

Dr. Thomas A. Noble

Thomas A. Noble was brought up in the Sharpe Memorial Church of the Nazarene, Parkhead in Glasgow, where his grandparents had been charter members in 1906. He was educated at Hutchesons' Grammar School in the city and completed his first degree at the University of Glasgow. Under the honours system in the Scottish universities, this included two years of specialization in Modern History and Politics (Political Philosophy, Government and International Relations) leading to the degree of Master of Arts. After a year of further studies in Education and Psychology, he taught History in high school before taking a Bachelor of Divinity degree at New College, University of Edinburgh, specializing in Christian Dogmatics under the theologian, T.F. Torrance. He was a prize-winner in Ecclesiastical History and his BD dissertation was on the epistemology of Augustine. His research at Edinburgh was in Patristics with a PhD thesis on *The Deity of the Holy Spirit in Gregory of Nazianzus*.

While a high school teacher, he served as elected president (effectively youth pastor) of the hundred-strong Nazarene Young Peoples' Society at Sharpe Memorial Church, and during his years as a student he served as organist and choir director first at Rutherglen Congregational Church and later in the parish church of St Andrew, North Berwick in the (Presbyterian) Church of Scotland. He was later to serve his local church (Didsbury Church of the Nazarene in Manchester) as organist and choir director, also serving on several occasions as chairman of the Church Board. He currently teaches an adult Sunday School class at Kansas City First Church of the Nazarene.

After serving on the Board of British Isles Nazarene College (now Nazarene Theological College, Manchester) for four years, he was appointed to the Faculty as Academic Dean in 1976, and taught Theology there from 1976 to 1996. The academic development of the college during the nineteen-eighties and the recruiting of qualified teachers laid the foundation for the college's full academic recognition as a degree-granting institution under his successor and its affiliation with the University of Manchester. For all of these twenty years he also served as secretary of the Selection Panel for the Ministry for the Church of the Nazarene in Britain. In 1996 he was appointed Professor of Theology at Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City, also serving as Director of the Master of Divinity degree from 2003 to 2007. He has also taught as a visiting lecturer in European Nazarene College (EuNC) in Switzerland, Eastern Mediterranean Nazarene Bible College (then in Cyprus), Nazarene Theological College in Brisbane, Australia, and in EuNC extension classes in Moscow and Astana, Kazakhstan.

Dr Noble served for five years (1989-94) as secretary of the Tyndale Fellowship for Biblical and Theological Research, based in Tyndale House, the residential research library in Cambridge, and currently serves as chairman of the Christian Doctrine study group of the Fellowship. In addition to the Tyndale Fellowship, he is a member of several academic societies, including the Wesleyan Theological Society and the American Academy of Religion. He has published articles in *The Evangelical Quarterly*, *The Tyndale Bulletin*, *Studia Patristica*, *The Bulletin of the John Rylands Library* and *Themelios*, chapters in symposia published by Eerdmans, Baker and IVP, as well as articles in several theological dictionaries and many book reviews. He served briefly as review editor of *The European Journal of Theology* and has also published articles in Nazarene academic publications, *European Explorations in Holiness*, and the NTS journal, *The Tower*. In 2006, IVP published his book, *Tyndale House and Fellowship: The First Sixty Years*, which traces the significant role of these institutions in the development of Biblical scholarship since the mid-twentieth century among those committed to the evangelical faith. Also in 2006, a second book, *Called to Be Saints: A Centenary History of the Church of the Nazarene in the British Isles, 1906-2006* was published by Didsbury Press. He is currently serving as one of the revising editors for the IVP *New Dictionary of Theology*. In addition to teaching Theology at NTS, he supervises PhD research students at Nazarene Theological College, Manchester and serves on the Board of the Manchester Wesley Research Centre. His research students have recently successfully completed PhD theses on J.I. Packer, Lesslie Newbigin and Wolfhart Pannenberg.

Dr and Mrs Noble have four daughters, three sons-in-law, and three grand-children. In addition to their home in Kansas, they maintain their family home in Manchester in the United Kingdom.