WHDL

A LIBRARY FOR THE WORLD

BY
TAMMY CONDON

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2017-18 NMI
MISSION EDUCATION RESOURCES

Books

WHDL
A Library for the World
by Tammy Condon

EYEWITNESS
Seeing from within an Oppressive Society
by Gusztinné Tulipán Mária

LIVING SIDE BY SIDE
Serving the People of Cactus, Texas
by Jenni Monteblanco

MURSI
Reaching the Unreached of Ethiopia
by Howie Shute

WHDL

A LIBRARY FOR THE WORLD

BY
TAMMY CONDON

Nazarene Missions International

Dedication

   This book is dedicated to every person who was willing to set aside their agenda and collaborate. It is dedicated to the pastors, students, and teachers who still don't have enough resources for the jobs to which God has called them. It is, like the Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library (WHDL) itself, dedicated to those who are in the places where the church is not yet, where technology cannot reach, and where resources in the languages of the people don't exist. Like WHDL, this book is written with the hope for the day when resources will exist, technology will reach, and the church will extend to the darkest places on earth…that the whole world will know.

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About the Author

Tammy Condon serves as administrative director for the International Board of Education (IBOE), Church of the Nazarene. She holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Education, with a specialization in leadership for higher education; a Master of Divinity degree from Nazarene Theological Seminary; and is an ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene. Tammy's IBOE projects include leading the Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library development team.

FOREWORD

The Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library (WHDL)—first identified as "*Books for Pastors*," the Nazarene Missions International (NMI) 90th Anniversary Project in 2005—is one of the most God-blessed projects I have seen in the Church of the Nazarene. To support this incomparable opportunity for global impact of the church's ministers, every entity in the church joined hands and hearts—Board of General Superintendents, International Board of Education (IBOE), Global Clergy Development, Global Mission, Nazarene Publishing House, Nazarene Youth International, Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International, and NMI.

Why such incredible support? Because everyone knows that the better equipped the clergy, the more effectively they will evangelize the lost and disciple believers.

The Church of the Nazarene has long been admired for its efforts to carefully educate and equip clergy. Thus, the WHDL delivers knowledge and Wesleyan-Holiness coherency to a rapidly growing global church.

The first effort of the project was to place a basic library in the hands of pastors—many of whom did not own a

single book. With a monumental goal set, the Global NMI Office, with creative ideas from an NMI grassroots planning committee and representatives from IBOE, provided informative and inspirational items for Nazarene districts, churches, and colleges and universities, to participate in a never-to-be-forgotten project.

The God-given Scripture guiding the project was 1 Timothy 6:17-19, NASB: "Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed."

As of this writing, US$2.6 million has been given to this project. *To God be the glory!*

Support for the project continues more than a decade after its initiation. Instructions for how to participate are in the "Act On It" section of the book.

I want to personally thank each leader who responded to this Kingdom-changing project that God definitely laid on hearts. And thanks, also, to each person and church who will continue to give so students, pastors, and leaders yet to come will benefit.

In the development of WHDL, to everyone's amazement, the capabilities for digital communication and resources burst forth like the morning sun. God sent Tammy Condon, highly trained in theology and technology, to direct the

global project. She had the vision to expand the parameters for many languages, for the engagement of global higher education institutions, for the inclusion of Wesleyan-Holiness resources of the most respected authors, and for the availability of the library to other denominations.

In *WHDL—A Library for the World*, you will learn about God's blessing of the NMI 90th Anniversary Project and its amazing results through WHDL. And, the story continues!

Nina G. Gunter
General Superintendent Emerita,
Church of the Nazarene,
Former Global NMI Director

PREFACE

I'm writing this book on behalf of a team. There are points in the story when it will sound otherwise. I am just the storyteller. Because of my job, I am blessed to bring a unique perspective to the project known as the WHDL. But it isn't my project; it is the church's. The following is the story of a team, technology, and timing brought together by God's mission and only by His provision.

INTRODUCTION

This is the story of a different kind of missions project—it isn't mud huts and snakes or buildings and fences. There are no anecdotes of prison escapes, malaria, or teaching under a sprawling tree.

This is the story of cutting-edge technology, God's provision, and global collaborators from a broad range of disciplines. It is the story of innovation, vision, and partnership bridging the gap between those who have abundant resources and those who have almost none. More than that, it is a story about delivering the newest resources to every field across the globe. It is a story about equipping educators, preserving archives, and preparing pastors and leaders to make disciples for a growing denomination.

This is the story of leaders dreaming bigger than what any one of their entities could possibly bring to reality. They envisioned something bigger than their expertise and beyond the reach of anyone planning to do things individually—even going so far as to break the rules to collaborate beyond established boundaries.

This is the story of what happens when leaders set the table and invite professionals to bring their specialization's expertise to respond to the idea of a big-picture dream:

- Experts from diverse fields;
- Experts who love the church, who dream for the Kingdom, and who serve from their specialized fields;
- Experts who, for the first time, have an opportunity to sit at the table with leaders from the church and share a vision about mission and resourcing a global community.

This is the story of the Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library (www.whdl.org). It is a mission project unlike any other. Committing to WHDL's development took strategic leadership, bold initiative, risk, and the hand of God. In the following pages, we will share the stories of the people, provision, and promise behind a remarkable tool for the church.

Join us on a journey through a story of mission unlike any other you've ever read.

2012 Initial WHDL Development Team and *Books for Pastors* Task Force

CHAPTER 1

A Library for Pastors

Nina Gunter [NIE-nah GUHN-tuhr], global director of Nazarene Missions International (NMI), stood before the crowd of district NMI presidents and other leaders at the Southeast USA Region's NMI District Leadership Conference in October 2003. She explained NMI was preparing to celebrate 90 years of service to the Church of the Nazarene. For 90 years, the NMI banner had been raised to educate the church about its mission and to raise funds to fulfill that mission. For 90 years, NMI had been the voice of missions in the church.

The long-serving NMI director explained the importance of the upcoming 90th anniversary project. It would be a collaborative project with Nazarene higher education. Then Gunter boldly promised, "We will provide books to pastors and students preparing for ordination around the world!" Her words echoed in our souls and challenged our hearts.

The *Books for Pastors—Tools for Ministry* initiative was launched with a video describing how many Nazarene pastors and students across the globe didn't have access to basic resources needed for preparing for ministry and leading a congregation. The pastors needed books, and NMI was going to lead the church in providing libraries. The goal was simple—to provide 7,000 pastors around the world with a library, valued at approximately US$500 each. To reach the goal, churches were challenged to give US$7.00 per Sunday morning worship attendee (or its equivalent in a country's currency). It would be the largest project adopted in NMI's history.

Books for Pastors—Tools for Ministry was an ambitious project. It was an imposing project. It was an inspired project with the right champion leading a passionate group of missions fundraisers.

Later, those NMI leaders were reminded of Nina Gunter's determined voice reverberating through the hall, "We are going to give a library to pastors." Accompanying that declaration was the heartrending image from the video burned in our minds, an image of an African pastor standing by a nearly empty bookcase.

The diminutive giant of NMI sat down, and leaders rushed to the stage ready to rally their churches and armed with questions. Could we get a list of the books? If people wanted to donate books on the list, could they send the books to the International Headquarters of the Church of the Nazarene in Kansas City, Missouri, USA? Would that count? Would that help?

Those NMI leaders heard what others around the world would hear in consecutive gatherings: the impassioned plea of their leader calling them to action—to change the world by providing pastors with libraries. That day, it was beyond comprehension for many when we were told there wasn't already a list of books, that the regions would create lists for their contexts. Some books didn't even exist. However, we weren't discouraged by the lack of specifics.

Inspired leaders returned to their districts to strategize how they would meet the goal for the *Books for Pastors* offering. In response, they were creative, passionate, and successful.

It was my pleasure to witness this directive. My name is Tammy Condon [KAHN-duhn]. At the time, I was NMI president of the Mississippi District (now part of the MidSouth District). Returning home after the conference, I was determined to answer the cry and to lead my churches to success. Little did I realize I was starting a journey that would literally change my life and Nazarene higher education and affect Nazarene missions in the future. It is a joy to share this story, because I was there every step of the way.

The Mississippi District NMI Council turned thousands of new, green plastic 7 Up bottles into banks with labels explaining the *Books for Pastors—Tools for Ministry* project. The District, along with many others, broke records that year by raising funds for *Books for Pastors*. Bottles, boxes, and bags of coins were coupled with large donations to the project. People understood the importance of pastors' resources and saw how their contributions would make a difference in spreading the Good News.

Across the denomination, people brought offerings because they couldn't imagine sitting under the preaching of a pastor who lacked proper resources. A pastor with a personal library is a visual tightly woven into many people's expectations. The image of a pastor with an empty bookcase disturbed and motivated many people around the world. As gifts came in, NMI leaders envisioned the shelves of that pastor's bookcase beginning to fill.

As of this writing, the NMI 90th anniversary offering raised US$2.6 million, providing more libraries to individual pastors, district centers, and Nazarene institutions than anticipated.

Near the end of the first phase of the *Books for Pastors* initiative, missionary Bob Woodruff reported to the *Books for Pastors* task force that, due to careful administration and creative collaboration, the initial goal of providing libraries to 7,000 pastors had been far exceeded.

Pastor Gilbert Bakasa next to his library

Phase One Results by Region

Region	Pastors Assisted	Languages Represented
Africa	5,388	20
South America	3,786	2
Eurasia	3,298	36
Mesoamerica[1]		
Mexico/Central America	2,432	4
Caribbean	905	3
Asia-Pacific	2,150	6
USA/Canada	1,000	3
TOTAL	18,959	

That's the story in numbers. However, missionary Gary Sidle [SIE-duhl] on the Africa Central Field, sent one of many stories of the effect these resources had on the Nazarene Literature Department in Lusaka, Zambia [loo-SAH-kah ZAM-bee-uh]. There, the project increased the potential in Zambia and Central Africa by allowing the Church of the Nazarene to create and train a larger literature team including translators, editors, data entry staff, and proofers. This would enlarge the capacity of the literature department to produce a host of literature options in the future. In the long run, the project would allow quality materials to be affordable and accessible throughout the field. Gary said this would be a huge step forward as the church continued to grow at a fast pace and as the demand for good holiness literature remained high.

