

Phineas Bresee, Pastor to the People

Carl O. Bangs

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Bangs's careful scholarship and interesting presentation weave together a story of ministry in action and reveal Bresee's passion for Christ and his vision for ministry to all people. This biography brings together the past in a way that allows new generations of the Church of the Nazarene to participate in that story by presenting the passion for holiness and ministry to a world that is poised for our engagement. Phineas Bresee: Pastor to the People is the story of a great Protestant leader told in the broader context of American religious history. After a long and successful career as a Methodist minister, Phineas Bresee uprooted his family and settled in Los Angeles, a burgeoning urban center fraught with poverty and need. There Bresee discovered a new call of God to those who were displaced and marginalized. His heart to take the gospel to the poor, the immigrant, and the urban dweller ended up birthing a new denomination: the Church of the Nazarene. This book is an abridgment of Phineas F. Bresee: His Life in Methodism, the Holiness Movement, and the Church of the Nazarene, by Carl O. Bangs (Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 1995). Bangs (1922-2002) was professor of historical theology at Saint Paul School of Theology, where he taught for 28 years. This abridgment was accomplished by Stan Ingersol, denominational archivist for the Church of the Nazarene, who aided Bangs in the editing of the original publication. Carl Bangs served as president of the American Theological Society (Midwest Division) and the American Society of Church History. His work 'Arminius: A Study in the Dutch Reformation' is a seminal contribution to Dutch church history and Wesleyan-Arminian studies. Stan Ingersol has been the Nazarene Archives manager since 1985. He wrote' Nazarene Roots: Prophets, Pastors, Revivalists, and Reformers' and is a coauthor of 'Our Watchword and Song: The Centennial History of the Church of the Nazarene'.



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