



## MIKE AND NANCY PYLE

**“Live your life so that you’re always prepared to say ‘yes’ to God,”**

Says Mike Pyle, a physician by profession. “Nancy and I learned from our parents how to be content in each season of life. As we age, we hope to keep saying ‘yes’.”

Mike and Nancy’s first “yes” to ONU began with their three children, all ONU graduates. “We brought them to Celebrate Life many times,” Nancy recalls. “So when it was time for college, we weren’t too surprised that they didn’t want to go anywhere else.”

While the kids were ONU students, Mike made connections with professors in the Department of Biology and accepted an appointment to the board of trustees, where he developed friendships with Dr. Bowling and Brian Allen, vice president for institutional advancement. In 2008, in an out-of-the-blue phone call from Vice President Gregg Chenoweth, Mike was invited to join the ONU biology faculty.

“That was a God moment for me, a ‘divine yes’,” Mike says.

“On the other hand,” says Nancy, “I was out of a job because I was working as Mike’s office nurse! But God had a plan for me, too. I reached out to ONU’s School of Nursing and began volunteering in areas where extra help was needed.”

That was the beginning of a great relationship and spurred an interest in a formal teaching role for Nancy — which would require a master’s degree and another “yes” moment. So, she earned her MSN from ONU while teaching as an adjunct professor. Quite a stretch for a nurse in her 50s!

During her last three years on the faculty, Nancy served as the program director. “I loved my work in the nursing program,” she says. “My door was always open, and I cherished the opportunities I had to pray with and for our students.

Nursing students have many crisis moments when they feel like they aren't going to make it through. Many don't have a strong relationship with God. I was there to show them that God loves them."

Meanwhile, Mike's role also morphed. He served five years as biology department chair before appointment as associate dean for STEM his last two years. Along the way, he helped found the Catalyst ONU initiative, designed to provide value-added experiences for students by engaging them with natural science alumni.

Mike and Nancy especially value the meaningful relationships that developed with ONU's faculty, staff and students. "I graduated from Indiana University, and I don't stay in touch with any of my classmates," Mike says. "Our kids are still connected with friends they made at Olivet. There is no comparison. ONU students have a much richer educational, social and spiritual experience, just as our own kids did. They are better prepared for whatever the future holds for them."

"We find joy in staying in touch with many former students," Nancy says. "For instance, we enjoy taking road trips together and visiting young alumni along the way. Nurturing those connections is extremely meaningful to us."

In May 2022, Mike and Nancy retired from ONU and returned to Danville, Indiana, near Indianapolis. Nancy is enjoying her role as full-time grandma to their eight grandchildren. Mike is working three days a week in surgery at Hendricks Regional Health.

One of Mike and Nancy's greatest joys has been introducing ONU students to medical missions. These trips are fertile soil for the Lord to speak, for students to glimpse careers of service, and for forging lifelong connections. In 2024, they will lead their 12th mission trip with students to their most frequent destination, Kudjip Nazarene Hospital in Papua New Guinea. These six students will add their names to the 100 who have gone there before them.

But this trip is special for another reason. They'll be working alongside Brian and Abigail (Helmker) Ginn, both former students and now physicians recently assigned as missionaries to Kudjip Hospital. Brian was a member of the 2012 team.

When the opportunity to join ONU's Development team was presented to Mike and Nancy, they sensed another "divine yes" moment. Mike says, "We resonate with a book written by Bob Buford encouraging believers to embrace significance as well as success."

Nancy adds, "We love Olivet. We want to help the nursing and science programs, and are happy to partner with alumni and friends to promote program excellence. ONU students deserve from us the best educational, social and spiritual experience possible."

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