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[1] When the Phase One Report was released, the Mexico/Central America and Caribbean regions hadn't merged into the current Mesoamerica Region.

At the same time Gary celebrated the advancement, he also lamented over an even greater need: "The creation of several titles in multiple languages is an exciting venture for the church….Our vision for the future is for more African writers to emerge and create more textbooks and other related writings that can be used in the training and development of the church in Africa."

In his report, Woodward clarified what would be echoed in many other reports during Phase One: the rapid expansion of the international church nearly doubled the number of pastors and students in need of resources. With continued church growth and with God calling more people to prepare for ministry, we needed an expanding set of resources for the project to be a long-term success.

As we entered Phase Two, we anticipated an even greater impact for the Kingdom, yet reports also indicated huge gaps and long-term realities that would need addressing.

Bruce Nuffer [NOO-fuhr], director of marketing at Nazarene Publishing House (NPH) in Kansas City, and others at NPH, could see the project being strangled long-term by the cost of printing, shipping, and storing books. They calculated, "If we start with the dream to put a library of physical books on every pastor's bookshelves in the denomination and do some simple calculations, it all becomes clear, very quickly. For starters, take what it costs to translate a book—then multiply that by how many languages we want to deliver the resource to the fields,…say 40. Well, by now we are in the multimillions of dollars just to do a single book."

Bruce, like others, was quick to point out our biggest hurdle in publishing resources wasn't the enormous price tag, it was that—for so many languages and contexts, especially where the church was just entering or hasn't yet entered—a lot of the basic resources don't exist. The books still needed to be written by theologically trained writers who could write from the context of the field.

Joshua Williams, a Nazarene missionary who serves on the Global IT team, filled us in on another issue with printed books—they are endangered by the elements. For instance, in the climate of Fiji, a book will last on the shelf approximately two years before it rots. No amount of humidity control can alleviate this. Add to that the number of small schools and training centers in remote areas where, because of their locations, it is almost impossible to deliver printed materials. Such challenges made it necessary to find ways to deliver resources in a format different than a published book. Only then could Nazarene pastors receive the quality education expected.

From the academic perspective, Dean Blevins [BLE-vinz], Nazarene Theological Seminary professor and the USA/Canada regional education coordinator, observed the publishing, shipping, and storage patterns of the *Books for Pastors* project from a distance at first. As the editor of *Didache* [DI-duh-kay],[2] an online scholarly journal, Dean was an early adaptor of technology and saw new trends from the academic world that could enhance the church's approach to delivering resources to pastors across the globe.

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[2] http://didache.nazarene.org

At this point, *Books for Pastors* was all about printed matter, a "buy in bulk and distribute" model. Dean said, "There's got to be an electronic answer for this."

Dean's perspective from the academic institutions—and their developing institutional repositories[3] and online journals—helped him understand the next step would need to be a database of academic resources to serve Nazarene higher education. Very early, he and others realized the idea wasn't impoverished because of a lack of desire, but the lack of ability to create an effective *global* delivery system.

Dean was committed to help the *Books for Pastors* task force understand the potential of a digital solution to perpetuate the program. He, along with a host of others, took bold risks to build a new database of desperately needed resources and shared it with the global church.

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[3] Institutional repositories are described in a later chapter.

CHAPTER 2

The Books We Need Don't Exist

The first decade of the *Books for Pastors* Project saw massive innovations in the publishing world. The Internet changed the way we looked at resources, their distribution, and how we accessed them. At the launch of the initiative in 2004, electronic books were just beginning to be offered by a few publishers. By some reports, only 10 years later, as much as 35 percent of the adult fiction and non-fiction sold in the United States was in electronic format.[4]

In the first decade of *Books for Pastors*, the task force was only beginning to grasp the reality of what they had suspected for a long time; the cost of traditional printing would be painful and inefficient. However, their commitment to supply the growing needs of a multiplying population of clergy deepened. As stories arrived from

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[4]   https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E-book (accessed 20 October 2016).

the fields and they learned of new publishing models, the task force was inspired to create more agile systems.

There was one more reality, that of inequality. Dean Blevins recounts an epiphany at a conference in 2000. He was on the Nazarene Theological College campus in Muldersdrift [MUHL-duhrs-drift], South Africa (near Johannesburg). During a break in the conference, Dean walked over to look at the library.

> I was really disheartened. I mean, I was [teaching] at Trevecca [truh-VEK-uh] Nazarene University[5] at the time. It was before we'd even built our new big library, but the quality of resources [that Nazarene Theological College] had were so impoverished. And from that day forward, I was deeply struck by the limits of resources globally.

Not long after, Dean was approached by then NTS Professor Al Truesdale [TROOS-dayl] to shepherd a peer-reviewed academic journal called *Didache*, originally to provide resources for global schools. Al described it as a way to acquire articles, and possibly translate them, so Nazarene colleges around the world would have electronic materials. Dean also dreamed of having scholars in global settings write to inform the Church of the Nazarene around the world. *Didache* became a significant academic online resource for Nazarene higher education.

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[5] Trevecca Nazarene University is a private Christian liberal arts college, associated with the Church of the Nazarene and located in Nashville, Tennessee, USA.

The task force identified three key realities that needed addressing before we could proceed:

- The number of Nazarene clergy globally was increasing rapidly.
- As the church moved into new world areas and languages, the resources most needed didn't yet exist.
- The publishing process, as it existed then, was too expensive and ineffective to meet the needs.

Increasing Number of Clergy

Joshua Williams experienced the need for trained clergy firsthand,

One of the things we see on the mission field that is absolutely amazing is the church planting movement. These churches are planted with the drive to plant other churches as soon as possible—it is within their DNA; there are churches that plant churches that plant churches. These are fantastic movements where we can have a hundred new churches in a month that have just replicated around the world… incredible, incredible growth.

Joshua also added that once you get several generations out, the leaders of such churches often haven't been trained or discipled well. It is essential to have resources to help shape them theologically and ecclesiologically. By doing so, churches will continue to be spiritually healthy.

For this reason, the Church of the Nazarene developed a strategic course of study for pastors. To be ordained, each pastor must complete it. The *Books for Pastors* initiative was envisioned as a means for resourcing pastors in the course of study process, preparing for ordination anywhere in the world.

At the outset of the initiative, the goal of resources for 7,000 clergy sounded reasonable; it was a large goal at the time. However, in the decade between 2004 and 2014, the Church of the Nazarene added 1,492,950 new members and 16,835 new churches globally.

In 2004, the Church of the Nazarene had 21,551 licensed and ordained clergy. By 2014, that number had increased to 27,702. If *Books for Pastors* was going to continue to resource pastors, especially those preparing for ordination, we needed to multiply resources exponentially.

Keeping up with the demand provided a challenge for educational institutions. Alan Shrock, director of information technology, quality assurance, and library services for European Nazarene College (EuNC) in Büsingen [BEW-zeen-ngen], Germany,[6] described his institution's unique reality. As a theological institution working with the course of study and the training of pastors, EuNC needs materials for both current student pastors and graduates. There is great concern for alumni who are ordained and on the field.

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[6] European Nazarene College (EuNC) is in Büsingen, Germany, a German town entirely surrounded by Switzerland.

Nazarene institutions are always looking for available literature, especially in electronic format, to support decentralized schools. For example, EuNC has learning centers in 38 locations. EuNC students aren't in one place where they have access to a college library. Having digital resources is critical.

New World Areas, Cultures, and Languages

As the Church of the Nazarene moves into new world areas, cultures, and languages, we are constantly confronted with the need for resources, many of which don't exist, especially in areas where the church is just entering or where it has not yet arrived.

Between 2004 and 2014, the Church of the Nazarene entered 11 new world areas (2 of them creative access areas[7]), which required us to rethink how we deliver resources. At the same time, we began works with people in 35 new language groups.

These new areas require literature and pastoral training material that fit the ministry's context. In some cases, literature can be adapted or translated. However, as we move into harder-to-reach areas, we learn of the need for resources that simply don't exist and can't just be "made to work" from another source. Because huge cultural gaps make translating resources for such contexts ineffective, the real need is to develop writers from within these cultures and to distribute their writings efficiently.

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[7] A creative access area (CAA) designates an area where it isn't safe to publicize our team members' work.

Bonnie Perry, editorial director of Beacon Hill Press,[8] passionately understands the need for global writers as NPH serves the publishing needs for the 21st-century global church. She believes the overall, larger contribution from NPH is that of being willing to find ways to make intellectual property available to people who desperately need it and to invite those people into the publication conversation. "NPH wants to help facilitate the global theological conversation," says Bonnie. "Many scholars and thinkers around the world need and deserve a platform; if Beacon Hill Press can help provide such a platform, that's a very unique contribution."

The key to unlocking the long-term training of leaders, and the discipling of believers within any context, is to write materials that will connect with the languages and cultures of readers or learners within a context. To develop writers, who are theologically trained and have writing skills, will require time and investment by the church.

An Expensive, Ineffective Publishing Process

When the *Books for Pastors* task force began its work, the traditional model was to publish and print books, store them until they were distributed, then ship them to end locations. Printing books on the regions significantly reduced the production and shipping costs and, in some cases, allowed for more efficient distribution. Still, publishing costs remained high. The traditional model could not be sustained long-term.

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8 Beacon Hill Press, the book publishing arm of Nazarene Publishing House, is a leading provider of Wesleyan Christian books, Bible studies, and Bible commentaries.

At this point, the industry began making tectonic shifts that shook the publishing world to its core.

Mark Brown, CEO of NPH (then vice president), was contemplating another issue related to a global church in need of resources in multiple languages. After contracts were issued for one-third of the *New Beacon Bible Commentaries* (NBBC), Mark realized NPH needed to approach the project in a different way—facing head-on the challenges of moving into the digital era and working on translations. NPH had already granted permission for translation for a select number of volumes into Arabic, Romanian, and a few other languages. However, securing permissions for those early volumes made it clear to Mark that they needed to change processes. He says,

> In order to make the new commentaries available to the Church for perpetuity, it was important that the denomination own the content. We renegotiated the contracts with that end in mind. Because of this foresight, eventually the NBBC will be available for translation into any language.

This plan would also include posting them on the WHDL when the time was right. The task force knew we needed a new idea—a new way forward—a new system for delivering resources.

CHAPTER 3

Can the Church Build an Electronic Library?

