Prescott Beals was born in Platte, South Dakota on July 19, 1892 to Quaker parents, Isaac and Cora Beals. In 1897 the family moved to Iowa where they operated a general store. In 1908 the Beals’ homesteaded in Greenleaf, Idaho, where they helped pioneer the Quaker community and Greenleaf Friends Academy. Prescott graduated from the Academy in 1912; in 1915 he entered Northwest Nazarene College. When his parents died in 1916 he took over the operation of the family farm until it was sold. Resuming his studies at NNC, he was the college’s first teacher of Greek. He met his future wife, Bessie Littlejohn. In 1918 he received God’s call to be a missionary to India, graduating from NNC in 1919. He became the first full-time pastor of the Church of the Nazarene in Halfway, Oregon.

Bessie and Prescott were married June 24, 1920. Their honeymoon was their voyage to India as missionaries of the Church of the Nazarene. In 1931 and 1934 sons Paul and Loring were born.

Bessie passed away August 17, 1958. In 1963 Prescott officially retired from active missionary service. Also that year he was the Alumnus of the Year at Northwest Nazarene College. In 1980 he received the Citation of Merit award from NNC.

Prescott Beals authored two books: India’s Open Door and India Reborn.

In later years, as he told his life story, he said, "I have promised the Lord that as long as there are souls going to hell, as long as there are backsliders who need to be reclaimed, and as long as there are believers who need to be sanctified wholly, and as the Lord gives me strength, I will keep on keeping on. Praise the Lord forever and forevermore!" Prescott Beals went to his eternal reward on March 16, 1982.

Criteria for the Award

1. This scholarship is provided to assist students from the Northwest District preparing for missionary service.

2. Application is made by using the Departmental Scholarship Application.

3. The candidate for the scholarship is nominated by the faculty of the Division of Philosophy and Religion.