

**From:** [JIM TASKER](#)  
**To:** [archives](#); [The Reverend Merle & Barbara Fetter](#)  
**Subject:** Dover Street dangers  
**Date:** Thursday, March 08, 2012 1:56:40 PM  
**Attachments:** [Dover & Village St area map.JPG](#)  
[1958 Boston Nazarene Chapel building STORE FRONT - CHUCK & DORIS GAILEY COLLECTION.jpg](#)

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The young 1950s-1960s ENC women who went out throughout the dangerous Dover Street area seeking children to bring to Boston Chapel Sunday School are among the most to be admired. According to official Boston Redevelopment Agency map records, "Shaded areas are considered by Captain Mahoney (Boston Police Department) as worst areas in South End for crime and vice". Captain Mahoney had circled on the map an area where he had handwritten, "Prostitution and Derelicts." Inside that circled area was 26 Dover Street -- the chosen site of Boston Chapel.

In Boston Nazarene Chapel personal account archival history, Boston Chapel stalwart **Dr. Charles Gailey** writes, "Dover Street was known as one of the worst streets in the city of Boston. It was Boston's 'skid row'." **Dr. Hazel Goodwin** writes: "My memories of Boston Chapel include going to homes to bring children to Sunday School. They were crowded and run down apartments..."

**Amy (Mrs. Robert) Landers** writes, "Attending Boston Chapel from 1955-1959 was an integral and valuable experience during my ENC years. My task was to walk to the apartments in the Dover Street area, bring women and children to the Chapel, attend the services, and then take them home. Most of the stairwells were foul-smelling and dark. A few times the male students, including my future husband, voiced their concern for my safety."

The evangelical men and women students of Eastern Nazarene College had prayerfully selected 26 Dover Street, located in a most crime-ridden and impoverished area in one of our nations principal cities for outreach to families and children... With faith and courage and caring came **Geraldine Gantert Perry, Amy E. Landers, Hazel Goodwin, Beth Goodnow Merki, Joyce Rose Henck, Esther Henck Christian, Margaret "Fuzzy" Goodnow Howard, Barbara Ellwood Fetter** -- and more -- finding the children, and bringing them in with guidance and blessing from above. Some carried this caring and courage and faith far beyond Dover Street and into dangerous mission fields, including China, Africa, New Guinea, and more. Their stories are now being compiled for the Eastern Nazarene College Boston Chapel historical archives.

There is deservedly room for yours -- added photos, stories, memories -- when you are able to send them. With appreciation, Jim