The *Books for Pastors* task force discussed the best use of the remaining funds as they moved into the second phase of the initiative. The old models of production and distribution wouldn't create a climate of global clergy training the church expected. New distribution solutions were required in ways only beginning to be envisioned or not yet imagined. In those days, some of the most difficult questions the task force asked were, "Can we build an electronic library?" and "Is that even possible—for the church?"

The WHDL wasn't the first e-library attempted by the church. Missionary Scott Stargel [STAHR-juhl], serving in Global Nazarene Publications (GNP), was skeptical. "We had been down this path before. Attempts to create something like the WHDL had been tried for years, but had failed."

In 2006, then GNP Director David Hayse and Scott began exploring the possibilities for promoting non-English

materials in non-print form around the world. By 2007, GNP had created a set of functional requirements for a website for non-English materials. The first site was created about the same time as the WHDL team was being formed. GNP was invited and joined the WHDL project since David was part of the *Books for Pastors* task force.

GNP identified the functionality required of a website that was significant in filling out the larger description of what the WHDL was to become. GNP's work continues to be the bedrock of the WHDL as it develops into the useful tool the church needs. David Hayse was a visionary leader on the *Books for Pastors* task force who helped drive the conversation toward not only developing a system of delivery, but agreed with what David Felter, then general editor for the Church of the Nazarene, described as an 'enterprise solution' (more about that later).

The task force methodically strategized the way forward, while determining the stewardship of resources at their disposal and the impact on clergy development for the denomination. By dreaming so far ahead of technology, they were aware that the gap could become too wide for a bridge to be built by those just trying to throw a cable across to the other side. Typically, a great contributor to past failure in projects of this magnitude was a lack of collaboration; however, the way the task force was established from the beginning meant collaboration was in the DNA of the initiative.

As the WHDL development team leader, the events of this book are seen through my eyes. Long before the wild

journey of the WHDL's development, God guided me on a ministry path through a series of specific encounters, critical ministry needs, and big dreams. These events created a deep love and great hope for a system like the Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library long before it was envisioned.

God prepared me for a role in the dream-casting and leadership of WHDL nearly two decades before I even began working for the International Board of Education (IBOE) at the Global Ministry Center (GMC) in the USA. I was in my first pastoral assignment—planting a church among new Russian-speaking immigrants in San Francisco, California, USA, in the 1990s. Two catalysts moved me into thinking about a digital library long before technology could implement the idea.

The Northern California District, in which San Francisco is located, was the home of Silicon Valley[9] and much of the high-tech genius of the day, creating interesting opportunities for the district. We were among the early adapters in the online community with some of the first pastors to have email addresses. Mind you, there wasn't much to see on the Internet or many people to email in those days—as no one else had email addresses. But it was the beginning of how the church's thinking would change regarding how the world would work in the future.

Couple the technology situation with a ministry among a people group with very limited resources in their language.

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[9] Silicon Valley is a nickname for the southern portion of the San Francisco Bay Area in California. It is home to many of the world's largest high-tech corporations.

We had to locate, create, or negotiate literature on our own and were desperate for anything the Church of the Nazarene had produced in Russian. It didn't take a genius to begin dreaming up machines to scan books and email them via the Internet.

By 2003, our family had relocated to Jackson, Mississippi, USA; and not long after accepting the responsibility of Mississippi District NMI president, I was sitting in the auditorium in North Carolina when Nina Gunter announced the NMI 90th Anniversary project, *Books for Pastors—Tools for Ministry*. In response, the Mississippi District NMI team distributed 3,000 banks made of plastic 7 Up bottles with *Books for Pastors* labels at the 2004 convention. Before the next convention, my family moved to Iowa where my husband and I had new assignments; however, God led the people of the Mississippi District to record-breaking offerings supporting the *Books for Pastors— Tools for Ministry* initiative.

In 2009, I learned my *Books for Pastors* work had only begun. Then Education Commissioner LeBron [luh-BRAHN] Fairbanks hired me to work for the International Board of Education at the GMC. What a delight to learn the education commissioner chaired the *Books for Pastors* task force and that part of my job would be to sit in the meetings and take notes.

In a January 2012 meeting of the task force, the following was asked, "What do you think? Could we create an online library?" Days later, my new boss, Education Commissioner Dan Copp, encouraged me to talk to librarians about

e-libraries, because of my familiarity with online education. (I had just completed an online doctoral program.)

What followed was a three-hour meeting with Lon Dagley [DAG-lee] and Bruce Flanders,, librarians at MidAmerica Nazarene University (MNU) in Olathe [oh-LAY-thuh], Kansas, USA. We shared ideas, captured the hint of a vision, and initiated what was to be the development of the WHDL, which moved and grew with the rapidity of a prairie grass fire.

Like me, others on the development team can point to a moment when they began to envision something as large as a digital library for the church. Lon, for example, remembers a professor in his Library Sciences program handing him a book on two floppy disks.[10] Lon's immediate response was, "Wow, an electronic book!"

The idea of a portable, machine-readable book captured Lon's attention, even though the technology was in its infancy. From his perspective in the MNU library, he watched as the Internet started to change, resources were developed, standards were established, and e-books and digital libraries emerged. While he knew it wasn't practical to have books on floppy disks, he also recognized those "floppies" represented a shift in technology that would affect Library Science, his job in the library, and the possibilities for the church and

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[10] A floppy disk (also "floppy," "diskette," or just "disk") is a type of storage designed to be inserted into a slot, or drive, on a computer. The disk is composed of thin, flexible magnetic material and sealed in a rectangular plastic enclosure. By 2007, computers were rarely manufactured with installed floppy disk drives.

global education. He knew something monumental was taking place. This was the birth of a "big idea" for Lon, one that he nurtured, developed, and prayed about for years.

From the earliest conversations with Nazarene librarians, there was a passion for developing resources that would reach pastors internationally and would provide for pastoral education, continuing education, learning, and support. The librarians saw the potential as an extension of the *Books for Pastors* project within the greater church and the opportunity to raise the bar in terms of pastoral knowledge, confidence, preaching abilities, and evangelism capabilities worldwide.

However, this was something Lon had been mulling over for some time. He recognized the evangelistic possibilities of an electronic library. He also saw the potential for digitized material that was loaded into a system. In Lon's mind, all resources could and should be downloaded onto external hard drives[11] and small SD cards[12] that can be easily walked across borders and hidden in friendly and unfriendly world areas. In this way, as political realities change, we could still make resources available globally.

Make no mistake—the provision and choreography of the development of the Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library

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[11] An external hard drive is a portable computer storage device that can be attached to a computer via several means. External hard drives typically have high storage capacities.

[12] An SD Card (Secure Digital Card) is an ultra small flash memory card designed to provide high-capacity memory in a small size. SD cards are used in many small portable devices, such as digital video camcorders, digital cameras, handheld computers, audio players, and mobile phones.

were the handiwork of God. Everyone on the team and those working close to the project were constantly aware of this reality. God's timing, inspiration, and provision were written all over the project.

Following the MNU meeting, it was determined the best way to meet with the largest group of Nazarene librarians was for IBOE and NPH to host an evening dessert meeting at the Association of Christian Librarians Conference in June 2012. All Nazarenes attending the conference were invited to join us for dessert and conversation.

It is impossible to talk about the WHDL "dream team" without referring to Nazarene librarians. While some key resource people will be mentioned in this book, the librarians are the ones who took this project on with such deep passion, professional commitment, and strategic investment. The librarians made the difference between "adequate" and "excellent."

God brought together a diverse group of professionals with unique skillsets, perspectives, and gifts in the development of WHDL. Like a master weaver gathers many strands of wool for an intricate tapestry, God gathered the WHDL team. The end result looks nothing like the individual components, but the result would have been impossible without each and every strand.

Those who helped develop WHDL have unique stories of their first encounters with the idea of a digital library or the need for such a resource in the church. Several were playing with the idea and trying to make it work in one

form or another for years before the technology was available. Others were first introduced to the idea in an early development meeting and immediately captured the vision.

The librarians came to dessert in 2012 thinking they were going to learn about resources for their libraries and left with an invitation to join a development team that would create what many would call impossible—a church-owned system that would provide resources for people across the globe, giving them access to materials from the Wesleyan-Holiness perspective.

Sharon Bull, library director at Northwest Nazarene University (NNU) in Nampa, Idaho, USA, remembered thinking, as she listened in via Skype:

> Hey! There's something going on here! Really, for the first time in my 30-some years of Nazarene librarianship, I felt like IBOE wanted to help us do the things we knew we could do. IBOE had always been interested, but never at this level. It was just a different sense that there was some support there that had never been there before.

Susan Watkins, librarian from Eastern Nazarene College (ENC) in Quincy, Massachusetts, USA, recalled the first meeting at the Global Ministry Center in October 2012, "I wasn't thinking we were doing something this big. I don't even know that we really knew exactly what it was going to be. We just said, 'Yeah, this sounds great,' and dug in and

had people supporting us. Looking back now—just four years later—we have moved from exploring *what might be* to *reality*."

Ruth Kinnersley [KIN-uhrs-lee], library director at Trevecca Nazarene University (TNU) in Nashville, Tennessee, USA, described how she discovered an aspect of what compelled her on this project. She heard there were many websites with Christian viewpoints, but very few provided the Wesleyan point of view. Ruth identified herself as a layperson that adheres to Wesleyan Arminianism, a theology that shaped how and what she believed about God and His relationship with humankind. Although a layperson, Ruth understood the impact of this theological perspective and that it doesn't really have a presence on the Internet. The lack of this theological perspective spoke to her and the rest of the team. People on the Internet weren't hearing what Ruth knew to be true: "[Humanity] does have free will. God gave us that gift. We make decisions that affect what happens on the earth, how our relationship with God looks, how our relationships to other people [work. These are] based on [our] understandings of God and the relationship that come out of Wesleyan theology."

Ruth pointed out that if the library can be robust, if people are made aware of it, and if it is a site people will visit, it will make a compelling case for believing in Christ, for being a Christian, and for understanding the Christian viewpoint. It will be more compelling in a way that other sites aren't.

The journey—from *dreams* of leveraging the Internet to a global team doing just that—provided a unique perspective

on the initiative and on the possibility of the WHDL. The possibility would transform education, evangelism, library science, and how we work together. Exactly how this would be accomplished was still a miracle that was unfolding.

