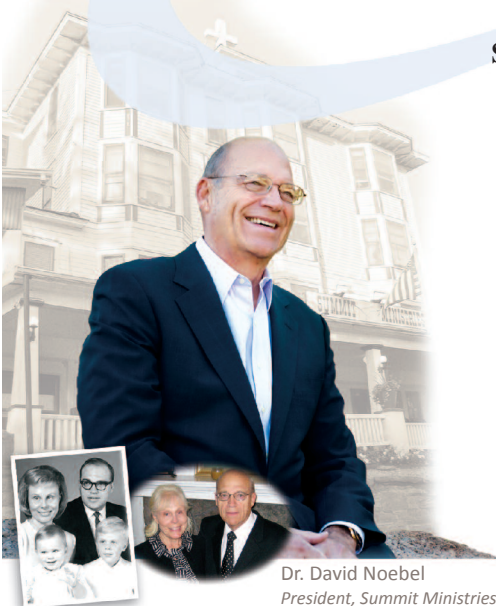


A half-century - 50 years. I have been thinking about all of the things that have happened over the past five decades - and all that could happen in the next fifty years. I keep coming up with one recurring thought: I can't believe it's been nearly a half-century since Summit Ministries was founded.

The year was 1962 and a gallon of gas was just over twenty-eight cents. John Glenn became the first man to orbit the earth. The Cold War continued to worsen and the psychedelic 60's trend was becoming increasingly apparent as peace, love and rock 'n' roll were quickly replacing the wholesomeness of the forgotten 50's. It was then that I realized that if the worldviews of our generation and the ones after us didn't strengthen, we would lose the culture wars that had barely even begun and ultimately Western Civilization itself! And Summit Ministries was born.

In the December, 1999 issue of *The Summit Journal*, it was written, *"Most Americans have no idea how, or why, the traditional values of this country, held since its beginning, suddenly within the space of 30 years became de-legitimized in the eyes of policymakers, the media, the young, and the law—to the point where people who still believe in them are held up to ridicule, heaped with contempt, and are even accused of being un-American. How, in a single generation, did the culture change from a character-directed focus revolving around restraint, industriousness, and self-sacrifice, to a peer-oriented, self-obsessed society preoccupied with eternal youth, sexual gymnastics, and immediate gratification?"* This could describe today, the 60's or any time in between. It was this passion for a return to biblical truth that God ignited in me to form Summit Ministries.

Summit has kept me young. It has been a constant race to the top of the curve - creating, equipping and imparting the rich content of our resources to adults and young people, hoping beyond hope and praying through each step of the way that this biblical worldview organization would entrench itself in the very fabric of each generation. Just knowing the impact that Summit has made on this world and that it is only by God's grace and power that we've been able to accomplish all we have brings me to my knees. When I'm there, I thank Him for sending you. You made this next story possible. *You've also made it possible for me to announce, with an overflowing and ever-grateful heart, my retirement from Summit - after just 50 years.*



Dr. David Noebel
President, Summit Ministries

Only with your continued love for and commitment to Summit will stories like this next one be able to continue. I always knew my time with Summit on a day-to-day basis would come to an end, but I also know that the Lord has cast a vision that will outlive us all. Please read on about Summit graduate, Marc...

Marc Allan Lee was part of a dedicated Naval Special Warfare team fighting the insurgency in Iraq, supporting the U.S. in its efforts to bring peace and stability to that country. During one operation, one element member was wounded by enemy fire. To protect the lives of his teammates, Marc fearlessly exposed himself to direct enemy fire by engaging the enemy with his machine gun and was mortally wounded in the engagement. His brave actions in the line of fire saved the lives of many of his teammates. For this he was awarded a Silver Star, Bronze Star with Combat "V" for valor, and a Purple Heart, posthumously. His valorous conduct, exemplary leadership and extraordinary self-sacrifice for his fellow service members have earned him the highest respect and gratitude of his fellow Navy SEALs, the Navy, and our nation. Marc Lee was the first Navy SEAL to be killed in Iraq, at just 28 years old.

– Source: NavySEALS.com

We thank God that we had the opportunity to know Marc.

