

Summer Adventures

VICE PRESIDENT MICHAEL PITTS VISITS HOME OF PSYCHIATRIST VIKTOR FRANKL

Swinging through Vienna as he traveled to meet up with various LoveWorks teams, Michael Pitts, PLNU vice president for Spiritual Development and university chaplain, was thrilled to visit the home of world-renowned psychiatrist Viktor Frankl and meet his widow, Ellie.

Frankl, who died in 1997 at 92, is most famous for his book, *Man's Search for Meaning*, which he published soon after being freed from a World War II concentration camp. Frankl was known for developing logotherapy, a therapeutic system of existential thought based on the premise that the deepest human desire is for meaning in life.

"A big issue of logotherapy is that suffering is unavoidable, but it can be meaningful," said Pitts. Frankl's life illustrated that, he said.

Pitts remembered how the young Frankl had a chance to escape Vienna and the Nazi death net when a visa came through for him – but not for his wife and parents. With 24 hours to decide whether to go or stay with his family, Frankl sought God's direction in a cathedral, since the synagogues had been destroyed. He asked for "a hint from heaven," said Pitts. On his way home he passed a pile of rubble, which he recognized as portions of the Ten Commandments that once had adorned a synagogue wall. He randomly picked up a piece to show his father back at their home.

It was from the Fifth Commandment: Honor your father and mother. Frankl had his hint from heaven. He stayed in Vienna, and was arrested with his wife and parents.

During a tour of the simple four-room apartment that has been the Frankl home since the end of the war, Ellie Frankl told Pitts of her and her husband's extended visit to San Diego during the sixties. In fact, Viktor taught on the campus of PLNU when it was United States International University.

One of the rooms in the apartment is used as an archive, storing Viktor Frankl's original manuscripts, his library and many honors. (The wall was filled with the 30 honorary doctorates he had received.) A second room was Frankl's office. This was furnished sparsely just as he had left it at his death, with two small bookshelves, chairs used in therapy, a bed. The floor was linoleum. His glasses were on his desk.

After serving Pitts juice and cookies, Ellie Frankl asked him to convey her "greetings to San Diego" before bidding him goodbye.

A JOYFUL LOVEWORKS PROJECT

Nine months ago, when Edward and Loveness Mikwamba petitioned PLNU to host a LoveWorks short-term mission group this summer, the Malawian couple were stepping out in faith.

Not just because they were among the first non-missionary hosts to request a team in the 10-year history of LoveWorks. Not just because there had never before been a LoveWorks

team sent to Malawi. The Mikwambas were expecting their second child while busily hosting the team.

Edward Mikwamba, 31, is the Nazarene Youth International coordinator on the Central Africa Field (Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe) of the Church of the Nazarene. He travels throughout these countries organizing and overseeing youth leaders and youth pastors. Mikwamba requested a team from PLNU in order to support the AIDS education taking place in Churches of the Nazarene in Malawi.

The team spent nearly every moment of the mission program with the Mikwamba family and the Nazarene community in Blantyre, Malawi. Two weeks into the program, Loveness gave birth.

"There was truly a sense of relief and joy when we found out that the baby had been born early in the morning and both mother and baby were healthy," LoveWorks co-leader Kelly Tirrill said. "On that morning, Pastor Mikwamba asked that we [the LoveWorks team] be part of naming her."

The naming process was a thoughtful but not difficult process.

"We knew they liked the name Rhoda," said LoveWorks co-leader Brian Becker. "So we chose that, and then had to decide on the middle name."

Tirrill liked Chimwemwe, which means joy in Chichewa, the most common language in Malawi.

Becker says that what struck him the most about the time spent with the church was that despite the pervasive poverty of Malawi, "we were so well cared for. Malawi may be a poor nation, but the local families that loved and guided us are rich in kindness and hospitality."

Rhoda Chimwemwe Mikwamba will grow into a walking reminder of the broad ties of the Church of the Nazarene, the borderless family of God, and the college students who were made welcome in her home in the summer of 2004.



Some of Frankl's 30 plus honorary doctoral degrees.



Viktor Frankl



Edward and Loveness Mikwamba with son Stephen and baby Rhoda.