CHAPTER 4

You Want It to Do What?

The old wineskins of publishing were broken, and we were making new wine.[13] We needed a new wineskin—a new solution. The *Books for Pastors* task force spent nearly two years exploring possibilities for the next phase. To leverage remaining funds developing a system to deliver content globally, it had to transcend current technology, be flexible enough to move into creative access areas, and be accessible beyond the Internet.

A number of important questions remained:

- What kind of system?
- What format?
- How would we deliver the content?
- Do we have the expertise—or the connections to those who do?
- Could we even do this?

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[13] Matthew 9:17

The group decided, regardless of the system, it had to be an *enterprise solution*. In other words, it had to be something so outrageously visionary that none of the entities represented at the table could accomplish it on their own. It needed to be a collaboration of several entities—an enterprise solution. We needed to build something with the long-range view of the church's needs and technology's growth in mind. It had to be brave and bold…and it had to be sustainable.

2014 WHDL Development Team

Keep in mind this conversation took place at a time when online libraries and electronic readers were still new. The resources in these systems were limited, and we wondered if it was even possible for the church to have its own digital library.

After exploring the technology, asking all imaginable questions, and coming to the end of what the task force knew about digital libraries, the second most important

decision in the development of the Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library was made—we asked librarians at the Nazarene higher education institutions what they knew about digital libraries and sought their opinions about the church developing one.

The initial conversation with librarians brought about a sense of providence and vision. Not only did they know about e-books and digital libraries, they had a fully developed idea of how the Church of the Nazarene not only could have—but needed to have—such a system for delivering resources globally. They had hoped they would be invited to collaborate with other ministries through sweat, tears, and ingenuity to create something that would take the church to the cutting edge of technology.

In the October 2012 meeting, we relied on the expertise of a few technical librarians and IT[14] specialists to translate our dreams into the specifications and language software developers would understand. An eight-page document was drawn up to guide the selection and early development of the WHDL. According to Lon Dagley, "It got really deep going through it, but we felt we needed to do that…for the project, for the gospel. We didn't want to be frivolous about it. We wanted due diligence."

A video conference with one of the leading companies known for developing digital libraries for institutions was scheduled. We planned for a 45-minute session with them;

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[14] Information technology (IT) is the application of computers and the Internet to store, retrieve, transmit, and manipulate data, or information, often in the context of a business or other enterprise.

and in the first 2 minutes, the question was raised, "Can you create a multilingual system?" Their immediate answer was they weren't even interested in trying—regardless of how much money we were willing to invest. This brought the conversation to an abrupt and awkward halt.

That conversation was the first indication that we were committed to a task beyond the edge of the current technology. We soon learned there wasn't a software development team doing what we wanted—and there would only be one team willing to try.

We naively assumed every development company—especially those already serving global institutions—would be as enthusiastic as we were about the idea of developing multilingual functionality. We were seriously wrong. In the following weeks, company after company declared what we were asking was impossible, expensive, *impossibly expensive*, and—just in case you missed it the first time—*impossible*. And further, they weren't interested in touching a doomed-to-fail project.

Following the meeting, Bruce Nuffer was tasked with finding a software developer, and I went back to my office and began writing reports and contemplating the future of the project.

A couple of weeks later, I woke in the middle of the night in a complete panic. Even with the diversity of the development team, we did not include a computer scientist! How could we have overlooked that? From that moment on, God so impressed me with this need that I knew we had to find one.

The next morning, I called Jim Kiper [KIE-puhr], chair of the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering at Miami University in Ohio, USA. Jim is a Nazarene I had met through the IBOE, who wanted to serve on education projects for the church. I couldn't wait to tell him about this project. I was confident he was our person and would jump at the chance to participate in a project with such vision.

He listened as I described the new enterprise solution for delivering resources globally. He seemed engaged with the project and loved that the church was pushing technology forward, instead of dragging behind. When I started talking about the multilingual aspect of the project, Jim said, "I would love to be a part of this project." I thought we were home free until he continued, "But I'm not the right person. The person you need to contact is Jim Skön [SKAHN]." Jim was a Nazarene who was then chair of the Department of Computer Science at Mount Vernon Nazarene University.[15]

For the next several minutes, Jim Kiper described his colleague and friend, Jim Skön, and why he was a perfect fit for this project. Skön is an expert, a creative genius in the field of computer science. He has a heart for missions, consistently working to take technology to the mission field. I later learned he wrote the code for the first wireless router, making wireless Internet possible, then—almost immediately—took the technology to Papua New Guinea

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[15] Mount Vernon Nazarene University (MVNU) is a private Nazarene liberal arts college in Mount Vernon, Ohio, USA, with satellite locations in the surrounding area.

[PAH-pwah NOO GI-nee] to set up the missionaries with Internet access. Jim Skön served with Wycliffe [WIK-lif] Bible Translators. To top it off, the specialization in his doctorate was in the area of linguistic computation.

Can you imagine? Our biggest issue in developing WHDL was creating a system that could handle material in many languages, interface with users in a seemingly unending number of languages, and provide search results drawing from across the languages. God provided a trained expert in the field who served in a Nazarene institution of higher education! That was how far ahead of us God was walking to prepare for the project.

After meeting with Jim Skön at MVNU for only three minutes, I understood why we needed a computer scientist. In the time it took Jim to change his shoes after riding his bike to the office, he described all the ways inventive

2016 WHDL Development Team

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projects like this fail if they don't have someone directly involved who knows the process. Keeping us from failure was just one of the many areas of specialization he brought to the project!

Two weeks later, Skön and Bob Kasper, a colleague in the MVNU Computer Science Department, sat down with Bruce Nuffer and me at NPH in Kansas City.

We began talking about the project. When the question was raised about who was developing the software, there was an awkward pause. We really didn't have a software developer yet. No developer was interested in taking on the complex multilingual piece, and we weren't willing to compromise on that aspect.

Bruce admitted he thought he might have a lead on a company, but was a bit nervous because they seemed to be promising too much. Everything we wanted they said they could do when every other developer told us it was impossible. We told the company we wanted to own the system; so, if at some point, we wanted to move it in-house or find another developer, we could do that without any problem. They had agreed. Point by point, the company agreed. Bruce was concerned because it sounded too good to be true.

Bob asked a few questions then began typing away on his computer while the rest of us discussed the project. After a few minutes, Bob's head popped up, "Where did you say you found this company?"

Bruce said it was a suggestion from a developer friend in California who had little knowledge of the group.

Bob tucked his head down and went back to work. A few minutes later, he called out, "These guys are from our part of Ohio. Their area code is the same as ours; they have to be real close to MVNU." And he went back to work.

Bob's head popped up once again, "Hey, Jim, do you know Scott Siddall [SIE-del]?"

Throwing back his head with a laugh, Jim said delightedly, "Of course I do! I ride my bike past his house every day." Jim told us about Scott's academic expertise, about how he was one of the first to advocate for academic publishing in an open access[16] environment, and that he was completely trustworthy. "If Scott says he will do it, you can count on it."

With those words, we gained a trusted partner in the development of the WHDL software. Once again, it wasn't a coincidence, but God's hand and timing.

Over the following months, our development team had many conversations with Scott's team at Longsight, a software development company. We pushed them beyond what they expected; and at every turn, they stepped up to the challenge and found ways to make the Drupal [DROO-puhl] software do what no one else had asked it to do. Often the meetings would begin with a list of failures in a recent test—usually because the language functionality wasn't strong or deep enough. The team kept pushing Longsight to get it right. Their common response was "You really mean this language thing," which we affirmed over and over. Together,

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[16] Open access refers to online research outputs that are free of all restrictions on access (e.g., access tolls) and free of many restrictions on use (e.g., certain copyright and license restrictions).

Longsight and our team wrestled through to create a system with surprisingly complex language functionality across a very broad system.

When the system was ready to launch in 2013, we asked if we could really claim to have developed something new and truly unique?

Mike Haudenschild [HOD-in-shild] of Longsight, LLC, replied:

> There probably isn't anybody on the planet who is qualified to say that one website is TRULY unique, due to the sheer volume of material on the Internet. However, given a career in computer technology as a teacher, professor, IT administrator, and programmer, I can say with complete confidence that the WHDL's goals of:
>
> 1. Providing a seamless language experience for end users and contributors,
> 2. Accommodating contributions of documents from individuals who speak and provide resources in a myriad of languages,
> 3. Accepting contributions from a variety of locations (many with limited bandwidth),
> 4. Utilizing a clean and easy-to-use software system,
> 5. Aiming to provide open access to as much high quality information as possible,
> 6. Building and sustaining a community aligned with a set of core values...
>
> ...is about as unique as it gets.

This is one of many stories of God's direction, protection, and provision for the Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library. He was consistently moving ahead of us, making us "smarter than we were," and connecting us to just the right person, idea, partner, or resource as needed. God's hand was so evident; it consistently affirmed our commitment to developing this technology-driven system as part of His mission to reach every corner of the earth with the Good News.

CHAPTER 5

You Had Me at 'It's Evangelistic'

"It's evangelistic" was the compelling reason Lon Dagley gave the development team in their first meeting as he described why the church needed to grasp the opportunity to develop its own digital library.

In the past, he explained, the church has had to leave one world area or another because of political shifts. Typically, a small band of believers was left behind, often with no trained leaders and little or no literature to continue the work. In some cases, the church flourished under persecution or oppression, but it did so with few resources to guide churches' discipleship and pastors' theological education.

As this project started, it was easy to see the shifting sands of politics across the world and view doors, now open to missionaries and worship, that could easily close in a matter of months. While some places could be carefully and creatively entered, it wasn't difficult to imagine any country

shifting, making the distribution of Christian literature a dangerous, if not impossible, task.

Lon challenged his listeners, saying we should prepare the church for inevitable possibilities. He described the digital library as a place to gather resources that could then be redistributed in numerous ways.

Imagine having duplicates of the library tucked away in a variety of world areas on external hard drives as precautions to political change. Should a country be locked off from the rest of the world, church leaders would at least know where to find an array of Bibles and resources in a multitude of languages.

