Lee Gordon Robley, born in Missouri, as a young boy moved with his family to Mt. Vernon, South Dakota. Born in Iowa, Elsie Maude Taplin’s family also moved to Mt. Vernon when she was a small child.

The Robley and Taplin families attended Mount Pleasant Church of the Nazarene, the first Church of the Nazarene in South Dakota, built on land donated by Elsie’s father. Lee and Elsie both gave their hearts to the Lord in their early teen years. On Valentine’s Day 1917, Lee and Elsie were the first couple to be married in the Mount Pleasant Church.

Shortly after their marriage, Lee and Elsie moved to Timber Lake, South Dakota. There they raised their three children, Hazel, Duayne, and Lois, and spent their lives ranching, raising purebred Hereford cattle and horses. Lee also worked part-time for the DZ Cattle Company and later for the CBC Horse Company, running 25,000 head of horses on the Cheyenne Indian Reservation.

The Robley’s were very active in their community and church, involved with 4-H and a local garden club. Lee passed away in 1981; Elsie died in 1988 at the age of 94. It was the desire of Lee and Elsie Robley to help young people get their start in a Christian college through this scholarship.

Criteria for the Award

1. Income from the endowment provides funds for two equal scholarships each year.

2. Recipients are to be students who meet general scholastic requirements and show potential for academic success and degree completion.

3. Financial need shall be a consideration in the awarding of this scholarship.

4. Recipients may receive the award in successive years, not to exceed four years.

5. Nominations for this award are to be made through the Office of Financial Aid.

A most satisfying way to honor a loved one or friend is to invest in a life yet to be lived. Gifts to NNU’s Endowed Scholarship Program become a “helping hand” to students as they prepare for their vocations and for lives of service to others. For more information, contact the Office of University Advancement, NNU, 623 Holly St., Nampa, ID 83686. Phone (208) 467-8772.