UNIVERSITY GRIEVES THE DEATH OF BARBARA THOMPSON



Barbara shortly before her retirement.

Barbara Thompson, who served Point Loma Nazarene University admirably for 39 years, died June 30, 2004. For 21 of those years, she was executive assistant to three university presidents.

Her husband, Lewis, also made a lasting impression at the university as associate professor of education.

Both Barbara and Lewis graduated from Southern Nazarene University with

degrees in sacred music. After serving a number of churches as music ministers, (Barbara played the piano) the Thompsons made their way to Pasadena College.

Barbara worked for Bruce Deisenroth and Tom Mylander, both business managers, then spent several years working with Carl Ponsford, director of development, before moving over to supervise the word processing center. In 1978, she transferred to the president's office to become executive secretary for President Bill Draper. She remained there through the 14-year tenure of Jim Bond, and the first one and one half years of Bob Brower's presidency.

At her retirement in 1999, she said, "All of the presidents were great to work for. At every presidential change, I made up my mind that I would find out what he [the new president] wanted and the way he liked to work and do what he asked. I had good work experiences with all of them."

Jim Bond, now a general superintendent in the Church of the Nazarene, said "I shall forever remember her professional competence. Excellence in quality was the 'Barbara Thompson imprimatur' in everything she did. She gave eagle-eye attention to detail, ensuring that things were always done properly and timely. Early on, I discovered that if she did it, it was not necessary for me to review it because it had already been through the ultimate security check. Such thoroughness saved me much time and gave me great piece of mind."

At her memorial service on July 3, President Brower reflected, "Barbara's contribution to Pasadena College and Point Loma Nazarene University goes far beyond what simple words can communicate. Barbara was always proud of her work, the meaningful role she played in the success of the school, and the importance of doing things right. I know I speak for the board of trustees, both current and past, to express the university's deep gratitude for Barbara's years of work and her dedication to make a real difference with her efforts. She touched us all through her life."

She is survived by husband, Lewis, their son, Mendell, and two grandchildren.

It's Never Too Late

AT AGE 91, VIRGIL SHOEMAKER MEETS THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS HE NEVER KNEW HE HAD

Virgil Shoemaker had always wondered about the father he never knew. Raised as an only child, he also had always wanted to know whether his father had had children after him -whether he had any brothers and sisters.

Now the longtime member of the Church of the Nazarene and supporter of PLNU was 91. Surely that was too late to start hunting.

Not in the age of the Internet.

His son, Norm Shoemaker, former senior pastor of San Diego First Church of the Nazarene and now founding director of the Center for Pastoral Leadership at PLNU, went online.

The result was just short of miraculous.

Virgil Shoemaker's father, Arthur Enoch Shoemaker, had disappeared from his life after his marriage to Virgil's mother, Beulah, broke up at the end of World War I. Norm got to thinking: it was likely that Arthur, at 26, might have gone on to remarry and possibly have children. Norm checked various genealogical sites without finding a reference to Arthur Shoemaker.

Then, one night on a whim, Norm typed his grandfather's name into Google.com to do a general search. There was one hit: an unofficial marriage record in Michigan of a woman named Lela marrying someone named Arthur Shoemaker.

Norm then was able to trace subsequent clues through Colorado to Oregon and discovered Arthur Shoemaker's second family. Virgil had two half-brothers and two half-sisters—all living!

He woke his father up that night with a late phone call. Virgil Shoemaker was astonished, excited and nervous. The next morning he phoned Duane Shoemaker of Gold Hill, Ore., and asked him if he knew anyone by the name of Virgil Shoemaker. The man was speechless. He and his siblings had been searching all their lives for their half-brother.

Within a month Norm and his brother, Marty, were traveling to Oregon with their father to meet his family.

One of the most touching moments was seeing Virgil and his brother, Buzz Shoemaker, 82, stand shoulder to shoulder at their father's gravesite.

"It was an extremely significant event for Dad," said Norm.



The Shoemaker siblings (l-r): Duane "Buzz" Shoemaker, Virginia Walker, Arthur Shoemaker, Betty Banry and Virgil Shoemaker.