Some may remember the days of the Iron Curtain and Brother Andrew,[17] when people smuggled suitcases filled with Bibles and literature across borders, praying guards would be blinded as to what was being sent. Thanks to digitization, we had the capacity to download thousands of resources onto a mini SD card that could be slipped into a wallet, camera, phone case, or even a fake coin, and transported across a border without detection. These resources, unlike the literature in the suitcases, would be easy to duplicate and redistribute.

Lon took his description to the next level; he explained how the digital library could be evangelistic in its own right. By making the resources in the library discoverable

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[17] Anne van der Bijl (born 11 May 1928 in Sint Pancras, Netherlands), known in English-speaking countries as Brother Andrew, is a Christian missionary known for smuggling Bibles to communist countries at the height of the Cold War, a feat that earned him the nickname "God's Smuggler."

by Google and other search engines, we would be placing Wesleyan-Holiness literature "out there" for the whole world to find and to know Christ.

So, imagine someone on the other end of the Internet, searching for information and discovering books, no matter the subject, in the digital library with a Wesleyan-Holiness perspective. The reader—being curious—begins reading a book on holiness. In that person's life, a simple piece of literature speaks God's truth in a way the reader had never heard, and the reader comes to know Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Suddenly, an educational, resourcing initiative became the work of the church in making Christlike disciples.

Ruth Kinnersley from TNU and Katie King, library director at Southern Nazarene University (SNU) in Bethany, Oklahoma, USA, each responded to Lon's description with definitive words and body language saying, "I'm in! You had me at 'It's evangelistic'!"

Ruth tells it from her perspective:

This may be the most important thing I've been involved with in my life.…There are so many ways that this shows the Church at its best in a digital environment—that we do cooperate, that we love one another, that we find a way to get things done, that we don't let anything stop us, and that we can come together, brainstorm, find new ideas, shoot down obstacles, volunteer our time and abilities, and make it

happen. Because it needs to happen; because it's what we think God wants to happen.

…There's a great deal of satisfaction with knowing that I have correctly organized and uploaded content and that I've done a good enough job so that one day someone's going to be able to find that content, because it relates to the question they have or the area they're interested in.…

…The multilingual aspect of it is so awesome. It's something that's never been done before, and it's kind of like you're a mouse that can roar and no one knows it. I am just so in awe of that ability and the opportunity that we've had to develop it in that way.…

One librarian after another joined Ruth and Katie, not only leading their institutions to participate in WHDL, but to personally and passionately commit to the project and its mission.

When conversations began about the next Nazarene meeting at the Association of Christian Librarians Conference at Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU) in Point Loma, California, USA, it was Susan Watkins, who suggested the librarians meet two days before the conference and work on WHDL.

Susan coined the phrase "Metadata Parties," where librarians worked together, training, debugging, and uploading documents. It was really the beginning of the filing system. They had a lot to learn—how to handle various types of material, how cataloguing and indexing in the digital world

differed from what most of them had learned in school. By gathering in the computer lab at the PLNU library, the librarians worked and talked through issues as they surfaced, creating agreement on how to find the way forward. The librarians were trailblazing through a different kind of forest, and their tools had to be sharpened and modified just like a machete in a real-world jungle.

From my perspective, as a non-librarian, non-tech person, the best part of the Metadata Party was watching the librarians work. Only a select few people had loaded anything into the system, so the event was new. As the day progressed and items were added to the collection, we heard individual shouts of joy.

"WOO-HOO! I did it!" Someone uploaded their first document.

"YEAH! That's another!"

Lungile Seyama and Noreen Del Rosario during a Metadata Party.

"Hey, this is fun!"

The day was filled with the joyful laughter, the result of long-hoped-for success. Only a year earlier, the creation of a digital library had been introduced to this team; however, it connected so quickly to their passions that they worked tirelessly to reach this day of releasing resources freely to the global community. At the same time, they forged bonds of friendship that would carry them to places they never dreamed.

Sharon Bull summarized the librarians' perspective, "It's a brand new way of thinking about things that, for a small little group of librarians and volunteers around the world, is huge. It's kind of fun and exciting to be part of that. Because it's still just this thing that's out there; and it's big and exciting, and it's what people need."

"The main reason why I really appreciate this effort is that it's a way to share our faith. It's a way for librarians, particularly tech librarians like myself, to use my skills toward really a truly mission activity. Providing resources free of charge in an open access system is a mission activity; institutional repositories are a mission activity; and that's what I've been passionately committed to—the success of this project," added Craighton Hippenhammer [KRAY-tuhn hip-pen-HAM-muhr], Digital Initiatives Librarian at Olivet Nazarene University (ONU) in Bourbonnais, Illinois, USA.

Ten years before, Lon reminded us, what we were doing would have been considered science fiction:

Yes, we had Internet. Most of it was dial-up, so it would've been really slow and clunky…couldn't do a lot with it. [We could] do a lot of research, but… [we also would] get a lot of email, a lot of spam, a lot of viruses.

I do not want the church to be behind on this initiative. The church has typically reacted to technology in a negative way, which has made them late to take advantage of the technology. We, the Church of the Nazarene, didn't jump on television until television was 30 years old.…We missed the first round of Internet protocols…and websites, because they were afraid of what it could do and [were] not willing to take the jump.…If you go back and look at it, the last time the Church of the Nazarene jumped into a technology and in fairly early order was the 1930s and 40s with radio. And we've been late to everything else since.

So this time we're on time, but that's God's providence and provenience because He set the table and it was the time. People had the ideas and asked the right questions. The leadership grasped the idea, [saying], "This is good; and, yes, we do need to go with it, because now is the time to make this happen."…So when you think in those terms, how the whole process had happened, it's an amazing sense of God's timing.

But what's compelling about this project is its global aspect. Everything I do here is going to carry

forth. It's always a labor of love, of mission, and of service. So this is the way I get to touch so many people I will never meet.

What the team of librarians brought to the table in the development of the WHDL wasn't just their professional skills as librarians, but their commitment as lay leaders to the mission of the global Church of the Nazarene and beyond—to the kingdom of God to make Christlike disciples. They see the direct tie of their work to the evangelistic and discipleship training, as well as the clergy leader training of the church. The WHDL development team simply gave them an opportunity to do their day jobs as librarians in a very mission-focused way. This was a game changer that would be an important component in the future.

CHAPTER 6

Please—Don't Let This One Fail

The regional director looked across the rectangle of tables and spoke a clear, concise message directly to me, "This is one project you can't let fail."

The proposal for the Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library had just been announced. Unfortunately across the decades, leaders from around the world had grown accustomed to impressive projects proposed, but never coming to pass.

The leaders questioned it, challenged if it was even a long-shot possibility, and then echoed one after another, "Don't let it fail—we need this!"

Those words, alongside the librarians' passion and the tech team's energy, would drive the development of the WHDL. In eight months, we planned to go from concept to launch of some of the most cutting-edge multilingual website development of the time. There was an ongoing sense that, not only did the regional directors want to ensure the

success of the project, but that God, by His provision of the right people at the right time, added His assurance.

Two key people in this big picture project were Bonnie Perry from NPH and Scott Stargel in GNP. Their experience, perspectives, and expertise in the publishing arms of the denomination provided unique commitment, skepticism for the possibilities, roles as advocates, and drive to help us push the WHDL into existence against formidable opposition.

From Bonnie's perspective:

As soon as I heard the idea of some kind of a repository that could be multilingual, open access, and able to make our resources available to the world, I was excited beyond words. As the editorial director of NPH, I have participated in many international committees over the years where people around the table voiced deep concern over the dearth of resources. They would say things like, "NPH is the literature arm of the church, and we need books for Africa . . . or Bolivia . . . (or wherever they might be). We need your help in getting those resources."

In those situations, I felt helpless because I was working in North America with a warehouse full of printed theological and academic resources from the finest thinkers in the Church of the Nazarene. I couldn't get those resources to my colleagues across the globe because it was too expensive to send them or the end user couldn't receive them for any number

of reasons. To complicate the issue, the books were often not available in a language the recipient could read or speak.

We needed a two-way conduit. The Church has people all around the world who are wonderful scholars, thinkers, and writers. Many of these people are not accessible to us in North America, because they are doing work in non-English languages, and we don't know about them. In this way, the WHDL had the potential to be an answered prayer. It was the first really feasible idea I had heard to help us both distribute and receive literature around the world.

As the project developed, it became more and more exciting. I am amazed at the commitment and collaboration that propelled the participants forward. I have seldom seen such a wholehearted effort toward a shared goal.

Bonnie's commitment went way beyond her words of support and advocacy. When it was time to fund the initial investment in the development of the WHDL system, Dan Copp didn't feel we could use funds from the *Books for Pastors* initiative before we had permission from the Board of General Superintendents (BGS). We couldn't get the BGS's permission without the backing of the regional directors, who would want the regional education and literature folks on board. However, we didn't have anything to show leadership. We needed funds from outside *Books for Pastors* if we were going to commit to the initial investment of a

digital library for the denomination.

Holding my breath, I waited for the response from the task force. Merely seconds after Dan's declaration, Bonnie committed $20,000 from NPH toward the initial investment. Dan Copp and Global Mission Director Verne Ward quickly followed, each matching NPH's $20,000 with funds from their departments. David Felter, then general editor, said he didn't have much of a budget, but he would kick in $2,000. Dan said that, with the collaborative funding, he would entertain a motion to spend $10,000 of the *Books for Pastors* funds on the initial development.

In a matter of minutes, with Bonnie's leadership, the task force had partnered to raise the $72,000 to invest in WHDL's development.

Once development began, Scott Stargel's voice for the church's global needs was a constant in every conversation. He soon became aware that, while he verbally supported the system, the rest of the team wholeheartedly stood with him. Scott had previously attempted to build a distribution system solely through GNP sources with limited success; now with collaboration, we began to see the WHDL develop in ways that would serve the globe. Scott said:

It's the first time, as far as I can know, that our Church, our denomination, is looking at a project of this magnitude that is truly service-oriented without stipulations. We were not saying, "We're doing this so people will give money to it," but "we're doing this because the world needs it." The people that are in

this seem to share that enthusiasm.

For instance, if you're digging a well in Haiti, the idea is you're offering a service to the country, and you hope that God will use it in the future. But it's kind of limited to that particular chunk of real estate, even though, again, we don't know what God will do. He may raise up a person in that church who becomes the next big leader. Through the WHDL, we're not looking for any kind of direct results. We're just saying this needs to happen, and we're going to see it done. And it's available to anybody around the world.