Hundreds of life-changing stories like these have graced the years that Summit Ministries has spent working with young people, and to God we give *all* the glory. This is what kept me going all of these years and I have loved every minute of it. It's hard to let go, but I proudly announce that in October of this year, I will place the leadership of this ministry I love so much in the most capable hands of **Dr. Jeff Myers**. Jeff, who attended Summit when he was 17, who met his wife here and who has served as Summit's Chairman of the Board, will become Summit's new president after leading *Passing the Baton International*, a mentoring program that has trained more than 200,000 people in 1,500 schools, churches, non-profits and political groups around the world. Indeed, *Passing the Baton* will become a vital part of Summit Ministries.



Dr. Jeff Myers

If you don't know Jeff, he is a respected authority on youth leadership and development.

Over 20 years, his courses have helped tens of thousands of students communicate with truth and confidence and become purposeful leaders. When he speaks to our youth, he uses biblical insight, social commentary, research and humor to motivate and challenge his listeners.

Christian leaders around the country who have been central to Summit's impact are unanimous in their enthusiasm and support for Jeff. Dr. James Dobson and Charles Colson feel the same way as do so many other leaders, and I know you will, too.



“There are no words to express adequately the degree of respect and appreciation I have for Dr. David Noebel and Summit Ministries. Our son, Ryan, attended the program when he was 17 years of age, and its impact on him that summer was profound. It even influenced his later choice of a career. That is why I have been recommending The Summit to parents and teens for the past 23 years. I will continue to be an enthusiastic supporter as Dr. Noebel retires, because he has passed the baton to a very gifted and inspirational young leader. Jeff Myers is an outstanding choice to carry on the work of his mentor. Summit will continue to be a national resource under the direction and teaching of Jeff Myers.”

– Dr. James Dobson, Founder, Focus on the Family; Host, Family Talk

“David, it’s almost impossible to calculate your impact on so many youth of America over the last 5 decades. Congratulations! Summit Ministries has set the gold standard for teaching the next generation Biblical worldview, and it simply must continue. Your choice of Jeff Myers to lead Summit in the future is excellent. He’s a solid leader, an inspirational communicator, and a worthy biblical worldview champion. Summit is in good hands.”

– Charles Colson, Founder, Prison Fellowship Ministries

Please join me in welcoming our new passionate leader, Dr. Jeff Myers to the Summit family. A family he is well acquainted with already since his days here as a student and staff member.

After all these years, I do think of Summit Ministries as family. I’m so grateful for your friendship and support. Your generosity saw us through many lean years and enabled us to train 30,000 young leaders who have gone on to do great things in the pastorate, on the mission fields, in business, medicine, politics, education, literature and journalism.

Some of our Summit graduates are in the news as I write—especially the ones who are playing a large part in the pro-life movement and elected office. In fact, the very leaders of the Christian worldview movement send their own children to Summit for our intentional training and valuable mentoring. *So you know the impact Summit has made on many lives. For that, I cannot thank you enough.*



Even though I am stepping away from my desk as President of Summit, my heart will always be with this ministry. Until my last breath, I will pray for Summit and continue to be involved in any way that I can. One way that I am honored to keep contributing is through writing for *The Summit Journal* and continuing to be a co-editor. I feel confident that God was provident in every step Summit took and in my role here. And I feel just as confident that His hand will remain with Summit and with its new leadership. He has brought each one of you to this special place, as you lend your time, talent and treasure to what is ultimately God's work.

C.S. Lewis, in *The Weight of Glory*, included this question about evolution: "Was it devised not to **get in facts** but to **keep out God**?" We must continue to keep God *in* and I am peaceful and trusting in the fact that Dr. Jeff Myers will be leading this ministry with God as the head and with you, the tried, the true and the faithful, so that we have many future generations of the same.

Our Lord Jesus Christ says, "I go to prepare a place for you." On behalf of our whole Summit family I thank you for your continued years of love and prayers, sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters; I trust that together we will help make sure there are no empty places at the Lord's table. Whole generations are hungry for the truths that only God can give us and that we are commissioned to share to the ends of the earth.

Yours in Christ's service as always,



Dr. David Noebel
President

PS: I'm looking forward to meeting your student at **Summit's Student Worldview Conference** this summer. **I hope to see them there!**

PPS: I would love to hear from you with your memories of the Summit. Jot me a note to P.O. Box 207, Manitou Springs, CO 80829 or go to summit.org/memories and we'll collect all of the responses as part of our upcoming 50th anniversary celebration.

"Even though I am stepping away from my desk as President of Summit, my heart will always be with this ministry. Until my last breath, I will pray for Summit and continue to be involved in any way that I can."