



### **Caravan Celebrating 75 years of Ministry to Children**

The fall of 2021 will be a time for reflection as Caravan turns 75 years old. During this special anniversary year, we look at Our Heritage: Caravan How We Got Here . . . Our Children: Caravan Pointing Kids in the Direction of Christ . . . and Our Future: Caravan Where Do We Go from Here?

Based on a memory verse from Luke, Caravan was created as a character-building program for children. "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52, NIV). During the past 75 years, Caravan has been responsible for teaching and training thousands of boys and girls to be more like Jesus by encouraging their growth in the four specific areas mentioned in Luke 2:52: mental (wisdom), physical (stature), spiritual (favor with God), and social (favor with man). So what is the history of this program that has ministered to so many boys and girls around the world? How did we get here?

#### **Our Heritage: Caravan How We Got Here**

The Nazarene Caravan program began in the heart and mind of a Nazarene layman in California. In the 1930s, LeRoy Haynes became concerned as Nazarene boys and girls joined club programs that taught lifestyles that were not compatible with Nazarene beliefs. He felt the Church of the Nazarene should offer a club program for children that reflected Nazarene beliefs and the doctrine of holiness. Leroy Haynes began by planning and organizing the first Nazarene club program for use in his local church. Word of this successful new approach spread from church to church. In 1934, the Southern California District actively launched "Boys' Work" under the direction of LeRoy Haynes. In 1935, the district program expanded to include "Girls' Work" with Jeanne Haynes as the director. As news of this program spread, people from across the United States and the British Isles began contacting LeRoy and Jeanne Haynes for help in setting up local Nazarene club programs. The 1936 General Assembly included a display about the new club. The heart of the Church of the Nazarene was stirred, and interest increased.

In 2005, a Children's Ministries Team completely revised the Caravan program. The program was re-structured, adapting the scouting aspect of Caravan into an evangelistic, visitor-friendly kids' club type of ministry.

Among the many changes, Core Values badges were added to the Caravan curriculum. Core Values are designed to teach children the Articles of Faith of the Church of the Nazarene. In addition, several skill badges were added or modified. All badges and awards in the program were re-designed in full color.

### **Our Children: Caravan Pointing Kids in the Direction of Christ.**

During this 75th anniversary celebration, we will remember and honor the thousands of boys and girls that have gone through the Caravan program since 1946. Over the years, hundreds and hundreds of boys and girls have achieved Caravan's highest award, the Phineas F. Bresee Award. Through Caravan, thousands of kids have been pointed in the direction of Christ.

In 2021, we will also honor each and every child that participates in the Caravan program around the world. Caravan programs operate in all six world regions of the Church of the Nazarene. Those regions are: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eurasia, Mesoamerica, South America, and USA/Canada. Together, they help teach and train children around the world about Jesus.

### **Our Future: Caravan Where Do We Go from Here?**

As Caravan reaches a new generation of boys and girls, it continues to help children grow mentally, physically, socially, and spiritually. No greater lesson is taught through Caravan than learning from and embracing the examples the Bible faithfully gives to young Christians. Those words from Proverbs continue to hold true: Proverbs 22:6 (NIRV 1998) – "Train a child in the way he should go. When he is old, he will not turn away from it."