker this year will be Robert Hazard, whose thirty-nine year tenure at the school makes him well known by the earliest and the latest alumni alike. He is excited to be this year’s speaker.

The brunch will also include numerous prize giveaways, as well as a bigger-and-better silent auction. Be sure to bring your checkbook; you just might see something you won’t want to pass up. Our donors have been very generous! And remember, all of the proceeds from this event benefit the Karen Burns Scholarship Fund.

So if you haven’t already, make plans to be there. Come on out and see some old friends, or meet some new ones.

See you there!

Larry Nelson ‘81

