The Gertson Family Education

Every once in a while someone comes along with that special gift of teaching – guidance, encouragement, and enlightenment – that we all know so well in a favorite teacher. This scholarship fund is established in memory of Ben and Annie Gertson, both of whom exemplified that gift and thus imparted the joy of learning to generations. This scholarship is to be awarded to elementary or math/science education majors who display exceptional aptitude for teaching. There is no stipulation regarding year or grades; special consideration will be given to those in financial need.

Ben and Annie started out as teachers in various rural areas of Canada where they also helped establish the Church of the Nazarene in Nova Scotia. Their influence with teens was far-reaching and they led many to the Lord, who then in turn led others to Jesus.

The Gertson’s continued to teach and influence teens after their move to Oregon in 1945. Their home was often a morning gathering point for Bible study and prayer for students on their way to school. They also continued their own lifelong love of learning; both were excited when Annie formally received her teaching degree from Southern Oregon State University at the age of 67.

Though their lives were not easy, often lacking even basic comforts, Ben and Annie remained consistent examples of Christ. Long after retirement Annie continued to teach, but it was then to instill in her grandchildren a hunger for learning, which she did as they recited their phonics and grew with Dick and Jane.

Ben passed away in 1970 at the age of 64, Annie in 1973 at the age of 79. Annie’s casket was carried by six young men she had discipled who had grown to love her as a “mom.”

Graduates of Northwest Nazarene University are son Glenn (’56) and grandchildren Brenda (’78), Dawn (’80), and Gene (’87). They have established this scholarship to honor Ben and Annie’s legacy.

Criteria for the Award

1. Recipients are to be students who meet general scholastic requirements and show potential for academic success and degree completion;
2. Recipients shall be students who display an exceptional aptitude for teaching who are majoring in elementary or math/science education;
3. Special consideration shall be given to students with financial need;
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 Department of Education in consultation with 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 Planned Giving, NNU, 625 Holly St., Nampa, ID 83686. Phone (208) 467-8772.