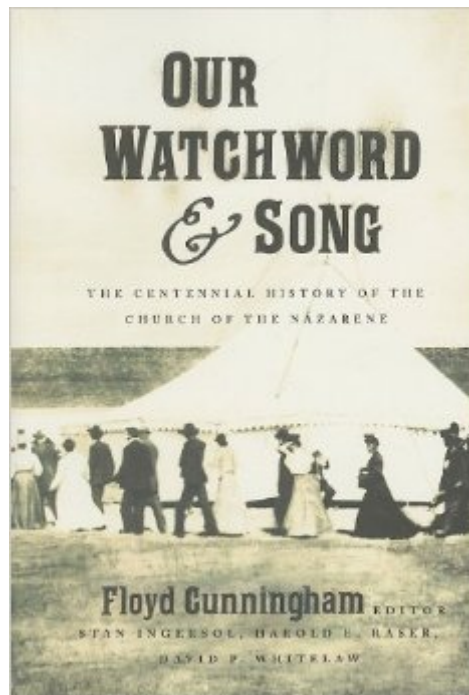


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# Our Watchword And Song: The Centennial History Of The Church Of The Nazarene



## Synopsis

This study of the growth of the Church of the Nazarene traces the denomination's doctrinal roots to the English Reformation and then explores the church's historical, intellectual, and doctrinal development. Giving special attention to the church's distinctive belief in entire sanctification and emphasis on education, the authors colorfully retell the story of the church from its humble origins in Pilot Point, Texas, to its expansion into an international community reaching the world through a warm-hearted faith.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Having attended the Church of the Nazarene for all of my life, having served this body in a missionary capacity, I have indeed been interested to read this volume, although have not yet completed. It succeeds admirably in what it has set out to accomplish. Many people may get lost in this volume's thicket of names, especially, and places, secondarily, but the main themes of warm Christian fellowship, a missionary impulse, and a theological centeredness on the doctrine of entire sanctification are evident on every page, or nearly so. Nazarenes, the same as any Christian group of about this same size, tend to develop their own specialized theological and cultural vocabulary. There is some attention to this dynamic, but not so much as to obscure meaning and throw the reader off the main track. The book begins with a sort of bold interpretation situating the first Nazarenes in a cultural and indeed an ecclesial context, but this line of interpretation is not manifestly present throughout the whole volume. Maybe as my own reading comes closer to the

end of the book, this welcome feature will return. While the central teaching of entire sanctification is mentioned in every chapter, and is explained in bits and pieces throughout the narrative, a more substantive expression of this doctrine--its strengths and indeed its weaknesses--would be a welcome addition. Some denominational histories, which after all is the best single description of this volume, may tend to fight shy of any discussion of real or perceived weaknesses. This book shines admirably in this regard. It is not afraid to criticize. For example, early in Nazarene missions strategy there was little if any grasp of the need to contextualize the message for local hearers. Whatever had "played in Peoria" surely was good enough for, say, Swaziland. One Nazarene wag speculated that what kept the Nazarene faith engine rolling forward was the good old fashioned "prairie theology." However true this may be, or not, this Nazarene inclination is in pretty good theological company, what with John Wesley's theology being described as "folk theology" and the Protestant Reformation moving ahead with modified tavern songs.

I really appreciate all of the research that it took to create the book. The book goes far beyond just capturing data and history, as it provides the reader with personal insights into the history and the people of the early Holiness history. I have even more gratitude to the early pioneers who gave everything and suffered much for Christ!

If you are a Church of the Nazarene member, attender, or friend this book gives incredible detail to the very beginnings of the denomination. It moves through over a century of history and provides insight on the early passions, struggles, and victories of the church fathers and mothers, as well as following the church into our current culture and how the church has continued to work out its calling to holiness.

On time and just as described.

When ordering textbooks, it is sometimes a guessing game as to what type of shape the book will be in or whether or not it will be the correct book. In both cases I have no doubts when I order from . This book arrived in wonderful shape and was exactly as ordered. Thanks for the help.

Wish i could rate it a 10.

The Church of the Nazarene was formed in the early 1900's as a holiness denomination in Pilot

Point, TX and was originally called the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene. Nazarenes generally abstain from the drinking of alcohol (similar to a Nazarite vow that John the Baptist followed all his life about and right before Jesus Christ). Nazarenes follow in the footsteps of Methodist John Wesley and subscribe to a Wesleyan form of doctrine. We believe in an eternal lake of fire for the unsaved; virgin birth of Christ; 2nd work of grace called sanctification, the second coming of Christ and the entire Apostle's creed.

Good historical book.

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