In 2013, then General Superintendent Jesse Middendorf claimed, "This is one of the most exciting projects I have ever seen in the 12 years I have served the global church."

By 2016, we began to see how this single, multifaceted project was impacting global education, clergy development, publishing, evangelism, and even library science. None of these effects would have been possible without collaboration.

CHAPTER 7

Collaboration—A New Way of Working Together

Bonnie Perry says she was impressed with the collaboration from people who aren't getting paid. Citing the volunteer force "who have too much work on their desks already," she marveled at the librarians, church leaders, and IT people who worked together to bring WHDL into existence. Bonnie recalled members of the team giving of their resources, sitting and scanning documents, and going back to the institutions of higher learning to speak about WHDL. She said that it was more than collaboration, describing it as a grassroots movement. When those involved grasped the vision, opportunities exploded.

The WHDL volunteers, said Bonnie, were making a difference by participating in and facilitating theological conversations that will impact the Church of the Nazarene for years.

Mark Brown described the unique nature of the collaboration: "Throughout the development of the WHDL, we've seen God's handiwork in the details—the building of the

software, the commitment of the people, the open-source approach, and the spirit of collaboration. Sometimes it is difficult in an organizational setting to bring people from different areas together without creating issues of ownership. While this group 'owned' the successful development of the WHDL, they didn't hold it so tightly that it couldn't grow and change." Mark explained that NPH had for some time desired to make resources available around the world. Because of the process and people involved in creating the WHDL, a strategy came into being.

When the *Books for Pastors* task force cast a vision bigger than any one entity, they set the stage for launching a fiercely collaborative project. Certainly, there is no way the WHDL would ever have launched—or continued—if it weren't for the broad group of professionals willing to weave the project into their already full schedules.

While the key players have been referred to as volunteers, they are professionals contributing from their areas of expertise with the full knowledge of their supervisors, serving as representatives for their institutions. To say they are volunteers might be perceived as minimizing their roles and making the whole project seem a bit more fragile.

The dynamic of collaboration is what happens in the long run. After the WHDL team was well on their way establishing the project, God began stretching them beyond that one project to even bigger ideas for how their specializations could serve the Kingdom.

"A lot of us started…doing this out of the love of what God had given us to do with our talents," Lon Dagley said,

remembering watching others using their talents to accomplish tasks he couldn't do. Then he thought of another part of the process, "Oh, I can contribute over here, and I can do some bigger thinking, and I can work on a project over here and kind of help give some semblance of order and work with committees and be a part of the dialogue in a process to creating the project and then step back in amazement and watch God work in and through all of us."

Two years into the project, the global IT team had a question for the librarians about a problem with the cataloguing system at the library in the Nazarene seminary in Quito, Ecuador. The librarians didn't know the answer immediately, but they leveraged their resources through their associations and found a solution.

Six months later, the development team asked the librarians to help identify a software solution for our international schools that didn't have a system for their libraries. While a small group was working on a solution, we received a message from Dr. Kent Brower, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academics) at Southern Africa Nazarene University (SANU) in Manzini, Swaziland [mahn-ZEE-nee SWAH-zee-land], asking us to help them with a desperate situation at the libraries at SANU. He explained that the university had three libraries: the Health Sciences Library, which had limited cataloguing; the Education Library with almost no cataloguing; and the Faculty of Theology Library, which was completely catalogued. The problem at the Faculty of Theology was that the

computer crashed, taking with it more than 10,000 catalogue records!

When I posted the cry for help on the librarians' message board, responses immediately came back, "We will pray." "We will pray." "We will pray." One after another, the librarians posted that they would pray for God to provide a solution.

In January 2016 in the board room of Southern Africa Nazarene University, I introduced the SANU administration and board to a group of librarians from the USA and United Kingdom (UK), who had come to train and work alongside the SANU librarians. The collaboration we had built within WHDL overflowed to the university. What a privilege to say, "Today, I bring to you a team that was praying for you long before they knew that God would call them to come to serve alongside your team."

Africa team cataloguing.

In three weeks' time, the team trained librarians from SANU, Malawi, and South Africa. Soon after, Beth Restrick, a missionary kid who grew up to be a librarian, joined the effort and trained the librarian at the seminary in Mozambique. At the same time, the same system was deployed at Nazarene Theological College–Manchester in England and at Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary in Manila, Philippines.

It all started a decade earlier with a librarian on sabbatical. In 2006, Sharon Bull visited IBOE institutions in Africa during her sabbatical. On that trip, she began to dream of a way to work together to provide an integrated library system for Nazarene institutions around the world.

While cloud-based[18] systems are now available, many are cost-prohibitive for small, international institutions. In 2014, Sharon and a few others began to explore options and were delighted to learn about OPALS (OPen Automated Library System). The cost was reasonable; and the company had a track record of a solid, user-friendly product, excellent customer service, and long-term sustainability. We invited the SANU librarians to review the product, and they agreed it was a good option. (Choosing library software in any context is difficult, but finding one that meets the needs of a global consortium was truly a miracle!) As we worked with

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[18] "In the simplest terms, cloud computing means storing and accessing data and programs over the Internet instead of your computer's hard drive. The cloud is just a metaphor for the Internet." (Griffith, Eric. "What Is Cloud Computing?" www.pcmag.com 3 May 2016 (accessed 11 October 2016.)

the creators and developers of OPALS, Sharon was convinced that our relationship with them was led by God.

Sharon served as the coordinator of the librarians and volunteers from North America and the UK who travelled to SANU in January–February 2016. The plan was to launch OPALS in all three SANU libraries and to train SANU library staff, as well as librarians from Nazarene Theological College in Honeydew, South Africa (NTC–SA), and Nazarene Theological Colleges of Central Africa (NTCCA) in Lilongwe, Malawi [lee-LONG-way mah-LAH-wee]. Although these were the goals, some targets seemed out of reach. At the conclusion of the time at SANU, we realized that the entire project had exceeded our expectations in every way!

SANU Library Committee Chair Lungile Seyama [loon-GEE-lay seh-YAH-mah] wrote that everyone anticipated the arrival of the team with excitement and fear of the unknown. Our first encounter dispelled all the fears and doubts as our spirits connected. We became one big family. We rarely referred to the visiting team as the "global team" and the remainder as the "African team."

The group entered into training and established SANU's first online library catalogue. This type of training was rare; and because of its success, the project has been applauded by a number of scholars worldwide.

Outside observers might have thought we had known each other for a long time. Everyone's zeal was amazing. Because of the global team's experience with the system, their knowledge was a step ahead of the African team. After each

day of training and cataloguing, the global team would review what had been uploaded, note shortfalls, determine solutions, and proceed to the next step.

In less than 3 weeks, more than 1,500 items were entered into the online catalog, more than 8,000 items were barcoded, and 5 library websites were created. About 10 days into the work at SANU, an instructor from the Faculty of Health Sciences checked out the first items. There were no cards to fill out or paper to track; it was all recorded in the system!

This may sound rather boring, but it wasn't! Together, we learned how to catalog books, what policies were necessary, and how the systems could help enforce those policies. We prayed together, ate together, and cheered each other on as our

Bar Code Rolls

skills and abilities improved. The SANU, NTCCA, and NTC-SA staffs were equipped to move their collections into the world of library technology and were poised to train others.

Whether at home or in the library, students and instructors could easily tell if the library had a particular book and if it was available or checked out. Each library website already linked to a variety of online resources, including the

Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library (www.whdl.org). Other open access databases were available for academic research; and in the future, more resources could be easily added.

The timing for SANU was perfect, as the university had planned a transformation in all spheres of operations. The library was the first department to be renovated through OPALS. Queues of students and staff, trying to access the card catalogue, were things of the past. Misfiling library cards was quickly becoming historical.

Library operations had never been this interesting. Library staffs were glued to computer screens, cataloguing, filling user forms, running reports, and creating shortcuts to additional resources. One staff member passionately said, "A giant has…risen within me. I now know what I am capable of doing; and had it not been for OPALS, I wouldn't have known I am capable of doing what I am doing."

In a stroke of brilliance, the librarians helping at SANU took photos of the cards in the card catalogue at the Faculty of Theology and created documents. Returning from Swaziland and back at their day jobs, they recruited 20 volunteers to help continue cataloguing the SANU library remotely. The efforts more than doubled the work of the SANU team.

For those working on the project, collaboration gave strength and vision to see beyond their own interests to the mission of God. As Jim Skön said, "That's when the magic starts to happen." That "magic" began to multiply the end result.

The SANU Library Committee created a standing plan to conduct OPALS trainings across faculties. In mid-July 2016, the Faculty of Health Sciences (FOHS) held a training session with faculty and staff members and invited librarians from other universities in the country. The Emerald Group of Publishers from Johannesburg, South Africa, was invited to make a presentation about electronic resources/databases and to guide and encourage research among staff members. The committee also thought it was an opportune time to introduce the idea of creating an Institutional Repository.

After the presentations and training, not only were the staff members eager to use the system, the faculty was also enthusiastic to conduct research that would be peer reviewed and uploaded in the Institutional Repository. The excitement grew as users recognized that all their work will be uploaded in a portal of their own institution, along with the best of SANU student research, all to be shared globally.

The invited guests from other universities told others in their spheres of influence about SANU's wonderful library system. Others have asked how we acquired such an on-point system. One of the largest universities in the country has expressed regret that they purchased their library system before they saw OPALS and felt bad that they couldn't get out of their contract with their vendor.

Lungile continued telling the story,

Local media has been playing a pivotal role broad-casting…about the launch of an amazing electronic

library system that SANU has. Demos of OPALS have been requested by other institutions who, after being told about the OPALS, visit our libraries to see for themselves. People have been coming with calculators and pens to quantify the cost of the system and each stage of its implementation, let alone training. To say that SANU has not paid anything sounds like we are hiding something or that we have decided not to divulge such information. It is totally unbelievable for most people, except for those who know and believe in God's supernatural intervention in hopeless situations such as ours. Students completing their programs feel robbed because they did their research before the implementation of the system, while some are even promising to look no further than SANU should they consider introducing a Masters degree because of the relevant and comprehensive electronic library system.

