

Tribute to the Manaioises

Floyd T. Cunningham

What do we think of when we think of the Manaioises?

When I was recently in China, we met elderly Chinese pastors, now in their 70s and 80s, who had heroically carried on the work of the church through all kinds of adversities. If ever they were to meet the Manaioises, they would share the same experiences; they would all be veterans of heroic efforts to build the church of Jesus Christ. The Manaioises would stand shoulder to shoulder with them and other national leaders around the world in the Church of the Nazarene.

The Manaioises are ones who are whole-heartedly committed to the ministry of Christ and to the Church of the Nazarene.

Ones who have poured out their lives in service in so many capacities. Many characteristics fit both of them: they have "preached the Word," and they have corrected, rebuked and encouraged—with great patience and careful instruction. They have been pastors, teachers, and missionaries. They have been parents and friends and mentors. They have been supportive, uncomplaining (when there was much that they could have complained about).

Other characteristics fit one or the other. He was a successful district superintendent Bible college administrator. As DS he went to the remotest mountains, and traveled to other places accessible only by boat, to spread the gospel. They have endured hardships, they have done the work of evangelists, and they have discharged all the duties of the their ministries.

She is the musician, a classically-trained vocalist who could easily have had a career in the opera or teaching music full-time.

But for the past 13 years they have given their lives to the educating of ministers.

They have been faithful to the end. They have had plenty of opportunities and even tempting offers, even after passing the age of 60—chances to make more money or to fill prestigious assignments, but have remained committed to finishing the course here at APNTS. Very few of their

contemporaries have finished the course so faithfully. They have been loyal not only to the church, but to their home country, when there were on-going opportunities and temptations to emigrate.

Yet they have not taught a nationalistic gospel, even when it might have been fashionable or to their advantage in some quarters to do so. Their presence and counsel—both publically and privately—has never been divisive. They have kept their heads in all situations. Both missionaries and national leaders have sought them out as peace-makers. They have known, have taught and have practiced a gospel that transcends culture.

Their education of ministers in general and of Christian educators in particular is not one of the glamorous jobs in the church. But there are rewarding moments when it seems that what you have been trying to convey in knowledge and spirit is received.

One more thing is about their love to one another. It is understandable. Mrs. Manaois brought her husband into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. If there were nothing more that she would have accomplished, that would be sufficient enough for Christ to say "well done." But she herself prepared for positions of leadership in the church.

Once when I was sitting in traffic at Tropical, without their seeing me, Dr. and Mrs. Manaois were crossing the street in front of me. And they were holding hands. After 40 years of marriage, still holding hands?! I think it was not because he was so teetering or feeble that he needed help across the street, or because she was so young that she needed help crossing traffic, I think it was because they just happened still to be in love with each other.

We know that God will continue to use him in Negros. This year we heard a sermon from Dr. Tracy about how Titus had capably served in Crete until well passed 90, and of how the church had grown due to his wisdom, guidance and spiritual counsel. It could well be the same on Negros with the Manaoises there. They also have dreams of establishing their own graduate school of Christian education in the fishing village of Enclaro, and already have in their own personal library more books than some colleges.

I had the privilege of traveling to Enclaro with Brother Manaois. Even though he had left home in the late 1950s, he knew or knew the family of almost everyone we greeted. He had taught the parents or even

grandparents of the young people we met along the beach. He was like a home-town hero.

What a privilege it has been for APNTS to have had them as professors in the ripest years of their lives and ministries.

They are "already being poured out like a drink offering," and the time has come for their departure. Truly they can say, with the apostle Paul, that they have "fought the good fight," they have finished this lap of the race [not the whole race], they have kept the faith. And there is in store for them the "crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to [them] on that day" (from II Timothy 4:6-8).