



## STAN MARTIN '74

When he stepped out in faith as a teenager and committed to work full-time for the Lord, Stan Martin had no idea where that commitment would take him. Today, as he looks back over his many years of service, he sees how God has worked through him and Olivet Nazarene University.

When Stan entered Olivet as a freshman, he was answering God's call to music and youth ministry. He wanted to do for others what Roger Kennedy, his youth pastor and an Olivet alumnus, had done for him. While at Olivet, he met his wife, Jean, and together they enjoyed 35 years of serving the Lord in Nazarene churches. Their daughters, Cassie and Cami, are also Olivet graduates. Along the way, Stan became a member of Olivet's Alumni Board.

"Then, God called me to come to Olivet as an employee," Stan says. "I began as the associate director of university and alumni relations. At first, I felt like I was abandoning my call to ministry. But then God showed me that the people I serve are my new parish."

Now, as a major gifts officer in Olivet's Office of Development, Stan is thankful every day for the many opportunities he has to meet new people, encourage and pray with them, and walk with them through some of life's most difficult days.

**"God uses me to help people through health concerns, the loss of a loved one and sometimes even the end of their own lives," he says. "I hurt with them, and I celebrate with them. I'm so humbled by this privilege."**

Stan also has many opportunities to share Olivet's story with those he meets. One of his greatest joys is telling others about the solid continuity of the University and its mission. "Faith is the key component for everything Olivet does," he says. "We are led by godly men and women, from the administrative offices to the classrooms to the athletic fields. Together, we are preparing students for a life of service."

## OLIVET NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

Celebrating Olivet's decades of successes, especially at Homecoming each year, is a blessing for Stan. Each time Orpheus Choir gathers to sing, he recalls the years he sang under the leadership of George Dunbar and Naomi Larsen. The love and enjoyment he experienced then continue for him today.

When he returned to campus for Homecoming before he joined Olivet's staff, Stan searched for confirmations that the University's mission was still strong and unwavering. He was curious to know if the students were still growing spiritually. "I saw the evidence for myself," he says. "At altars. In chapels. Wherever I went on campus. And I see the evidence now when I meet students who are serving others on mission trips, in the local community and with ministries in other countries. I have the sense that all of us are following and serving Jesus wherever we land."

One of Stan's passions is to communicate this reality to the alumni and friends of Olivet. And one of his favorite ways of doing this is to get them to campus so they can see for themselves. "When someone visits campus, at first they are reliving their own Olivet memories," he says. "I

walk the grounds with them and listen to their stories. Then, I share with them about the good things that are happening at Olivet now. They see for themselves how the mission continues."

In the turmoil of today's world, Stan is encouraged by the ways God is raising up people who embrace Olivet's mission. "There are many young people who wouldn't be at Olivet without the support of our donors," he says.

**"I help our donors find what they can do for students and how best to do it. God will always multiply the value of what they give."**

Stan often recalls the words of Bill Griffin, one of his pastors when he was growing up: "Hold steady when things are falling apart around you. Keep sweet even when others aren't and when things are hard."

"Life can be hard at times," Stan says. "We must take our focus off the problems and look to Jesus. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life."

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