The OPALS story at SANU is not just transfiguration, but transformation at its best and in every way. The alterations in the library's key functions have produced a new level of readiness to serve the university populace and the external users into the future. SANU now prides itself with libraries that are no longer isolated, but collaborative, technological, and operated by engaged staff who demonstrate professionalism in the entire library department. Not only were our library services transformed, but the institution at large was revolutionized.

People were added to the SANU library "family," as several joined to catalogue the Faculty of Theology records online.[19] Some were retired, while others worked after-hours from their homes in other countries, notably the USA and Canada.

"Having been empowered to be like Christ, lay ourselves down, and allow God to use us, we will take the Kingdom of God to greater heights, as OPALS is doing. Presently, the SANU library vibrantly maintains its place in the institution by serving as an access point to both print and electronic resources through OPALS," concluded Lungile.

Lungile Seyama holding the first bar-coded book.

The mission of the OPALS project didn't stop at the borders of Swaziland. In February 2016, the library at Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary began the transition from an older library system into OPALS, officially launching at the beginning of the 2016-17 academic year. In May

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[19] At this writing, 26 volunteers from Canada and the USA had assisted in cataloguing SANU records

2016, the library at Seminário Nazareno em Moçambique [se-mi-NAH-ree-oo nah-sah-RE-noh em moh-sahm-BEE-kee] in Maputo [mah-POO-toh], Mozambique, joined the system, the first Nazarene library for Portuguese speakers. Nazarene Theological College–Manchester in England launched the system in Fall 2016. Other libraries globally have expressed interest in using OPALS to create their online catalogs and their library websites, so the future is bright.

This journey has been full of miracles; and Nazarene librarians, with the support of IBOE, have been blessed to be a part of what God is doing in our schools! Sharon summarized it, "I have found myself reinvigorated and reminded again and again that when we give our talents and abilities to God, He uses them for His glory."

While we have followed the work of the librarians in this effort, another strong thread of the WHDL tapestry was the Global IT team and its support and efforts to build the infrastructure on the Nazarene campuses. Before the librarians arrived at SANU, the IT team literally laid the groundwork for the deployment of a web-based library cataloguing system and began quality training for SANU to launch their own branded institutional repository in the WHDL system.

Just a few short years into WHDL's life, the empty shelves of the digital library began to fill and new projects sprung from it.

By 2016, a number of WHDL leaders began to take on new projects—projects that changed the way Nazarene

higher education delivered systems, trained, and collaborated with other institutions across the globe. While technology was an integral factor, the desire for collaboration led the way.

CHAPTER 8

Institutional Repositories—
Changing Education, Evangelism,
and Library Science

The Church of the Nazarene has 52 institutions providing higher education into more than 120 world areas.

Nursing is one of the disciplines that has a long history, with well-established nurses' training programs in India, Papua New Guinea, Swaziland, and the United States. Imagine the many different pieces of nursing scholarship created in those institutions over the past 100 years. Think of the student projects, the faculty papers, and the lessons by the independent nursing programs. In most cases, that work is locked away in the separate libraries of each institution. In some cases, documents and projects are destroyed by dust and termites, lost for all time.

Now, imagine all that research digitized, put onto the Internet, and made available to read and study. For the first time, a researcher can view material from across the globe, observing trends and making discoveries never before understood.

This is the power of institutional repositories. In our case, the power is multiplied across multiple disciplines within the WHDL system and contributes to the collaborative spirit of the Church of the Nazarene. It is a game changer for individual institutions and even more so for the network of Nazarene schools. If we invite partner schools to join in the system, not only could we change education—we could impact library science.

Resources for pastors and students preparing for ordination were at the core of the *Books for Pastors* initiative and will always be the focus of the WHDL. However, Nazarene colleges, universities, and seminaries presented us with an additional need—institutional repositories. Institutional repositories are digital collections of the outputs created within a university or research institution. The task force wondered, "Could WHDL also serve as an institutional repository for the scholarship of our academic disciplines around the globe without compromising the core purpose?"

Institutional repositories for higher education institutions are becoming increasingly important as a way of protecting and dispersing the scholarship and history of an institution, as well as marketing the institution. It is easy to expect agencies tasked with schools' accreditation giving increased value to established repositories at their member institutions.

The problem with institutional repositories is that they are cost prohibitive for most schools. When WHDL began, only one of the 52 Nazarene schools had developed an

institutional repository on its own. Cost was the primary barrier, followed closely by the need for expertise at each institution to support the building of a repository.

When the software company assured us they could easily create branded institutional repository sites within the WHDL system for the schools, we began to dream about the scholarship and archival resources of Nazarene schools, partner schools, and ministries. This would be significant for Nazarene education and the larger Christian education community, as we would begin to publish scholarship in an open access, online format for anyone to access globally.

We began planning a move from resources isolated on institutional and ministry websites to a foundational database shared by all institutions and ministries. This allowed us to better serve researchers.

Initially, we considered having each institution pay a minimal fee annually to help cover the cost of the system. However, it became immediately apparent that even a small fee would eliminate some institutions' participation. Such a "have"/"have not" situation was counter to the intention of the *Books for Pastors* initiative and to the open access culture of the WHDL.

"The phrase that keeps coming back, the Scripture that keeps coming back to me is, 'Do unto the least of these,'" said Rodney Birch, a Nazarene who is reference and instruction librarian for George Fox University.[20] "I know that a lot

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[20] George Fox University is a Christian university located in Newberg, Oregon, USA.

of people have different connotations of what that Scripture means, but I think for the course of this project, we're providing access to a lot of information, a lot of resources that we've been blessed to have in the western world that developing countries don't have access to." Rodney continued to emphasize the potential of this project citing the access to resources, the collaboration in providing content, and the sharing of our mutual heritage as brothers and sisters in Christ.

The *Books for Pastors* task force immediately saw the possibilities of a broad, cross-discipline collection. WHDL could become a place where academic scholarship from many disciplines could be in conversation. A researcher looking for sources on ethics would find scholarly research on that topic from the perspectives of business, science, medicine, philosophy, and religion, all through a Wesleyan filter. In this way, the collection would help researchers see their studies through the lenses of other disciplines and cultures, learning from them and stretching the researchers' thinking. Not only that, the varied perspectives would be from institutions with a shared theological filter. Through this approach, we could initiate conversations between the disciplines of Nazarene institutions globally.

Pushing further, we asked the task force to consider offering the schools a branded institutional repository within WHDL at no cost. Rather than payment, the institutions would be invited to continue participating in the collaborative network of professionals building WHDL. The task force wholeheartedly agreed.

From institutional repositories, the task force moved quickly to discuss the possibility of ministry partners and branded sites within WHDL. Ministry partners will have the opportunity to speak into future development and help to collaboratively fund the effort.

"It is a win-win situation," said Sandy Ayer, director of library services and archivist at Ambrose University.[21] "The library would get the digital contribution, and the faculty would benefit in having somewhere to publish it. It has the potential to be a viable publication model for peer-reviewed books and perhaps collections of essays. It seems to meet a need that professors have with respect to open access publishing. Instead of the frustration of having to pay $2,500 to $3,000 up front to publishers that have moved to open access, they now, with WHDL, have an opportunity to publish without these kinds of onerous financial commitments. It's a source of hope. To think that just ordinary Christian folks are involved in this kind of cutting-edge initiative is very encouraging."

Helen Stocker, librarian at Nazarene Theological College–Manchester, brings the perspective from a smaller specialist institution about the power of WHDL to change the future of how schools can contribute to the global conversation. "I guess it's the small institution perspective," said Helen. "We are so much different than most of the

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[21] Ambrose University is a private Christian liberal arts university located in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Its founding denominations are The Christian & Missionary Alliance in Canada and The Church of the Nazarene Canada.

American institutions because we're not a multi-discipline university: we're tiny in comparison. So we come with our own set of hopes and expectations. For us, one of the benefits of being a part of WHDL is that we now are able to have an institutional repository—which is huge for us, because that just wouldn't have happened on our own. As a British institution, we also offer a slightly different global view in theology and biblical studies from most American institutions, which I hope that we bring to the table. It's quite exciting."

Craighton Hippenhammer has served ONU as a technology librarian for nearly 20 years and is the driving force behind their institutional repository. He learned the value of an institutional repository to a university and is also keenly aware of the financial obligation for it. When he learned of the decision to open the possibility for Nazarene schools to have a branded institutional repository at no cost to the institution, he was excited, not only for WHDL and the church, but for library science. He went on to wonder aloud about how big this could get, the diversity of resources that would flow through the system, and the power of the multilingual, open access, cross-discipline approach. He is particularly excited about Nazarene faculty scholarship being put openly in front of a lost world who needs to learn that Christians CAN think and that there are very good reasons for a life of faith.

Dean Blevins brought in the perspective of the faculty of an institution, along with the global picture.

We're a 100-year-old denomination. We're just now breaking out of adolescence, but we've already got an incredibly rich array of resources that we need, for the sake of our story, to preserve for another 100 years.…If we begin to collect and share now,…and we continue to build this repository for those 200 years from now, imagine the kind of robust resource that will be available to scholars, policymakers, visionaries in the future….It would be, to me, on par, albeit electronically, to what a scholar would want from the Bodleian Library[22] in England, or what Harvard does, because they have massive endowments, or Princeton. I mean, I've visited some of their electronic databases and I'm like, "Oh, this is just killing me." But for us, within the Church of the Nazarene, to develop that kind of institutional memory,…in which the story of our denomination gets told another 100 years from now—just because people now began to build something. And I know the "shelves" are not that full right now; but this is the kind of power, incremental addition over time, that we won't live to see it, but there will be people that will benefit from this in ways we can't imagine. So, as much as I'm interested in helping people globally prepare themselves for ministry, this idea of the kind of shared resource that we can model within the denomination 100 years from now is powerful. It is the bigger vision.

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22 www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk

By opening the door of the Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library for institutions to build repositories, it has allowed the organizations to continue to own and control the material but shares it through a collaboratively developed system. In so doing, the Church of the Nazarene has created something that is changing the way resources are stewarded. When the Wesleyan Church was invited to join the project, they thanked the Church of the Nazarene profusely, telling us again and again, "Thank you for having the foresight and courage to go before,…and yet having a generous spirit to invite us into the collaboration."

While the *Books for Pastors* task force made many decisions over time, none—in my opinion—was as significant as the decision to open the system to create branded portals for our institutions and partners without any cost. It was absolutely the boldest and smartest thing the task force could have done.

CHAPTER 9

Beyond Our Church Library—
a Library for the World

In the early days, there were a lot of discussions about what the important issues were for the WHDL. How *open access* did it need to be? At one point, we even got completely wild and asked what would happen if we adopted a rating system for documents and allowed anyone to upload anything they wanted, then watch for crowdsourcing[23] to raise the highest quality material to the top. Fortunately, we had the perspective of current social media and have seen enough videos of kittens (or any number of other very low value items) getting millions of hits and "likes" on social media. We were determined to build a system to deliver quality Wesleyan-Holiness resources globally. To guard that theological coherence, we would need parameters to guide the overall project and trusted partners.

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[23] Crowdsourcing is the practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by soliciting contributions from a large group of people and especially from the online community, rather than from traditional employees or suppliers.

From the beginning, the team worked with a passion and commitment for those students who were at the "very end" of the Internet, where processing is slow and expensive on a limited income. We valued solutions that didn't require a lot of Internet speed, webpages that loaded quickly, and language functionality.

During the summer of 2014, WHDL was introduced at the first USA/Canada regional Pastors and Leaders Conference (PALCON) at Eastern Nazarene College. We offered a pre-conference session to allow attendees an opportunity to see the library in action, ask questions, and learn how to support it. The ENC librarians, Susan Watkins and Erin McCoy, and I developed a PowerPoint presentation about the WHDL. Almost the entire presentation was about how WHDL would serve the church on the far end of the Internet in parts of the world where resources are scarce.

I'll never forget the first questions asked after the presentation.

"So, who can access this library?"

"The WHDL is freely available anywhere in the world."

"Are you saying that I can use this library and access these resources?"

"Yes, these resources are absolutely for you. This is your library. It is the denominational response to the need for resources. It is a gift to you."

"What does it cost me to access these resources?"

"Nothing, it is completely free."

"Could our lay people, like Sunday School teachers, use this library?"

I confess—Susan, Erin, and I had a difficult time keeping from laughing. We weren't laughing at the questions or at those asking them; we were laughing with joy at the reality that what we had created for the far ends of the world, was just as valued right here at home.

PALCON attendees learn that WHDL is 'their library.'

There are very few times in the history of the church when a project is just as important to one field as another. Most often, pastors and leaders are left with the quandary of whether to invest resources in the local, district, regional, or international ministry. There is often a challenge of limited resources being pulled in different directions. Leaders have expressed that almost every decision to commit resources in one area is a failure to commit them in five or six others.

However, in the case of the Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library, the resources invested by the global, regional, district, and local churches are building a resource that serves local, district, regional and global churches and leaders. It serves

trained pastors, students, faculty, and lay leaders, providing resources for education, sermon preparation, discipleship training, and preparation for Sunday School and Bible studies. For many, this is the first exposure to Wesleyan-Holiness materials that they can afford to access.

Yes, I am extremely passionate about this project. I have a unique vantage point. By far, my favorite place to stand is in front of groups of pastors and students and introduce them to WHDL and tell them this is "their library." I love teaching people how to download documents from the Web, some for the first time in their lives. I love showing people how they can find amazing, valuable, and well-translated resources—resources in languages they may not speak, but that they can trust to give to their neighbors or new families at church or to start a Bible study—at no cost.

I loved sitting across the table from the superintendent of a Cuba district recently and telling him about WHDL, even though I knew he didn't have access to the Internet. I showed him the amazing resources and promised him we were working with the regions and Casa Nazarena de Publicaciones [KAH-sah nah-sah-RE-nah DE poob-lee-kah-see-OH-nes] to continue to build the Spanish resources. He was so blessed! Over and over, he and his wife kept thanking us…even though they knew they couldn't afford to access these resources via the Internet—at US$2.00 per minute—because the average Cuban salary is US$20 per month.

What a blessing it was to sit there and share the news with the superintendent, knowing that—because of the vision of

this team—I could also share another plan. I explained that, once the materials are collected through WHDL, we will distribute them in a variety of ways. Ultimately, we will deliver tablets and Shelby boxes to Cuba loaded with Spanish resources for pastors and the district centers.

A Shelby box is a small device the size of a cell phone, which creates an intranet signal for transferring documents within a small group of people. The signal is not connected to the Internet.

The Shelby boxes and tablets allow us to expand the impact of WHDL resources by delivering them to schools, students, and church leaders who are not connected to the Internet. Hundreds of tablets have been distributed around the world with the entire WHDL pastor and church resources on them; and Shelby is changing the way teachers educate in areas with poor or no Internet access. These are remarkable accomplishments that extend the ministry of WHDL.

I love being able to tell a pastor or student, who has no books and no access to a library, that there is a group of crazy passionate people who work extra-long hours finding ways to make this system work and fill it with as many resources as we can. These helpers want the pastor or the student to have books, so they can prepare and preach powerful holiness sermons. The helpers want God's servants to reach others who have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ and extend the kingdom of God into the darkest places of our world.

It is easy to be positive and hopeful about this project, because I sit across the table from the people who need it the most. I don't sit there alone; I have an entire team of professional volunteers working on the project. Every time I present it, they are with me. This is their work, its success is their success, their gift to the church, and their offering to God.

I hear the regional directors' words from that meeting at the very beginning of the project ringing in my ears, "You can't let this fail." I see the faces. I know the names. I was there when Nina Gunter promised that we were going to give a library to pastors. I'm blessed to declare that the Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library IS that library—and now we are giving that library to the world!

Act On It

The Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library has already reached some very impressive milestones and broken through numerous barriers in creating software solutions, which didn't exist when this project began. We believe this is only the very beginning of the project. To reach its full potential, it will take readers like you engaging the library on a regular basis.

Here is how you can be a part of developing and growing WHDL:

- **Use It**

    WHDL.org is *your* library. Spread the word. Please tell your church, district, educational institution, and others, letting them know the resources are available to anyone at no charge. A simple, significant step to support the WHDL is to use it regularly as a source for Wesleyan-Holiness material and to encourage others to do so.

Make it your source for pastoral and discipleship training materials, archival resources, and scholarship, remembering the collection is still developing. Check back often; new material is added daily.

When you go to WHDL.org, simply start a new search by entering a term in the search box—any name, title, key word to get started. Or click on the button for training materials and learn about other ways to use the library.

• **Fill It**

We are still early in building the collection for the Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library. Picture it this way, it is a big beautiful, high-tech library with unlimited *empty* shelf space and we need your help filling those shelves.

Perhaps as you read this book, you were reminded of documents from your local congregation, a family member with ties to the Church of the Nazarene or other related denomination, or a group of sermons, scholarly work, or archival material that could be a part of this global resource. Ideally, we would like you to work with a librarian at a nearby Nazarene college, university, or Bible school. If you aren't certain who that is or how to contact them, please contact the WHDL librarian who can give direction. Write: whdlibrary@nazarene.org.

If you are part of an organization with resources in clergy or lay training, discipleship, archival, or scholarship and are part of the broad Wesleyan theological community, partnership would be a way to collaborate

on a shared platform. To learn how we can develop a branded portal for your organization or institution, go to WHDL.org and look for the button with the invitation for partnership. Click on it to receive more information.

- **Fund It**

    The *Books for Pastors* initiative was the NMI 90th Anniversary Offering. However, through the task force's foresight and leadership, that offering has become a legacy project that continues to change clergy development, evangelism, and library science even as it teaches us new ways to work together and partner with others.

    For WHDL to live up to its potential and serve the church and the global community for decades to come, we need your continued investment through offerings, personal gifts, and estate planning.

    To donate online, go to WHDL.org and click on the "Donate to WHDL" button. To donate by check, make the check payable to "General Treasurer, Church of the Nazarene" and send it to:

    Attn: WHDL Librarian
    International Board of Education
    17001 Prairie Star Parkway
    Lenexa, KS 66220-7900

    For more information on donating and to learn how your donation impacts WHDL, go to our resource page for more information.

- **Pray It Forward**

    I will never forget the final moments of the first WHDL development meeting in 2012. We had spent a long, hard week together, pressed to create a proposal to be presented the next day to regional leaders. We were exhilarated and exhausted as we prepared to get on vans, head to the airport, and go back to our real jobs.

    Just before we stepped toward the door, Lon Dagley spoke up, "Folks, the only way this ever becomes a reality is if we pray it into existence. We need to pray together before we depart, and we need to pray daily for this to happen."

    I can testify that the librarians and other professionals on the development team joined the task force and global leaders in praying the Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library into existence. There have been many hurdles that could have killed such a project, but God's hand continues to guide.

    While we want you to discover the beauty beyond the cutting-edge technology and appreciate the efforts of the many whose fingers have touched the WHDL, there is so much more possibility. We promised a library to pastors; however, because of the foresight of Nazarene leaders and librarians, we have far exceeded that expectation and can now deliver a library to the world.

    More than anything, we ask you to join in prayer

for the future of the Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library. Please pray for the:

- Continued development of technology and the collection of resources and archival materials being distributed globally;
- Development and training of new writers and theologians, writing from and out of their contexts;
- Continual collaboration as global faculty and students benefit from scholarship and sharing;
- People randomly searching the Internet, not knowing what they seek, that they may find Christ's hope in the materials on the WHDL and partner resources.

Thank you for joining us in praying that this gift reaches its fullest possible reality.

There is simply not a better way to say it, "Folks, the only way this will ever happen is if we pray it into existence."

Appendix
Books for Pastors Task Force

International Board of Education
- Tammy Condon*
- Dan Copp*
- LeBron Fairbanks
- Jerry Lambert
- Mike Vail

Global Clergy Development
- Dan Copp*
- Stan Rodes*
- Charles Zink

Nazarene Missions International
- Lola Brickey*
- Nina Gunter
- Daniel Ketchum

General Editor
- David Felter
- Frank Moore*

Global Ministry Center Information Technology
- Jeff Beam*

Global Mission
- Louie Bustle
- Raymond Moore
- Will Turner*
- Verne Ward*
- Bob Woodruff

Global Nazarene Publications
- Steve Doerr
- David Hayse
- Scott Stargel*

Nazarene Publishing House
- Bonnie Perry*

USA/Canada Mission/ Evangelism
- Tom Nees
- Oliver Phillips

* Denotes current Task Force members. Names are listed in alphabetical order.